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No. 113

## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HIRONO).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC, July 16, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAZIE HIRONO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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 debate. 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 Virginia (Mr. WOLF) for 5 minutes.

### MADE IN CHINA

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I have a longer speech today which I will insert for the record, but I want to highlight some of the key points.

During the debate over granting China permanent normal trade relations status, proponents argued that economic liberalization would lead to political liberalization in China, that exposing China to the West's ideas and values would lead them to play a more constructive role in the international community, and that the U.S. and other industrialized nations could in-

fluence China through economic activity to better respect the rights of its citizens to fundamental human rights.

Instead, we have seen why the protection of basic liberties should not come second to economic growth. The China today is worse than the China of yesterday, or of last year, or of the last decade.

And now, in addition to all of the horrible things the Chinese government does to its own citizens, it is doing to other countries' citizens as well.

Just read the headlines:

Toothpaste from China containing an industrial solvent and prime ingredient in some antifreeze.

Chinese-made Thomas the Tank children's trains slathered in lead-based paint, a substance that is toxic if swallowed.

Unsafe food products from China including prunes tinted with chemical dyes, dried apples preserved with a cancer-causing chemical, scallops and sardines coated with putrefying bacteria, and mushrooms laced with illegal pesticides.

Five types of farm-raised shrimp and fish from China banned by the FDA because they are so contaminated from unsafe drugs in China's polluted waterways.

Malfunctioning fireworks from China responsible for critical injuries, including in my hometown of Vienna, Virginia on July the 4th.

Chinese-made tires sold without a critical safety feature that prevents the tread from separating from the tire.

Within a year, China will also be the biggest source in the world of greenhouse gases from all the new coal-fired power plants being built.

I could take several 1-hour special order speeches to detail China's egregious human rights record:

Slave labor camps;

Religious persecution, including torture and imprisonment of Catholic

bishops, Protestant church leaders, Muslim worshipers, Falun Gong followers, and Buddhist monks and nuns;

Human organ harvesting and selling; Sophisticated system of espionage against the U.S. government and American businesses;

World's leading producer of pirated products.

Then there's China's foray into Sudan, selling weapons to the very government orchestrating the genocide in Darfur.

And despite all of these abhorrent acts, China was still awarded the honor of hosting the 2008 Olympics.

Where is the outrage over China's unacceptable behavior in the Congress and in the administration? The facts are before us. The United States can no longer say that things are improving in China.

Next time you make a purchase and you see the words "Made in China," think of the poisoned toothpaste, the contaminated food, the polluted waterways and airspace, the exploding tires, malfunctioning fireworks, the human rights abuses, and the intimidation of religious leaders.

Madam Speaker, imagine a country where factory workers have no workplace safety, labor or environmental protections and are required to work 80-hour weeks for no more than \$110 per month to produce goods for export.

Imagine a country which boldly supplies missiles and chemical weapons technology to countries that support or harbor terrorists.

Imagine a country that oversees a network of espionage operations against American companies and the U.S. government.

Imagine a country which tortures and imprisons Catholic bishops, Protestant church leaders, Muslim worshipers, Falun Gong followers, and Buddhist monks and nuns just because of their faith and systematically destroys churches and confiscates Bibles.

Imagine a country which has a thriving business of harvesting and selling for transplant kidneys, corneas and other human organs

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

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



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from executed prisoners who are thrown in prison with no trial or sentencing procedures.

Imagine a country which maintains an extensive system of gulags—slave labor camps, also known as the “laogai”—as large as existed in the former Soviet Union that are used for brainwashing and “reeducation through labor.”

Sadly, none of this is imaginary. Such a nation exists. It is the People’s Republic of China.

Sadly, too, that’s just part of the list of egregious actions.

In 2006, the Chinese government arrested 651 Christians that we know of. Currently, China has 6 Catholic bishops in jail and another 9 under house arrest. Renowned human rights advocate Rebiya Kadeer has watched from exile as the Chinese government arrests and beats her family members in her homeland.

Late last year, western mountain climbers captured on videotape a horrifying scene: Chinese police shooting from their North Face tents at a group of Tibetan refugees crossing Nangpa Pass. A 17-year-old Buddhist nun was killed and several others were wounded.

There are some who assert that human rights are something that should come once stability has been attained. They say that protection of human rights comes second to attaining economic power and wealth. We must reject that notion.

During the debate over granting China permanent normal trade relations status, proponents argued that economic liberalization would lead to political liberalization in China, that exposing China to the West’s ideas and values would lead them to play a more constructive role in the international community, and that the U.S. and other industrialized nations could influence China through economic activity to better respect the rights of its citizens to fundamental human rights and the unfettered practice of their faith.

Instead, we have seen why the protection of basic liberties should not come second to economic growth. The China of today is worse than the China of yesterday, or of last year, or of the last decade. China is not progressing. It is regressing. It is more violent, more repressive, and more resistant to democratic values than it was before we opened our ports to freely accept Chinese products.

And now, in addition to all of the horrible things the Chinese government does to its own citizens, it does to other countries’ citizens as well. It poisons children in Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Australia, with toothpaste containing an industrial solvent and prime ingredient in some antifreeze. This toothpaste was marketed under the brand name “Mr. Cool.”

Some 1.5 million wooden toys in the Thomas the Tank Engine line of children’s trains were recalled after manufacturers discovered that the Chinese-made toys were slathered in lead-based paint, a substance that is toxic if swallowed.

China continues to send American consumers adulterated and mislabeled food products, including prunes tinted with chemical dyes, dried apples preserved with a cancer-causing chemical, scallops and sardines coated with putrefying bacteria, and mushrooms laced with illegal pesticides.

Food and Drug Administration inspectors who traveled across the world to investigate

the recent mass poisoning of U.S. pets stemming from tainted pet food from China arrived at two suspected Chinese factories, only to find the factories had been cleaned out and all equipment dismantled.

On June 28, the FDA banned the import of five types of farm-raised shrimp and fish from China because they are so contaminated from unsafe drugs in China’s polluted waterways.

A recent NPR story described how garlic from China outsold garlic grown in California for the first time last year. China began dumping garlic at U.S. ports below cost in the 1990s. Hefty tariffs kept the garlic imports at bay for a few years, but since 2001, imports of Chinese garlic have increased fifteen-fold.

Several Fourth of July celebrations in my district, including in my hometown of Vienna, VA, included malfunctioning fireworks that injured 11 people, including children and an infant. These fireworks came from China.

Some 450,000 imported tires were recalled from Foreign Tire Sales after it was discovered that the Chinese-made tires were sold without a critical safety feature that prevents the tread from separating from the tire. A blown tire can cause the driver of the vehicle to lose control of his or her car and crash.

China is one of the world’s leading producers of unlicensed copies of goods ranging from movies and designer clothes to sporting goods and medications. According to the Motion Picture Association of America, 93 percent of DVDs sold in China are unlicensed copies. The MPAA, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other industry groups say that despite stricter Chinese enforcement, product piracy is growing amid China’s booming economic expansion.

China is building a new coal-fired power plant every week and within a year will be the biggest source in the world of greenhouse gases. It is building factories and infrastructure all over the developing world, but we have no solid data on China’s plans or programs. A recent editorial in *The Washington Post* reported that World Bank experts estimate that toxic air and water in China kill some 710,000 to 760,000 Chinese each year.

During a recent visit to Sudan, Chinese President Hu Jintao promised to build a new palace for the Sudanese president, Omar al-Bashir, despite Bashir’s role in orchestrating the ongoing genocide in Sudan’s Darfur region. This is in addition to the recent Amnesty International report that China is selling weapons to the Sudanese government, which are then being used to kill and maim innocent civilians in Darfur.

China bullies neighboring Taiwan, repeatedly threatening to launch missiles from the mainland for Taiwan’s refusal to accept China’s claims of sovereignty over the democratically governed territory.

And despite all of these abhorrent acts, China was still awarded the honor of hosting the 2008 Olympics. The Olympic Games: an event designed to lift up “the educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles,” according to its own charter. Does China’s behavior sound like a “good example” to the rest of the world? Or that it is reflecting “fundamental ethical principles” that all nations should aspire to?

Amnesty International reports that the Chinese government is rounding up people in the streets of Beijing that might “threaten stability”

during the Olympic Games, and is detaining them without trial. Human Rights Watch reports that the Chinese government is tightening restrictions on domestic and foreign media, in an effort to control what information leaks out about China’s repressive and violent nature during coverage of the Olympics.

China has even gone so far as to claim it will “force rain” in the days leading up to the Olympics, in order to have clear skies for the Games. They intend to fire rocket shells containing sticks of silver iodide into Beijing’s skies, provoking a chemical reaction that will force rain—despite mixed reviews on the soundness of this science.

China’s desperation to conceal its true character leading up to the Games smacks of the Nazi bid for the Olympic Games. Analysts are likening the 2008 Beijing Olympics to the 1936 Olympics, in which Nazi Germany soft-pedaled its anti-Semitic agenda and plans for territorial expansion, fooling the international community with an image of a peaceful, tolerant Germany under the guise of the Olympic Games.

Like the Nazi regime in 1936 Berlin, the Chinese government is preparing for the Olympics by hiring U.S. firms to handle public relations and marketing for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Where is the outrage over China’s unacceptable behavior? The facts are before us. The United States can no longer say that things are improving in China.

But China would have America and the world believe that is the case. China has hired a number of large lobbying firms in Washington, DC to push China’s agenda with the U.S. government. Documents from the Department of Justice show these lobbyists as having a significant presence on Capitol Hill, including almost 200 meetings with Member offices between July 1, 2005 and December 31, 2006.

America must be a country that stands up for basic decency and human rights. America must speak out on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves—men and women who are being persecuted for their religious or political beliefs. Our foreign policy must be a policy that helps promote human rights and freedom. Not a policy that sides with dictators who oppress their own citizens.

Next time you make a purchase, and you see the words “Made in China,” think of the poisoned toothpaste, the contaminated food, the polluted waterways and airspace, the exploding tires, malfunctioning fireworks, the human rights abuses, and the intimidation of religious leaders. Remember that China poses a threat not only to its own citizens, but to the entire world.

American businesses have an opportunity to capitalize on China’s failure to protect the safety of its food exports. American businesses should seize this opportunity by reclaiming their place in the global market. The United States government and American consumers must be vigilant about protecting the values that we hold dear.

#### IMMIGRATION REFORM

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 debate for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I am here to discuss why past efforts to stop

illegal immigration into our country have failed.

Over the past several decades, immigration policy in our country has been somewhat confused and unfocused to the point that there is widespread and deepening concern that our current policies regarding immigration are not working. Poorly designed policies and weak enforcement of immigration laws have led to disturbing vulnerabilities in this country to our security, and the millions of illegal immigrants currently in our country continue to belittle the naturalization process.

From a national security perspective, preventing illegal entry and reducing those individuals illegally present in the United States is an imperative. An uncontrolled immigration system encourages the circumvention of immigration laws and is a clear invitation to those who wish to take advantage of our openness to cause this Nation harm.

Congress and the President must take credible steps to reduce illegal immigration. Federal, State and local law enforcement must be allowed to enforce existing immigration law. But because of the current lack of enforcement, the illegal population in the United States will continue to grow, the burden on local communities will increase, the stresses on civil society will become greater, and border security will become more expensive while remaining just as ineffective. Furthermore, this failure to enforce our immigration laws is tremendously unfair to the millions who obeyed the law and went through the rewarding process of obtaining legal citizenship.

Most individuals and families that immigrate to the United States, whether legally or illegally, come seeking economic opportunity. We respect that. However, unlike previous generations, a generous welfare, education and health system with generous eligibility draws a disproportionate rate of poor and low-skilled illegal immigrants to the United States. These thousands of low-skilled immigrants that pour into our country illegally each year drain precious resources from Federal, State and local governments.

In my State as in other States, they need temporary workers. I understand that. A balanced and well-constructed temporary worker program should diminish the incentives for illegal immigration by providing an additional option for legal temporary labor and, in combination with other reforms, reduce over time the current population of illegal aliens. This would foster better national security and serve a growing economy. Such a temporary worker program would be a valuable component of a comprehensive immigration reform proposal. I recognize that.

Nevertheless, my colleagues, enthusiasm for such a program in theory must be moderated by serious concerns not only about the failures of such programs in our past attempts and in other countries, but also regarding how

a new program would likely be implemented and operate in practice. An ill-defined and poorly constructed temporary worker program would make the current problems of immigration policy unfortunately even worse.

In the mid 1980s, Congress advocated amnesty for long-settled illegal immigrants and considered it reasonable to adjust the status of what was then a relatively small population of illegal aliens. In exchange for allowing aliens to stay, border security and enforcement of immigration laws would be greatly strengthened, in particular through sanctions against employers who hired these illegal immigrants.

However, the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, did not solve our illegal immigration problem. Indeed, the lessons of that policy experiment are clear. From the very start, there was widespread document fraud by applicants. Unsurprisingly, the number of people applying for amnesty far exceeded projections, and there proved to be a failure of political will in enforcing new laws against employers.

Two decades later, the Senate proposed another bill specifically designed to allow the overwhelming majority of illegal immigrants to legally live and work in the United States from day one and eventually to become permanent residents and then citizens. This was a form of amnesty and that is why it failed.

Securing a future where America's borders are no longer porous, its laws are respected, and illegal labor is replaced by legal workers and legal immigrants is an achievable objective that we can accomplish. More than any other nation in history, our country and its system of equal justice and economic freedom beckons not only the downtrodden and the persecuted but also those who seek opportunity and a better future for themselves and their families. But by allowing millions of illegal immigrants to remain in the United States without providing any new significant security guarantees at the border is unacceptable.

We must control our borders first, then enforce the rules and regulations at the border with more security border guards. Only after that is done should we look at a policy concerning the illegal immigrants in this country. That is what the American people want.

Secure our borders now, Madam Speaker.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California) at 2 p.m.

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#### PRAYER

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

Lord God of power and might, this Nation stands before You with a contrite heart, seeking Your holy will.

Bless this House of Representatives in their work of fashioning laws that will bind Your people together in social concord and lasting values.

Lord, drive out demons of doubt and despair. Replace manipulation and cynicism with the renewed Spirit of faith and freedom, that all citizens of this country may participate actively in working to achieve and maintain the common good, always calling upon Your holy name, now and forever.

Amen.

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#### 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.

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#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. HINOJOSA 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.

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#### MURDER OF JOURNALISTS

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, in the last few years, 30 foreign journalists have been murdered in a country torn by war. Violence against reporters is so severe that one American journalist has recently fled back to the United States. The would-be assassins have reportedly even be hired to come to America to track these reporters down.

Madam Speaker, I'm not talking about violent Iraq. I am talking about the murder of reporters in Mexico, second highest murder rate in the world for reporters, next to Iraq.

One of the vicious violent drug cartels, the Zetas, made up of former Mexican military officers, are targeting journalists who report on their drug activities. Now these dope dealing thugs claim they will just come to the United States, because of our porous borders, and kill these journalists.

The United States should heed the warnings reported by these courageous journalists, that these drug cartels are easily criss-crossing the Texas-Mexico border and bringing more drug violence to America and Mexico.

Homeland Security should seize control of our border before the cartels seize the lives of any more journalists. And that's just the way it is.

#### NATIONAL GUARD PASSES RECRUITMENT GOALS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, America's National Guard is taking a crucial role in the global war on terrorism. They make up a vital part of our deployed forces, serving our country to stop terrorism overseas, protecting American families. I am proud the National Guard exceeded its recruitment goals for the month of June, which reflects the new greatest generation.

Through the month of May, the National Guard has 351,400 troops. Numbers have not been this high since November 2001. As a 31-year veteran of the Army National Guard, I understand the importance of their mission as explained by Captain James Smith.

I am particularly grateful my former unit, the 218th Brigade, is serving in Afghanistan, where they're actively working to train the Afghani police and army.

As the father of four sons in the military, I am grateful for each and every American who decides to serve. Our all-volunteer Armed Forces are making the ultimate sacrifice, and today democracy is more widespread throughout the world than any time in history protecting American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, July 16, 2007.

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

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 16, 2007, at 9:53 am:

That the Senate passed S. 975.

Appointments: British-American Interparliamentary Group, National Council of the Arts, Vietnam Education Foundation, Senate National Security Working Group.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,  
Clerk of the House.

#### APPOINTMENT AS INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE HOUSE FOR THE 110TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule II, and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the joint appointment by the Speaker, the majority leader, and the minority leader of Mr. James J. Cornell of Springfield, Virginia, to the position of Inspector General of the House for the 110th Congress, effective January 4, 2007.

#### 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 after 6:30 p.m. today.

#### FDIC ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. SIREN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2547) to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to prevent misrepresentation about deposit insurance coverage, and for other purposes, as amended.

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

H.R. 2547

*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 "FDIC Enforcement Enhancement Act".

##### SEC. 2. ENFORCEMENT AGAINST MISREPRESENTATIONS REGARDING FDIC DEPOSIT INSURANCE COVERAGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 18(a) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1828(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) FALSE ADVERTISING, MISUSE OF FDIC NAMES, AND MISREPRESENTATION TO INDICATE INSURED STATUS.—

"(A) PROHIBITION ON FALSE ADVERTISING AND MISUSE OF FDIC NAMES.—No person may—

"(i) use the terms 'Federal Deposit', 'Federal Deposit Insurance', 'Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation', any combination of such terms, or the abbreviation 'FDIC' as part of the business name or firm name of any person, including any corporation, partnership, business trust, association, or other business entity; or

"(ii) use such terms or any other sign or symbol as part of an advertisement, solicitation, or other document,

to represent, suggest or imply that any deposit liability, obligation, certificate or share is insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, if such deposit liability, obligation, certificate, or share is not insured or guaranteed by the Corporation.

"(B) PROHIBITION ON MISREPRESENTATIONS OF INSURED STATUS.—No person may knowingly misrepresent—

"(i) that any deposit liability, obligation, certificate, or share is federally insured, if

such deposit liability, obligation, certificate, or share is not insured by the Corporation; or

"(ii) the extent to which or the manner in which any deposit liability, obligation, certificate, or share is insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, if such deposit liability, obligation, certificate, or share is not insured by the Corporation to the extent or in the manner represented.

"(C) AUTHORITY OF FDIC.—The Corporation shall have—

"(i) jurisdiction over any person that violates this paragraph, or aids or abets the violation of this paragraph; and

"(ii) for purposes of enforcing the requirements of this paragraph with regard to any person—

"(I) the authority of the Corporation under section 10(c) to conduct investigations; and

"(II) the enforcement authority of the Corporation under subsections (b), (c), (d) and (i) of section 8,

as if such person were a state nonmember insured bank.

"(D) OTHER ACTIONS PRESERVED.—No provision of this paragraph shall be construed as barring any action otherwise available, under the laws of the United States or any State, to any Federal or State law enforcement agency or individual."

(b) ENFORCEMENT ORDERS.—Section 8(c) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1818(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) FALSE ADVERTISING OR MISUSE OF NAMES TO INDICATE INSURED STATUS.—

"(A) TEMPORARY ORDER.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—If a notice of charges served under subsection (b)(1) of this section specifies on the basis of particular facts that any person is engaged in conduct described in section 18(a)(4), the Corporation may issue a temporary order requiring—

"(I) the immediate cessation of any activity or practice described, which gave rise to the notice of charges; and

"(II) affirmative action to prevent any further, or to remedy any existing, violation.

"(ii) EFFECT OF ORDER.—Any temporary order issued under this subparagraph shall take effect upon service.

"(B) EFFECTIVE PERIOD OF TEMPORARY ORDER.—A temporary order issued under subparagraph (A) shall remain effective and enforceable, pending the completion of an administrative proceeding pursuant to subsection (b)(1) in connection with the notice of charges—

"(i) until such time as the Corporation shall dismiss the charges specified in such notice; or

"(ii) if a cease-and-desist order is issued against such person, until the effective date of such order.

"(C) CIVIL MONEY PENALTIES.—Violations of section 18(a)(4) shall be subject to civil money penalties as set forth in subsection (i) in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 for each day during which the violation occurs or continues."

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 18(a)(3) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1828(a)) is amended—

(A) by striking "this subsection" the first place such term appears and inserting "paragraph (1)"; and

(B) by striking "this subsection" the second place such term appears and inserting "paragraph (2)".

(2) The heading for subsection (a) of section 18 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1828(a)) is amended by striking "INSURANCE LOGO.—" and inserting "REPRESENTATIONS OF DEPOSIT INSURANCE.—".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIRES) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIRES. 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 New Jersey?

There was no objection.

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

First, I would like to thank Chairman FRANK for moving this legislation through the committee and bringing it to the floor today.

I would also like to thank Congresswoman BIGGERT for sponsoring this legislation with me. I was happy to have such a strong proponent of consumer protection join me in introducing this bill.

We hear all types of stories about trademarks registered to a specific company being used inappropriately. In some cases, multimillion-dollar lawsuits are filed for copyright and patent infringement.

We have the same thing going on with the FDIC. Their trusted logo is being used to deceive consumers, but they have no recourse.

H.R. 2547 will allow the FDIC to levy cease and desist orders against any persons or entity that uses the FDIC's name, logo, abbreviation or any other FDIC-recognized indicator fraudulently and without the FDIC's permission. This legislation will also allow the FDIC to impose fines of up to \$1 million per day against any person or entity engaging in falsely representing the FDIC's backing of a product.

This is important consumer protection legislation that is necessary to preserve the trusted name of one of the most recognized Federal agencies. In fact, the FDIC believes this legislation is necessary to help them to continue to fight financial scams.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2547.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would like to, first of all, thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIRES) for his work on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2547, the FDIC Enforcement Enhancement Act.

In May I was pleased to join my colleague, Congressman SIRES, in introducing this bill which gives the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation new tools to protect our constituents from financial scam artists.

After the great stock market crash in 1929 and the numerous bank closures during the Great Depression, Congress passed, in 1933, the Glass-Steagall Act, which created the FDIC. Congress created this independent Federal agency and charged it with a most important mission: To instill and maintain "the stability and the public's confidence in the Nation's financial system."

For over 70 years, the FDIC has worked to meet its mission. The FDIC's name, seal, abbreviation, and other indicators are well known, and they are symbols that the public uses to identify a financial institution or a product as being legitimate, federally insured, sound, and supervised. These are easily identifiable FDIC symbols and they can be found in a range of places, from the bank teller's window to a financial institution's Web site.

Unfortunately, over the years, criminals have taken advantage of the public's confidence in the FDIC name and used it for malicious purposes. Criminals have fraudulently used the FDIC's name to deceive consumers, most often the elderly, into saving or investing their money in a criminal's illegitimate product offered by a criminal's illegitimate financial institution.

For example, some of you may have received or known individuals who have received e-mails from these scam artists. The e-mails, that are actually from criminals, claim to be from the FDIC and request that the e-mail recipient provide highly sensitive, online banking information. However, the e-mails are fraudulent and not from the FDIC.

Current law prohibits this criminal activity, but H.R. 2547 strengthens the FDIC's enforcement powers so that it can take immediate action against criminals that are fraudulently hiding behind the good name of the FDIC and to immediately stop such criminal activity so that the consumer's money doesn't disappear.

The act allows the FDIC to enter cease and desist orders against this conduct and impose fines up to \$1 million per day on any person who falsely represents the nature of the product offered or the FDIC's insurance coverage available. In addition, the proposed legislation would clarify the FDIC's authority to seek injunctive relief against such person under the rules of any Federal, State or foreign court of competent jurisdiction.

The language of this act is similar or is identical to the act of 2005, the Financial Service Regulatory Relief, section 615, which the Committee on Financial Services approved by a vote of 67-0 in November of 2005. The House has approved this bill by a voice vote.

So I would urge my colleagues to again support the language and vote for today's bill. This bill gives the FDIC the ability to help prevent our constituents from becoming victims of financial scam artists and, like Glass-Steagall, aims to give our constituents confidence in the Nation's financial system.

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

Mr. SIRES. 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 New Jersey (Mr. SIRES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2547, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. SIRES. 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 motion will be postponed.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE COUNCIL  
AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1980) to authorize appropriations for the Housing Assistance Council.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1980

*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 "Housing Assistance Council Authorization Act of 2007".

**SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE TO HOUSING ASSISTANCE COUNCIL.**

(a) USE.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may provide financial assistance to the Housing Assistance Council for use by such Council to develop the ability and capacity of community-based housing development organizations to undertake community development and affordable housing projects and programs in rural areas. Assistance provided by the Secretary under this section may be used by the Housing Assistance Council for—

(1) technical assistance, training, support, and advice to develop the business and administrative capabilities of rural community-based housing development organizations;

(2) loans, grants, or other financial assistance to rural community-based housing development organizations to carry out community development and affordable housing activities for low- and moderate-income families; and

(3) such other activities as may be determined by the Housing Assistance Council.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for financial assistance under this section for the Housing Assistance Council—

(1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2008; and

(2) \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

□ 1415

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HINOJOSA. 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 Texas?

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1980, the Housing Assistance Council Authorization Act of 2007.

I introduced H.R. 1980 earlier this year. It was referred to the Committee on Financial Services. Chairwoman WATERS held a hearing on it in her Housing Subcommittee, and the committee reported it favorably to the floor to the point where we are today.

At this point I will enter into the RECORD a letter from 266 organizations in support of the Housing Assistance Council, also known as HAC.

APRIL 16, 2007.

Hon. DAVID R. OBEY,  
*Chairman, House Appropriations Committee,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. JOHN W. OLVER,  
*Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation,*  
*HUD, and Related Agencies, House Appropriations Committee, Washington, DC.*

Hon. JERRY LEWIS,  
*Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee, Washington, DC.*

Hon. JOE KNOLLENBERG,  
*Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Transportation, HUD, and Related Agencies, House Appropriations Committee, Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES: We urge you to support congressional funding for the Housing Assistance Council (HAC), a national nonprofit intermediary organization, which has been committed for more than 35 years to supporting the development of affordable housing in the nation's most rural and underserved places. HAC has an excellent record as a lender, capacity builder, and information provider and should be included in the 2008 Department of Housing and Urban Development appropriation.

We, the undersigned 266 organizations, represent vibrant, rural communities across America. Our efforts to build and sustain affordable housing for low-income rural residents are often complicated by funding cuts and capacity challenges. Throughout, HAC has been a staunch advocate, a lender, a source of information and technical advice, and a friend to rural housing providers. At times, when others have ignored rural America's needs, HAC has stood firm and kept rural issues at the forefront of the national discourse.

Congressional funding allows HAC to support rural communities and provide:

Lending. HAC has loaned more than \$217 million dollars to 1,875 organizations to develop 56,000 units of affordable housing. These loans have helped thousands of families own or rent affordable, decent homes in 49 states and the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Capacity Building Grants, Technical Assistance, and Training. HAC has raised and distributed more than \$5 million in capacity building grants to nurture over 300 local nonprofit organizations engaged in affordable

housing development. Grants, supported by technical assistance and training have a ripple effect, enabling recipient organizations to begin to sustain themselves and better serve their communities.

Research and Information. The HAC website, ruralhome.org, helps to overcome the geographical isolation that impacts many rural communities and brings up-to-date information and technical resources to often disconnected rural communities. Taking Stock and other HAC research provide objective analysis of rural housing and poverty conditions that impact more than 55 million rural residents.

With continued congressional support, HAC can sustain and expand its exceptional work in the rural communities you represent across America.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alabama: Alabama Non Profit Housing Inc., Oneonta; Ecumenical Ministries, Fairhope; Habitat for Humanity Hale County, Inc., Greensboro; HERO, Greenboro; North Glover CDC, Mobile; SE Alabama Self-Help Association, Inc., Tuskegee; Sowing Seeds of Hope, Marion.

Alaska: Alaska CDC, Palmer; RurAL CAP, Anchorage.

Arizona: Comm. Action Human Resources Agency, Eloy; Emanika Associates Architects, Inc., Florence.

Arkansas: CHICOT Housing Assistance Corp., Lake Village; Crawford-Sebastian Comm. Dev. Council, Fort Smith; Delta Studies Center, State Univ.; East AR Strategic Planning Initiative, Brinkley; Eldorado Housing Authority, El Dorado; SACD, Arkadelphia; St. Francis County CDC, Forrest City; Universal Housing Development Corp., Russellville.

California: Cabrillo Economic Dev. Corp., Ventura; California Coalition for Rural Housing, Sacramento; California Housing Partnership Corp. San Francisco; California Human Dev. Corp., W. Sacramento; Center for Community Advocacy, Salinas; Comm. Hsg. Improvement Program, Chico; CHISPA, Salinas; Legal Services of Northern California, Chico; Mercy Housing, W. Sacramento; Organizacion en California de Lideres Campesinas, Pomona; National Housing Law Project, Oakland; Peoples' Self-Help Housing Corporation, San Luis Obispo; Rural California Housing Corporation, W. Sacramento; Rural Community Assistance Corp., W. Sacramento; Self Help Enterprises Inc., Visalia; Self-Help Home Improvement Project, Redding; Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Nation, Thermal.

Colorado: Century 21 Real Estate, Pagosa Springs; Colorado Housing, Inc., Pagosa Springs; Grand County Housing Authority, Fraser; Habitat for Humanity of Colorado, Denver; Habitat for Humanity of Montrose Cty, Montrose; Housing Justice, Denver; Housing Resources of Western Colorado, Grand Junction.

Delaware: Delmarva Rural Ministries, Inc., Dover; NCALL Research Inc, Dover.

Florida: Coalition of Florida Farmworker Orgs., Florida City; Florida Home Partnership, Inc., Ruskin; Florida Low Income Housing Associates, Inverness; Florida Non-Profit Housing, Inc., Sebring; Homes in Partnership, Inc., Apopka; Indiantown Non-Profit Housing, Indiantown; Rural Neighborhoods, Homestead.

Georgia: East Athens Development Corp, Athens; GA State Trade Assn. of Nonprofit Developers, Atlanta; Home Development Resources, Inc., Gainesville; Hsg and Econ. Leadership Partners, Inc., Athens; Ropheka Rock of the Word, Inc., Atlanta; Sams Memorial Community Econ. Dev., Darien; Seminole County Training School CDC, Donaldsonville; Southwest Georgia HDC, Cuthbert; Washington Clay CDC, Atlanta.

Hawaii: Hawaii Human Dev. Corp., Honolulu; Self-Help Housing Corp. of Hawaii, Honolulu.

Idaho: Community Council of Idaho, Caldwell.

Illinois: Franciscan Ministries, Inc., Wheaton; Housing Action Illinois, Chicago; Illinois Migrant Council, Chicago; YouthBuild McLean County, Bloomington.

Indiana: Community Action of East Central IN, Richmond; Comm. Action Program of Evansville, Evansville; Heart House, Aurora.

Iowa: Northeast Iowa CAC, Decorah.

Kansas: 21st Century Homestead, Altamont; Emporia Comm. Hsg Org., (ECHO), Emporia; Interfaith Housing Services, Inc., Hutchinson; Mental Health Assoc. of the Heartland City, Kansas City; NEK-CAP, Hiawatha; New Beginnings, Inc., Hutchinson; Northwest Kansas Housing, Inc., Hill City; See-Kan Cooperative Development, Inc., Sedan.

Kentucky: Community Housing, Inc., Winchester; FAHE, Berea; Frontier Housing, Morehead; Housing Development Alliance, Hazard; Kentucky Housing Corporation, Frankfort; Kentucky Mnt Hs Dev' Corporation, Manchester; Low Income Hsg Coalition of E. KY, Prestonsburg; McCreey Cty Comm. Hsg Dev. Corp., Whitley City; Owsley County Action Team, Booneville; Partnership Housing, Inc, Booneville.

Louisiana: United for Fair Economy, Mandeville; Greater North Louisiana CDC, Jonesboro; MET—La. Housing, Hammond; Mt. Olive Waterworks District, Grambling; Project 2000, Inc., Hammond.

Maine: Bread of Life Ministries, Augusta; Coastal Enterprises, Inc., Wicasset; Community Concepts, South Paris; Rumford Group Homes, Inc., Rumford.

Maryland: Interfaith Housing Alliance, Inc, Frederick; Southern MD Tri-County CAC, Inc., Hughesville.

Massachusetts: Hilltown CDC, Chesterfield; RCAP Solutions, Gardner; Rural Development Incorporated, Turners Falls.

Michigan: Bay Area Housing, Inc, Bay City; Channel Housing Ministries, Inc., Hart; G.A. Haan L.P., Harbor Springs; Human Development Commission, Caro; Jackson Affordable Housing Corp., Jackson; Marquette County Habitat for Humanity, Marquette; NW Michigan Human Services Agency, Traverse; Northern Homes CDC, Boyne City; Saginaw County CAC, Saginaw; Washtenaw Affordable Housing Corp., Ann Arbor.

Minnesota: American Indians in Unity, Saint Paul; Becker County Housing, Fergus Falls; Grand Portage Indian Housing Authority, Grand Portage; Minnesota Housing Partnership, Saint Paul.

Mississippi: African American Cultural Society, Starkville; Central Mississippi, Inc. (CMI), Winona; Christian Housing Dev. Org., Inc., Columbus; City of Picayune, Picayune; Delta Foundation, Inc., Greenville; Esther Stewart Buford Foundation, Yazoo City; Southwest Mississippi Opportunity, Inc., McComb; West Holmes Community Dev. Org., Tchula.

Missouri: Economic Security Corp. of SW Area, Joplin; Green Hills Community Action Agency, Trenton; Missouri Valley CAA, Marshall.

Montana: Midwest Assistance Program, Lewistown; N. Cheyenne Housing Improvement Prog., Lame Deer; Neighborhood Housing Services, Great Falls.

Nevada: Rural Community Assistance Corp., Dayton.

New Hampshire: Laconia Area Community Land Trust, Laconia; NeighborWorks Greater Manchester, Manchester.

New Jersey: Crusaders CDC, Bridgeton; Mendham Area Senior Housing Corp., Mendham.

New Mexico: Centro Fuerza Y Unidad, Mesquite; City of Lordsburg, Lordsburg; Eastern Plains Housing Dev. Corp., Clovis; Greater Hidalgo Area Chamber of Comm., Lordsburg; Habitat for Humanity—Gila Region, Silver City; HELP—New Mexico, Inc., Albuquerque; Hsng Authority of the City of Las Cruces, Las Cruces; Navajo Partnership for Housing, Inc., Gallup; Santo Domingo Tribe, Santo Domingo, Pueblo; Siete del Norte, Embudo; SW Neighborhood Housing Services, Albuquerque; Supportive Housing Coalition of NM, Albuquerque; Tierra del Sol Housing Corporation, San Miguel.

New York: ADD Community Services Programs, Inc., Wappingers Falls; Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Hsng Fdn, Inc., Rochester; Cuba CDC, Cuba; Hudson Valley Housing Development Finance Corp., Wappingers Falls; NYS Rural Advocates, Blue Mtn Lake; NYS Rural Housing Coalition, Albany; Rural Development Leadership Network, Prince St. Stn; Rural Opportunities, Inc., Rochester.

North Carolina: Design Corps, Raleigh; Habitat for Humanity of Moore County, Aberdeen; Herrington Village, Ltd., Elizabeth City; Hinton Rural Life Center, Hayesville; Housing Assistance Corporation, Hendersonville; Inez Community Development Co., Greensboro; Lincoln Apartments, Inc., Durham; Moore County Habitat for Humanity, Aberdeen; Mount Sinai Homes, Fayetteville; Mountain Projects Inc., Waynesville; North Carolina Housing Coalition, Raleigh; Panola Heights Housing Dev. Corp., Tarboro; Princeville Housing Development Corp., Princeville; Robeson County CDC, Rowland; Southern Real Estate Mgmt & Cons., Durham; Telamon Corporation, Rowland, Rowland.

North Dakota: Southeastern North Dakota CAA, Fargo; Spirit Lake CDC, Saint Michael; Standing Rock Housing Authority, Fort Yates.

Ohio: Adams Brown Counties. Econ. Op. Inc., Winchester; COHHIO, Columbus; Habitat for Humanity of Morrow Cty, Mt. Gilead; Rural Appalachian Housing Dev., Glouster.

Oklahoma: Latimer County Housing Authority, Stigler; Native American Housing Services, Inc., McLoud; Tri-County Indian Nations CDC, Ada.

Oregon: CASA of Oregon, Newberg; Junction City/Harrisburg/Monroe Habitat for Humanity, Junction City; LeBanon Area Habitat for Humanity, Lebanon; Rural Collaborative, Portland; Umpqua CDC, Roseburg.

Pennsylvania: Alliance for Better Housing, Kennett Square; Columbia County Housing Corporation, Bloomsburg; Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania, Glenside; Livable Hsng & Comm. Dev. Software, York; Sisters of St. Francis, Aston; Threshold Housing Development, Inc., Uniontown; Trehab, Montrose.

South Carolina: Allendale County ALIVE, Allendale; CDC of Marlboro County, Bennettsville; Lowcountry Hsng and Econ. Dev. Fdn, Charleston; United Methodist Relief Center, Mt. Pleasant.

South Dakota: Inter-Lakes Comm. Action Partnership, Watertown; Oti Kaga, Inc., Eagle Butte.

Tennessee: Affordable Housing Resources, Nashville; Buffalo Valley, Inc, Hohenwald; Carey Counseling Center, Paris; Crossville Housing Authority, Crossville; Eastern Eight CDC, Johnson City; Foothills CDC, Alcoa; Hawkins Habitat for Humanity, Rogersville; Joshua & Nehemiah Comm. Ministry, Jackson; Riverview Kansas CDC, Memphis.

Texas: Action Gypsum, LP, Houston; Amigos del Valle, Mission; Association of Rural Comm. in Texas, Austin; Comm. Council of Southwest Texas, Uvalde; CDC of South Texas, Inc., McAllen; Futuro Communities, Uvalde; Housing Plus, Inc., Harlingen; Lower Valley Housing Corp., Fabens; McAllen Affordable Homes, McAllen; Motivation, Edu-

cation and Training, Inc., Austin; Organizacion Progresiva de San Elizario, San Elizario; Paso del Norte Civil Rights Project, El Paso; Proyecto Azteca, San Juan; Self-Help Housing of East Texas, Newton; South Texas Civil Rights Project, San Juan; Texas C-BAR, Austin; Urban County Program, College Station; Walker-Montgomery CHDO, New Waverly.

Utah: Mountain Lands Comm. Housing Trust, Park City; Neighborhood Nonprofit Housing Corp., Logan; Rural Housing Dev. Corp. of Utah County, Provo.

Vermont: Brattleboro Area Comm. Land Trust, Brattleboro; Lamoille Housing Partnership, Inc., Morrisville; RNA Community Builders, Rutland; Vermont Affordable Housing Coalition, Burlington; Vermont Housing & Conservation Board, Montpelier.

Virginia: Bay Aging, Urbanna; Blue Ridge Housing Development Corp., Roanoke; Community Housing Partners Corp., Christiansburg; HOPE Community Services, Farmville; Mountain Shelter, Wytheville; Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., Indian Neck; Southeast RCAP, Roanoke; Trailview Development, Abingdon; Volunteers of America, Alexandria.

Washington: Diocese of Yakima Housing, Yakima; Homes for Islanders, Friday Harbor; Kitsap County Consolidated Hsng Auth., Silverdale; Office of Rural and Farmworker Housing, Yakima; Okanogan County CAC, Okanogan; Shelter Resources, Inc., Bellevue; WA State Farmworker Housing Trust, Bellingham; WA State Housing Finance Commission, Seattle; Whatcom Skagit Housing, Bellingham.

West Virginia: Comm. Homebuyer Investment Program, Wheeling; Harts Community Development Inc., Harts; Housing Authority of Mingo County, Williamson; Stop Abusive Family Environments, Welch; Telamon Corporation, Martinsburg; Woodlands Development Group, Elkins.

Wisconsin: America's Dream, Inc., Seymour; Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups, Madison; Southeast Wisconsin Housing Corporation, Burlington; UMOs, Milwaukee.

Wyoming: Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Teton Area, Jackson.

Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank my good friend Congresswoman WATERS for working closely with me as she helped navigate this important rural housing legislation to this floor. I also want to recognize the important role her staff played in bringing this bill to the floor today. I commend Mikael Moore and Nat Thomas with Chairwoman WATERS, as well as Jeff Riley with Congressman FRANK for their time and efforts and patience and understanding while working on this important legislation. I also want to acknowledge the good work of Jaime Lizarraga.

In my capacity as chairman of the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus, I introduced H.R. 1980, the Housing Assistance Council Authorization Act of 2007, that supports rural communities' efforts to provide quality and affordable housing. It authorizes the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide the Housing Assistance Council, known as HAC, with funds for technical assistance, for training, as well as support and advice. These types of assistance will help develop the business and administrative capacities of rural community-based housing development organizations.

Also, this bill will provide the Housing Assistance Council with funds to use to make loans, grants, or provide other financial assistance for community-based housing development organizations, which will help them develop affordable housing options for low- and moderate-income families throughout rural America.

HAC will use some of these funds received as a result of this authorizing language and the appropriations process for below-market lending to local community and faith-based home builders with an emphasis on first-time low-income homeownership, particularly for minorities. When repaid, HAC will lend the funds again to new borrowers. The new capital will be used throughout rural America, including in five very high need areas: Appalachia, the Lower Mississippi Delta and Southeast, the Southwest border region, Native American areas, and migrant farm worker regions throughout the country. These are areas where property rates and housing need are very high, development capacity is very low, and conventional financing tools do not always work.

The Housing Assistance Council has extensive experience and is uniquely qualified to carry out this work. HAC's 35-year-old nonprofit loan fund, where this new capital would be used, has lent over \$220 million during their existence to nearly 1,900 organizations to develop almost 60,000 homes, and the fund has a loss rate of less than 1 percent. Madam Speaker, these loans have helped thousands of families own or rent affordable, decent homes in 49 States and the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, and has helped Proyecto Azteca in my congressional district. It is important to note that HAC is the only national assistance organization devoted solely to rural housing and community development.

Madam Speaker, 20 percent of our Nation's population lives in rural communities; yet far too many of these families live in conditions that are poor, inadequate, or run-down. This bill will go a long way towards improving the overall quality of life of rural Americans by providing them with the resources they need to improve the quality of housing in rural America.

In conclusion, I want to thank again Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS and Chairman BARNEY FRANK for their support for this important legislation and for bringing this bill to the floor for a vote today.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today to support H.R. 1980, the Housing Assistance Council Authorization Act of 2007, and would like to compliment the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) for his work on this and also Chairwoman WATERS for bringing this important initiative for rural communities to the floor today.

This legislation recognizes the work of the Housing Assistance Council in providing housing opportunities for low-income families in rural communities, and most of the Second District is rural communities in New Mexico. There are many others across this country, but we feel the direct impact in New Mexico.

Although HAC has received funding through HUD appropriations since the early 1980s, the program has never been authorized. This bill would formally authorize assistance councils, which is important to ensure the continued success of the program and long-term goal of aiding individuals in low-income housing.

The Housing Assistance Council is unique in nature and the only nonprofit designed to help improve rural housing. HAC should be particularly praised for its work on self-help housing initiatives, which promote personal stability and financial responsibility for low-income housing.

Again I want to thank my colleagues for acknowledging the Housing Assistance Council's important contribution to affordable housing for rural communities, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I want to yield 5 minutes to my good friend the gentleman from New Hampshire, Congressman PAUL HODES, who has already made a mark in Congress during his first year in office.

Mr. HODES. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1980.

Rural poverty is a particularly harsh brand of indigence. It tends to be more extreme than urban poverty, and because it develops in areas far from television cameras and daily newspapers, to most people in this country, rural poverty is faceless. But its presence and its consequences are very real, and they present formidable challenges to both our country and our conscience.

In my own home State of New Hampshire, we have largely a rural State. Our cities by some measures are hardly cities. They are large towns. And while we are known for the beauty of our mountains and our lakes and our tourist economy as well as our high tech economy, there are pockets of intransigent rural poverty throughout our State. In the far north the rate of poverty is much higher than it is in most other places in the State, and generally the poverty rate in rural areas of the country is 14.6 percent, which tops that of most urban areas.

People who are living in rural poverty face numerous challenges. Inaccessibility of housing with high rents. In New Hampshire the average price for an apartment for a family of four is now \$1,000, and this is at a time when folks who are living in rural areas are facing a softer economy and gas prices which are rising, and the challenge of

finding a decent place to live for people who live in rural areas is a powerful challenge. People who live in rural areas are farther from basic services. They are less likely to take advantage of them.

There is a desperate need in parts of our country, including my own State. And as the people's House, we have a moral imperative to help children and parents trapped in destitution.

H.R. 1980 and H.R. 1982, which will come to the floor later, are compassionate, responsible bills which encourage the development of low- and moderate-income housing in our most stricken areas. There is no doubt, because I have seen it with my own eyes on numerous occasions at home, that a clean, safe place to live is often the first step on the road to self-sufficiency. We are not talking about hand-outs. Encouraging economic development in poor areas helps create jobs and a solid tax base, which build toward self-sustaining prosperity.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1980 and its companion 1982 are wise, compassionate investments in our country's future. I urge my colleagues to support their passage.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this important bill.

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

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

This legislation is very important to many parts of Texas. As you know, when they redrew the lines of the Congressmen in Texas, I was given a 375-mile-long geographic area that had 90 communities. The greatest majority, 90 percent, were small rural communities who were asking when is Congress going to recognize the great need that we have for housing assistance?

And I want to give you just one example of the route that I mentioned, Proyecto Azteca, which is one where people build their own homes. They provide the labor to build those homes with the supervision of some professional supervisors in construction of residential homes. The only assistance that we give them is the purchasing of the materials, the building materials, which amounts to about \$30,000. And I wish you could see these homes. I wish you could see the fine work that is done in these three-bedroom, one-bath homes that many have been built in our area with this type of assistance.

So I give this example because there are many serving in Congress who have never visited colonias like those that are in some parts of the southwestern part of the United States.

So I say that this type of legislation is something that is going to go a long ways in helping provide many, many more affordable homes.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1980, the Housing Assistance Council Authorization Act of 2007.

This bill authorizes \$10 million for the Housing Assistance Council, HAC, in Fiscal Year

2008 and \$15 million in Fiscal Years 2009–2014. HAC, a nonprofit corporation, is the only national intermediary focused solely on the tremendous affordable housing needs of rural areas and small towns.

HAC assists in the development of both single-family homes and multi-family housing, and promotes homeownership for working low-income rural families. HAC maintains a special focus on high-need groups and regions: Indian country, the Mississippi Delta, farm workers, the Southwest border colonias, and Appalachia. In just the past 8 years, HAC has provided over \$105 million in aid to hundreds of organizations in 160 Congressional districts. Since inception in 1971, HAC has helped build 60,000 affordable homes in 49 states and 2 territories.

The funds authorized by H.R. 1980 will allow HAC to continue successfully assisting a national network of rural nonprofit, public and for profit builders. Specifically, HAC could continue providing grants, loans, technical assistance, training, and other support to build the capacity of rural community-based housing development organizations to create and sustain safe affordable housing. The bill also enables HAC to offer vital help to specific housing projects and initiatives these groups undertake.

I am especially pleased that this funding will enable HAC to bring its expertise to bear on the problem of rural homelessness. While my District does not encompass rural areas, it does have as many as 10,000 persons on any given night. And though it may not seem so at first blush, homelessness in central Los Angeles is related to rural homelessness.

Specifically, in the absence of an adequately resourced network of housing and service providers in their home communities, poor rural folks who fall into homelessness often leave their family and social networks and move to larger urban areas in the hope of finding jobs, housing, and social services.

While migrating from the countryside to the city, and vice versa, is an important and time-honored American tradition, these vulnerable households—often with few skills and suffering from disabilities or chronic health problems—too often experience homelessness again in the destination city. There, they enter public and private systems of care already stressed to the breaking point—as tragically exemplified by a recent “60 Minutes” story on so-called “hospital patient-dumping” in Los Angeles.

H.R. 1980 will enable HAC to help interrupt this tragic cycle, by building the capacity of their network of housing developers and social service providers to care for the homeless and at-risk in their own hometowns—where they are most likely to escape homelessness and re-enter the economic mainstream.

Mr. HINOJOSA. 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 Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1980.

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. PEARCE. 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 motion will be postponed.

□ 1430

RURAL HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1982) to authorize appropriations for the rural housing and economic development program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1982

*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 "Rural Housing and Economic Development Improvement Act of 2007".*

**SEC. 2. RURAL HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.**

(a) *USE.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may carry out a program, through the Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development, to provide assistance to Indian tribes, State housing finance agencies, State community or economic development agencies, local nonprofit organizations and community development corporations in rural areas to support innovative housing and economic development activities in rural areas.*

(b) *REQUIREMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER FOR ASSISTANCE.—As a condition of initial or continuing assistance under any housing or economic development activity that is provided assistance with amounts made available under this section, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall require that each member of a family so assisted (or of a family applying for such assistance) who is 18 years of age or older or is the spouse of the head of household of such family, shall have a valid social security number.*

(c) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for assistance under this section—*

- (1) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2008; and
- (2) \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HINOJOSA. 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 Texas?

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1982, the Rural Housing and Economic Development Improvement Act of 2007.

I introduced H.R. 1982 earlier this year. It was referred to the Committee

on Financial Services. Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS held a hearing on it in her Housing Subcommittee, and the committee reported it favorably to the floor to the point where we are today.

At this point, I would submit for the RECORD a statement of the National Association of Realtors in support of the Rural Housing and Economic Development Improvement Act.

STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS TO THE HOUSE FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE, SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY HEARING RURAL HOUSING PROGRAMS: REVIEW FISCAL YEAR 2008 BUDGET AND PENDING RURAL HOUSING LEGISLATION—MAY 9, 2007

Nearly 20% of the U.S. population live in non-metropolitan areas. Housing conditions in rural areas are generally worse than in urban or suburban neighborhoods. Federal rural housing programs are instrumental in providing affordable housing opportunities to low- and moderate income rural renters and homebuyers. The National Association of REALTORS® strongly supports federal housing programs that target rural communities and provide sufficient federal assistance needed to meet the housing needs of rural communities.

Many of our rural citizens face a serious housing crisis. Nearly all of the counties with the highest poverty rates in America are rural. As a result, access to an adequate supply of safe, affordable rental units, mortgage financing and housing assistance is especially important in these areas. Approximately 1.9 million rural renters have housing problems; the majority of these renters are spending more than 30% of their incomes for housing. These areas also generally have fewer mortgage lenders competing in the marketplace, a factor that raises the cost of home mortgages.

*FY2008 budget proposals*

The President's FY2008 budget proposal for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Service (RHS) reflects a preference for loan guarantees and vouchers to provide low income rental housing. The President's budget proposal eliminates funding for the Section 502 single family direct loan program, while increasing funding for the Section 502 single family guaranteed loan program by 32%. Similarly, the proposal would eliminate funding for the Section 515 multifamily direct loan program (which provides loans to developers of affordable rental housing), while doubling funding for the Section 538 multifamily guaranteed program. Lastly, the budget proposes to increase from 2 to 3 percent, the guarantee fee on new 502 loans.

While NAR's members understand and support programs like loan guarantees that leverage available funds, we also believe that direct loan programs are also very important. In many rural communities, the Section 502 direct loan program is the only housing assistance available. Section 502 homeownership direct loan program loans are used primarily to help low income households purchase homes. They can be used to build, repair, renovate, or relocate homes, and to purchase and prepare sites, including providing water and sewage facilities. These loans may also be used to refinance debts when necessary to avoid foreclosure or when required to make necessary house repairs affordable. We strongly support the availability of sufficient federal assistance to ensure the Section 502 direct loan program responsibly addresses the housing needs of low and moderate income rural families.

Rental housing is also a critical need in rural communities. Approximately 7.8 million people in non-metropolitan areas in the U.S. are poor. Section 515 Rural Rental Housing Loans are direct, competitive mortgage

loans made to finance affordable multifamily rental housing units for very low-, low-, and moderate-income families, elderly persons, and persons with disabilities. Since its inception in 1962, the Section 515 program has provided more than half a million decent rental homes affordable for the lowest income rural residents. We urge Congress to restore construction funding for the Section 515 program eliminated in the President's FY2008 budget so as to enable low-income rural families to find decent, safe, and affordable housing.

We also strongly oppose the proposed increase in the guarantee fee on 502 loans. Increasing the fee will mean that rural low- and moderate-income families will have to pay more for the opportunity to become homeowners. This may cause some families to become ineligible for a mortgage.

*Pending rural housing legislation*

The National Association of REALTORS® also supports H.R. 1982, the "Rural Housing and Economic Development Improvement Act of 2007", introduced by Rep. Hinojosa (D-TX). This bill would authorize the Rural Housing and Economic Development program at HUD that provides assistance to states and localities for housing and economic development activities in rural communities. The program provides limited funding on a competitive basis to community groups including local rural non-profits, community development corporations, housing finance agencies (HFAs), and economic development agencies. The funding may be used for capacity building and similar support for housing and economic development projects in areas with a population of less than 20,000. This program has been operating successfully at HUD but has not been authorized. HR 1982 would simply authorize the program and deserves Congressional support.

*Conclusion*

In closing, the National Association of REALTORS® appreciates this opportunity to comment on the needs for rural housing. We thank the Subcommittee for its attention to rural housing, and we urge your strong support of our policy and funding recommendations to improve rural housing opportunities.

Madam Speaker, 20 percent of our Nation's population lives in rural communities, yet far too many of these families live in conditions that are poor, inadequate or run down. To address these horrendous conditions, I co-founded and currently chair the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus. The goal of the caucus is to improve the availability, affordability and quality of housing in rural America.

H.R. 1982 provides \$30 million for the Rural Housing and Economic Development, known as the RHED, program respectively for fiscal year 2008, and \$40 million for fiscal years 2008 throughout the year 2013.

I believe this legislation will go a long way towards accomplishing the goals of the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus.

The Rural Housing and Economic Development program provides for capacity building at the State and at the local level for rural housing and economic development, and to support innovative housing and economic development activities in rural areas.

Funds made available under this program are awarded competitively on an annual basis through a selection process conducted by HUD. This program is established to assist nonprofit organizations in rural communities across America. Eligible applicants are local rural nonprofits as well as community development corporations, federally recognized Indian tribes, State housing finance agencies, and State community and/or economic development agencies.

Support for innovative housing and economic development activities is intended for, but not limited to, other costs for innovative housing and economic development activities.

Possible activities include the following: Preparation of plans; architectural drawings; acquisitions of land and buildings; demolition; provision of infrastructure; purchase of materials and construction costs; use of local labor markets; job training and counseling for beneficiaries; and financial services such as revolving loan funds and IDAs, which are the individual development accounts.

Other possible activities include home ownership and financial counseling, the latter of which is important to me in my role as the cofounder and cochair of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus with my friend Congresswoman BIGGERT.

The RHED program also allows for application of innovative construction methods, provision of financial assistance to homeowners, businesses and developers, and the establishment of CDFIs, lines of credit, revolving loan funds, microenterprises, and something that is much needed in my own district, small business incubators.

The Rural Housing and Economic Development Enhancement Act of 2007 will help the RHED program provide additional funding needed to increase and improve capacity, building at the State and local level for rural housing and economic development.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1982, the Rural Housing and Economic Development Improvement Act of 2007. RHED is designed to provide grants to Indian tribes, State housing finance agencies, State community or economic development agencies, local nonprofit organizations and community development corporations.

H.R. 1982 was introduced in response to the administration's budget proposals for the fiscal year 2008, which zeros out the RHED program by consolidating it into the Community Development Block Grant program, CDBG.

This shows a continuing promise by the administration to more effectively manage its grant programs. However, preserving the one remaining outreach in HUD to rural communities is critical in helping our most impoverished citizens.

The Second District of New Mexico, which I represent, is one of America's most rural districts, and it is critical that Congress provide our rural citizens with the proper access to safe, affordable housing. For example, in the town of Columbus, New Mexico, near the Mexican border, there are citizens who have no running water in their homes. They must bring a pail to the center of town in order to get water for their families. Many times these individuals are overlooked because of geography, and we must protect their rights.

I would like to thank Congressman HINOJOSA for recognizing the need for safe housing in rural communities like those in southern New Mexico. The need for this kind of program is great in the Second District, and I am grateful to assist in seeing that Congress is coming to the aid of the neediest families in rural areas. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, at this time, I wish to yield 5 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from New Hampshire, Congressman PAUL HODES.

Congressman HODES has helped focus Congress' attention on rural housing issues and environmentally green, sustainable building practices. And he has earned the respect of those of us on that committee.

Mr. HODES. I thank the gentleman for yielding on this important bill.

Madam Speaker, I had the privilege to speak briefly on H.R. 1980. In many ways, H.R. 1982 is a companion measure.

This important act authorizes the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, through the Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development, to implement important assistance programs to support innovative housing and economic development activities in rural areas. Both in my State of New Hampshire and in States around the country, this important act will provide much needed assistance.

I rise in strong support of this act. I urge my colleagues to unanimously approve of this measure.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1982, the Rural Housing and Economic Development Improvement Act of 2007. This bill authorizes \$30 million for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's, HUD, Rural Housing and Economic Development, RHED, program in FY 2008 and \$40 million for Fiscal Years 2009–2013.

Although Congress has funded RHED since 1999, this bill finally gives the program formal authorization. Such authorization is long overdue, as this competitive grant program has long-since proven its worthiness. According to the Office of Management and Budget, RHED grants have created more than 9,100 jobs and more than 112,000 housing units.

RHED grants are desperately needed to address the growing affordable housing crisis in rural America. While housing costs are lower

in rural America, so too are household incomes. As a result, rural America faces a growing affordability concern, particularly among renters. According to the 2005 American Housing Survey, nearly 3.6 million rural households are cost burdened, paying more than 30 percent of their monthly income for housing costs. The Department of Housing and Urban Development's biennial "worst case housing needs" survey reveals that, in 2005, nearly 1 million rural households paid more than half their incomes in housing costs and/or lived in substandard housing—a dramatic 51 percent increase since 2003.

RHED funding is prudently allocated—based on community need measured by poverty and unemployment rates, as well as by other indicators including rates of substandard housing and percentage of households facing affordability problems.

The RHED program also emphasizes specific high needs regions and populations. Over 60 percent of the organizations that have received RHED funds over the program's history serve high needs regions, which include Appalachia, the Mississippi Delta, the Border Colonias, Native American lands, and farmworkers.

The RHED program also targets smallest, most isolated rural communities, giving extra weight to applications proposing to serve areas with populations of 2,500 or less. Because of this targeting, the Housing Assistance Council estimates that almost one-third of RHED grants have been allocated to organizations serving the most remote rural counties.

RHED is an especially important housing resource for rural America because of its exclusive focus on rural communities—a unique niche among HUD programs, and one that helps redress the challenges rural communities face in obtaining funding in many other federal housing programs. For example, only 12 percent of section 8 funds go to non-metropolitan areas and the HOME program has no set-aside for rural communities, with the result that they receive a disproportionately small portion of formula grants. Less than 7 percent of FHA assistance goes to non-metropolitan areas. On a per-capita basis, rural counties fare worse with FHA, getting only \$25 per capita versus \$264 per capita in metro areas. Only about 10 percent of Veterans Affairs housing programs reach non-metropolitan areas and per capita spending in rural counties is only one-third that of metropolitan areas.

RHED fills such critical gaps left by other Federal housing and community development programs. Its flexible design supports comprehensive community development efforts that address the interconnected housing and economic development needs of rural communities. This targeted resource has enabled rural community organizations across the country to design and implement innovative programs and stabilize their communities. The ongoing need for the RHED programs is clear and I encourage my colleagues to vote for H.R. 1982, the Rural Housing and Economic Development Improvement Act of 2007.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman FRANK and my friend Congressman HINOJOSA for bringing forth this important legislation and making it a priority for the American people.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1982, the Rural Housing and Economic Development Improvement Act of 2007, a bill that would implement an assistance program to support economic and housing development in rural areas. This act would provide assistance to Indian tribes, State housing finance agencies, State community or development agencies, local nonprofit organizations and community development corporations.

According to the Texas Low Income Housing Information Service, in Texas alone, more than one million people have lived in public housing over the past 60 years. In Texas and throughout the country, the majority of families living in public housing have very low income and have no alternative to public housing.

My Congressional District is very rural, and housing in these very low-income communities remains a top concern. This act would allow sustainable low income housing and improve the economic standard of our working-class families in Texas.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in supporting those in need of assistance by voting for this bill.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, In 2006, the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska, in Niobrara, received a Rural Housing and Economic Development Innovative Support Grant award, to provide additional funding for a 40-unit subdivision in the Village of Santee.

Today, we will pass H.R. 1982, authorizing the Office of Housing and Urban Development to authorize the Rural Housing and Economic Development program to provide competitive grants to support housing and economic development in rural areas.

This program is the only exclusively rural housing program administered by HUD, and focuses on "high-risk" areas.

If rural areas of Nebraska are going to grow and prosper, we need strong, safe communities. H.R. 1982 is an investment in the future for struggling rural areas, and is a good step in the right direction.

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. 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 Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1982, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE CATHEDRAL SQUARE CORPORATION ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 408) recognizing and honoring the Cathedral Square Corporation on its 30th anniversary.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 408

Whereas in 1977 the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, recognized the need to provide safe and affordable housing for its low-income seniors, organized the Cathedral Square Corporation, and began construction of a single project;

Whereas since that small beginning Cathedral Square Corporation has grown into one of the largest and most innovative nonprofit housing developers in Vermont;

Whereas the work of Cathedral Square Corporation has been groundbreaking, both literally and figuratively;

Whereas Cathedral Square Corporation has developed housing for persons with mental health challenges, and operates the housing in partnership with mental health agencies;

Whereas Cathedral Square Corporation has developed housing for younger adults with severe mobility impairments, and operates the housing in partnership with the Visiting Nurse Association;

Whereas Cathedral Square Corporation completed one of the first assisted living conversion projects in the country for very low-income seniors who otherwise would be in nursing homes;

Whereas Cathedral Square Corporation saved the historic Ruggles House, a property on the National Register of Historic Places, converting it to shared housing;

Whereas Cathedral Square Corporation developed an intergenerational community, serving the elderly, teenage parents, and parents returning to college;

Whereas Cathedral Square Corporation created Whitcomb Terrace, a housing development for persons of any age, income, or disability, which is a truly integrated, barrier-free community;

Whereas Cathedral Square Corporation recently completed construction of an innovative mixed-financing project, which is one of few such projects in the Nation and will be home to 63 senior households and 4 nonprofit organizations;

Whereas Cathedral Square Corporation currently manages housing for 837 seniors, 79 young adults with special needs, and 24 low-income children, and every property managed by the Corporation provides as many services as possible to enable independent living by the residents;

Whereas not only has Cathedral Square Corporation made possible 40 affordable housing communities throughout Vermont, but the Board of Directors and staff of the Corporation are always looking to the future, anticipating the housing and service needs of those Vermonters who otherwise would have few housing options; and

Whereas Cathedral Square Corporation does not just build housing, they provide homes: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recognizes and honors the tremendous accomplishments and dedication of Cathedral Square Corporation, a Vermont nonprofit housing development organization, on the occasion of its 30th anniversary.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Hampshire.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HODES. 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 New Hampshire?

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of House Resolution 408. This resolution recognizes and honors the Cathedral Square Corporation on its 30th anniversary in September of this year.

The Cathedral Square Corporation is based in Burlington, Vermont, in the district of my esteemed colleague, PETER WELCH.

In 1977, the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, recognized the need to provide safe and affordable housing for its low-income seniors. It organized the Cathedral Square Corporation and began construction of a single project. Since then, it has grown into one of the largest and most innovative nonprofit housing developers in Vermont.

The Cathedral Square Corporation has developed much needed housing for persons with mental health challenges, younger adults with severe mobility impairments, and completed one of the first assisted living conversion projects in the country for very low-income seniors who otherwise would be in nursing homes. In addition, the Cathedral Square Corporation has worked with the community to save the historic Ruggles House, a property on the National Register of Historic Places, converting it to shared housing.

This extremely important organization has worked to develop an intergenerational community, serving the elderly, teenage parents, and parents returning to college.

In total, Madam Speaker, the Cathedral Square Corporation currently manages housing for 837 seniors, 79 young adults with special needs, and 24 low-income children. And every property managed by the corporation provides as many services as possible to enable independent living by the residents.

Madam Speaker, not only has Cathedral Square Corporation made possible 40 affordable housing communities throughout Vermont, but the board of directors and staff of this corporation are always looking to the future, anticipating the housing and service needs of those Vermonters who otherwise would have few housing options.

The Cathedral Square Corporation doesn't just build housing, they provide homes and help create community. They are an outstanding example to all housing groups, and I applaud their innovation and their diligent work and service to the community.

I congratulate the Cathedral Square Corporation. And this resolution congratulates them on 30 years of distinguished service.

Madam Speaker, at this time I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 408 to honor Cathedral Square Corporation in respect to their 30 years of dedicated service to providing quality, affordable housing for seniors and individuals with special needs.

The United States must take care of its seniors and individual needs. I appreciate the work done by the Cathedral Square Corporation over the last 30 years to provide the most quality assistance to our seniors and special need individuals.

I thank and congratulate the CSC on reaching their 30th anniversary. And I encourage my colleagues to support the resolution.

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

Mr. HODES. I thank the gentleman for his concurrence in this resolution.

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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 New Hampshire (Mr. HODES) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 408.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A WORLD DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD CRASH VICTIMS

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 87) supporting the goals and ideals of a world day of remembrance for road crash victims.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

##### H. CON. RES. 87

Whereas 40,000 people in the United States, and 1,200,000 people globally, die in road crashes each year;

Whereas another 20,000,000 to 50,000,000 people globally are injured each year as a result of speeding motor vehicles, the increasing use of motor vehicles, and rapid urbanization;

Whereas the World Health Organization has predicted that by the year 2020 the annual number of deaths from motor vehicle crashes is likely to surpass the annual number of deaths from AIDS;

Whereas the current estimated cost of motor vehicle crashes worldwide is \$518,000,000,000 annually, representing between 3 and 5 percent of the gross domestic product of each nation;

Whereas over 90 percent of motorist-related deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries;

Whereas according to the World Health Organization motorist-related deaths and costs continue to rise in these countries due to a lack of appropriate road engineering and injury prevention programs in public health sectors; and

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution designating the third Sunday of November as a day of remembrance for road crash victims and their families, and called on nations globally to improve road safety: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—*

(1) supports the goals and ideals of a world day of remembrance for road crash victims; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to support and participate in programs and activities to commemorate a world day of remembrance for road crash victims with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H. Con. Res. 87, a bill that supports the goals and ideas for a world day of remembrance for road crash victims. H. Con. Res. 87, which has 54 cosponsors, was introduced by Representative ROBERT WEXLER on March 8, 2007. H. Con. Res. 87 was reported from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on June 12, 2007 by a voice vote.

The third Sunday in November is designated as a world day of remembrance for road crash victims. This resolution commemorates the 1.2 million people killed in road crashes globally, including 40,000 in the United States each year.

Road crashes are the second leading cause of death worldwide among young people from ages 5 to 29, and the third leading cause of death among people aged 30 to 44 years. Vehicle accidents every year have injured and disabled as many as 50 million people throughout the world. Road traffic injuries cost countries approximately \$518 billion each year, which is between 1 and 5 percent of the gross domestic product of each nation.

I support this legislation to encourage the people of the United States and of the world to support and participate in programs and activities to commemorate a world day of remembrance

for road crash victims with appropriate ceremonies, programs and other activities.

Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague, ROBERT WEXLER, for introducing this legislation and urge swift passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, every year approximately 40,000 people in the United States die in road crashes. The number worldwide is even more devastating, over 1.2 million. These tragedies are overwhelming to the victims and their families and lead to numerous unintended physical, emotional and financial hardships.

H. Con. Res. 87 supports a world day of remembrance for road crash victims on the third Saturday of every November. According to the World Health Organization, 90 percent of motorist-related deaths occur in low and middle income countries. The countries are in need of improved road systems, increased prevention initiatives, and education programs for new drivers.

Too many of these road crash fatalities can be prevented through legislation, consistent enforcement and better education on the use of safety precautions such as seatbelts, child restraints and helmets. Drunk driving prevention programs and campaigns such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving are useful tools to bring awareness to such tragedies.

Communities and families worldwide must work together to prevent road crashes and related deaths. These traffic accidents injure or disable more than 50 million people. It is time we take these numbers into perspective to end dangerous and life-threatening vehicle crashes.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 87.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today, we will pass H. Con. Res. 87, supporting the goals and ideals of a world day of remembrance for road crash victims.

This legislation sets aside the third Sunday of November as a day of remembrance for road crash victims and their families, and calls on nations globally to improve road safety.

It also encourages our country to support and participate in programs and activities to commemorate a world day of remembrance for road crash victims with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities.

Each year 40,000 people in the U.S. die in road crashes—last year Nebraska had 226 fatal crashes, according to the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety.

Very few of us can say we have never been affected by a road crash. It is my hope, through these educational and informative steps, we can lower the total of Americans—and Nebraskans—lost to road crashes each year.

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I would urge passage of this legislation, and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 87.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### DR. KARL E. CARSON POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2570) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 Boardwalk Drive in Fort Collins, Colorado, as the "Dr. Karl E. Carson Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2570

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

#### SECTION 1. DR. KARL E. CARSON POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 Boardwalk Drive in Fort Collins, Colorado, shall be known and designated as the "Dr. Karl E. Carson Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Dr. Karl E. Carson Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 2570, which names a postal facility in Fort Collins, Colorado, after Dr. Karl E. Carson. H.R. 2570, which was introduced by Representative MARILYN MUSGRAVE on June 5, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on June 12, 2007, by a voice vote. This measure has the support of the entire Colorado congressional delegation.

Dr. Karl E. Carson served in the U.S. Navy Reserve during World War II. He was a communications officer on the USS *Strive*, a minesweeper. Following his military service, he attended the University of Nebraska and received his doctor of dental surgery degree in 1951. Dr. Carson started his dental practice in 1954. His practice thrived and continued until his retirement in 1994.

In 1991, the Colorado Dental Association gave him its Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Carson was a member of the Fort Carson City Council from 1975 until 1973. He held the city's top post, mayor, for 5 years, from 1968 to 1973.

Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative MARILYN MUSGRAVE, for introducing this legislation and urge the swift passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, Dr. Karl Carson, a father, musician and public servant, led an honorable life of community service. Over the years the tremendous contributions he made to the City of Fort Collins, Colorado, certainly merit the naming of a post office in his honor.

Dr. Karl Carson was born in 1915 in Wichita, Kansas. He was raised on a dairy farm and milked cows each day before leaving for school. While in high school, he met his wife Wilma Schull, with whom he had five children. Dr. Carson demonstrated a deep devotion to his family as a loving husband, father and grandfather.

He attended Fort Collins State University in Kansas on a music scholarship and paid for his education by singing at weddings and other social occasions.

After graduating, he served honorably in the U.S. Navy Reserve during World War II as a communications officer aboard the USS *Strive*. This service marked the beginning of a lifetime of serving his community and country.

After the conclusion of his military service, Dr. Carson received a doctorate degree in dental surgery from the University of Nebraska. In 1954, he moved to Fort Collins, Colorado, with his family and established his own dental practice. Dr. Carson enjoyed a successful 43-year long dental career. He was recognized for his excellence in dentistry by the Colorado Dental Association in 1991 with a Distinguished Service Award.

In 1965, Dr. Carson began his noteworthy career of public service as a member of the Fort Collins City Council. He was subsequently elected by the City Council to be mayor in 1968.

During his mayoral term, he initiated a program called Designing Tomorrow Today, which was the catalyst for building the downtown library, city hall and the Lincoln Center. Dr. Carson also regarded his support of adding fluoride to Fort Collins water supply as one of his greatest achievements.

Dr. Carson will be remembered for his legendary record of community service. Beyond serving as the director of downtown Fort Collins development, the Colorado League of Cities and President of the Colorado Municipal League, he was a member of the Kiwanis Club for over 60 years.

Regarded by many of the fathers of Fort Collins, Dr. Karl Carson undoubtedly left his mark on the Colorado community. Let us recognize his legacy of community service and devotion to family by naming this post office in his honor.

Madam Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 2570.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. MUSGRAVE).

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of H.R. 2570, to designate the post office building at 301 Boardwalk Drive in Fort Collins, Colorado, as the Dr. Karl E. Carson Post Office Building.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to honor a man who has given so much to the Fort Collins community. He was quoted in 2005 saying that he lived life by a simple pledge: "I hope when I leave this place, I contributed to making it a better place."

His legacy in Fort Collins was indeed a life of community service and devotion to his family. Dr. Carson passed away in February of this year, and I think it would be safe to say that Fort Collins was a better place because of Dr. Carson's service to this community.

Karl was born on September 27, 1915, in Wichita, Kansas, to Daniel and Clara Helfrick Carson. He was raised on the family dairy farm, and every day before he went to school he milked cows and bottled milk. In high school, he met his lifelong sweetheart, Wilma Schull, and they married on August 23, 1936. To this union, five children were born: Allen, James, Daniel, Thomas and LuAnn. The Carsons also had eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Karl Carson attended Fort Hays State University in Kansas on a music scholarship, and he paid his way through college by singing at weddings and parties.

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He served in the United States Navy Reserve during World War II. He was a communication officer on the USS *Strive*, a mine sweeper.

Following his military service, Mr. Carson attended the University of Nebraska and received his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree in 1951. The Carson family moved to Fort Collins where Dr. Carson started his dental practice in

1954. His practice thrived and continued until retirement in 1994. Amazingly, for 30 of those 43 years he practiced dentistry with his son, Tom. In 1991, the Colorado Dental Association gave him its Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Carson was a member of the Fort Collins City Council from 1965 to 1973. He held the city's top post, mayor, for five terms, from 1968 to 1973 at a time when the city council elected the mayor. And he considered his support of adding fluoride to the Fort Collins water supply one of his greatest achievements. During his tenure, he started a program called Designing Tomorrow Today, which led to the construction of the Lincoln Center, city hall, and the downtown library.

Dr. Carson's community service is legendary. He was the director of downtown Fort Collins development, President of the Colorado Municipal League and the Colorado League of Cities. He was also a member of Kiwanis since 1938. Continuing his love of music and youth, he lent his expertise to participants in the Kiwanis annual Stars of Tomorrow Talent Show.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Karl Carson indeed fulfilled his legacy of leaving Fort Collins and this world a better place. The citizens of Fort Collins, Colorado, will never forget him. He was a man of love and commitment to his family and community. Upon hearing of his death in February of this year, the current mayor of Fort Collins, Doug Hutchinson, called Dr. Carson a "City Father."

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Karl Carson for his many contributions to the Fort Collins community by supporting this legislation.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I urge passage of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2570.

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.

**REQUIRING REPORT ON EFFORTS TO BRING TO JUSTICE PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS WHO KILLED JOHN BRANCHIZIO, MARK PARSON, AND JOHN MARIN LINDE**

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2293) to require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on efforts to bring to justice the Palestinian terrorists who killed John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde.

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

H.R. 2293

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

**SECTION 1. REPORT RELATING TO THE MURDERS OF JOHN BRANCHIZIO, MARK PARSON, AND JOHN MARIN LINDE.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On October 15, 2003, a convoy of clearly identified United States diplomatic vehicles was attacked by Palestinian terrorists in Gaza resulting in the deaths of John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde, and the injury of a fourth American.

(2) John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde were contract employees providing security to United States diplomatic personnel who were visiting Gaza in order to identify potential Palestinian candidates for scholarships under the Fulbright Program.

(3) Senior officials of the Palestinian Authority have stated that they were aware of the identities of the Palestinian terrorists who killed John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde.

(4) Following her visit to Israel and the West Bank on February 7, 2005, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced that she had been "assured by President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority's intention to bring justice to those who murdered three American personnel in the Gaza in 2003".

(5) Since the bombing on October 15, 2003, United States Government personnel have been prohibited from all travel in Gaza.

(6) The United States Rewards for Justice program is offering a reward of up to \$5,000,000 for information leading to the arrest or conviction of any persons involved in the murders of John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde.

(7) The Palestinian terrorists who killed John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde have still not been brought to justice.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the continued inability or unwillingness of the Palestinian Authority to actively and aggressively pursue the Palestinian terrorists who killed John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde and bring them to justice calls into question the Palestinian Authority's suitability as a partner for the United States in diplomatic efforts to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict;

(2) future United States assistance to the Palestinian Authority may be suspended or conditioned, and the continued operation of the PLO Representative Office in Washington may be jeopardized, if the Palestinian Authority does not fully and effectively cooperate in bringing to justice the Palestinian terrorists who killed John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde; and

(3) it is in the vital national security interest of the United States to safeguard, to the greatest extent possible consistent with their mission, United States diplomats and all embassy and consulate personnel, and to use the full power of the United States to bring to justice any individual or entity that threatens, jeopardizes, or harms them.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 120 days thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit a report, on a classified basis if necessary, to the appropriate congressional committees describing—

(1) efforts by the United States to bring to justice the Palestinian terrorists who killed John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde;

(2) a detailed assessment of efforts by the Palestinian Authority to bring to justice the Palestinian terrorists who killed John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde, including—

(A) the number of arrests, interrogations, and interviews by Palestinian Authority officials related to the case;

(B) the number of Palestinian security personnel and man-hours assigned to the case;

(C) the extent of personal supervision or involvement by the President and Ministers of the Palestinian Authority; and

(D) the degree of cooperation between the United States and the Palestinian Authority in regards to this case;

(3) a specific assessment by the Secretary of whether the Palestinian efforts described in paragraph (2) constitute the best possible effort by the Palestinian Authority; and

(4) any additional steps or initiatives requested or recommended by the United States that were not pursued by the Palestinian Authority.

(d) CERTIFICATION.—The requirement to submit a report under subsection (c) shall no longer apply if the Secretary of State certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the Palestinian terrorists who killed John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde have been identified, arrested, and brought to justice.

(e) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2293, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The legislation the House is considering today will ensure that three brave Americans are not forgotten. I want to thank Chairman LANTOS and Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN and my friend, the ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr. PENCE, for their support and cosponsorship of the bill.

Though my belief in the necessity of this legislation is complete, my feelings about the bill are mixed. I am proud that this House will today insist that justice be done for three Americans who died in the service of their country. But I am deeply troubled and saddened that this legislation is even necessary.

On October 15, 2003, John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde

were killed due to the detonation of a roadside car bomb in Beit Hanoun in the Gaza Strip. These young Americans were providing security to a mission of American diplomats on their way to Gaza to conduct interviews for Fulbright scholars to come to the United States. But they never made it.

Despite the easily recognized vehicles and the diplomatic plates marking them clearly as Americans, despite coordination with the Palestinian security authorities, despite the fact that they were on a mission of kindness and generosity, their lives were ended by a brutal and cowardly act. And ever since then, United States Government employees have been barred from entering Gaza.

Their deaths were tragic. But what followed, however, was a farce.

The attack took place near a manned Palestinian checkpoint; and immediately following the attack, journalists photographed Palestinian police officers standing by as onlookers cheered the attack and roamed the crime scene destroying critical evidence. But within 24 hours, the Palestinian Authority, quite literally, "rounded up the usual suspects," four members of the so-called Popular Resistance Committee, or PRC.

Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, however, never presented a case against them. Held over for a month, the Palestinian court finally announced that the defendants would be released since "no evidence was offered against" them. They remained in jail despite the judge's order, however, pending Yasser Arafat's approval of their release. When that approval never came, a mob of PRC members stormed the jail the next month, without resistance, and freed the suspects.

A year later, on September 22, 2004, Arafat's cousin, the head of military intelligence in Gaza, told the Associated Press that though the identity of the killers was known, the United States would have to forgo justice in this case. Speaking of our Nation, he said, "They know that we are in a very critical position and clashing with any Palestinian party under the presence of the occupation is an issue that will present many problems for us."

"The Americans," he added, "have started recently to understand our position and I expect that this crisis will also be resolved."

Six months later, Secretary Condoleezza Rice raised the matter directly with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. I don't know that Abu Mazen, as Abbas is known, told our Secretary of State, but she publicly announced on February 7, 2006, "We have been assured by President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority's intention to bring justice to those who murdered three American personnel in Gaza in 2003."

Obviously, we are still waiting and with the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip, we may never know the truth, and justice may never be done.

I have been outspoken in my criticism of the administration's failure to use the fresh mandate Abbas had in 2006 to make real progress toward peace. We failed him, as did the Israelis, and we are now confronting the consequences of our shortsightedness. But in this case, in this small but meaningful case, Abu Mazen has failed us.

The case presented an opportunity to establish the Palestinian Authority's writ, to demonstrate that the PA was capable of handling the duties of a state, which above all is obliged to maintain law and order, for visitor and citizen alike.

There is still a \$5 million bounty pending, through the Rewards for Justice program, but I doubt it will ever be paid. The Bush administration has been so lack in dealing with this case, so lackadaisical in the pursuit of justice for three Americans who died in the service of this Nation that I believe Congress must step in.

It is not in our power to compel justice, nor can we instill drive, initiative, or energy. But we can maintain accountability, and that is what this bill would do. Thirty days after passage, and every 120 days thereafter, the Secretary of State will have to present Congress with a progress report, and not a short one either. This report would require details, the kinds of sticky uncomfortable deals, the kind of sticky uncomfortable details that will show whether the Department is insisting on the pursuit of justice, or just waiting for it to show up on its own. We are not asking for the impossible. The most important requirement of the report is a specific assessment of whether the Palestinians are making their best effort and possible resolution.

Today, it is hard to say what that would look like. But very deliberately, this report will be prepared every 120 days in perpetuity until the Secretary can certify that the Palestinian terrorists who killed John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde have been identified, arrested, and brought to justice.

I regret saying it, but justice for these three men was never as great a priority for the Bush administration as it ought to have been.

The vital national security interests of the United States require us to safeguard to the greatest extent possible consistent with their mission United States diplomats and all embassy and consulate personnel, and to use the full power of the United States to bring justice to any individual or entity that threatens, jeopardizes, or harms them.

Every man and woman working for the United States abroad deserves this commitment. And so many months after their deaths, John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde deserve this much at the very least. I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2293, which would require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on efforts to bring to justice the Palestinian terrorists who killed three Americans on October 15, 2003.

I would like to begin by expressing my heartfelt condolences to the families and loved ones of John Branchizio, Mark T. Parson, and John Marin Linde, Jr., and all United States citizens who have been victimized by the incessant Palestinian terrorist attacks.

These three brave Americans were murdered while accompanying United States diplomats who were going to interview young Palestinians for the opportunity to study in this great country on Fulbright scholarships, offering those youth a chance for a better life.

While I am sickened by this deplorable act, I am surprised that for far too long our State Department and the Palestinian Authority have done little to bring the murderers of these Americans to justice. These families and others who have lost loved ones should not have their grief compounded by the lack of justice from our own system.

The virtual impunity afforded the certain terrorists sends the wrong foreign policy signal, not only to the American people and our allies in the region, but to the terrorists themselves. Recently, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas established an emergency government in the West Bank, with an independent, Salem Fayyad as Prime Minister. Abbas and Fayyad have made statements opposing terrorism, violence and militia rule that pervades both the West Bank and Gaza. But they must follow up their words with actions.

Not only do Abbas and Fayyad need to crack down on terrorism and dismantle all militias within the West Bank, but they must locate, detain, and turn over to U.S. custody the murderers of John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde so that they can be charged and brought to justice in an American court. They cannot fulfill their responsibility for stopping terrorism in the future without taking action against those who have perpetrated terrorism in the past.

Madam Speaker, we have a great responsibility to those Americans who have lost their lives to Palestinian terror. Therefore, our government should consider conditioning any aid to the West Bank emergency government upon that government showing concrete actions in resolving this case. We must end the message that we as a country are fully committed in our resolve to investigate and prosecute the murder of innocent Americans abroad.

Again, I strongly condemn the attack on United States citizens by Palestinian terrorists and reiterate our demands that the administration do more to bring their killers to justice.

H.R. 2293 is a major step in the right direction, and I am proud to have cosponsored it. For their leadership in introducing this bill, I thank my good friends and colleagues, the chairman and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia, Mr. ACKERMAN and Mr. PENCE. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this critical legislation.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2293, which requires the Secretary of the State to submit to Congress a report on efforts to bring to justice the Palestinian terrorists who killed John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde. This bill requires the Secretary of State to submit a report—classified, if necessary—within 30 days and every 120 days thereafter to the appropriate committees until the attackers have been brought to justice.

The bill also warns of potential restrictions on privileges extended to the Palestinian Authority by our government in the case of continued noncompliance, although I hope it will never come to that.

I commend my colleague Mr. ACKERMAN of New York for introducing this important measure. This resolution lends the full support of the United States Congress to bringing to justice the Palestinian terrorists who murdered three contractors providing security to American diplomatic personnel in Gaza on October 15, 2003. The Palestinian terrorists who killed John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde have still not been brought to justice.

John Branchizio, Mark Parson, and John Marin Linde were slain by terrorists who assaulted a clearly marked convoy of American diplomats. Ironically, the diplomats were on a mission to help the Palestinians by identifying Gazan candidates for the Fulbright exchange program.

In February 2005, Palestinian Authority President, Mahmoud Abbas, assured Secretary of State Rice that the perpetrators would be brought to justice. Further, senior Palestinian officials asserted that the Palestinian Authority knew the identities of the assailants. Yet inexplicably, these terrorists have not been named; they have not been questioned; and they have not been arrested, charged, prosecuted, and punished. No way is that justice. Justice delayed is justice denied.

It is imperative that the legitimate leaders of the Palestinian Authority show their willingness to confront the scourge of terrorism if they are to be considered a reliable partner for peace.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support this piece of legislation, and I ask that my colleagues do the same.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. 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 New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2293.

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.

□ 1515

#### HONORING OPERATION SMILE ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 208) honoring Operation Smile in the 25th Anniversary year of its founding, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 208

Whereas Operation Smile is a private, not-for-profit volunteer medical services organization providing reconstructive surgery and related health care to indigent children and young adults in developing countries and the United States;

Whereas in 1982, Dr. William P. Magee Jr., a plastic surgeon, and his wife, Kathleen S. Magee, a nurse and clinical social worker, traveled to the Philippines with a group of medical volunteers to repair children's cleft lips and cleft palates;

Whereas there they discovered hundreds of children ravaged by deformities, and although they helped many children, the volunteers were forced to turn away the majority of those who sought help;

Whereas Operation Smile headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia, was founded in 1982 by Dr. William Magee Jr. and his wife Kathleen S. Magee to address this need;

Whereas since 1982, Operation Smile's volunteers have provided free reconstructive surgery to more than 100,000 children and young adults with facial deformities in 25 countries;

Whereas Operation Smile provides education and training to thousands of healthcare professionals globally, and is implementing a plan for a Global Standard of Care to ensure that every child treated will receive the same high standard of care every time;

Whereas Operation Smile provides a network of resources to assist families in the United States with children born with facial deformities;

Whereas more than 450 Operation Smile Student Associations in the United States and around the world build awareness, raise funds, and educate students about values of commitment, leadership, and volunteerism; and

Whereas in 2007, in commemoration of its 25th anniversary, Operation Smile has announced a year-long series of initiatives to include implementing global standards of care for all its medical programs, opening comprehensive care centers in seven countries, hosting international forums on medical diplomacy, and launching the World Journey of Smiles, which consists of 40 simultaneous missions in 25 countries with the goal of treating an estimated 5,000 children living with facial deformities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recognizes the 25th anniversary of the founding of Operation Smile as its volunteer medical professionals continue to travel around the world to treat children suffering from facial deformities.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I would like to thank our colleague, Congresswoman THELMA DRAKE, for sponsoring this important resolution and for her leadership on this issue.

Twenty-five years ago, William and Kathleen Magee of Virginia traveled with other medical professionals to the Philippines to treat children with facial deformities. Little did they know it was a trip that would change their lives and the lives of thousands of children around the world.

Inspired by the Filipino children, the Magees decided to start their own organization designed specifically to address cleft palates and cleft lips in countries where medical care leaves those afflicted with few options.

They called it Operation Smile, and the Magees were the perfect couple to start it. William is a plastic surgeon, and Kathleen is a nurse and social worker. Since 1982, operating out of their headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia, they have led a dedicated coalition of medical services workers to address facial deformities around the world.

Aside from appearance and comfort level, these are serious conditions that can cause problems with feeding and speech, as well as ear disease.

In the past 25 years, Operation Smile has provided corrective reconstructive surgery to some 100,000 children and young adults in 25 countries.

Operation Smile adeptly recognizes the differences in these countries and brings together medical professionals to tailor their care depending on the setting. The organization coordinates training activities, as well as fellowships and professorships, to further both its own mission and the medical system in these countries overall.

Operation Smile provides a network of resources to assist families in the United States with children born with facial deformities. It runs an annual international student leadership conference and student leadership program, and it trains surgeons in certain advanced skills.

We can all learn from Operation Smile and the model it provides to medical professionals and organizations around the world, and we can all learn from the Magees that public service can go far beyond one's chosen profession.

That is why I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to honor Operation Smile and William and Kathleen

Magee on the 25th anniversary of their organization.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 208, which recognizes the 25th anniversary of the founding of Operation Smile, a private nonprofit founded by Dr. and Mrs. William Magee of Virginia in 1982.

Madam Speaker, the volunteers for Operation Smile provide reconstructive surgery and other health care to needy children in the United States, as well as in developing countries. They particularly help children with a cleft lip or cleft palate, congenital birth defects that occur as frequently as one in every 600 births.

Clefts can cause multiple physical and mental health problems for children and adults, including feeding and speech difficulties, ear infections that can lead to deafness, and low self-esteem, as well as alienation from others.

Children worldwide need not, and must not, suffer from these health problems simply because they were born with clefts. Surgery in infancy, adolescence or young adulthood can correct clefts and avert resulting medical and psychological difficulties.

Sadly, many families who seek medical care and surgery for children born with clefts are turned away, both in the United States and abroad, due to lack of funds or shortages of medically trained professionals who can provide the care that these children urgently need.

Fortunately, the outstanding medical professionals at Operation Smile have, for a quarter of a century, volunteered their time and effort to help save these children and their families. They have provided free reconstructive surgeries to over 100,000 children and young adults in this country and worldwide. They educate and train thousands of health care professionals across the globe. Just as importantly, they are developing future generations of volunteers for this noble cause.

Young men and women at more than 450 Operation Smile student associations in the United States and abroad are fund-raising, building awareness and encouraging their fellow students to take charge, to lead and to volunteer their time to help others. In all of these ways, these volunteers demonstrate the potential that volunteers and nonprofits have to change lives, to tackle global problems and to significantly improve the world around them.

Because of their 25 years of service, many children and young adults who were born with cleft lip or palate can look at themselves in the mirror with pride, and so can volunteers at Operation Smile.

This resolution, offered by my good friend and colleague from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) sends the right message by recognizing and encouraging out-

standing volunteers and achievements in the private and the nonprofit sector.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I urge the House to adopt this resolution, H. Res. 208.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to commend the efforts of Operation Smile during their 25 years of service to the United States and to the world. I would like to thank my distinguished colleague, Congresswoman DRAKE, for sponsoring this resolution and bringing it to the floor. As we both represent the city of Norfolk, VA, the home of Operation Smile, I would just like to say a few words about Operation Smile and its efforts to help children around the world.

What Operation Smile has accomplished since its inception is truly remarkable. Since its first mission in the Philippines in 1982, Operation Smile volunteers have treated more than 100,000 children and young adults and have trained thousands of health professionals around the world. In addition, through pure determination, Operation Smile has built bridges and built trust. As a result, it has created a presence, earned the respect of governments and ministries of health, and united cultures in over 25 developing countries.

Operation Smile consists of a diverse group of volunteers from various countries and cultures, who come together with the common goal of repairing childhood facial deformities. Through these missions, the strongest bonds of friendships are forged as people who have very little in common work together to change a life. Operation Smile has demonstrated an ability to find working partnerships amid unstable and controversial conditions. Through diplomacy and leadership, coupled with medical aid and technology, it is able to heal and inspire cross-cultural cooperation.

While promoting medical diplomacy, Operation Smile continues to cross borders, bridge cultural and ethnic divides, and encourage collaboration and commitment. Its success has been astounding and as a result, Operation Smile has become the largest volunteer charity of its kind. Its efforts go beyond children and their families—Operation Smile changes communities, students, medical professionals, and healthcare systems.

Just this past year, Operation Smile traveled to Jordan on two separate occasions in order to provide life-changing surgeries to 138 Iraqi children who were transported to Amman from Baghdad, and it worked with the Mercy ships to treat 54 children in Bangladesh. These missions consisted of volunteers from over a dozen countries who worked together side by side to help these children. In this time of war, the volunteers of Operation Smile managed to bring a bright light to the lives of these children that will last a lifetime.

In the war against terrorism, hatred of Americans by other populations is a significant problem. The work of Operation Smile is immeasurable in developing good will to counteract that hatred. The doctors and other volunteers who work with Operation Smile and the children who have been helped by Operation Smile will serve as perpetual evidence of our good will and the best America has to offer. I cannot think of better ambassadors for the United States than the founders of Operation Smile, Dr. Bill and Kathleen Magee.

In 1982, Bill and Kathleen saw a need both abroad and here at home to help children with

deformities live a better and happier life. Because of their diligence, and that of the many volunteers and donors that have worked with Operation Smile over the past 25 years, Operation Smile has not only created smiles, but has changed the lives of hundreds of thousands of children across the globe.

I would like to once again commend Operation Smile on the occasion of their 25th anniversary, and I wish them continued success bringing smiles to the faces of children and families worldwide.

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th Anniversary of Operation Smile, a worldwide children's medical charity that repairs cleft lips and cleft palates for children and young adults in developing countries. Operation Smile, which is headquartered in Norfolk, VA, was founded by Dr. William Magee, Jr., a plastic surgeon, and his wife, Kathleen, a nurse and clinical social worker.

In 1982, the Magees traveled to the Philippines with a group of medical volunteers to repair children's cleft lips and cleft palates. While many children were treated, the inundated volunteers, lacking in resources and manpower, were forced to turn away the majority of those who sought help.

The Magees were heartbroken to see such an overwhelming need. Yet, instead of being discouraged, the Magees were inspired by their experience. As they prepared to leave the Philippines the Magees made a promise to return to the Philippines to help more children and Operation Smile was born.

The Magees returned to Norfolk and began to solicit the donations of surgical equipment and supplies, began grassroots fundraising, and assembled a volunteer team of doctors, nurses and technicians. Just as they promised, the Magees returned to the Philippines to treat even more patients.

Since those humble beginnings in 1982, Operation Smile has grown into a worldwide children's medical charity whose network of medical volunteers are dedicated to helping improve the health and lives of children and young adults worldwide. Operation Smile has helped more than 100,000 children and young adults in 30 developing countries overcome their physical irregularities. The organization now operates one of the world's largest volunteer networks, utilizing more than 5,000 medical and non-medical professionals around the world.

During their medical missions, credentialed medical professionals volunteer to repair facial deformities while building public and private partnerships that advocate for sustainable healthcare systems for children and families. Furthermore, Operation Smile trains and educates local medical professionals and leaves behind necessary equipment to lay the groundwork for long-term self-sufficiency.

I commend the Magees for their passion to improve the health and lives of children and young adults worldwide. Through Operation Smile, their efforts over the past 25 years have offered new life and new hope to those suffering from facial deformities and their families. In recognition of Operation Smile's 25th Anniversary, I am truly honored to commend their noble work here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of our time.

Ms. WATSON. 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 208, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: "Resolution recognizing the 25th anniversary of the founding of Operation Smile."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### COMMENDING THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO FOR ENACTMENT OF A LAW TO IMPROVE THE STATUS OF MARRIED WOMEN

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 294) commending the Kingdom of Lesotho, on the occasion of International Women's Day, for the enactment of a law to improve the status of married women and ensure the access of married women to property rights, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

##### H. RES. 294

Whereas the Kingdom of Lesotho is a parliamentary constitutional monarchy that has been an independent country since 1966;

Whereas Lesotho is a low-income country with a gross national income per capita of \$960 and 50 percent of the population lives below the poverty line;

Whereas, in Lesotho, the HIV prevalence is estimated at 23 percent for the total adult population and 56 percent for pregnant women between the ages of 25 and 29, and the current average life expectancy at birth is estimated to be 34.4 years;

Whereas the Kingdom of Lesotho, referred to by some as the "Kingdom in the Sky", was a strong public supporter of the end of apartheid in South Africa, and the Government of Lesotho granted political asylum to a number of refugees from South Africa during the apartheid era;

Whereas the Government of Lesotho has demonstrated a strong commitment to ruling justly, investing in people, ensuring economic freedom, and controlling corruption;

Whereas the Government of Lesotho has been named eligible by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) for a Compact of financial assistance that, as currently proposed, would strongly focus on improving and safeguarding the health of the people of Lesotho, in addition to supporting projects for sustainable water resource management and private sector development;

Whereas, historically, a married woman in Lesotho was considered a legal minor during the lifetime of her husband, was severely restricted in economic activities, was unable to enter into legally binding contracts without her husband's consent, and had no standing in civil court;

Whereas legislation elevating the legal status of married women and providing property and inheritance rights to women in Lesotho was introduced as early as 1992;

Whereas for years women's groups, non-governmental organizations, the Federation of Women Lawyers, officials of the Government of Lesotho, and others in Lesotho have pushed for passage of legislation strengthening rights of married women;

Whereas in a letter to the Government of Lesotho in September 2006, the chief executive officer of the MCC stated that gender inequality is a constraint on economic growth and poverty reduction and is related to the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, and that inattention to issues of gender inequality could undermine the potential impact of the Compact proposed to be entered into between the MCC and the Government of Lesotho;

Whereas the MCC's advocacy of gender equity played a supportive role in the enactment of the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act in the Kingdom of Lesotho, which effectively eliminated "de jure" discrimination against women in the customary law system;

Whereas the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act was passed by the Parliament of Lesotho and enacted into law in November 2006;

Whereas the MCC has already provided assistance to further full and meaningful implementation of the new law; and

Whereas the MCC has promulgated and is currently implementing a new gender policy to integrate gender into all phases of the development and implementation of the Compact between the MCC and the Government of Lesotho: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) applauds the enactment of the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act by the Kingdom of Lesotho;

(2) lauds the Kingdom of Lesotho for demonstrating its commitment to improve gender equity;

(3) encourages the Kingdom of Lesotho to continue its effort to ensure gender equity; and

(4) commends the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) for developing and implementing policies to advance gender equity in the Kingdom of Lesotho and other countries eligible for financial assistance from the MCC.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

H. Res. 294, as amended, commends the government of Lesotho for changing its laws to effectively eliminate legal discrimination against women in Lesotho's legal system.

In many parts of the world, women's rights are extremely limited, or barely exist, compared to the rights of men.

While women and girls constitute 51 percent of the world's population and make up 70 percent of all agricultural workers, they continue to suffer more from poverty, chronic hunger, HIV/AIDS, and lack of access to education. Women often constitute the highest percentage of those dispossessed of their land, disadvantaged by customary law and traditions which privilege men. Women are often subject to discriminatory laws that restrict their civil, economic and property rights.

Until the passage of this law in Lesotho, women were defined as legal in Lesotho after marriage. Lesotho women had no rights to enter into economic transactions without the consent of their husbands. They could not purchase or inherit property and had no standing in the courts.

Customary law in Lesotho ensured that property belonged to the husband, or was entrusted to a male relative. In many instances, after the death of a parent or spouse, or in the event of a divorce or after an out-of-court settlement, many married women got nothing other than their personal effects.

In November of 2006, His Majesty King Letsie III and the government of Lesotho took a major step towards correcting this grave injustice against women citizens by enacting the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act, giving Lesotho women many of the rights they have long been denied.

If faithfully implemented, the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act will be an important vehicle for gender equality in Lesotho. It will certainly go a long way towards reducing the risk of women, particularly widows, divorcees and their children from falling into extreme poverty, which will increase their risk of exposure to the HIV/AIDS pandemic which has devastated the country's poorest population.

In a country where nearly 25 percent of adults are infected with HIV/AIDS and the life expectancy of women is 44 years, this new law is crucial to removing barriers to access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services for women and girls.

There is still progress that needs to be made on gender equity in Lesotho. According to the State Department, "a woman married under customary law has no standing in civil court. Under the country's dual legal system, marriages which occur under customary law must be legalized in the civil system to have legal standing."

But I believe the efforts of the government of Lesotho are showing real progress in the area of promoting equal rights for women, and I believe it's our responsibility to acknowledge the efforts of those people seeking to empower individuals from all walks of society. As right and overdue as it might be to make these changes, that does not make them easy changes in a society that has done things a certain way for so long a time. Hence, if we wish to see more political leaders around the

world stand up and make the effort to change their societies for the better, we should be making as much of an effort here to support those efforts.

The actions of the Lesotho government, to guarantee equity for women under the law, will serve as an important model for other African Nations in addressing their national health and poverty challenges, and I look forward to the replication of this law across the continent of Africa.

And that is why this resolution also acknowledges another factor in making this change to empower the women of Lesotho.

□ 1530

It was through the work of the Millennium Challenge Corporation that we were able to encourage the best instincts of Lesotho's political leadership to make these changes into law. It is instructive to pay attention to how the MCC's leadership convinced Lesotho to make these changes.

They did not demand a change as a quid pro quo for MCC assistance. Instead, they appealed to the Lesotho Government's sense of reason, by convincing them that any assistance provided by the United States for economic development would be only half as effective if half of Lesotho's population was excluded from the formal economy.

I know we have had some concerns here in Congress about the MCC and its effectiveness, and I think it's important for us to look very carefully at the MCC and our entire U.S. foreign assistance delivery system, because I fear there has been a dreadful lack of effective leadership over this avowed pillar of U.S. foreign policy.

But I think there are a great deal of positive lessons to draw from the success of the MCC, and I hope we can support the MCC as it works to strengthen and expand its efforts.

I think the MCC's concept and directions are promising, and I hope the MCC's future efforts will bring more opportunities to introduce resolutions such as this one, and I am really proud to have presented this resolution, because that was one of the locations that I was asked to go to as an ambassador. Instead, I went to Micronesia, so I am really, really interested in how they make progress, and particularly how they empower their women. I urge all my colleagues to do the same and support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I would like to thank my colleague from California, Ambassador Watson, for introducing this important resolution, House Resolution 294, which commends the Kingdom of Lesotho for enacting a law to improve the legal status of married women.

Historically, a married woman in this African country was considered a

minor under the law, and, as such, was unable to enter into contracts without her husband's consent and was severely restricted in economic activities and had no legal standing in the courts. This was the case, despite that women have traditionally borne a disproportionate share of responsibility for the health, the welfare, and the education of the family in Lesotho.

They are in the fields, in the markets, in the classrooms, and in the clinics. They run the home and provide the food, care and education essential for the survival of their families. Women serve as the backbone of society in Lesotho. Yet under the law, they have been considered only half a person.

Obviously, this was a grave social injustice that required remedy. I commend those in the government and in civil society who began pressing for greater gender equality in Lesotho as early as 1992.

But it is important to realize that gender inequality in Lesotho, and throughout Africa, is not just an issue of human rights. This is a development issue and an issue of national security.

Over half of the population lives below the poverty level. Yet a government cannot responsibly expect to lift its people out of poverty while legally excluding half of the most productive segment of society from the economy.

Further, at 29 percent, Lesotho has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world. Life expectancy already has plummeted to 36 years, and prevalence rates are expected to climb to a staggering 36 percent in the next 15 years.

The HIV pandemic is obliterating a generation of the most productive people in Africa. In South Africa, for example, factory managers routinely complain that they have to hire two people to fill a single position due to absentee rates related to HIV.

When a man dies, who is left to provide for his family? His wife. But if a wife and a mother cannot secure even basic inheritance rights and has no standing in civil court, then how is she to provide for the next generation? The traditional safety net provided by the extended family has been eroded, and coping mechanisms have been exhausted by the HIV pandemic.

Women whose husbands have died are suspected to carry the virus themselves and are often shunned by their extended families and communities. Thus, high death rates associated with HIV/AIDS and gender inequalities are leaving behind a generation of impoverished, disaffected youth who are susceptible to criminal activities and radical acts.

In recognition of the links between gender inequality, poverty and HIV/AIDS, the Millennium Challenge Corporation made gender issues a high priority in its negotiations with Lesotho.

In a letter to the Government of Lesotho, the CEO of MCC asserted that the potential impact of a development compact between Lesotho and the MCC

focusing on public health and sustainable water and private sector development would be undermined if the issues of gender inequality were not addressed.

Shortly thereafter, the Parliament passed the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act, which has significantly enhanced the legal standing of women in Lesotho. To its credit, the MCC has provided assistance to support meaningful implementation of the act.

I strongly encourage the government of Lesotho to continue demonstrating its commitment to improving gender equality in the interest of human rights, economic development, and national security. I hope that other countries in the region will follow suit.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 294, commending the Kingdom of Lesotho, on the occasion of International Women's Day, for the enactment of a law to improve the status of married women and ensure the access of married women to property rights.

Let my first begin by thanking my distinguished colleague on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and a member of its subcommittee on Africa and the Global Health, Congresswoman WATSON, for recognizing this issue and introducing this vital resolution. It is important that we recognize and commend the role and the efforts that the Government of Lesotho has taken to further gender equity. International Women's Day, observed on March 8, 2007, calls for people to recognize the accomplishments of women, while reaffirming their commitment to continue the struggle for equality, justice, and peace. This is a milestone that demands worldwide recognition, and I applaud our United States Congress for taking this role.

The Kingdom of Lesotho is a parliamentary constitutional monarchy that has been an independent country since 1966. Often referred to as the "Kingdom in the Sky," Lesotho was a strong public supporter of ending apartheid in South Africa, and was known for granting political asylum to numerous refugees during that era. Lesotho is a low-income country with a gross national income per capita of \$960, and 50 percent of its people live below the poverty line. However, its Government has demonstrated a strong commitment to ruling justly, investing in its people, ensuring economic freedom, as well as controlling corruption.

Madam Speaker, in the Kingdom of Lesotho, a married woman would historically be considered a legal minor during the lifetime of her husband. Such status would severely restrict her economic activities, forbid her from entering into legally binding contracts without her husband's consent, and hamper her ability to have standing in civil court. As early as 1992, legislation aimed at elevating the legal status of married women and providing property and inheritance rights to women in Lesotho was introduced. Since then, women's groups, nongovernmental organizations, the Federation of Women Lawyers, Lesotho Government officials, and many others have continually pushed for the passage of legislations which would strengthen their rights.

As a strong advocate of women's rights, it has continually been my role to denounce human rights violations against women, as

well as fight for gender equity. I must certainly agree with the Chief Executive Officer of the MCC, who stated that "gender inequality is a constraint on economic growth and poverty reduction and is related to the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, and that inattention to issues of gender inequality could undermine the potential impact of the Compact proposed to be entered into between the MCC and the Government of Lesotho."

Madam Speaker, the MCC is currently implementing a new gender policy to integrate gender into all phases of the development and implementation of the Compact between the MCC and the Government of Lesotho. It is now the responsibility of the United States House of Representatives to support the goals of Lesotho's International Women's Day, commend them on their strong commitment to improving gender equity, as well as applaud their enactment of the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act.

Lesotho's actions aimed at guaranteeing equity for women under the law ought to serve as a model for many other African nations, where women have been subjected to discriminatory laws in the areas of civil, economic, and property rights. This resolution will certainly go a long way in reducing the risk of women and their children falling into extreme poverty, eventually reducing their risk of exposure to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. I ask my colleagues to support this measure. Let us continue to encourage the Kingdom of Lesotho in its ongoing efforts to ensure gender equity. Let us commend the Millennium Challenge Corporation for developing and implementing policies to advance gender equity.

I thank you once again, Congresswoman WATSON, for your efforts in introducing this piece of legislation.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 294, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: "A resolution commending the Kingdom of Lesotho for the enactment of a law to improve the status of married women and ensure the access of married women to property rights."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HONORING WORLD RED CROSS RED CRESCENT DAY

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 378) honoring World Red Cross Red Crescent Day, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 378

Whereas World Red Cross Red Crescent Day was observed on May 8, 2007;

Whereas May 8 marks the birth of Henry Dunant, the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who began advocating for the humane treatment of the wartime sick and wounded after witnessing the atrocities at the Battle of Solferino in 1859;

Whereas World Red Cross Red Crescent Day is celebrated by many of the 185 Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Magen David Adom National Societies throughout the world and more than 750 chapters throughout the United States;

Whereas through the motivation and action of its volunteers and donors, the American Red Cross and its partners worldwide pay tribute to Henry Dunant's legacy by helping those in need and protecting human dignity for all;

Whereas the American Red Cross helps vulnerable people and communities around the world to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters, complex humanitarian emergencies, and life-threatening health conditions;

Whereas the American Red Cross is uniquely positioned to save lives through the Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Magen David Adom National Societies network of 97,000,000 volunteers located in nearly every country in the world;

Whereas in 2006, the American Red Cross responded to 23 international disasters, contributing more than \$16.1 million in financial support, deploying delegates and providing relief supplies and other emergency assistance to millions affected by disasters;

Whereas the American Red Cross continues to help affected communities recover from the tsunami that resulted from the earthquake that occurred off the west coast of northern Sumatra, Indonesia, on December 26, 2004, by providing assistance to more than 3.3 million people through long-term recovery programs and more than 80 million people through disease control activities in the tsunami-affected countries;

Whereas since 2001, the American Red Cross and its partners in the Measles Initiative have vaccinated more than 372 million children in 48 countries against measles; and

Whereas World Red Cross Red Crescent Day will honor the efforts of Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Magen David Adom employees and volunteers who work tirelessly to alleviate human suffering: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives commends the humanitarian efforts of Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Magen David Adom National Societies worldwide on the occasion of World Red Cross Red Crescent Day.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

I would first like to commend our distinguished colleague, Mr. FORTUÑO of Puerto Rico, for introducing this resolution.

More than 140 years ago, the great Henry Dunant founded the International Committee of the Red Cross after witnessing the atrocities of the Battle of Solferino in 1859.

Mr. Dunant's heroic advocacy on behalf of the humane treatment of wartime sick and wounded spawned a global movement dedicated to helping those in need and protecting human dignity for all.

Today, there are more than 185 Red Cross, Red Crescent and Magen David Adom societies throughout the world and more than 750 chapters in the United States alone. These organizations help vulnerable people in communities prevent, prepare for and respond to and recover from disasters, complex humanitarian emergencies and life-threatening conditions. The red symbols of these great organizations are unambiguous, internationally recognized, signs of comfort, hope and protection.

The American Red Cross, in particular, is a vital lifeline for many people, both in this country and abroad. In conjunction with its sister national societies throughout the world, it has assisted millions of distressed individuals.

In 2006 alone, the American Red Cross responded to 23 international disasters and contributed more than \$16.1 million in financial support. Often beyond the lens of cameras or public view at some of the most devastated corners on Earth, the American Red Cross represents our country and our national spirit of generosity and hope.

To honor Mr. Dunant's legacy and the work of thousands of volunteers and donors, the American Red Cross and its partners will celebrate World Red Cross Red Crescent Day. This resolution pays tribute to this event and to the work of thousands of volunteers internationally. It reaffirms our country's support for the world's largest humanitarian network and celebrates the values of the Red Cross, the Red Crescent, and Magen David Adom societies.

I am pleased to note that for the first time World Red Cross Red Crescent day will include Magen David Adom, Israel's national Red Cross society, which became a full member of the international movement in 2006.

I strongly support this resolution and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 378 introduced by my good friend and colleague from Puerto Rico (Mr. FORTUÑO).

This resolution commends the humanitarian efforts of Red Cross, Red Crescent and Magen David Adom societies worldwide on the occasion of World Red Cross Red Crescent Day.

These organizations and their 97 million volunteers worldwide make invaluable contributions every day. They provide relief and humanitarian assistance to the world's most vulnerable people, alleviating the suffering of citizens afflicted by war, natural disasters and other crises.

More than 233 million people worldwide received assistance from Red Cross, Red Crescent and Magen David Adom societies each year. When a tsunami hit southeast Asia in 2005, those societies were there. When hundreds of millions of children require vaccination against measles and others diseases, those societies are there. When the need arises in the future for humanitarian aid and relief, those societies will be there.

As a Member of Congress from Florida's 18th District, I have witnessed firsthand the good works of the Red Cross throughout its efforts to help the victims of numerous hurricanes and tropical storms that have afflicted the residents of south Florida.

I have also witnessed firsthand, in my numerous trips to Israel, the relief work and the humanitarian assistance that the Magen David Adom has provided to so many, including, tragically, the many innocent victims of terror.

Therefore, I am particularly pleased that in 2006, in a long overdue development, the International Committee of the Red Cross officially recognized Magen David Adom as Israel's national aid society. With much appreciation for the good work of Red Cross, Red Crescent and Magen David Adom societies everywhere, I urge the House to adopt House Resolution 378, introduced by my good friend, Mr. FORTUÑO.

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for this resolution honoring the humanitarian work of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.

In February of this year, southern Iowa was hit by a devastating ice storm that caused massive damage and left tens of thousands of people without electricity or heat in the middle of winter, some for more than ten days.

The Red Cross moved expeditiously to set up vitally needed shelters and coordinated with state and local governments to ensure that the needs of those affected by the storm were met.

In the immediate aftermath of the storm, I had the opportunity to tour Red Cross shelters throughout my district and to meet with Red Cross volunteers. I was enormously impressed with the Red Cross's rapid, thorough, and compassionate response to the disaster, which affected everyone of my constituents.

On behalf of the Second District of Iowa, I would like to extend my thanks to the Red Cross for the services they provided in the aftermath of the February storms.

This resolution recognizes the type of work I saw the Red Cross carrying out first-hand, and I strongly urge its passage.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 378, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: "Resolution commending the humanitarian efforts of Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Magen David Adom National Societies worldwide on the occasion of World Red Cross Red Crescent Day."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1545

#### PASSPORT BACKLOG REDUCTION ACT OF 2007

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 966) to enable the Department of State to respond to a critical shortage of passport processing personnel, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 966

*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 "Passport Backlog Reduction Act of 2007".

##### SEC. 2. REEMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN SERVICE ANNUITANTS.

Section 824(g) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4064(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—  
(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "or" and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting "or"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph—

"(C)(i) to provide assistance to consular posts with a substantial backlog of visa applications; or

"(i) to provide assistance to meet the demand resulting from the passport and travel document requirements set forth in section 7209(b) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-458; 8 U.S.C. 1185 note), including assistance related to the investigation of fraud in connection with an application for a passport.";

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking "The authority" and inserting "(A) The authority"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

"(B) The authority of the Secretary to waive the application of subsections (a) through (d) for an annuitant pursuant to subparagraph (C)(i) of paragraph (1) shall terminate on September 30, 2008.

"(C) The authority of the Secretary to waive the application of subsections (a) through (d) for an annuitant pursuant to subparagraph (C)(ii) of paragraph (1) shall terminate on September 30, 2009."

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the U.S. passport system is broken and the average Americans are paying the price. We have heard their call for help and are here today to pass the Passport Backlog Reduction Act to help the State Department address this bureaucratic crisis.

Every citizen of our Nation has the right to hold a passport and getting one should only take a few weeks at most, but millions of Americans have had to wait for months on end simply for the right to travel abroad. People are lining up at dawn every day at passport offices around the country trying to salvage trips at the last minute. They are desperate to get the one document that will let them see ailing relatives overseas, conduct important business, or begin studying abroad programs.

A passport is much more than a travel document, and these delays are much more than an inconvenience. A passport is proof of American identity and, for many Americans with immigrant heritage, a passport is proof of their identity and commitment to America and the American idea. A passport must be available to any American citizen who requests one, and delays that are currently clogging our system are preventing American citizens from fully exercising their right of citizenship as well as freedom of travel.

Three years ago, Congress passed the law requiring travelers to show passports if they were returning from anywhere in the Western hemisphere. Demand for passports in the last year has been at record highs, but poor planning by top officials meant that the State Department was unprepared to cope with the surge in applications.

My colleagues and I on the Foreign Affairs Committee have been outraged by this poor planning and the resulting bottleneck. Last week the committee held a hearing on passport delays, and we heard testimony about the hard-working employees who are working through the night and giving up their weekends to clear the backlog of applications. At passport bureaus across the country the State Department has shipped in junior staff, government fellows, and rehired retirees to meet the crushing demand. Yet, phone calls to regional passport bureaus and to consular affairs offices have often gone unanswered on tens of thousands of occasions. Meanwhile, congressional offices

are being flooded with phone calls from outraged citizens. They wonder if their passports have simply disappeared.

The Passport Backlog Reduction Act will assist the State Department's efforts to get all of the filed passports back to waiting travelers, and keep up with the demand in the coming months. This bill lifts legal impediments so that the agency can hire retired foreign service officers to process passport applications. Some of these officers will also be permitted to assist the officials who investigate passport fraud to ensure that passports only go to those citizens who are eligible for them and who do not pose a security risk.

Endless delays in exercising every citizen's right to a passport are outrageous and absolutely unacceptable. So, I urge my colleagues to support this bill so the House can take one additional step to ensure that our citizens' demands for their passports are met expeditiously.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of Senate bill 966, the Passport Backlog Reduction Act. All of us have heard from our constituents. Millions of Americans are facing unprecedented delays in the processing of their passport applications. As weeks become months, these painful holdups have wrecked long-planned travel, job opportunities, and family obligations for thousands of our fellow citizens. This situation is incomprehensible and inexcusable. Officials should have anticipated and planned for this increased demand when the new travel security requirements were legislated 3 years ago.

Furthermore, the State Department has been collecting additional surcharges under authority granted by Congress 1½ years ago for the express purpose of meeting the increased demand for passports. But as we learned at last week's hearing before the Foreign Affairs Committee, officials did not adequately prepare for the increased demand that everyone knew would be coming, and there is no good explanation why.

At the same time that the planning was botched by their superiors, I want to praise the dedicated and hard-working individuals who have been working on an extended and overtime schedule to address this backlog. Madam Speaker, I am particularly impressed by the men and women of the Miami passport processing center who have maintained their professionalism and their courtesy even in this high pressure situation.

The bill before us will help in a limited but an important way to restore the timely passport processing that the American public has every right to expect. By easing certain reemployment restrictions, it will enable retired For-

eign Service officers to come back to work on passport and visa processing on more than a part-time basis. It will also allow them to assist with passport fraud investigations which have not kept pace with the dramatic increase in passport applications.

Of course, this bill is only a temporary measure that will ease but will not fix the larger problem. Senate bill 966 is no substitute for the budgeting, hiring, and training that must be part of the Department's annual and long-range planning. We appreciate the solemn assurances at last week's hearing that the Departments of State and Homeland Security are now treating these problems with the seriousness that they deserve. I have no doubt that the Committee on Foreign Affairs under Chairman LANTOS' leadership will follow up to ensure that the current problems are remedied promptly and avoided in the future.

The bill before us, Madam Speaker, is a small part of that remedy and deserves our unanimous support.

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

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas, Representative RUBÉN HINOJOSA.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Passport Backlog Reduction Act of 2007, or S. 966.

As I represent a district in south Texas, ensuring a safe and secure border which remains conducive to trade and travel is among my most urgent priorities in Congress. For that reason, I greatly appreciate the work of Senators SCHUMER and BIDEN, as well as my colleagues Congressman CAPUANO and Congresswoman MCCARTHY, in bringing this legislation forward.

Several months ago, my constituents began reporting to me that they were not receiving the passports they needed for spring and summer travel from the State Department within the Department's own posted timelines. As spring has turned to summer, many Americans have been unable to travel abroad and have missed many business, educational, and vacation opportunities as a result of the State Department's failure to provide them with required travel documents.

This bill will help to ease the backlog of passport applications caused by the State Department's mismanagement by allowing retired workers to voluntarily return to work without jeopardizing their pension eligibility. These volunteers will provide immediate assistance to the thousands of American travelers who have requested their travel documentation in a timely manner and expect the State Department to facilitate their travel plans.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in providing relief to American travelers.

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 966, which gives the Department of State the authority to re-hire Foreign Serv-

ice retirees without harming their pensions through October 1, 2010 to temporarily increase more personnel to reduce the backlog on passport applications. S. 966 has already passed the Senate and it is time to send this bill on its way to the President's desk for his signature. I appreciate the expeditious consideration of this legislation to give the State Department another tool to help them deal with the massive increase in the number of passport applications.

I hate to say "I told you so" but in 2005 I predicted this train wreck. When I chaired the Small Business Committee, I held a hearing on the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) in 2005 primarily to examine the effect of WHTI on small business. At the time, I said that because of the amount of commerce within the Western Hemisphere it "may make it next to impossible to fulfill the statutory mandate to require this enhanced documentation."

I recognize that Congress gave the Departments of State and Homeland Security a difficult mission to implement within a short time period. I was one of the 75 Members to vote against the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 that contained the WHTI mandate.

However, since WHTI was implemented on January 23, my office has been inundated with frantic calls from constituents seeking passports to travel overseas. So far this year, my office has assisted 491 individuals with problems in obtaining their passports for travel. For all of 2006, my office helped just 51 constituents with passport problems. These calls are dominating the time of the caseworkers in my district offices.

Although we have been 99 percent successful in getting people the passports they need to travel, it has not been easy. Our caseworkers spend countless hours on the phone each day with panicked constituents who face the prospect of losing thousands of dollars and missing out on dream vacations if we cannot help them. And it seems we are always in crisis mode. Many passports do not get issued until two to three days before departure, and that is done with a continual push from my staff.

Despite constant monitoring and advocacy by my staff, some constituents do not receive their passports within 48 hours of departure. The last resort for these constituents is to take a day off work and travel to downtown Chicago—about two hours away—to get their passports on an emergency basis. I am told that although these constituents arrive before the required 7:00 a.m. opening time, it generally takes all day to get their passports.

Madam Speaker, you might not feel as bad if these were people who did not follow the rules and who waited until the last minute to get their passports. But a vast majority of the people who seek our assistance have done everything our Government asked of them. They applied for their passports well within the allotted time to receive their passports on time for their departures. And yet, their vacations and thousands of dollars of investments are in jeopardy.

I applaud the State Department and DHS for trying to ease the situation last month when they agreed to allow people traveling to Mexico, Canada or the Caribbean to depart as long as they had receipts in hand showing they had applied for their U.S. passports. But problems still occur. Some have applied, but

the State Department website indicates their applications cannot be found and thus a receipt cannot be secured. In addition, some of the cruise lines in the Caribbean do not accept these receipts. This situation causes even more anxiety for my constituents.

I understand the goal of the WHTI, but its implementation has been difficult. It has caused unnecessary anxiety and enormous amounts of work for my constituents and my staff. We must come up with an alternative way to enhance our security or make severe adjustments in the way we manage WHTI so we don't leave high and dry the people who followed the rules to get their passports.

That is why I applaud the prompt scheduling of S. 966 so shortly after the Senate passed the bill at the end of last month. I urge my colleagues to pass S. 966 so that the bill can be signed into law by the President as soon as possible.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, our Nation is facing a serious backlog in the processing of passports. Since the new travel rules have been enacted, the number of Americans applying for a passport has increased dramatically. Unfortunately, the number of Foreign Service officers responsible for the processing of passport requests remains far below the necessary capacity. This discrepancy has led to long lines at passport offices nationwide and extended processing times.

During the summer months, travel typically increases to and from the United States. To assist U.S. residents with the passport backlogs, I have introduced H.R. 2845, a bill that allows for an increase in Foreign Service officers trained to handle passport requests. My good friend from New York, Senator SCHUMER, successfully moved similar legislation through the Senate, which we will be voting on today. I am encouraged to see the House act on this important and time sensitive issue and am hopeful the President will quickly sign S. 699 to help alleviate the tremendous passport backlogs facing our constituents.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 966, the Passport Backlog Reduction Act of 2007. We are all very concerned by the extreme backlog in the passport system, and even more so by the apparent lack of adequate preparation that has led to the severe delays that our constituents are now experiencing. I would like to thank Senator SCHUMER for introducing this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, we all recognize the need to protect our Nation and to secure our borders. As a senior member of the Committee on Homeland Security, this has long been a priority for me, and I appreciate the need to continually review and update the policies we use to permit entry into the United States. However, I believe that the current delays are far in excess of what is excusable.

I have witnessed the suffering of those waiting to receive passports first hand in Houston, where my office shares a building with the passport agency. I have spoken with many of the countless Americans who have carefully planned and saved money for family vacations, only to lose the money spent on plane tickets and hotel rooms when they are unable to procure passports. Families in which only one of many children receives a passport in time for travel. U.S. citizens desperate to travel overseas to see ailing relatives. Business-

men and women who are unable to complete necessary overseas travel while waiting to receive their documents. These individuals and families lined up on the streets of Houston are indicative of the huge numbers of Americans who are suffering as a result of the U.S. Government's failure to adequately prepare for the swell in passport demands.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the men and women in the Houston field office, who have worked tirelessly to ensure that as many Americans as possible receive the necessary travel documents. Washington has let them down by failing to provide them with the adequate resources and personnel to successfully do their job, and it has failed the American people. This is a situation that demands leadership from the top.

The Department of State Crisis Response Act of 2007 is an important first step toward alleviating the massive passport backlog that has developed since the recent implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, or WHTI. It allows the State Department to employ retired Foreign Service officers to process passport applications. Many Foreign Service retirees already possess the necessary training and security clearance for these functions, and could therefore be rapidly deployed to meet the ongoing crisis.

Under the provisions of this act, Foreign Service retirees can work without forgoing pension payments, provided that they either provide assistance to consular posts with a substantial backlog of visa applications, or they provide assistance in meeting the passport backlog resulting from the WHTI.

I firmly believe we must do all in our power to keep the American people, and our Nation itself, safe. This includes constantly reviewing and, as need be, revising our entrance policies. However, I also believe that we owe it to the American taxpayers to do everything that we can to allow free travel. We must work to ensure that such a serious problem does not occur in the future, while also working to immediately address the ongoing passport backlog. I strongly support this legislation, which is an important first step toward alleviating the existing passport delays, and I would like to encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. LOEBACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for the Passport Backlog Reduction Act.

Our country's passport system is broken. The backlog in processing passport applications has been a severe burden on businesses and families. My constituents have been forced to cancel or delay travel plans; pay thousands of dollars for international flights they were unable to board; and lose deposits on accommodations they were unable to use. The current situation is unacceptable.

The administration had 3 years to plan for the new passport requirements, yet the Department of State was caught flat-footed by the surge in applications. Eliminating the backlog as swiftly as possible should be a matter of priority for the State and Homeland Security Departments, and new passport requirements for land and sea travel should not be enacted until the staffing infrastructure is in place to do so.

This bill allows the State Department to rehire retired Foreign Service employees to staff passport processing centers. By providing access to highly qualified staff, this bill will assist the State Department in reducing the backlog in passport applications.

The administration's lack of foresight and planning has created significant problems for families in Iowa and across the Nation. I strongly urge the passage of this bill as a crucial step towards fixing our country's passport system.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 966, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION OF MODELING AND SIMULATION TECHNOLOGY TO THE SECURITY AND PROSPERITY OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 487) recognizing the contribution of modeling and simulation technology to the security and prosperity of the United States, and recognizing modeling and simulation as a National Critical Technology.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 487

Whereas the United States of America is a great and prosperous Nation, and modeling and simulation contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;

Whereas modeling and simulation in the United States is a unique application of computer science and mathematics that depends on the validity, verification, and reproducibility of the model or simulation, and depends also on the capability of the thousands of Americans in modeling and simulation careers to develop these models;

Whereas members of the modeling and simulation community in government, industry, and academia have made significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States, and while these contributions are too numerous to enumerate, modeling and simulation efforts have contributed to the United States by—

(1) expanding the understanding of nuclear chain reactions during the Manhattan Project through some of the earliest simulations replicating the reaction process, which ultimately contributed to the end of World War II;

(2) serving as a foundational element of the Stockpile Stewardship Program, which enabled the President of the United States to certify the safety, security, and reliability of the nuclear stockpile for more than ten years without the use of live nuclear testing, which demonstrates the Nation's commitment to nuclear nonproliferation;

(3) accelerating the effectiveness of joint, coalition, and interagency training exercises, while dramatically reducing the costs of such exercises, as demonstrated by United States Joint Forces Command's 2007 homeland security exercise, Noble Resolve, which was conducted virtually and required 5

months, 140 personnel, and \$2,000,000 for development, compared to a 2002 Millennium Challenge exercise that was conducted live and required 5 years, 14,000 personnel, and \$250,000,000 for development;

(4) preserving countless human lives, as well as military and civilian aircraft, ships, and other vehicles through the rehearsal of repeatable, simulated emergencies that otherwise could not have been practiced;

(5) increasing the quality of health care through the development of medical simulation training, which led the Food and Drug Administration to require such training for physicians before certain high-risk procedures to treat heart disease and strokes;

(6) reducing the cost of health care, as demonstrated by medical malpractice insurance rate discounts being provided to anesthesiologists and obstetricians who include simulated procedures in their biennial training requirements;

(7) simulating large scale natural or man-made disasters to improve the effectiveness of local, State, and Federal first responders, law enforcement, and other agencies involved in a coordinated emergency response;

(8) forecasting weather and predicting climate change to enable scientists, industry, and policymakers to study the effects of climate change and also to prepare for extreme weather, such as hurricanes;

(9) protecting rivers, waterways, and endangered species reliant on these waters through the Environmental Protection Agency's hydrology Dynamic Stream Simulation and Assessment Model, which predicts impacts on water quality for the Truckee River, including its effect on Lake Tahoe and other portions of its basin;

(10) producing analysis that resulted in enhanced designs and construction of critical infrastructure, such as roads, interchanges, airports, harbors, railways, and bridges that increases transportation capacity and safety, and reduces travel time and environmental impact; and

(11) providing National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronauts training to ensure a safe and productive mission in space, including the utilization of the Shuttle Training Aircraft, which simulates real aircraft shuttle characteristics and enables NASA pilots to have 1,000 simulated shuttle landings before they land the Space Shuttle for the first time as a glider;

Whereas these contributions, in addition to numerous contributions that are not listed but that equally have brought prosperity to our Nation, demonstrate that modeling and simulation efforts have, and will continue to—

(1) provide vital strategic support functions to our Military;

(2) defend our freedom and advance United States interests around the world;

(3) promote better health care through improved medical training, improved quality of care, reduced medical errors, and reduced cost;

(4) encourage comprehensive planning for national disaster and emergency preparedness response;

(5) improve and secure our critical infrastructure and transportation systems;

(6) protect the environment; and

(7) allow the Nation to explore the Earth and space to further our understanding of our world and universe;

Whereas modeling and simulation frequently complements or replaces experimentation where experimentation is hazardous, expensive, or impossible, thus providing far greater capability than experimentation alone;

Whereas the modeling and simulation industry provides well-paying jobs to many Americans and represents an opportunity for

Americans with strong foundations in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to contribute to the prosperity and security of the United States;

Whereas other countries have recognized the value of modeling and simulation as an opportunity to gain a competitive advantage over the United States economically and militarily, and some of these same countries produce more engineers each year than the United States;

Whereas modeling and simulation efforts are critically dependent on a fundamental education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics;

Whereas modeling and simulation require unique knowledge, skills, and abilities that are not adequately incorporated into governmental occupational classification codes; and

Whereas advances in modeling and simulation can be achieved through innovation in the private sector, and proper export controls and intellectual property rights are critical to the continued growth and innovation in this sector: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends those who have contributed to the modeling and simulation efforts which have developed essential characteristics of our Nation;

(2) urges that, consistent with previous legislation passed by this and previous Congresses, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics remain key disciplines for primary and secondary education;

(3) encourages the expansion of modeling and simulation as a tool and subject within higher education;

(4) recognizes modeling and simulation as a National Critical Technology;

(5) affirms the need to study the national economic impact of modeling and simulation;

(6) supports the development and implementation of governmental classification codes that include separate classification for modeling and simulation occupations; and

(7) encourages the development and implementation of ways to protect intellectual property of modeling and simulation enterprises.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks, and include extraneous material on H. Res. 487.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1600

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 487, which recognizes the contribution of modeling and simulation technology to the security and prosperity of the United States, and recognizing modeling and simulation as a national critical technology.

Modeling and simulation is an important technology. It allows scientists to

understand the functioning of complex systems that would otherwise be impossible to comprehend. It allows developers to understand their products better. It allows industry to save money that would otherwise be spent on experimentation and to allocate those funds to other activities, and allows our military to understand the impacts of their weapons.

In short, modeling and simulation is a very powerful tool that has improved our lives in many ways. Americans lead the world in this technology, and we should acknowledge that. It's important that we nurture this industry and stimulate its further growth.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chairman GORDON for bringing this resolution successfully through his committee, and I rise in support of House Resolution 487, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 487 recognizes that modeling and simulation technology is a national critical technology essential for America's long-term national security and her economic prosperity.

As a member of the House Modeling and Simulation Caucus, and representing one of the largest modeling and simulation clusters in the United States, I urge that the House pass this resolution to help retain America's lead in this high-technology field.

Your child's or your grandchild's video game represents one product of the modeling and simulation industry. Aircraft training simulators provide another well-known example.

Simulation uses combinations of sound, sight and motion to make you feel that you are experiencing an actual event. Modeling involves the complex computer models used to create these artificial environments.

For training purposes, modeling and simulation places people in an artificial, but seemingly real, environment and puts them through their paces. Unlike live training, if you make a mistake, you get to live another day and learn valuable lessons.

In the latter part of the 20th century, the U.S. military revolutionized warfighting by emphasizing this high-fidelity training that simulates the stress and decision-making of actual combat. Servicemen and -women gain experience and judgment previously only earned on the actual battlefield, often through serious injury and death.

Substantial amounts of that simulation and training come from my congressional district where representatives of all service branches collaborate with the University of Central Florida and private contractors of all sizes to produce these training systems. As other speakers will note, other clusters of modeling and simulation excellence exist throughout the United States.

But such training expands beyond military uses. Commercial aviation's

enviable safety record is due in part to aircraft simulator training that prepares cockpit crews to handle complex and fast-paced emergencies.

In that vein, medical simulation is an especially promising and emerging field. By creating artificial, but seemingly real, environments, doctors and nurses can hone their skills in using sophisticated and invasive medical technology or in treating severely injured patients.

Beyond training, modeling and simulation replicates complex environments, allowing planners and designers to ask various "what if" questions.

Transportation planners simulate highway networks to determine how best to alleviate congestion. Emergency management experts simulate large-scale natural or manmade disasters to better improve coordinated emergency responses. Hurricane Katrina highlighted the need to better use modeling and simulation in order to protect life and property during such disasters.

Because of these growing numbers of uses, the modeling and simulation industry is rapidly growing and demands the best students with extensive math and science backgrounds including psychology, medicine, computer science, mathematics, engineering and physics.

In addition to the cluster in Central Florida, there's a great cluster of modeling and simulation in the Fourth Congressional District represented by Congressman RANDY FORBES, and I'd like to indulge my colleagues to paraphrase some important comments by Congressman FORBES and then would like to insert his comments, the original text, in the RECORD.

Representative FORBES points out that we can test a new airplane in a wind tunnel without risking human life and without building full scale airplanes. The benefits and applications of this technology are immediately obvious. We can learn a system in a more cost-effective, timely and safer manner. And, furthermore, we can simulate thousands of scenarios over and over again on a computer when it is too hazardous, expensive, or impossible to perform real world tests.

So, in short, modeling simulation tools allow us to understand complex interactions that would otherwise be impossible to comprehend using other means. If modeling and simulation sounds like it has the promise to dramatically change the way we apply science in our world, the fact is that it has already done so.

This resolution seeks to recognize the countless efforts of professionals who have taken this technology and applied it to make the United States a safer and more prosperous Nation.

The impact of modeling and simulation technology is felt in the private sector, academia, government, and across disciplines. Modeling and simulation tools have streamlined the design and manufacture of cars, homes, boats and airplanes, to name a few devices.

Modeling and simulation software designed in Illinois, for example, assists automotive engineers in designing engines that are more efficient, while reducing emissions that impact adversely our environment. Modeling and simulation analysis is also used in the engineering of major roads, bridges, harbors, railways and airports, all of which lead to increased transportation capacity and safety.

At the United States Joint Forces Command in the Fourth District of Virginia, represented by Congressman FORBES, modeling and simulation tools have accelerated the effectiveness of joint interagency exercises run by the command. One of their experimentation projects is to enhance our national security by running scenarios in an urban combat environment. The goal is to provide lessons learned for our troops in theater before they encounter the same situation on the ground.

Because of these kinds of valuable contributions, this resolution honors modeling and simulation by recognizing it as a national critical technology. National critical technology refers to those technologies essential to develop long-term national security and economic prosperity for our country. One example of the success historically of modeling and simulation is the famous Manhattan Project. It was early models and simulators that allowed scientists to develop an understanding of nuclear chain reactions that ultimately led to the end of World War II.

America's military have used simulators to train personnel for flying aircraft, ships, and we now use simulators to train soldiers and marines to detect roadside IEDs.

Additionally, in the past, medical malpractice insurance rates have included artificially high premiums because it was difficult to reduce the number of medical errors for certain medical procedures that were not routinely performed. Today, insurance discounts are being provided to anesthesiologists and obstetricians who include simulated procedures in their biennial training requirements.

Madam Speaker, the advantages that we have reaped from modeling and simulation go across all congressional districts and benefit all Americans in ways that are often unseen. I am thrilled to be a cosponsor of this resolution today.

I want to thank the chairman. The future is very bright and modeling, simulation and training will lead the way to make it a safer, brighter future for all Americans.

Central Florida represents one of the larger if not the largest Modeling and Simulation clusters in the United States. The Navy's NAVAIR Orlando and the Army's PEO-STRI are based in my District. Over 100 Modeling and Simulation companies directly employ over 6,000 people. Having reached a critical mass in Central Florida, the Modeling and Simulation industry continues to expand.

Central Florida achieved critical mass by leveraging relationships among military, academic, industry, and government entities. Locally, we refer to this rich and complex web of cooperation, collaboration, and partnerships as Team Orlando.

Over 50 years before "jointness" and "transformation" became favored concepts in the Department of Defense, the Navy and Army demonstrated these traits in Orlando by starting a partnership for the development of training systems. The Air Force and Marines joined as full partners during the 1990s. All military services use a common infrastructure of facilities, contracting, administration, and technology.

Collaboration with academia is demonstrated by the University of Central Florida and its Institute for Simulation and Training.

The private sector is represented by a portfolio of Modeling and Simulation companies. Recognized and established entities are present such as Lockheed Martin and SAIC. But Central Florida is also home to scores of innovative, entrepreneurial start-ups such as IDEAL Technologies and Vcom3D.

The lessons learned from Central Florida's experience can be applied nationally. Modeling and Simulation isn't a zero-sum game where success in one geographic area comes at the expense of another. This technology holds so much promise that everyone benefits from national cooperation and collaboration.

Today's resolution will help create a unified national identity for this technology. And it will raise this technology's profile within the Department of Defense, other government agencies, and the private sector.

Modeling and simulation allows us to better understand and control complex systems ranging from highway systems, manufacturing and processing facilities, and emergency management systems. Modeling and simulation also trains people to handle complex and fast-paced situations ranging from warfighting to emergency medical care.

So I urge support of this resolution recognizing modeling and simulation as a National Critical Technology.

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

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, let me just conclude by saying I think this is our 30th bill with Mr. FEENEY's help out of the Science Committee. All have been bipartisan. All but two have been unanimous. This is another good piece of legislation.

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, while nearly all Members of this body have benefited from the application of modeling and simulation, or M-and-S, technology in one way or another, I want to briefly describe what we are talking about when we discuss Modeling and Simulation technology. "Modeling and Simulation" simply refers to replicating a system on a smaller scale or on a computer for extensive analysis.

For example, we can test a new airplane in a wind tunnel without risking human life and without building full-scale airplanes. The benefits and applications of this technology are immediately obvious: we can learn about a system in a more cost-effective, timely, and safer manner than analyzing the real thing. And furthermore, we can simulate thousands of scenarios over and over again on a computer when it is too hazardous, expensive, or impossible to perform a real-world experiment.

So in short, M-and-S tools allow us to understand complex interactions that would otherwise be impossible to comprehend using other means. If modeling and simulation technology sounds like it has the promise to dramatically change the way we apply science in the world, the fact is, that is has already done so—and this resolution seeks to recognize the countless efforts of the professionals who have taken this technology and applied it to make the United States a safer and more prosperous Nation.

The impact of Modeling and Simulation technology is felt in the private sector, academia, government, and across all disciplines. M-and-S tools have streamlined the design and manufacturing of cars, homes, boats, and airplanes.

M-and-S software designed in Illinois is assisting automotive engineers to design engines that are more efficient while reducing emissions. M-and-S analysis is also used in the engineering of major roads, bridges, harbors, railways, and airports—all of which lead to increased transportation capacity and safety.

At the United States Joint Forces Command in the Fourth Congressional District in Virginia, M-and-S tools have accelerated the effectiveness of joint and interagency exercises run by the Command. One of their experimentation projects is to enhance our national security by running scenarios in an urban combat environment. Their goal is to provide “lessons learned” for our troops in theater before they encounter the same situation on the ground.

Because of these kinds of valuable contributions, this resolution honors modeling and simulation by recognizing it as a National Critical Technology. A National Critical Technology refers to those technologies that are essential to develop in order to ensure the long-term national security and economic prosperity of the United States. I have already mentioned how modeling and simulation has broadly contributed to our national security and the economic prosperity, but let me name a few specific examples:

During the Manhattan Project, it was early models and simulations that allowed scientists to a developed understanding of nuclear chain reactions that ultimately led to the end of World War II.

America’s military have used simulators to train personnel for flying aircraft and ships, and now they use simulators to train soldiers and marines to detect roadside IEDs.

Additionally, in the past, medical malpractice insurance rates have included artificially high premiums because it was difficult to reduce the number of medical errors for certain medical procedures that were not routinely performed. Today, however, insurance discounts are being provided to anesthesiologists and obstetricians who include simulated procedures in their biennial training requirements.

I commend those that have used M-and-S tools to make great contributions to this country.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 487, which recognizes modeling and simulation as a national critical technology. I would like to thank my friend from Virginia’s Fourth Congressional District and the chair of the Congressional Modeling and Simulation Caucus, Congressman RANDY FORBES, for introducing this important resolution.

Modeling and simulation has become an essential component in ensuring that we meet both the defense and domestic challenges of the 21st century. Modeling and simulation allows us to easily and effectively sharpen the tools, procedures, and decisions needed to address difficult and complex problems. This critical technology allows us to build and develop models of complex systems—whether a car, an airplane, an entire battlefield, or even a major city’s evacuation plan—to see how certain actions will affect the end result. These simulations help us develop better and practical analogies of real world situations. With the growing international challenges of the 21st century, this technology is vital to the defense of our great Nation. Simulating battlefield conditions will sharpen the skills of the brave men and women serving in our armed forces.

Madam Speaker, the practical uses of modeling, analysis and simulation technology as a training tool are boundless. Military and airline pilots have been using this technology for decades. Congress should be interested in using this technology for homeland security, disaster preparedness, and other ways to benefit the public; the resolution before the House today ensures that this body is aware of how critical this technology is for our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the people and businesses of the Third Congressional District of Virginia who are a part of this important and growing sector of Virginia’s economy. In addition to our local military bases supporting the Joint Forces Center in Suffolk, our local colleges and universities and NASA Langley Research Center on the Virginia peninsula are engaged in applying people, tools and facilities to modeling, analysis and simulation technology. Hampton Roads is leading the way in modeling and simulation technology. The Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center in Suffolk, Virginia, is a premier facility that is second to none.

The modeling and simulation industry is vital to the growing economy of Hampton Roads and the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Hampton Roads Congressional Delegation has a history of working together and we will continue to do so in promoting this important industry in this Congress. Using modeling and simulation technology in the fields of science, national defense, homeland security and disaster planning will better the lives of all Americans and make our great Nation safer.

Madam Speaker, I am glad that the House is considering this resolution today and I encourage all my colleagues to support this resolution and to learn more about this critical technology.

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, in addition to formally recognizing modeling and simulation contributions, H. Res 487 urges Congress to continue to invest in critical science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM education—disciplines that are essential to the expansion of modeling and simulation technology. Previous Congresses, as well as this Congress, have demonstrated a deep commitment to furthering STEM education. Because the skills required for modeling and simulation develop over a long period of time—it is essential that we begin to develop these critical skills in our children now.

Already, academic programs for modeling and simulation have sprung up across the country, at places such as Texas A&M and at

the Virginia Modeling and Simulation Center based out of Old Dominion University. There, nearly 100 modeling and simulation professionals seek new ways to apply this technology.

We must invest now rather than later, and I applaud the efforts of the Administration and this House towards that end. This investment is particularly valuable as other countries continue to produce more engineers than we graduate each year.

This resolution is also meant to bring to the attention of this body, that policy decisions made in Congress and in the Administration can either accelerate the implementation of this technology, or unnecessarily slow its growth. That’s why for the past 2 years, leaders in modeling and simulation from government, academia, and the private sector from around the country have come together in Virginia to identify the key policy challenges that are affecting the modeling and simulation industry.

For example, since last year, there has been a prohibition in place that prevents the Department of Defense from purchasing any flight simulator using a services contract. Now, if that prohibition had been in place just one year earlier, the Army’s Flight School Twenty One at Fort Rucker, Alabama, would not have had the chance to revolutionize the way the Army’s future aviators train. Because the prohibition came into affect after the service contract was signed, the Army was able to incorporate modern simulations into the heart of the training curriculum. As lawmakers, we ought to be aware of these policies, how they came about, and whether they are still valid or have outlived their usefulness.

When we recognize a technology that has been instrumental to our Nation, it follows that we should also understand the workforce that is producing these accomplishments. The professionals who make up the modeling and simulation community are scientists, mathematicians, programmers, and analysts. And unfortunately, we do not know much about them in part because they do not fit neatly into any current category as defined by the Department of Labor. There is also no nationwide estimate of how large the modeling and simulation community is; or whether our education system is producing an adequately technical workforce. So the government’s classification of occupational codes is another area where Federal policy impacts modeling and simulation technology.

As many of my colleagues know, the Department of Labor uses classification codes to identify and describe many occupations. The codes identify the projected job market, and the typical skills, education, and experience requirements. Particularly for occupations related to critical technologies such as modeling and simulation, it is important that we identify these details. With this information, we can learn if the number of technical graduates each year can match expected modeling and simulation job growth, and we can identify the economic impact this industry has had across the country.

Madam Speaker, as Members consider their vote on this measure today, I would encourage my colleagues to keep in mind how this technology can break some of the logjams that seem to know no solution. For instance,

medical errors persist even in the best hospitals. But, these errors could likely be reduced if we can train our medical professionals in situations that replicate the most common errors or scenarios without ever seeing a patient. Simulation can also extend the value of each defense dollar, which will only become more important as rising entitlement spending squeezes overall discretionary spending, which includes defense spending.

We can increase the opportunity for interagency cooperation by decreasing the financial and time costs associated with exposing department-long bureaucrats to other agencies. One way to do this is through simulated exercises and interagency education and training. Just five years ago, a large scale defense exercise was run with many personnel in real-time. It required 5 years, 14,000 personnel, and 250 million dollars.

This year, a recent interagency exercise at U.S. Joint Forces Command was conducted to practice responding to a natural and a man-made disaster. It required only 5 months, 140 personnel and 2 million dollars to develop. Madam Speaker, the price of many things that the government buys only goes up with time. But, with modeling and simulation, we can improve the value of each taxpayer's dollar by saving money on personnel costs, equipment, and time.

Modeling and Simulation also contributed to finding a solution to the concerns of nuclear testing. For a long time, there was a tension between wanting to have certainty in the reliability of our nuclear stockpile that at the time, was believed to only be achieved by live testing. But there were also concerns that more testing by the United States would negatively impact our nuclear nonproliferation efforts. Fortunately, an acceptable solution came in the form of modeling and simulation.

At the Government's Department of Energy national laboratories in California and New Mexico, modeling and simulation tools serve as a foundational element of the National Nuclear Security Administration's Stockpile Stewardship Program, which enables the President of the United States to certify the safety security and reliability of nuclear stockpile for more than 10 years without the use of live nuclear testing. So, we are able to have full certainty as to the readiness of our primary deterrent, while also demonstrating the Nation's commitment to nuclear nonproliferation.

Madam Speaker, we are at the tip of the iceberg as to what other issues modeling and simulation can address. I urge passage of this resolution that commends past modeling and simulation successes, and which presents a glimpse of the kinds of issues this House must address in the future to advance the benefits of this technology for the security and economy of this country.

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. 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 Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 487.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### COLONEL CHARLES D. MAYNARD LOCK AND DAM

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 781) to redesignate Lock and Dam No. 5 of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System near Redfield, Arkansas, authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act approved July 24, 1946, as the "Colonel Charles D. Maynard Lock and Dam".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 781

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

#### SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Colonel Charles D. Maynard, who served the Nation with distinction as an engineer officer in World War II and afterwards oversaw the massive buildup of work on the "Arkansas River Project" in the early 1960s which at the time was the largest civil works project ever undertaken by the Corps of Engineers while concurrently overseeing construction of Greers Ferry and Beaver Dams on the White River.

(2) Colonel Charles D. Maynard was assigned as district engineer of the Little Rock Engineer District for 3 years during which time he directed planning, design, and construction of 13 locks and dams of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation Project.

(3) Colonel Charles D. Maynard successfully met the challenging schedules set by Congress and the Administration while coordinating with a host of state and Federal agencies in Arkansas and Oklahoma.

(4) Colonel Charles D. Maynard served as Chairman and President of the Water Resources Association of America, President of the Arkansas Basin Association, member of the Arkansas Basin Coordinating Committee of the Arkansas Basin Development Association.

(5) Colonel Charles D. Maynard actively promoted development of waterborne transportation in Arkansas and was appointed by 3 governors to serve on the Arkansas Waterways Commission for 21 years.

(6) Colonel Charles D. Maynard provided Congressional testimony in support of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, Fourche Creek Flood Control Project, and Montgomery Point Lock and Dam on behalf of various Arkansas associations and committees, and was named as a member of the Arkansas River Hall of Fame.

(7) Colonel Charles D. Maynard, who died on October 22, 2005, served in numerous community and civic roles, including the United States Savings Bond Coordinator for Arkansas for 10 years, Campaign Chairman for the United Way of Pulaski County, Chairman Emeritus of Central Arkansas Radiation Treatment Center, and President of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce.

(8) Colonel Charles D. Maynard was a dedicated citizen who served on a number of boards supporting his state and local community including Arkansas Arts Center, the Arkansas Symphony, and the Foundation Board of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

#### SEC. 2. LOCK AND DAM REDESIGNATION.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—Lock and Dam No. 5 of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System near Redfield, Arkansas, authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act approved July 24, 1946, shall be known and redesignated as the "Colonel Charles D. Maynard Lock and Dam".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the lock and dam referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Colonel Charles D. Maynard Lock and Dam".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 781, offered by my colleague, Mr. ROSS of Arkansas, to redesignate lock and dam No. 5 of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System as the Colonel Charles D. Maynard Lock and Dam. The bill has the support of the entire Arkansas delegation.

Colonel Maynard made an undeniable contribution to the State of Arkansas through his professional duties and social services. Educated at West Point, he was the district engineer of the Little Rock Engineer District for 3 years, where he oversaw the planning, design and construction of the 13 locks and dams on the McClellan-Kerr. At the time, this was the largest civil works project ever undertaken in the State of Arkansas.

To this day, the locks and dams provide inland waterway transportation for commerce and well-paying jobs for many of the residents of Arkansas. Billions of dollars in goods move through the State's ports each year.

Colonel Maynard was an integral connection between the project and Congress: he provided congressional testimony in support of McClellan-Kerr, and he consistently met the deadlines our body designated for the project.

Because of his work promoting waterborne transportation in Arkansas, Colonel Maynard was appointed by three separate Governors to serve on the Arkansas Waterways Commission. He served on the commission for 21 years.

His civil roles included a variety of leadership positions for charity groups to better our society and for groups such as the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce to help promote business in his community.

Although Colonel Maynard passed away October 22, 2005, he remains a symbol of how best to engineer our

civil works projects for the benefit of all. His memory could also be used to call attention to the vital role inland waterways have for our economy, and remind us of the improvements and necessary maintenance projects needed for our commerce on these rivers to thrive.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting H.R. 781.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, the Arkansas River system provides navigation, flood protection, hydropower, water supply and recreation for millions of Americans. This body of water provides a 9-foot navigation channel that is almost 445 miles long and is controlled over this length by 17 locks and dams.

Madam Speaker, lock and dam No. 5, which this legislation would name after Colonel Charles Maynard, became operational in 1968. This is a vital piece of infrastructure where almost 9 million tons of commodities pass through it annually.

Prior to his work as district engineer in Little Rock, Arkansas, Colonel Maynard served in the Army in New Guinea and the Philippines during World War II and later supported the Berlin airlift as an engineer in charge of construction at Keflavik Field in Iceland.

Madam Speaker, Colonel Maynard oversaw many of the Army Corps of Engineers construction projects along the Arkansas River. Under his watch, Colonel Maynard directed the construction of 13 of the 17 locks along the river.

Due to his military education, management skills and World War II experience, he was uniquely qualified for his assignment as the Little Rock district engineer. This designation is an appropriate honor for Colonel Maynard's achievements and contributions.

I urge all Members to support H.R. 781.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to Mr. ROSS of Arkansas.

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 781. This legislation honors and recognizes the life and work of Colonel Charles D. Maynard by redesignating lock and dam No. 5 of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System as the Colonel Charles D. Maynard Lock and Dam.

□ 1615

I would like to first thank Chairman OBERSTAR and subcommittee Chairman JOHNSON, along with Ranking Member MICA and subcommittee Ranking Member BAKER and Mr. WESTMORELAND of Georgia for their support and assistance in moving this bill from the Transportation Committee to the floor

of the U.S. House of Representatives in a bipartisan manner.

I am also pleased that this legislation has received the support and co-sponsorship of the entire Arkansas congressional delegation. I would like to personally thank Congressman JOHN BOOZMAN, a Republican; Congressmen VIC SNYDER and MARION BERRY, Democrats. The entire Arkansas delegation in a bipartisan manner have come together in this legislation.

Colonel Charles D. Maynard served our Nation with distinction as an engineer officer in World War II. Following the war, Colonel Maynard oversaw the Arkansas River Project in the early 1960s, which at the time was the most substantial and largest civil works project ever undertaken, ever undertaken, by Corps of Engineers. At the same time Colonel Maynard also oversaw the construction of Greers Ferry and Beaver Dams on the White River in Arkansas.

Colonel Maynard was also the Little Rock Corps District Engineer in charge of construction of all locks and dams in Arkansas from 1962 to 1965. During that time he directed planning, design, and construction of 13, 13, locks and dams of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation Project.

In addition to his work with the Corps, Colonel Maynard actively promoted the development of waterborne transportation in Arkansas and was appointed by three Governors to a prestigious position on the Arkansas Waterways Commission, where he served for 21 years. He also served as Chairman and President of the Water Resources Association of America, President of the Arkansas Basin Association, and he was a member of the Arkansas Basin Coordinating Committee.

As a member of the Arkansas River Hall of Fame, Colonel Maynard provided congressional testimony in support of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, the Fourche Creek Flood Control Project, and the Montgomery Point Lock and Dam on behalf of various Arkansas associations and committees.

In addition to his numerous accomplishments in waterways, Colonel Maynard was also a dedicated citizen who served in a variety of community and civic roles in the State of Arkansas. These included his service as the United States Savings Bond Coordinator for Arkansas for 10 years, the Campaign Chairman for the United Way of Pulaski County, the Chairman of Central Arkansas Radiation Treatment Center, and President of the Little Rock, Arkansas Chamber of Commerce.

Finally, Colonel Maynard's steadfast service on numerous boards and councils at the State and local level will never be forgotten. These include the Arkansas Arts Center, the Arkansas Symphony, and the Foundation Board of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

The life and work of Colonel Charles D. Maynard were immensely important

to not only the State of Arkansas but to the entire Nation. This resolution will write into history Colonel Maynard's countless contributions. As such, I am proud to sponsor a resolution that commemorates his life's work and achievements by redesignating Lock and Dam No. 5 of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System as the Colonel Charles D. Maynard Lock and Dam. I urge my fellow colleagues to vote in favor of this worthwhile legislation today.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. 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 gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 781.

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.

#### HONORING UNITED PARCEL SERVICE

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 375) honoring United Parcel Service and its 100 years of commitment and leadership in the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 375

*Whereas United Parcel Service (in this resolution referred to as "UPS") provides solutions that connect the flow of goods, funds, and information in the United States to more than 200 countries, including delivery service to every address in North America and Europe, through its expansive transportation network, thus truly synchronizing global commerce;*

*Whereas UPS was founded in 1907 as the American Messenger Company by James E. "Jim" Casey in Seattle, Washington, with \$100 borrowed from a friend and has grown from a 2-person message delivery firm into a 427,000-plus employee global transportation and logistics corporation that moves nearly 15,000,000 packages through its network each business day;*

*Whereas Jim and his partner, Claude Ryan, focused on providing the best service and lowest rates to launch what would become the world's largest package delivery service;*

*Whereas the American Messenger Company acquired its first delivery car, a Model T Ford, in 1913 and operates today a vehicle fleet of almost 92,000 vehicles;*

*Whereas, in 1913, the American Messenger Company merged with competitor Evert "Mac" McCabe and selected the name Merchants Parcel Delivery;*

*Whereas, in 1919, Merchants Parcel Delivery made its first expansion beyond Seattle to Oakland, California, and adopted its present name, United Parcel Service;*

Whereas, in 1929, UPS became the first package delivery company to provide air service and operates today the world's eighth largest airline;

Whereas, during the Second World War, UPS still continued to grow by expanding employment opportunities to, and capitalizing on the talents of, women in the workforce;

Whereas, in 1975, UPS forged the "Golden Link", becoming the first package delivery company to serve every address in the continental United States and began its first operations outside the United States in Ontario, Canada;

Whereas UPS continues to expand its role as a provider of transportation-based and supply chain services;

Whereas UPS has earned numerous awards for its outstanding business practices, recognizing the company's values and commitment to social responsibility and diversity;

Whereas the Environmental Protection Agency awarded UPS the Clean Air Excellence Award, citing UPS's alternative fuel program under which the UPS "Green Fleet" recently passed the 100,000,000 mile mark;

Whereas UPS plays a major philanthropic leadership role in the United States and has made significant contributions to numerous charitable organizations around the world;

Whereas, over the past 100 years, UPS has gone through many transformations, growing from a small messenger company to a leading provider of air, ocean, ground, and electronic services, while remaining true to its modest origins and commitment to customer service; and

Whereas UPS maintains its reputation for integrity, reliability, employee ownership, and customer service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes United Parcel Service's role in the global transportation system as the world's largest package delivery company; and

(2) celebrates United Parcel Service's 100th anniversary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 375.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 375, honoring United Parcel Service and its 100 years of commitment and leadership in the United States.

This resolution, as introduced by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND), honors the 100th anniversary of the United Parcel Service and recognizes its role in our global transportation system.

Since its founding in 1907 by James E. "Jim" Casey and Claude Ryan in Seattle, Washington, with \$100 borrowed from a friend, United Parcel Service has grown from a two-person foot and

bike messenger service into a worldwide transportation and logistics corporation. Today UPS is the world's largest package delivery company, employing over 427,000 workers, utilizing approximately 92,000 vehicles and operating the world's eighth largest airline. UPS plays an integral role in the movement of goods in the constantly changing global economy, moving over 15 million packages through its network each business day. It is an important spoke in the global transportation wheel, connecting the flow of goods and information in the United States to more than 200 countries.

In 1929, UPS became the first package delivery company to provide air service. In 1975, it became the first package delivery company to serve every address in the continental USA.

UPS's contributions to our Nation go beyond simply transporting goods or providing logistics to our businesses. It has maintained its role as a leader in good business practices, with a commitment to social responsibility and diversity. It has also made a significant dedication to environmental stewardship through the UPS "Green Fleet," which recently passed the 100 million mark. The company also plays an important philanthropic role in the United States and has made sizable contributions to numerous charitable organizations around the world.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 375.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 375, honoring the United Parcel Service and its 100 years of commitment and leadership in the United States, and all across this world.

It is increasingly difficult for businesses to survive in today's global economy, and I am proud to offer this resolution honoring UPS as a company that has not only survived but one that has continued to grow and prosper for 100 years not only in this country but all over the world.

In 1907, when Mr. James E. Casey borrowed \$100 from a friend to start a delivery company, I am sure that it was impossible for him to envision what his hard work would become.

Whether it was purchasing his first delivery car in 1913, becoming the first package delivery company to provide air service in 1929, or using alternative fuels to power its fleet, UPS has continued to embrace technological advancements in order to better serve its customers.

Now, 100 years after its inception, UPS is a 427,000-employee global transportation corporation that moves nearly 15 million packages through its network each business day. While UPS is headquartered in my home State of Georgia, its presence is felt in every congressional district and all around the globe.

Madam Speaker, I believe it is fitting that we honor this tremendous achievement, and I urge all Members to support this resolution and recognize what brown has done for us.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I simply wanted to add that UPS also is very environmentally sensitive and uses natural gas in metropolitan areas.

I would move that we support this resolution.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 375, which honors the United Parcel Service, UPS, and its 100 years of commitment and leadership in the United States. Of the 425,000 jobs that UPS provides to hard-working people across the globe, 16,000 of them are in my home State of New Jersey. Included in that number are the employees that work at the Ramapo Ridge Data Center in Mahwah, NJ, in my District, one of two data centers supporting UPS worldwide computer operations.

UPS has made it a priority to integrate itself into the local community and has been a magnet for jobs in a variety of positions; from the high-tech workers at the Mahwah Data Center to the uniformed delivery people we meet on a daily basis in offices across the country. UPS continues to actively recruit from the local colleges and universities in my district, with internship and co-op opportunities for students who are studying Computer Science, Information Systems, Industrial Engineering, and Mathematics.

UPS has also been recognized for its commitment to diversity. Twenty-nine percent of UPS's IT population is female, far higher than the IT population as a whole. In 2006, UPS was recognized as one of America's most supportive companies of both black and Hispanic engineering students by two independent surveys. Truly this is a company that has made a commitment to reach out to populations traditionally underrepresented in high-tech fields, and has continued to excel while doing so.

With more and more American jobs being created in the services industry, it is companies such as UPS that serve as a great example of how U.S. businesses are adapting to our changing economy. When the American Messenger Company acquired its first delivery car, a Ford Model T, in 1913, perhaps the founders could have envisioned the nearly 100,000 cars, vans, trucks, and motorcycles that today comprise the delivery fleet of UPS. But surely they could not have envisioned the 14.5 million page views that [www.ups.com](http://www.ups.com) averages per day or the nearly 5,500 technology employees currently employed by UPS. As companies continue to adapt to the changing global economy, it is entirely appropriate that this House of Representatives recognize one such company that has not only adapted, but also stayed ahead of the curve for 100 years, while at the same time staying true to its original mission of delivering parcels from one to another.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, this year we recognize the 100th Anniversary of the United Parcel Service, or UPS. UPS was founded in 1907 as the American Messenger Company by James E. Casey

in Seattle, Washington, with \$100 borrowed from a friend. Since then, they have grown from a 2-person message delivery firm into a 427,000-plus employee global transportation and logistics corporation that moves nearly 15,000,000 packages through its network each business day.

The 4th Congressional District is home to the Oak Street Processing facility. This facility employs hundreds of hard-working individuals and is critical to UPS' Long Island operations. I am proud to have such an instrumental facility in my district. I want to thank the UPS employees from the Oak Street Facility and throughout the nation, for their continued service and dedication to our country".

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 375, Honoring United Parcel Service and its 100 years of commitment and leadership in the United States.

I have a UPS facility in my district on Sweetwater Lane in Houston and I have visited the facility many times to speak with management and the employees who are represented by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. I even delivered packages with the UPS employees a few years ago on the Beltway 8 and Intercontinental Airport Route. Many of my constituents work at this UPS location and I am pleased that UPS continues to be a responsible employer and corporate citizen.

Many businesses have difficulties surviving over time, but UPS has stayed strong for 100 years. We appreciate their strong relationship with the local communities and the services they provide worldwide. I am pleased to honor UPS for their 100 years of service and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 375—Honoring United Parcel Service and its 100 years of commitment and leadership in the United States—and the more than 1000 UPS drivers, managers and other employees in the Third District of Nebraska.

Founded in 1907, UPS has become an everyday sight for many of us. In Washington, DC it is not remarkable to see one of the big, brown trucks every day.

But for people in rural Nebraska, UPS is an invaluable resource. Rural delivery service—for many—is a life-line for homes far away from the local post office. UPS prides itself on delivery service to every address in North America and Europe, including areas where neighbors can be separated by miles of ranch and farmland.

I have had the honor of meeting with some UPS drivers, and I look forward to doing so again in the near future. Until then, I say "thank you" to all UPS employees and to "keep up the great work."

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. 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 gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 375, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### APPALACHIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2007

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 799) to reauthorize and improve the program authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 799

*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 "Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2007".

#### SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS; MAXIMUM COMMISSION CONTRIBUTION.

(a) GRANTS AND OTHER ASSISTANCE.—Section 14321(a) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

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

"(i) the amount of the grant shall not exceed—

"(I) 50 percent of administrative expenses;

"(II) at the discretion of the Commission, if the grant is to a local development district that has a charter or authority that includes the economic development of a county or a part of a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 14526, 75 percent of administrative expenses; or

"(III) at the discretion of the Commission, if the grant is to a local development district that has a charter or authority that includes the economic development of a county or a part of a county for which an at-risk county designation is in effect under section 14526, 70 percent of administrative expenses;" and

(2) by striking paragraph (2)(A) and inserting the following:

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), of the cost of any activity eligible for financial assistance under this section, not more than—

"(i) 50 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this subtitle;

"(ii) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 14526, 80 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this subtitle; or

"(iii) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which an at-risk county designation is in effect under section 14526, 70 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this subtitle."

(b) DEMONSTRATION HEALTH PROJECTS.—Section 14502 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d)(2) and inserting the following:

"(2) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—Grants under this section for the operation (including initial operating amounts and operating deficits, which include the cost of attracting, training, and retaining qualified personnel) of a demonstration health project, whether or not constructed with amounts authorized by this section, may be made for up to—

"(A) 50 percent of the cost of that operation;

"(B) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 14526, 80 percent of the cost of that operation; or

"(C) in the case of a project to be carried out for a county for which an at-risk county designation is in effect under section 14526, 70 percent of the cost of that operation.";

and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking "paragraph (2)" and inserting "paragraphs (2) and (3)"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) AT-RISK COUNTIES.—The maximum Commission contribution for a project to be carried out in a county for which an at-risk county designation is in effect under section 14526 may be increased to the lesser of—

"(A) 70 percent; or

"(B) the maximum Federal contribution percentage authorized by this section."

(c) ASSISTANCE FOR PROPOSED LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME HOUSING PROJECTS.—Section 14503 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (d)(1) and inserting the following:

"(1) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—A loan under subsection (b) for the cost of planning and obtaining financing (including the cost of preliminary surveys and analyses of market needs, preliminary site engineering and architectural fees, site options, application and mortgage commitment fees, legal fees, and construction loan fees and discounts) of a project described in that subsection may be made for up to—

"(A) 50 percent of that cost;

"(B) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 14526, 80 percent of that cost; or

"(C) in the case of a project to be carried out for a county for which an at-risk county designation is in effect under section 14526, 70 percent of that cost."; and

(2) by striking subsection (e)(1) and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section for expenses incidental to planning and obtaining financing for a project under this section that the Secretary considers to be unrecoverable from the proceeds of a permanent loan made to finance the project shall—

"(A) not be made to an organization established for profit; and

"(B) except as provided in paragraph (2), not exceed—

"(i) 50 percent of those expenses;

"(ii) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 14526, 80 percent of those expenses; or

"(iii) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which an at-risk county designation is in effect under section 14526, 70 percent of those expenses."

(d) TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE.—Section 14504 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

"(b) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—Of the cost of any activity eligible for a grant under this section, not more than—

"(1) 50 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section;

"(2) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 14526, 80 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section; or

"(3) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which an at-risk county designation is in effect under section 14526, 70 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section."

(e) ENTREPRENEURSHIP INITIATIVE.—Section 14505 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—Of the cost of any activity eligible for a grant under this section, not more than—

“(1) 50 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section;

“(2) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 14526, 80 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section; or

“(3) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which an at-risk county designation is in effect under section 14526, 70 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section.”

(f) REGIONAL SKILLS PARTNERSHIPS.—Section 14506 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

“(d) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—Of the cost of any activity eligible for a grant under this section, not more than—

“(1) 50 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section;

“(2) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 14526, 80 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section; or

“(3) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which an at-risk county designation is in effect under section 14526, 70 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section.”

(g) SUPPLEMENTS TO FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS.—Section 14507(g) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and (3)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) AT-RISK COUNTIES.—The maximum Commission contribution for a project to be carried out in a county for which an at-risk county designation is in effect under section 14526 may be increased to 70 percent.”

### SEC. 3. ECONOMIC AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 145 of subtitle IV of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “§ 14508. Economic and energy development initiative

“(a) PROJECTS TO BE ASSISTED.—The Appalachian Regional Commission may provide technical assistance, make grants, enter into contracts, or otherwise provide amounts to persons or entities in the Appalachian region for projects—

“(1) to promote energy efficiency in the region to enhance its economic competitiveness;

“(2) to increase the use of renewable energy resources in the region to produce alternative transportation fuels, electricity, and heat; and

“(3) to support the development of conventional energy resources in the region to produce alternative transportation fuels, electricity, and heat.

“(b) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—Of the cost of any project eligible for a grant under this section, not more than—

“(1) 50 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section;

“(2) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 14526, 80 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section; or

“(3) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which an at-risk county designation is in effect under section 14526, 70 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section.

“(c) SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance under this section may be provided from amounts made available to carry out this section in combination with amounts made available under other Federal programs or from any other source.

“(d) FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the Federal share under any other Federal program, amounts made available to carry out this section may be used to increase that Federal share, as the Commission decides is appropriate.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 145 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 14507 the following:

“14508. Economic and energy development initiative.”

### SEC. 4. DISTRESSED, AT-RISK, AND ECONOMICALLY STRONG COUNTIES.

(a) DESIGNATION OF AT-RISK COUNTIES.—Section 14526 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading by inserting “, at-risk,” after “Distressed”; and

(2) in subsection (a)(1)—

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

(B) in subparagraph (A) by striking “and” at the end; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) designate as ‘at-risk counties’ those counties in the Appalachian region that are most at risk of becoming economically distressed; and”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 145 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 14526 and inserting the following:

“14526. Distressed, at-risk, and economically strong counties.”

### SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 14703(a) of title 40, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts made available under section 14501, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Appalachian Regional Commission to carry out this subtitle (other than section 14508)—

“(1) \$65,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

“(2) \$80,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

“(3) \$85,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

“(4) \$90,000,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

“(5) \$95,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.”

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 14703(b) of such title is amended to read as follows:

“(b) ECONOMIC AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.—In addition to amounts made available under section 14501, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Commission to carry out section 14508 \$12,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2011.”

(c) AVAILABILITY.—Section 14703(c) of such title is amended by striking “subsection (a)” and by inserting “subsections (a) and (b)”.

(d) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Section 14703 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Funds approved by the Commission for a project in a State in the Appalachian region pursuant to congressional direction shall be derived from such State’s portion of the Commission’s allocation of appropriated amounts among the States.”

### SEC. 6. TERMINATION.

Section 14704 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking “2006” and inserting “2011”.

### SEC. 7. ADDITIONS TO APPALACHIAN REGION.

(a) KENTUCKY.—Section 14102(a)(1)(C) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “Metcalfe,” after “Menifee,”;

(2) by inserting “Nicholas,” after “Moragan,”; and

(3) by inserting “Robertson,” after “Pulaski,”.

(b) OHIO.—Section 14102(a)(1)(H) of such title is amended—

(1) by inserting “Ashtabula,” after “Adams,”;

(2) by inserting “Fayette,” after “Coshocton,”;

(3) by inserting “Mahoning,” after “Lawrence,”; and

(4) by inserting “Trumbull,” after “Scioto,”.

(c) TENNESSEE.—Section 14102(a)(1)(K) of such title is amended—

(1) by inserting “Giles,” after “Franklin,”; and

(2) by inserting “Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln,” after “Knox,”.

(d) VIRGINIA.—Section 14102(a)(1)(L) of such title is amended—

(1) by inserting “Henry,” after “Grayson,”; and

(2) by inserting “Patrick,” after “Montgomery,”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 799.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 799, as amended, the Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2007, and thank Chairman OBERSTAR and Ranking Member MICA for their hard work and leadership in helping to bring this bill to the floor.

The Appalachian Regional Commission, the ARC, strives to ensure the people and businesses of the Appalachian region have the knowledge, skills, abilities, and access to services necessary to compete in basic economic activities of the United States.

Since its inception in 1965, the commission has been highly effective in meeting the goals of its mission. There is no doubt that it has compiled an impressive record of accomplishment in creating economic opportunity in Appalachia. Just as it has done since its inception, the ARC has proven it provides a fair return, both socially and economically, for the Federal Government’s investment in the people of Appalachia.

Consistent with the congressional leadership and interest in energy programs, H.R. 799 authorizes the ARC to

provide technical assistance, make grants, enter into contracts, or otherwise provide amounts in the Appalachian region for energy-efficient projects or projects to increase the use of renewable energy resources.

□ 1630

This bill also authorizes the creation of at-risk counties, and further outlines the percentage of funds for which these counties are eligible. The authorized amounts build on the funds authorized in Public Law 107-149 and adjust the annual amounts for inflation. The bill authorizes appropriation for the commission's programs and expenses through the fiscal year 2011.

H.R. 799, as amended, has strong bipartisan support, which acknowledges the ARC as a well-run and highly effective Federal/State partnership commission.

I urge the passage of H.R. 799, as amended.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 799, as amended, reauthorizes and improves the Appalachian Regional Commission, the ARC. The ARC has been a successful program for the last 40 years. It has helped reduce the Appalachian region's poverty rate. It has cut the infant mortality rate. It has increased the percentage of adults with a high school diploma. It has provided water and sewer services to a significant number of households and businesses and created new jobs.

H.R. 799, as amended, reauthorizes the ARC for 5 years. The bill includes a couple of very important reforms. It helps focus funding on distressed and at-risk counties, and it includes language that will deter earmarking of the program.

Currently, the ARC has four statutory designations which are determined by the unemployment rate, per capita income and the poverty rate of each ARC county. This bill creates an additional designation to assist counties that are at risk and don't fully qualify as distressed.

At-risk counties are fragile economies making it difficult to meet the 50 percent match rate to participate in the program. In many cases, at-risk counties are recently distressed and eligible for an 80 percent Federal match. The addition of the "at-risk" designation will fund projects in these counties up to 70 percent of the project cost as they continue the transition from the "distressed" to the "transitional" designation.

The ARC is viewed by most as a successful model for economic development. The ability to leverage a large amount of public and private funding makes the ARC a very valuable tool for economic development in Appalachia. We must ensure continuation of this successful program and further express

our support for the hardworking people in the Appalachian region.

I would encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 799, as amended.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to our chairman of the committee, Mr. OBERSTAR of Minnesota.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I thank the gentlewoman, the Chair of our Water Resources Subcommittee, for standing in and carrying on while I was actually returning from Appalachia. And I thank the gentleman from Missouri, our ranking member on the subcommittee, for his strong support of all of the issues before our committee, and particularly these matters today.

I was in Sunbury and Shamokin Dam in Pennsylvania with our colleague, Congressman CARNEY, in his portion of the Appalachian Regional Commission looking at the Economic Development Highway Program of ARC.

Well, it's a long stretch from Minnesota to Appalachia, but the Appalachian region is an area that I have been associated with legislatively since I started here in the Congress 44 years ago as clerk of the Subcommittee on Rivers and Harbors, to the Committee on Public Works, predecessor to our Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

I was engaged then in the earliest stages of forming what we know today as the Economic Development Administration and the Appalachian Regional Commission. It was close on the heels of the designation by President John F. Kennedy of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr. to travel throughout the Appalachian region to assess the conditions of distress, to listen to the concerns of the communities throughout the 13-State region, and to provide him with a report and a road map on dealing with the needs of Appalachia.

When John F. Kennedy went into the region, he found a region of poverty, a region of desolation. It struck him as worse than anything he had seen; a region he described as exploited by the coal barons, neglected by government and laid bare by ravages of the boom-and-bust cycles of coal mining.

In President Kennedy's words: "This is an area rich in potential. Its people are hardworking, intelligent, resourceful, capable of responding successfully to education and training. They are loyal to their homes, to their families, to their States and to their country."

"The Appalachian region," he said, "is well-endowed with potential water, mineral, forest and scenic resources. This region, properly developed and assisted by the Federal Government, can make a contribution to the Nation's well-being."

That was in 1960. Following the report of Franklin Roosevelt, Jr., President Kennedy shaped what we know today as the legislation that created the Appalachian Regional Commission,

engineered into law by then-President Lyndon Johnson, authored in the Senate by Senator Jennings Randolph, and many cosponsors in the House, including my predecessor John Blotnick. At the time that John F. Kennedy made those observations, the way up for most people in Appalachia was a bus ticket north to Detroit or Chicago.

The economy of Appalachia could well be described in those days as 80 acres and a mule. When I traveled as a staff member into the region and saw that people were living in the hard pan areas, where there was no ground filtration for the sewage they were discharging into the creeks and streams, and in many places, generations of dysentery, where people were drinking their own sewage.

The area needed highways, airports; it needed vocational training centers; it needed education systems; it needed health care centers; it needed the structure of what 150 years of neglect had denied that area. And through the establishment of the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Federal/State partnership that resulted from it, an area that in 1960, whose income amounted to 45 percent of the national average, today is up to 75 percent of the national average. Where homeownership was a luxury, it is now a reality. Where job creation was nonexistent, it has now returned to this area, fulfilling President Kennedy's promise that the region can make a contribution to the Nation's well-being. And so it did exceedingly well.

Over many years, there were efforts to kill Appalachia. I remember so vividly during a hearing that I conducted as Chair of the Economic Development Subcommittee many years ago that we held in eastern Kentucky and brought witnesses from throughout the region, including from Tennessee, and I remember Ms. Tilda Kemplan, director of a child resource center, testifying at our field hearing and saying, "Gentlemen, when you go back to Washington, try not to look at that dollar and see George Washington, but look over the top of the dollar and see a child and see our future." And that is what Appalachia has done. The Appalachian Regional Commission has caused us to look over the top of the dollar and to see a child and to see the future of the region.

In another community we talked to members of the city council and the chamber of commerce. One of them said, very touchingly, "Before the ARC, we were so far down we had to look up to see bottom, but now we see a future." And in another community in West Virginia, the mayor of the town took us to his small business. Congressman NICK RAHALL was along, this was his district. And as the mayor and businessman explaining his operation and the need for road, for airport, for rail transportation, describing the needs and the good things that had been accomplished so far with the ARC, I looked at the wall behind the cash

register, and there was a sign that read: "God never put nobody in a place too small to grow."

Appalachia has been growing, the counties throughout this region, growing and overcoming 150 years of neglect and decline; making investments, creating opportunities, building for the future. One of the reports about a decade ago by the commission, their annual report on progress, said: "Halfway home and a long way to go." Well, there's still a long way to go, but the march forward has been much improved, vastly improved by the investments we have made in partnership with the States throughout this region.

Continuing the investments, as we have done in the SAFETEA-LU Appalachia Backbone Highway Program at \$470 million a year, continuing with the more than \$400 million over the 4 years of the authorization in this bill, we will continue that partnership with the States, the communities, the neighborhood, the people of the Appalachian region. It is an investment of which all America can be proud, and of which all America has benefited.

I thank the gentleman from Missouri, and, heck, my colleagues on the Republican side of the committee. Throughout this whole initiative from the 1960s, this has been a totally bipartisan effort. And I recall, especially during the Reagan years when the Reagan administration was proposing to abolish the ARC and Congressman HAL ROGERS, the former chairman of the Commerce Subcommittee of appropriations, said, "We're not going to let them wear us down. We're going to proceed. We're going to prevail. We have prevailed. Appalachia prevails. And America prevails with it."

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 799, a bipartisan bill to improve the programs authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 (P.L. 89-4) and reauthorize the Appalachian Regional Commission ("ARC") for 5 years through FY 2011.

The Appalachian Regional Commission was created to address economic issues and social problems of the Appalachian region as a part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society program. Historically, the Appalachian region has faced high levels of poverty and economic distress resulting from geographic isolation and inadequate infrastructure.

As a regional economic development agency, ARC supports the development of Appalachia's economy and critical infrastructure to provide a climate for industry growth and job creation. ARC programs affect 406 counties located in 13 states, including all of West Virginia, and parts of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. The Appalachian region covers nearly 200,000 square miles and contains approximately 22 million people. Currently, of the 406 counties included in the ARC, 114 are considered to be distressed counties.

Since its creation in 1965, ARC has administered a variety of programs to aid in the advancement of the region, including the creation of a highway system, enhancements in

education and job training, and the development of water and sewer systems. ARC's funding and projects have contributed significantly to employment, health, and general economic development improvements in the region.

Because of its efficiencies in decision-making and service delivery, ARC served as a model for the Delta Regional Authority. ARC is successful because it responds to identified and agreed upon needs, and is extremely flexible in its approach. According to research conducted by Brandow Co. and the Economic Development Research Group, three fourths of ARC infrastructure projects with specific business or job-related goals met or exceeded formal projections. This is a very robust figure.

H.R. 799 builds on more than four decades of economic development successes by providing additional, much-needed Federal investment in the region. The bill allows ARC to continue its economic development activities using such tools as the telecommunication and technology initiative, and the entrepreneurship initiative to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Appalachia. Further, the bill provides authority for the Commission to make technical assistance grants for energy efficient projects or projects to increase the use of renewable energy resources. This bill also authorizes the designation of "at risk" counties, which are counties in the Appalachian region that are most at risk of becoming economically distressed, and identifies the percentage of funds for which these counties are eligible.

ARC's authorization expired at the end of FY 2006. During the 109th Congress, the Committee's bipartisan leadership introduced H.R. 5812, a bill reauthorizing ARC through FY 2011. Although the Senate passed S. 2832 to reauthorize the ARC, the Senate-passed bill did not include the anti-earmarking provision of H.R. 5812. The House did not pass S. 2832 and no further action was taken on H.R. 5812. This bill includes the anti-earmarking provision.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this bipartisan bill to reauthorize the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the committee, Mr. OBERSTAR, for his remarks. They are very well put.

I would now like to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

Mr. LATOURETTE. To the distinguished chairman of our full committee, I just want you to know how well your staff is taking care of you today. As we were calling up the bill, knowing you were traveling back, I didn't know you were coming from Appalachia, but Mr. McCarragher came over and said, "Could you talk as long as possible so we can get the chairman back here?" And now I don't have to do that, so I don't think I will need the full 5 minutes.

I do want to remark on the ARC, Madam Speaker. No one can stand up and say that the vision of John F. Kennedy implemented by legislation in 1965 by Lyndon Johnson has not been a wonderful success in dealing with the abject poverty of the Appalachian region.

The chairman rightly talked about the infrastructure part of our commit-

tee's assignments. But one of my favorite hearings, when I had the pleasure of being the chairman of the subcommittee, is when the ARC stakeholders would come in and talk to the Republicans and Democrats on the subcommittee. And aside from industrial parks, aside from roads, aside from bridges, aside from safe drinking water, they beamed with pride about how their graduation rates had improved and how the young people in their region were now taking pride in the education they were receiving, and they were graduating from high school at record numbers, something that would not have happened had it not been for the ARC.

I came to the floor this afternoon to specifically thank the chairman of the full committee, Mr. OBERSTAR, and also the chairman of the subcommittee, Ms. HOLMES NORTON, together with Mr. GRAVES and Mr. MICA. One of John F. Kennedy's most oft quoted quotes is: "A rising tide lifts all boats." And so Congressman TIM RYAN and I looked around and we saw, boy, everybody around us, to the east, to the south, to the west, seems to have participated wonderfully well in the Appalachian Regional Commission. And if you put a map of the Midwestern United States up, there's only a few little white squares, and they are regions that Congressman RYAN and I represent, Ash-tabula, Trumbull and Mahoning County. We had a discussion with Chairman OBERSTAR during the course of the markup of this legislation, and it seems that Congressman RYAN and I weren't the only ones interested in this. And as a result of those discussions, Chairman OBERSTAR has added 13 additional counties to the purview of the Appalachian Regional Commission.

So I came down today, Madam Speaker, to thank the chairman for working with us. And I firmly believe that the addition of these three counties in Ohio, together with the 10 counties located throughout the region, are going to permit our people in transitional counties to benefit the same way as other counties have benefited since 1965.

□ 1645

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) for closing remarks.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I greatly appreciate the remarks of the gentleman from Ohio. He did great service, Madam Speaker, during his chairmanship of the Economic Development Subcommittee in service to the needs of the Appalachian Regional Commission, the ARC, and the Federal Economic Development Administration programs throughout the country. Adding these counties is an appropriate and necessary step to help lift the region further toward the future of continued economic growth. I was very touched by the gentleman's remarks

about education and the increase in education rights. He spoke well and rightly.

I do want to emphasize for the record, though, that included among all the many beneficial provisions of this bill is an important limitation on earmarking of funds within the ARC. In the past, and it has usually happened in conference, but also occasionally in the House appropriations bill, funds have been earmarked for one or another project which has undercut the effectiveness of the Federal-State partnership and the authenticity of the grass-roots up process of project designation, development and implementation. Using the appropriations process to direct funds has disadvantaged the other regions, of the other States within the region, and has devalued the funding that Congress has appropriated. More importantly, it devalues the Federal, State, and local partnership, the very effective grass-roots up process of project selection within Appalachia. It says your judgment doesn't count. We know better. The authenticity and effectiveness of the ARC program derives exactly from its grass-roots initiative.

So I was very insistent in the last Congress on finding a means by which we could thwart the earmarking. We have it in this bill. Our Senate counterparts have concurred that they want to follow this procedure. It will inure to the benefit of the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I am today in support of H.R. 799, the Appalachian Regional Development Act Amendments of 2007. This long overdue legislation continues to promote every one of the southern West Virginia counties I represent, and indeed the entire State of West Virginia, as it is the only State which lies entirely within ARC jurisdiction.

"A rising tide," President Kennedy told us, "lifts all boats." And so one of President Kennedy's legacies was created in 1965 with a unique mission to serve a unique part of the Nation, the Appalachian region.

Historically, the counties of Appalachia have "faced high levels of poverty and economic distress resulting from geographic isolation and inadequate infrastructure."

It was with these concerns in mind that ARC was created and it is these concerns ARC has been addressing vigorously for the past 40 years.

Take for example the area of transportation, a major focus for ARC. ARC was developed, in part, because of the severe isolation experienced in Appalachia and that in order to develop Appalachia and give its people an opportunity to compete, a system of highways was needed. Enter the Appalachian Development Highway System, which was created to serve the transportation needs of Appalachian residents by assisting in the construction of highways so critically needed by Appalachian communities for economic growth and development.

The ADHS now encompasses over 3,000 miles of Appalachian highways and nearly 85 percent of those roads are complete or under construction. The ADHS is truly a success story for ARC and all of Appalachia. Despite

the President's recent budget, which requests eliminating funding for the Appalachian Development Highway System, it is my strong conviction that this program be continued at the agreed upon level set forth in SAFETEA-LU.

Before I leave this subject of transportation and the critical value of rural America's transportation network to our urban brothers and sisters, it is my sincere hope that rural America's voice will be loud and clear when it comes to funding schemes that would punish rural commuters and citizens who are forced by geography to drive long distances each day to and from their employment. It is an issue critical to the completion and maintenance of ARC development highways network.

And while a major focus of ARC remains on highways and Appalachian transportation infrastructure, as the times have changed so has ARC.

As much of the United States has been able to take advantage of the technological boom of the late 20th and early 21st centuries, Appalachia once again is in danger of being left behind and unable to compete in the global marketplace.

In the most recent FCC data on high-speed connections for Internet access, released on January 31, 2007, you can track the Appalachian mountain range by just how spotty the provider coverage is on the FCC's provider map. In fact, in West Virginia it is significantly below the average in broadband use nationwide.

Again, ARC is there to offer significant support, bringing broadband access to our communities, which is essential to leveling the playing field and giving our communities an opportunity to compete. Schools, businesses, local governments and individual homes all have benefited from ARC involvement in the expansion of broadband access in Appalachia, and continue to do so.

I have been working with ARC, private telecommunications companies and local economic development leaders to bring broadband technology into southern West Virginia. For example, through the E-commerce training initiatives being offered by ARC and others we are working to connect local small businesses to broadband, opening doors to Internet sales and services that just weren't there a couple of years ago.

It is ARC's ability to serve its mission by adapting its actions to fit the times that makes ARC such an invaluable resource to Appalachia and the Nation. From the Appalachian Development Highway System to the E-commerce and broadband initiatives, ARC continues to serve its mission by advocating for and partnering with the people of Appalachia to create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life.

I am also glad to see the integrity of ARC programs kept in tact by disallowing the use of earmarks in this legislation. I believe adoption of this provision is critical and will benefit all ARC member-states and the long-term viability of ARC itself. Additionally, I am pleased to see the bi-partisan support for this program which was displayed by the rejection of attempts to cut funding for it in the recent House passed FY08 Energy and Water Appropriations legislation.

I applaud the efforts of Federal Co-Chair Anne Pope who, as a native daughter of Appalachia, executes so well the mission of ARC

in each of Appalachia's communities. I have said this before and am happy to do so again on the record, Anne is one of the finest Federal Co-Chairs to ever serve the people of Appalachia and I look forward to our continued strong relationship serving the needs of southern West Virginians, together.

I strongly support ARC, its mission and the incredibly successful initiatives it has undertaken to better the lives of the people of Appalachia and West Virginia.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 799, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. PEARCE. 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 motion will be postponed.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

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□ 1830

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HILL) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

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#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3043, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110-235) on the resolution (H. Res. 547) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3043) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

VACATING ORDERING OF YEAS AND NAYS ON H.R. 2547, FDIC ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the ordering of the yeas and nays be vacated with respect to the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2547, as amended, to the end that the Chair put the question de novo.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2547, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

- H.R. 1980, by the yeas and nays;
- H.R. 1982, by the yeas and nays;
- H.R. 799, 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.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE COUNCIL AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1980, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1980.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 350, nays 49, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 630]  
YEAS—350

Abercrombie  
Ackerman  
Aderholt  
Alexander  
Allen  
Altmire  
Andrews  
Arcuri  
Baca  
Bachus  
Baird  
Baker  
Baldwin  
Barrow  
Bartlett (MD)  
Bean  
Becerra

Berkley  
Berman  
Berry  
Biggert  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (GA)  
Bishop (NY)  
Bishop (UT)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt  
Boehner  
Bonner  
Bono  
Boozman  
Boren  
Boswell  
Boustany

Boyd (FL)  
Boyda (KS)  
Brady (PA)  
Brady (TX)  
Braley (IA)  
Brown (SC)  
Brown-Waite,  
Ginny  
Buchanan  
Burgess  
Buyer  
Calvert  
Camp (MI)  
Cannon  
Capito  
Capps  
Capuano

Cardoza  
Carney  
Carson  
Castle  
Castor  
Chandler  
Clarke  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Cole (OK)  
Conaway  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Costello  
Courtney  
Cramer  
Crowley  
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  
Doyle  
Drake  
Dreier  
Edwards  
Ehlers  
Ellison  
Ellsworth  
Emanuel  
Emerson  
Engel  
English (PA)  
Eshoo  
Etheridge  
Everett  
Fallin  
Farr  
Fattah  
Ferguson  
Filner  
Forbes  
Frank (MA)  
Frelinghuysen  
Gerlach  
Giffords  
Gilchrest  
Gillibrand  
Gillmor  
Gohmert  
Gonzalez  
Gordon  
Granger  
Graves  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Hall (NY)  
Hall (TX)  
Hare  
Harman  
Hastert  
Hastings (FL)  
Hastings (WA)  
Hayes  
Heller  
Herger  
Herseeth Sandlin  
Higgins  
Hill  
Hinojosa  
Hirono  
Hobson  
Hodes  
Holden  
Holt  
Honda  
Hooley  
Hoyer  
Hulshof  
Hunter  
Inslee

Israel  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson-Lee  
(TX)  
Jefferson  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Jones (NC)  
Jones (OH)  
Kanjorski  
Kaptur  
Keller  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilpatrick  
Kind  
King (NY)  
Kirk  
Klein (FL)  
Kline (MN)  
Knollenberg  
Kuhl (NY)  
LaHood  
Lampson  
Langevin  
Lantos  
Larsen (WA)  
Larsen (CT)  
Latham  
LaTourrette  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis (CA)  
Lewis (GA)  
Lewis (KY)  
Linder  
LoBiondo  
Loebsack  
Lofgren, Zoe  
Lowe  
Lucas  
Lungren, Daniel  
E.  
Lynch  
Mack  
Mahoney (FL)  
Maloney (NY)  
Manzullo  
Markey  
Marshall  
Matheson  
Matsui  
McCarthy (CA)  
McCarthy (NY)  
McCaul (TX)  
McCollum (MN)  
McCotter  
McCrery  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McHenry  
McHugh  
McIntyre  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McNerney  
McNulty  
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  
Oliver  
Ortiz  
Pallone  
Pascrell  
Pastor  
Payne

Pearce  
Perlmutter  
Peterson (MN)  
Pickering  
Pitts  
Platts  
Pomeroy  
Porter  
Price (GA)  
Price (NC)  
Putnam  
Radanovich  
Rahall  
Ramstad  
Regula  
Rehberg  
Reichert  
Renzi  
Reyes  
Reynolds  
Rodriguez  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rogers (MI)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothman  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruppersberger  
Ryan (OH)  
Salazar  
Sánchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Saxton  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schmidt  
Schwartz  
Scott (GA)  
Scott (VA)  
Serrano  
Sestak  
Shays  
Shea-Porter  
Sherman  
Shimkus  
Shuler  
Shuster  
Sires  
Skelton  
Slaughter  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Smith (WA)  
Snyder  
Solis  
Space  
Spratt  
Stark  
Stupak  
Sullivan  
Sutton  
Tanner  
Tauscher  
Taylor  
Terry  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tierney  
Turner  
Udall (CO)  
Udall (NM)  
Upton  
Van Hollen  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walberg  
Walden (OR)  
Walsh (NY)  
Walz (MN)  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson  
Watt  
Waxman  
Weiner  
Welch (VT)  
Weller  
Wexler  
Whitfield  
Wicker  
Wilson (NM)

Wilson (OH)  
Wu  
Wolf  
Wynn  
Woolsey  
Yarmuth

Young (AK)  
Young (FL)

NAYS—49

Akin  
Bachmann  
Barrett (SC)  
Barton (TX)  
Bilbray  
Blackburn  
Burton (IN)  
Campbell (CA)  
Cantor  
Carter  
Chabot  
Coble  
Culberson  
Deal (GA)  
Doolittle  
Duncan  
Feeney

Flake  
Fox  
Franks (AZ)  
Garrett (NJ)  
Gingrey  
Goode  
Goodlatte  
Hensarling  
Issa  
Johnson, Sam  
Jordan  
King (IA)  
Lamborn  
Marchant  
Miller (FL)  
Paul  
Pence

Petri  
Poe  
Rohrabacher  
Royce  
Ryan (WI)  
Sali  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Shadegg  
Souder  
Stearns  
Wamp  
Weldon (FL)  
Westmoreland  
Wilson (SC)

NOT VOTING—32

Boucher  
Brown, Corrine  
Butterfield  
Carnahan  
Crenshaw  
Cubin  
Cuellar  
Davis, Jo Ann  
Fortenberry  
Fossella  
Gallegly

Gutierrez  
Hinchev  
Hoekstra  
Inglis (SC)  
Jindal  
Johnson (IL)  
Kagen  
Kingston  
Kucinich  
Lipinski  
McKeon

Meek (FL)  
Myrick  
Peterson (PA)  
Pryce (OH)  
Rangel  
Rush  
Simpson  
Tancredo  
Tiahrt  
Towns

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1859

Messrs. BARTON of Texas, GINGREY, SAM JOHNSON of Texas and POE changed their votes from “yea” to “nay.”

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

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RURAL HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1982, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1982, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 350, nays 49, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 631]  
YEAS—350

Abercrombie  
Ackerman  
Aderholt  
Alexander  
Allen  
Altmire  
Andrews  
Arcuri  
Baca

Bachus  
Baird  
Baker  
Baldwin  
Barrow  
Bartlett (MD)  
Bean  
Becerra  
Berkley

Berman  
Berry  
Biggert  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (GA)  
Bishop (NY)  
Bishop (UT)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt

Boehner	Hall (NY)	Mitchell	Tierney	Walz (MN)	Wexler	[Roll No. 632]		
Bonner	Hall (TX)	Mollohan	Turner	Wamp	Whitfield			
Bono	Hare	Moore (KS)	Udall (CO)	Wasserman	Wicker	YEAS—332		
Boozman	Harman	Moore (WI)	Udall (NM)	Schultz	Wilson (NM)	Abercrombie	English (PA)	McCollum (MN)
Boren	Hastings (FL)	Moran (KS)	Upton	Waters	Wilson (OH)	Ackerman	Eshoo	McCotter
Boswell	Hastings (WA)	Moran (VA)	Van Hollen	Watson	Wolf	Aderholt	Etheridge	McCrery
Boustany	Hayes	Murphy (CT)	Velázquez	Watt	Wu	Alexander	Everett	McDermott
Boyd (FL)	Heller	Murphy, Patrick	Visclosky	Waxman	Wynn	Allen	Fallin	McGovern
Boya (KS)	Herger	Murphy, Tim	Walberg	Weiner	Yarmuth	Altmire	Farr	McHenry
Brady (PA)	Herseht Sandlin	Murtha	Walden (OR)	Welch (VT)	Young (AK)	Andrews	Fattah	McHugh
Brady (TX)	Higgins	Musgrave	Walsh (NY)	Weller		Arcuri	Ferguson	McIntyre
Braley (IA)	Hill	Nadler				Baca	Filner	McMorris
Brown (SC)	Hinojosa	Napolitano				Bachmann	Forbes	Rodgers
Brown-Waite,	Hirono	Neal (MA)	Bachmann	Foxx	Pence	Bachus	Fortenberry	McNerney
Ginny	Hobson	Neugebauer	Barrett (SC)	Franks (AZ)	Petri	Baird	Frank (MA)	McNulty
Buchanan	Hodes	Nunes	Barton (TX)	Garrett (NJ)	Poe	Baker	Frelinghuysen	Meeks (NY)
Burgess	Holden	Oberstar	Bilbray	Gingrey	Rohrabacher	Baldwin	Gerlach	Melancon
Burton (IN)	Holt	Obey	Blackburn	Goode	Roskam	Barrow	Giffords	Mica
Buyer	Honda	Oliver	Campbell (CA)	Goodlatte	Royce	Bartlett (MD)	Gilchrest	Michaud
Calvert	Hookey	Ortiz	Cantor	Hastart	Sali	Bean	Gillibrand	Miller (MI)
Camp (MI)	Hoyer	Pallone	Carter	Hensarling	Sensenbrenner	Becerra	Gillmor	Miller (NC)
Cannon	Hulshof	Pascarell	Chabot	Inglis (SC)	Sessions	Berkley	Gingrey	Miller, Gary
Capito	Hunter	Pastor	Coble	Issa	Shadegg	Berman	Gonzalez	Miller, George
Capps	Inslee	Payne	Culberson	Johnson, Sam	Stearns	Berry	Goode	Mitchell
Capuano	Israel	Pearce	Deal (GA)	Jordan	Weldon (FL)	Biggert	Goodlatte	Mollohan
Cardoza	Jackson (IL)	Perlmutter	Doolittle	King (IA)	Westmoreland	Bishop (GA)	Gordon	Moore (KS)
Carnahan	Jackson-Lee	Peterson (MN)	Dreier	Lamborn	Wilson (SC)	Bishop (NY)	Graves	Moore (WI)
Carney	(TX)	Pickering	Duncan	Manullo	Young (FL)	Bishop (UT)	Green, Al	Moran (KS)
Carson	Jefferson	Pitts	Feeney	Miller (FL)	Paul	Blackburn	Green, Gene	Moran (VA)
Castle	Johnson (GA)	Platts	Flake			Blumenauer	Murphy (CT)	Murphy (CT)
Castor	Johnson, E. B.	Pomeroy				Bonner	Hall (NY)	Murphy, Patrick
Chandler	Jones (NC)	Porter				Bono	Hare	Murphy, Tim
Clarke	Jones (OH)	Price (GA)	Akin	Gutierrez	Myrick	Boozman	Harman	Murtha
Clay	Kanjorski	Price (NC)	Boucher	Hinchee	Peterson (PA)	Boren	Hastings (FL)	Musgrave
Cleaver	Kaptur	Putnam	Brown, Corrine	Hoekstra	Pryce (OH)	Boswell	Hastings (WA)	Nadler
Clyburn	Keller	Radanovich	Butterfield	Jindal	Rangel	Boustany	Hayes	Napolitano
Cohen	Kennedy	Rahall	Crenshaw	Johnson (IL)	Rush	Boyd (FL)	Herseth Sandlin	Neal (MA)
Cole (OK)	Kildee	Ramstad	Cubin	Kagen	Simpson	Boyda (KS)	Higgins	Nunes
Conaway	Kilpatrick	Regula	Cuellar	Kingston	Tancredo	Brady (PA)	Hill	Oberstar
Conyers	Kind	Rehberg	Davis, Jo Ann	Kucinich	Tiahrt	Brady (TX)	Hinojosa	Obey
Cooper	King (NY)	Reichert	Fortenberry	Lipinski	Towns	Braley (IA)	Hirono	Oliver
Costa	Kirk	Renzi	Fossella	McKeon	Woolsey	Brown (SC)	Hodes	Ortiz
Costello	Klein (FL)	Reyes	Gallegly	MEEK (FL)		Brown-Waite,	Holden	Pallone
Courtney	Kline (MN)	Reynolds				Ginny	Holt	Pascarell
Cramer	Knollenberg	Rodriguez				Buchanan	Honda	Pastor
Crowley	Kuhl (NY)	Rogers (AL)				Calvert	Hookey	Payne
Cummings	LaHood	Rogers (KY)				Capito	Hoyer	Pearce
Davis (AL)	Lampson	Rogers (MI)				Capps	Hunter	Perlmutter
Davis (CA)	Langevin	Ros-Lehtinen				Capuano	Inslee	Peterson (MN)
Davis (IL)	Lantos	Ross				Cardoza	Israel	Pickering
Davis (KY)	Larsen (WA)	Rothman				Carnahan	Jackson (IL)	Pitts
Davis, David	Larson (CT)	Roybal-Allard				Carney	Jackson-Lee	Platts
Davis, Lincoln	Latham	Ruppersberger				Carson	(TX)	Pomeroy
Davis, Tom	LaTourette	Ryan (OH)				Castle	Jefferson	Porter
DeFazio	Lee	Ryan (WI)				Castor	Johnson (GA)	Price (NC)
DeGette	Levin	Salazar				Chandler	Johnson, E. B.	Putnam
Delahunt	Lewis (CA)	Sánchez, Linda				Clarke	Johnson, Sam	Radanovich
DeLauro	Lewis (GA)	T.				Clay	Jones (OH)	Rahall
Dent	Lewis (KY)	Sanchez, Loretta				Cleaver	Kanjorski	Ramstad
Diaz-Balart, L.	Linder	Sarbanes				Clyburn	Kaptur	Regula
Diaz-Balart, M.	LoBiondo	Saxton				Cohen	Keller	Rehberg
Dicks	Loeb sack	Schakowsky				Cole (OK)	Kennedy	Reichert
Dingell	Lofgren, Zoe	Schiff				Conyers	Kildee	Renzi
Doggett	Lowey	Schmidt				Cooper	Kilpatrick	Reyes
Donnelly	Lucas	Schwartz				Costa	Kind	Reynolds
Doyle	Lungren, Daniel	Scott (GA)				Costello	King (NY)	Rodriguez
Drake	E.	Scott (VA)				Courtney	Kirk	Rogers (AL)
Edwards	Lynch	Serrano				Cramer	Klein (FL)	Rogers (KY)
Ehlers	Mack	Sestak				Crowley	Kline (MN)	Rogers (MI)
Ellison	Mahoney (FL)	Shays				Cummings	Knollenberg	Ros-Lehtinen
Ellsworth	Maloney (NY)	Shea-Porter				Davis (AL)	Kuhl (NY)	Ross
Emanuel	Marchant	Sherman				Davis (CA)	LaHood	Rothman
Emerson	Markey	Shimkus				Davis (IL)	Lampson	Roybal-Allard
Engel	Marshall	Shuler				Davis (KY)	Langevin	Ruppersberger
English (PA)	Matheson	Shuster				Davis, David	Lantos	Ryan (OH)
Eshoo	Matsui	Sires				Davis, Lincoln	Larsen (WA)	Salazar
Etheridge	McCarthy (CA)	Skelton				Davis, Tom	Larson (CT)	Sánchez, Linda
Everett	McCarthy (NY)	Slaughter				Deal (GA)	Latham	T.
Fallin	McCaul (TX)	Smith (NE)				DeFazio	LaTourette	Sanchez, Loretta
Farr	McCollum (MN)	Smith (NJ)				DeGette	Lee	Sarbanes
Fattah	McCotter	Smith (TX)				Delahunt	Levin	Saxton
Ferguson	McCrery	Smith (WA)				DeLauro	Lewis (CA)	Schakowsky
Filner	McDermott	Snyder				Dent	Lewis (GA)	Schiff
Forbes	McGovern	Solis				Diaz-Balart, L.	Lewis (KY)	Schmidt
Frank (MA)	McHenry	Souder				Diaz-Balart, M.	Linder	Schwartz
Frelinghuysen	McHugh	Space				Dicks	LoBiondo	Scott (GA)
Gerlach	McIntyre	Spratt				Dingell	Loeb sack	Scott (VA)
Giffords	McMorris	Stark				Doggett	Lofgren, Zoe	Serrano
Gilchrest	Rodgers	Stupak				Donnelly	Lowey	Sestak
Gillibrand	McNerney	Thompson (CA)				Doyle	Lucas	Shays
Gillmor	McNulty	Thompson (MS)				Drake	Lynch	Shea-Porter
Gohmert	Meeks (NY)	Thornberry				Duncan	Mack	Sherman
Gonzalez	Melancon	Tiberi				Edwards	Mahoney (FL)	Shimkus
Gordon	Mica					Ehlers	Maloney (NY)	Shuler
Granger	Michaud					Ellison	Markey	Shuster
Graves	Miller (MI)					Ellsworth	Marshall	Sires
Green, Al	Miller (NC)					Emanuel	Matheson	Skelton
Green, Gene	Miller, Gary					Emerson	Matsui	Slaughter
Grijalva	Miller, George					Engel	McCarthy (NY)	Smith (NJ)

## NAYS—49

## NOT VOTING—32

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

## □ 1906

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on H.R. 1980, and H.R. 1982. I was unavoidably detained by transportation delay. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

## APPALACHIAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 799, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 799, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 332, nays 70, not voting 29, as follows:

Smith (WA)	Turner	Welch (VT)
Snyder	Udall (CO)	Weller
Solis	Udall (NM)	Westmoreland
Space	Van Hollen	Wexler
Spratt	Velázquez	Whitfield
Stark	Viscolosky	Wicker
Stupak	Walden (OR)	Wilson (NM)
Sullivan	Walsh (NY)	Wilson (OH)
Sutton	Walz (MN)	Wolf
Tanner	Wamp	Woolsey
Tauscher	Wasserman	Wu
Taylor	Schultz	Wynn
Terry	Waters	Yarmuth
Thompson (CA)	Watson	Young (AK)
Thompson (MS)	Watt	Young (FL)
Tiberi	Waxman	
Tierney	Weiner	

continue serving in this capacity, with the understanding that he will resign the position effective June 5, 2009. As such, I am pleased to make this appointment.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Republican Leader.*

□ 1915

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER, REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER, Republican Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
July 12, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker, U.S. Capitol,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: Pursuant to The National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 955(b) note), I am pleased to appoint the Honorable Pat Tiberi of Ohio to the National Council on the Arts.

Mr. Tiberi has expressed interest in serving in this capacity and I am pleased to fulfill his request.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Republican Leader.*

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of increasing funding for the SCHIP program and also to address health care disparities in my State of Louisiana.

In 2004, the number of poor children living in Louisiana was 343,256, or 30 percent of all children in our State. Forty-seven percent of all African American children were listed as poor children, 26 percent of American Indian children, 23 percent of Asian children and 24 percent Latinos were listed as poor in my State. Of those 343,256 poor children, only 91,000 are covered by SCHIP, or as we call it in our State, LASCHIP.

After the storm, coverage for those originally enrolled in the Louisiana SCHIP program was not transferred across State lives, leaving many of the 251,000 children and adults who evacuated to other places without access to the health care they desperately need.

As former President Nelson Mandela said, "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

I hope this House will remember that as we deal with the SCHIP funding program this time around.

NAYS—70

Akin	Franks (AZ)	Neugebauer
Barrett (SC)	Garrett (NJ)	Paul
Barton (TX)	Gohmert	Pence
Bilbray	Granger	Petri
Bilirakis	Hall (TX)	Poe
Blunt	Hastert	Price (GA)
Boehner	Heller	Rohrabacher
Burgess	Hensarling	Roskam
Burton (IN)	Herger	Royce
Buyer	Hobson	Ryan (WI)
Camp (MI)	Hulshof	Sali
Campbell (CA)	Inglis (SC)	Sensenbrenner
Cannon	Issa	Sessions
Cantor	Jones (NC)	Shadegg
Carter	Jordan	Smith (NE)
Chabot	King (IA)	Smith (TX)
Coble	Lamborn	Souder
Conaway	Lungren, Daniel	Stearns
Culberson	E.	Thornberry
Doolittle	Manzullo	Upton
Dreier	Marchant	Walberg
Feeney	McCarthy (CA)	Weldon (FL)
Flake	McCaul (TX)	Wilson (SC)
Foxx	Miller (FL)	

NOT VOTING—29

Boucher	Hinchey	Myrick
Brown, Corrine	Hoekstra	Peterson (PA)
Butterfield	Jindal	Pryce (OH)
Crenshaw	Johnson (IL)	Rangel
Cubin	Kagen	Rush
Cuellar	Kingston	Simpson
Davis, Jo Ann	Kucinich	Tancredo
Fossella	Lipinski	Tiahrt
Galleghy	McKeon	Towns
Gutierrez	Meek (FL)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain.

□ 1914

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER, REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER, Republican Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
July 16, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker, U.S. Capitol,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: Pursuant to section 703c of the Public Interest Declassification Board, 50 U.S.C. 435 note, I have agreed to reappoint the Honorable David Skaggs to the Public Interest Declassification Board as the Minority Leader appointment. As previously agreed, because of the change in Congress and the presumed statutory intent of the Board, Mr. Skaggs has requested that he

WE NEED TO SUPPORT PAKISTAN

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, our ally Pakistan is facing a difficult challenge. For those of us who believe that the region that includes Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan is one of our most strategic and Pakistan one of our most important, we want free elections and human rights. But now, we can see the light.

Pakistan is losing thousands of Pakistani troops into the region between Afghanistan and Pakistan in order to maintain the protection against the NATO troops. It is imperative that we engage Pakistan, support Pakistan and help them as they begin to try and resolve the crisis of Taliban.

Many criticize the agreement, but now we can see what happens when that agreement is declared dead by the Taliban. It is important that we work with Pakistan, see the light, stop the accusations and sit down to resolve the best, a safe and secure manner for the U.S. troops, the NATO troops and the Pakistani troops.

The alliance and friendship between the United States and Pakistan is important. We must find ways to accommodate that friendship to make it work for Pakistan and the United States and the United States military and the Pakistani Army.

HEALTH DISPARITIES AND SCHIP

(Mr. JEFFERSON asked and was given permission to address the House

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MEXICAN DRUG CARTELS OPERATE MARIJUANA PLANTATIONS 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. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I addressed this House and discussed how the Zetas drug cartel in Mexico has made it known it will hunt down journalists that report on the violent drug cartels in Mexico. This group of former Mexican military officers reportedly will track these reporters down even when they flee to the United States for safety. All of this because these journalists publish reports on the violent cross-border drug trade.

Tonight, I wish to discuss how these same outlaw Mexican drug cartels are operating marijuana plantations on public lands, not public lands in Mexico, but on public lands in the United States.

According to news reports, these plant plantations are in California, Arizona, Hawaii, West Virginia, Oregon, Tennessee and Kentucky, and account for 80 to 90 percent of all marijuana plantation production in the United States.

Law enforcement officials say that the drug cartels employ heavily armed bandits to guard these fields and they have superior fire power and surveillance equipment over American law enforcement agents.

The drug thugs destroy native vegetation and kill off all of the wildlife on the land so they can plant their marijuana crops. The cartels also use dangerous pesticides and fertilizers on the land that destroy the environment. Insultingly, all of this is occurring on American Federal lands.

There is more. The Washington Times reports today that "campers, fishermen, hikers and forest and park officials are being intimidated, threatened or assaulted when they come near Mexican-run marijuana" plantations on American soil, and that "all this plant growing produces a street value of \$6.7 billion."

The Union newspaper from Nevada states, "These American marijuana gardens are guarded by Mexican nationals, and the traffickers use the profits from pot sales to finance large methamphetamine labs in Mexico and the United States."

Mr. Speaker, it seems that no public land is safe. Even California's Sequoia National Forest has been attacked by these drug cartels. The Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, John Walters, said, "Mexican drug cartels are turning our national parks into centers of international drug production and trafficking. Public lands are being held hostage by illegal drug traffickers."

Mr. Speaker, numerous law enforcement personnel, State, local and Federal, are attempting to retake our Federal and public lands from these drug cartel invaders. Some progress is reported, but the battle for our land goes forward.

We cannot allow these land grabbing, environmentally hazardous drug terrorists to seize America's national forests and national parks. These outlaws cannot be allowed to camp in our parks and swim in the profits from marijuana plantations. They should be tracked down, arrested, prosecuted, and put in jail.

We need to seize all their money from whatever financial institutions they try to hide it in and use the money to restore our national parks, the way they were before the drug invaders arrived.

We need to make it more difficult for them to operate here by actually securing the southern border, something that Homeland Security has yet to accomplish. Right now, security along our southern border is a glittering illusion.

Our national parks and forests are worth fighting for, and rather than

journalists, campers, fishermen, hunters, and park rangers being afraid of these drug cartels like the Zetas, these outlaw drug gangs should be afraid of our relentless determination to take our land back.

And that's just the way it is.

#### ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TWA FLIGHT 800 DISASTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the solemn occasion of the 11th anniversary of the crash of TWA Flight 800. Many Americans remember where they were when they heard the shocking and tragic news about Flight 800 when it crashed off the southern shore of Long Island 11 years ago tomorrow, on the evening of July 17, 1996, claiming the lives of all 230 passengers and crew on board.

The event remains one of the worst air disasters in history and led to one of the most costly and extended investigations to date. Today, that loss is still felt by hundreds of families whose loved ones perished but are remembered by the breathtaking monument to their lives that extends along the grounds of East Moriches, Long Island, overlooking the waters of the Atlantic Ocean where the plane fell.

Tomorrow, we honor the memory of those who perished, just moments after taking off from JFK International Airport bound for Paris. Some of the victims were on their way home; many were high school students on the first leg of an international field trip; and some were on the way to visit loved ones.

Just as the families who lost their loved ones to the crash deserve to be remembered, so do each of Long Island's emergency personnel, volunteers and neighbors who selflessly responded to the crash and who worked tirelessly over the next several days and weeks following the disaster to assist with the search and recovery efforts.

Like other challenging times our Nation has faced, the reaction to the Flight 800 catastrophe brought out the best, not only among my constituents, but in so many other areas in the surrounding towns, counties and States across the Northeast who joined in helping my community recover from its most horrific tragedy.

Throughout their grief and despite the unimaginable shock, the families of the victims worked tirelessly to build a permanent memorial with the help of Navy Seabees and thousands of dedicated local and building trade union members. The solemn monument serves as a constant reminder of our tremendous loss 11 years ago tomorrow.

Last year, it was my honor and privilege to attend the dedication of the memorial completed at Smith Point County Park just before the 10th anniversary of the crash.

The centerpiece of this breathtaking and poignant memorial is a black granite sculpture called "The Light." It was designed by Henry Seaman, whose cousin died in the crash. The monument offers some measure of closure to everyone who was affected by this terrible tragedy.

The memory of the passengers of Flight 800 lives on because of the continued work of people like Henry's brother, John Seaman, who is President of the Families of Flight 800 Association and among the memorial's most passionate and hardworking advocates.

In the 11 years since Flight 800, hundreds of thousands of people have visited the park in an acknowledgment of a shared sorrow for those who died. The monument ensures that future generations can do the same.

As we recognize the 11th anniversary of the Flight 800 disaster, it is important for us to take stock in the progress achieved since 1996 to prevent air disasters. We have made some great strides in aviation safety, particularly with design upgrades for passenger and cargo aircraft planes.

In particular, ongoing research and development of "inerting" technology will help to mitigate the vulnerability of aircraft fuel tanks to flammability, the underlying cause of the Flight 800 crash.

In fact, the crash was likely caused by a spark from a short-circuit in the Boeing 747's wiring that ignited the tank's volatile vapors. Although this was determined years ago and we know how to prevent similar disasters, we still have not required technology upgrades to protect passengers against another tragedy like the one witnessed 10 years ago.

To date, however, the Federal Aviation Administration has delayed taking on this challenge and has declined to work with the industry to implement a final FAA directive that would protect every air traveler with existing technology.

We still don't have the mandate for change. That is why I introduced the Transport Aircraft Fuel Tank Safety Act, which requires the FAA to retrofit all planes with new technology and to increase safety. I am pleased to report that the pending FAA reauthorization bill, which was recently passed by the House Transportation Committee, of which I am a member, includes a similar provision.

Senator SCHUMER is sponsoring a companion measure and is working with his colleagues on the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee to move this legislation.

I am hopeful that my colleagues here in the Congress will work with me to bring an end to this delay. We have taken significant steps towards maintaining the memory of Flight 800, but we should also ensure that we don't allow this disaster to repeat itself.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again offer my deepest condolences to

the surviving families and friends of the victims of Flight 800 and encourage my colleagues to join me in commending each of them for the grace and dignity with which they have handled unspeakable pain.

#### INVESTIGATING THE PROSECUTION OF FORMER BORDER PATROL AGENTS RAMOS AND COMPEAN

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 day 181st day of incarceration for two U.S. Border Patrol agents.

Agents Ramos and Compean were convicted last spring for shooting a Mexican drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across our border into Texas. For almost a year, thousands of American citizens and dozens of Members of Congress have asked President Bush to pardon these agents. Many Americans are outraged by the President's decision to commute the sentence of White House aid Scooter Libby, while at the same time he refuses to pardon Border Patrol Agents Ramos and Compean.

Scooter Libby, an attorney who understands the laws of this country and should know right from wrong was convicted of perjury, obstruction of justice and lying to investigators. Mr. Libby, who should have served his sentence, did not spend one day in prison.

Yet two Border Patrol agents with exemplary records who were doing their duty to protect the American people from an illegal alien drug smuggler are serving 11 and 12 years, respectively, in prison. By attempting to apprehend an illegal alien drug smuggler, these agents were enforcing our laws, not breaking the laws. There are legitimate legal questions about how this prosecution was initiated and how the U.S. Attorney's Office proceeded in this case.

I am extremely pleased that Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN will be presiding over a full committee hearing tomorrow to examine the details of this case. This hearing will provide U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton an opportunity to explain to the Senate Judiciary Committee and to the American people why this U.S. Attorney's Office in western Texas chose to go after law enforcement officers while protecting illegal aliens who committed crimes and gave the illegal alien immunity to testify against the border agents.

I want to thank Senator FEINSTEIN for her interest in this case and for her leadership in holding hearings to look into this injustice.

I am also grateful to Chairman JOHN CONYERS, who I hope will hold a similar hearing on the House side sometime this fall.

Before I close, I want to say to the families of Border Patrol Agents

Compean and Ramos that we, the American people, will not forget your husbands, your fathers, your brothers, and we will do everything we can to see that justice will prevail over an injustice.

#### NO MORE "STAY THE COURSE"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, the President continues to ask this Congress and the American people to "stay the course" in Iraq. Well, Mr. President, today the American people and the Congress have said "no more."

Today I add my voice once again to the growing number of retired military generals, the Iraq Study Group, and untold thousands of rank and file on the front lines who were calling for a new direction in Iraq. The success of our military depends on a sound strategy. Yet instead of fighting the terrorists in the mountains of Afghanistan, our armed forces are overextended after 4 years of refereeing a civil war in the sands of Iraq.

The President's escalation of this war, his so-called surge, is not working. That much is clear. Since the escalation of this war 6 months ago, more than 25,000 troops have been sent to Iraq, 600 more U.S. soldiers have died, and more than 3,000 troops have been wounded. Countless thousands of Iraqis are dead, and today the violence in Iraq is at an all-time high. Those are facts that no one can deny.

Our troops have performed heroically in Iraq, but the Iraqi Government has failed to meet any, any of the benchmarks endorsed by the President in January. Political reconciliation within Iraq is nonexistent. A change of course is long overdue.

The time has come for the United States to responsibly redeploy our troops from Iraq and to refocus our efforts on protecting Americans from terrorism. The time has come for Iraqis to take primary responsibility for their country and for their security.

Let me be clear on one additional point. Democrats support the troops.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I personally have consistently voted to fund our troops and to provide our soldiers in the line of fire with the resources that they need. I do this because our brave servicemen and women are not risking their lives each and every day for one political party over another. They are risking their lives for America.

Our Nation owes our troops a strategy that is worthy of their sacrifice. But "stay the course" is not that strategy. It is a slogan that continues to fail them.

No, Mr. Speaker, if we really want to support our troops, it is time to get them out of Iraq and redeploy them to other areas where they can fight the

terrorists who have attacked and who continue to threaten our Nation. That's where the war on terror should be waged.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky 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.)

#### SCHIP REAUTHORIZATION AND HEALTH DISPARITIES

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 strong support for the reauthorization and expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program or SCHIP, our Nation's health care safety net for low-income, uninsured children.

We are at a critical juncture in our Nation's health care crisis. An estimated 46 million Americans are uninsured. Approximately 18,000 people die each year in this country as a direct consequence of being uninsured. Sadly, many of the victims are innocent children. No fewer than 9 million American children are without health insurance, and they are suffering as a result.

Uninsured children, like uninsured adults, are less likely to have access to early and preventive care, setting them up for a lifetime of health problems that may have been avoided if caught today. Far too many of our children are going to the emergency room because we have failed to let them into the doctor's office.

This is immoral, but it is also uneconomical. Preventive health care services are cheaper than disease management and trauma care. By denying our citizenry the former, we are paying a premium for the latter.

The President has ignored the potential cost savings, arguing, instead, that an expanded SCHIP program would move children off of private insurance, but that is simply not the case. The vast majority of children who would be covered by this bill come from families with less than \$33,200 for a family of three. These families do not have the luxury of choosing private insurance over the public benefit. For them, it is public coverage or nothing.

We have a moral obligation to ensure that our children have access to health care. Our health care system produces infant mortality rates and incidences

of health disparities far greater than other nations in the industrialized world. We know statistically that racial and ethnic minorities suffer disproportionately from poor health and die prematurely. More than 30 years after the national embarrassment of Tuskegee Syphilis Experience, our people are still being denied access to the best medical system in the world.

This trend recently played out in my home State in Maryland in an incident that I still find difficult to comprehend. In February, a 12-year-old African American boy named Deamonte Driver died when an untreated tooth infection spread to his brain. A routine dental checkup costing about \$40 might have saved his life. But Deamonte was poor and homeless, and he did not have access to a dentist.

Deamonte's case was rare and extreme, but he is by no means alone in his suffering. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that dental disease is the single-most chronic childhood disease in this country. It chills the conscience to think of how one young boy's life was cut short by the failure of our health care system, and millions of others continue to suffer.

We have a moral obligation in the memory of Deamonte to fix this problem now. This is why I have consistently advocated for a strong SCHIP bill that expands coverage to 6 million of our Nation's poorest children and guarantees them dental coverage.

I was discouraged to see that the first version of the bill from the Senate Finance Committee included only \$35 million in additional funding and did not include mandatory dental benefit. As a Washington Post editorial board recently noted, memories are sometimes short here in Washington. I realize the current budgetary constraints make this process all the more contentious; however, these are times that require decisive leadership. I am hopeful that in the House we will be able to find funding to expand the program by \$50 million while working with our Senate colleagues to negotiate a strong bill.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this vitally important legislation.

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 gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BILIRAKIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### COMMIT TO FULLY FUND RESEARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to address the continuing tragedy of racial and ethnic disparities in America. I want to commend my colleague, the gentlelady from Ohio, a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, and my colleague, our great Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman CAROLYN KILPATRICK, for tonight calling us all together later in a Special Order.

I would like to talk just very briefly in support of the efforts of my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to highlight health care as a central and important policy issue in the 110th Congress and to call for an end to racial and ethnic health disparities.

We must no longer turn a blind eye to the continuing pattern of racial bias in the delivery of health care in America. The fact is that if you are a person of color, are poor or speak a different language and walk into a hospital in need of care, you are less likely to be diagnosed correctly, less likely to receive the accepted standard of care and less likely to walk out. It is a death sentence for millions of Americans.

It is appalling that our Nation cannot commit the resources necessary to eliminate once and for all the devastating impact of unequal health care delivery in America. We must root out the causes of the continuing discrimination against racial and ethnic minorities in our health care system.

We must increase the diversity in the professional health care provider workforce. Health care must be delivered in a culturally and linguistically appropriate way without having to turn to intermediaries or family members to relay private information, health information. Funding research into the reasons for the different rates of disease incidence and minority populations must be a national priority.

While Latinos and African Americans make up over 25 percent of the U.S. population, they account for more than 67 percent of newly reported AIDS cases. Diseases that primarily impact communities of color continue to be neglected. We must commit to providing access to comprehensive preventive care, educational outreach, health screenings and follow-up consultation for at-risk populations.

Our health care system is broken. Health care should be a right, not a privilege. We spend more money on health care than any other Nation in

the world; yet the United States ranks 23rd, 23rd in infant mortality among industrialized nations. We ranked 67th in immunization rates overall, right behind Botswana. We were first in life expectancy in 1945, and now we rank 20th behind nations like Canada, Britain, France and Cuba.

In the 1960s, I lived in Great Britain, and I was exposed to the assurance that the British public had in their access to quality health care with the British national health service. We in America can do better. We must do better. We can ensure that every person in America be treated equally, given a fair and thorough diagnosis and be treated with the most up-to-date treatments that are available. We must remember that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

In any hospital on any given day or night, in communities with large numbers of people of color and African Americans, the poor, you will witness this terrible health care crisis firsthand. Just go to an emergency room and see who needs medical attention, emergency or not.

It's about time that we invest resources to close these deadly, and that's what they are, they are deadly disparities. We need to enact universal health care for all.

America is the wealthiest industrialized country in the world. It is a shame and disgrace that over 47 million have no health insurance and that such a large percentage are African Americans, Latinos and Asian Pacific Americans.

What is wrong with this picture? I just want to commend, again, Congresswoman TUBBS JONES and the Congressional Black Caucus; and also our Tri-Caucus, Congressional Hispanic Caucus and Asian Pacific American Caucus for insisting, and I mean insisting, that this House of Representatives begin to focus on closing these deadly health care disparities among communities of color.

□ 1945

#### SERGEANT KEITH KLINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to commemorate the life of Sergeant Keith Allen Kline, born and raised in Oak Harbor, Ohio.

Sergeant Kline was serving his second tour of duty when he was mortally wounded while on patrol in Baghdad on July 5, 2007, the day after the 4th of July, his favorite holiday. Today, Sergeant Kline was laid to rest following a fitting and moving ceremony at his alma mater Oak Harbor High School. Through my words this evening, America honors his memory and comforts his family. After the ceremony today, he was laid to rest at Oak Harbor's Union Cemetery.

In his poem, the Psalm of Life, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow writes:

“Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time;—  
Footprints, that perhaps another,  
Sailing o’er life’s solemn main,  
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,  
Seeing, shall take heart again.  
Let us, then, be up and doing,  
With a heart for any fate;  
Still achieving, still pursuing,  
Learn to labor and to wait.”

Sergeant Kline lived the spirit of this message. The poem’s words served as an epitaph as we recall his life and honor his ultimate sacrifice.

Keith Kline graduated from Oak Harbor High School in 2002. A talented wrestler, he placed in the top six wrestlers in Ohio during his high school years, a truly magnificent achievement from a large State like Ohio. He also played soccer and football and participated in school plays. He enlisted in the U.S. Army post-9/11 following his graduation.

At Fort Gordon, Georgia he completed his advanced individual training and was assigned to Bravo Company, 96th Civil Air Battalion, 95th Civil Affairs Brigade. In Iraq 3 months, he was assigned to the Civil Affairs Team supporting the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. In his brief career, his distinguished service brought him four Army achievement medals, a Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary medal and Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and Basic Parachutist Badge. His death brought him the posthumous award of the Purple Heart Award, Bronze Star Medal, and Combat Action Badge.

More than a soldier, Keith Kline was known as a goodhearted person that was full of life and a very hard worker. Every single individual who paid him tribute this morning used the term “a man of great heart.” He was a NASCAR fan, too, and he reveled in family get-togethers. And his favorite holiday, as I mentioned, was the 4th of July.

Cherishing his memory and celebrating the gift of life are his mother Betty, brother John, stepfather, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and true friends he held close to his heart. We offer them our sincere condolences and heartfelt gratitude as they struggle through this very difficult time. May they find comfort in their loved one’s memory, and recall the words of Ecclesiastes 3:1, “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under Heaven.”

Today, America salutes Sergeant Keith Kline, a valiant son of our Republic, for his patriotism, for his excellence in service, for his courage, and for loving us more than he loved life itself.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### PASSING OF RUSSEL TIMOSHENKO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, early in the morning on Saturday, July 7, I awoke to an unusual sound; it was the sound of a police helicopter circling over the community in which I reside. Typically, when you hear a police helicopter you know that something has gone wrong in the community. They are usually searching for a suspect in a crime.

Today, I stand before this body and before you, Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart. The reason behind that circling was the injuring, critical injuring of an officer, a police officer. And it is with a heavy heart that I stand before you today to honor the life and contribution of a fallen hero, a great American patriot, New York Police Officer Russel Timoshenko. Last weekend, he was tragically shot in the face and the neck and succumbed to those fatal gunshots this weekend.

Officer Timoshenko was born in Belarus and immigrated to the United States in the early 1990s, when he was only 7 years old.

Upon his graduation from Tottenville High School in Staten Island, New York, Russel attended City College and majored in economics while playing on the lacrosse team. I understand, like myself, he loved to dance.

Prior to completing his studies, he decided to become a New York City police officer. During his short career on the force, Officer Timoshenko made 15 arrests. And although Officer Timoshenko had only been on the force for 1½ years, his commitment to protect and serve the least and the greatest in our community embodied the true sentiment of a public servant, and he was highly regarded among his colleagues.

Officer Timoshenko and his partner, Officer Herman Yan, were both shot during a routine traffic stop in Brooklyn in the early morning of Saturday, July 7. Officer Yan survived because of his bulletproof vest, and I pray for his continued speedy recovery. Unfortunately, Officer Timoshenko was shot in the head, and the two bullets that struck him cut across his spinal cord just beneath his brain. Officer Timoshenko did not survive his wounds.

Officer Timoshenko’s untimely death was a direct result of the proliferation of illegal guns in my community. His life was taken in service to our city and in pursuit of his oath to protect and serve. And, in so doing, there are three less illegal handguns on the streets of New York.

I stand with the New York City Police Chief, Commissioner Kelly, Mayor

Bloomberg, and Governor Spitzer in the fight against illegal gun trafficking into our city, and also in aggressively working to make our neighborhoods safe to live, work, and play.

To the parents and family of Officer Timoshenko, please accept our thanks for sharing him with us. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to share the life of such a fine human being. And on behalf of New York’s 11th Congressional District, I offer my sincerest condolences, and pray that God will grant the family comfort and peace at this time.

#### ARMENIAN GENOCIDE—PERSONAL ACCOUNT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the irrefutable fact of the Armenian genocide. Looking at the history of this catastrophic event from 1915 to 1918 and the impact it had on the Armenian people, it is impossible to deny that this was indeed genocide by all accounts. But one way, Mr. Speaker, to bear witness to the truth is to make reference to personal accounts when the genocide occurred at the hands of the Ottoman Turks.

Thousands of Armenians have their own account of the horrific events their families had to endure, but tonight I would like to tell the story of one person, Mrs. Haigoochi Hanessian, from Syracuse, New York.

Mrs. Hanessian was born in 1906 in Taurus, Turkey. In 1909, her family fled from their home after receiving word that the Turks were leading a massacre on all Armenians in the area. They took refuge in an institution, and I should say they took refuge, Mr. Speaker, in an American institution, and finally returned to their home only to find it burned to the ground. After traveling and staying with family in different areas, they eventually moved back to Taurus, Turkey.

Yet, again, in 1915, the Armenians were being exiled. Her family was forced to board a train with an unknown destination. With thousands of others, they were herded into these trains, confined in small boxcars for days with no food and no water. Mrs. Hanessian recalls that if someone died on the train, they were simply thrown off the train and were left on the side of the tracks.

When they finally arrived at their destination, they were placed in barracks. She speaks of the sentiments towards the Armenians at the time, stating, “They wanted all the Armenians to vanish from the Earth. Instead of killing them, they suffered and died.”

The Armenians were then marched through desert towards Syria in extreme heat, again with no food and no water. On the way, many died and were left to rot. After they reached a small

village in Syria, they stayed until they were told to move again. She remembers, "An order came from all the General Headquarters that all Armenians either be killed or deny their religion and become Muslims." Many people converted to save their lives, while others died to preserve their faith.

The Armenians were forced to relocate from village to village. They were left with no money and no supplies, and had to find ways to survive. She said, "You couldn't get in touch with anybody. You didn't know what to do. We were hungry. It was terrible. We were all dying. We were just skeletons, no food, no nothing."

Unlike much of Mrs. Hanessian's family who died or disappeared in the genocide, she survived and was able to relocate to the United States and rebuild her life in Syracuse, New York. She has since passed away, but not before she left her story behind, and I am proud to be able to retell her memories, which must never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my support this evening for swift passage of H. Resolution 106, reaffirming the Armenian Genocide. The resolution now has a majority of the Members of the House as cosponsors on a bipartisan basis.

As the first genocide of the 20th century, it is morally imperative that we remember this atrocity and collectively demand reaffirmation of this crime against humanity. By properly affirming the Armenian genocide, we can also help ensure its legacy and rightfully honor its victims and survivors like Mrs. Hanessian.

**REVISIONS TO THE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS AND BUDGETARY AGGREGATES ESTABLISHED BY THE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2007 AND 2008**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 207(d) of S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, I hereby submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD revised 302 (a) allocations for the House Committee on Appropriations for Fiscal Years 2007 and 2008. Section 207 (d)(2) directs the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget to adjust the discretionary spending allocations for three program integrity initiatives: Continuing Disability Reviews and Supplemental Security Income Redeterminations, Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control, and Unemployment Improper Payment Reviews as provided in section 207 (d) (1)(A), (C) and (D) of S. Con. Res. 21, respectively.

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS: Appropriations Committee 302(a) Allocation (In millions of dollars)		
	BA	OT
Current allocation:		
Fiscal Year 2007 .....	950,316	1,029,465

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS: Appropriations Committee 302(a) Allocation—Continued (In millions of dollars)		
	BA	OT
Fiscal Year 2008 .....	953,459	1,028,780
Change for H.R. 3043 program integrity initiatives:		
Fiscal Year 2007 .....	0	0
Fiscal Year 2008 .....	636	317
Revised allocation:		
Fiscal Year 2007 .....	950,316	1,029,465
Fiscal Year 2008 .....	954,095	1,029,097

□ 2000

**PROVIDING FOR INDIVIDUALS A SECOND CHANCE**

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, as I was leaving a friend of mine's home on Sunday morning, a young fellow was across the street on the other side and he flagged me down and said, "Can I talk to you for a moment?" And so I waited for him to come across the street, and he did. And I asked what I could do for him, and he says, "Well, I am trying to find a job." And I inquired as to his educational background, what kind of things that he could do, and what kind of jobs that he had. And he says, "Well, I had a job, but then my employer discovered that I also had a felony conviction and he didn't know that when I got hired." And, "Of course," he says, "I have lost my job, lost my house, lost my car, lost my wife, and I am in the process of losing my children." And as I listened to him on Sunday morning, it reinforced for me how important it is that we try and provide for individuals like this young man a second chance.

As a matter of fact, our country is the most imprisoned nation on the face of the Earth. More than 2 million people languish in our jails and prisons across the country.

More than 650,000 of them come home every year, and, like this young man, oftentimes find every avenue blocked that prevents them from leading normal lives. Of course, many of them do what we call recidivate, that is, if they don't get any help within 3 years, 67 percent of them will have done what we call re-offend; that is, committed another offense against society. More than 50 percent of them will be re-incarcerated, costing our taxpayers enormous sums of money.

And so I felt compelled to come to the floor and urge my colleagues to support the Second Chance Act, to urge the leadership to bring that legislation to the floor, so that this young man and thousands of others like him can, indeed, experience a second chance.

**CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 60

minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, tonight I'm joined by members of the Congressional Black Caucus on the first of what will be many CBC message hours. This evening we will be discussing health care disparities, as well as the SCHIP program, which is the State insurance health program.

But before I get into it, I need to ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subjects that I just mentioned, that of health care disparity and the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

For the past few Congresses, the CBC has made confronting health disparities one of its major initiatives. We have been champions for access to affordable health care, meaningful coverage for prescription medications for every American, and increased representation of African Americans across all health care professions.

The health care statistics are staggering in the African American community. While African Americans comprise approximately 12 percent of the U.S. population, in 2000 they represented 19.6 percent of the uninsured. The African American AIDS diagnosis rate was 11 times that of the White diagnosis rate, 23 times more for women and nine times more for men.

African Americans are two times more likely to have diabetes than whites, four times more likely to see their diabetes progress to end-stage renal disease, and four times more likely to have a stroke. And African Americans are only 2.9 percent of the doctors, 9.2 percent of the nurses, 1.5 percent of dentists, and 0.4 percent of health care administrators. Yet African Americans comprise 12 percent of our population.

These problems are just the tip of the iceberg. Tonight, along with my colleagues, we will outline some of the various health issues that currently impact the African American community. Additionally, many of us have legislation that we are working to have passed to provide necessary care and resources to the African American community.

I want to thank the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK, and our executive director, Dr. Joe Leonard, for their assistance and work in this effort, and for the record, my communications director Nicole Williams.

At this point I'd like to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia, Mr. BOBBY SCOTT.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stress the importance of health care to the well-being of our children and to our Nation. In 2003, a report was released by the National Academy of Science entitled "Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care." It

confirmed what many of us have known for a long time, that even when African Americans and other minorities have equal insurance and equal access to physicians, their outcomes are different.

Minority populations just don't get the same health care and are not offered the same treatments. Unfortunately, we're foundering under the constraints of a profit-driven, multi-tiered health care where racial and ethnic stereotypes often distort the decision-making process by many health care providers.

The situation becomes even more critical when we realize that over 20 percent of all African Americans do not have health insurance. Those who do are more likely to have public insurance or Medicaid, which, unfortunately, often does not command the full measure of services available in private insurance.

Every day, more and more African Americans are diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses which can be avoided with proper care and prevention. The diagnosis of illnesses such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and HIV/AIDS continues to increase among African Americans in the African American culture as access to health care becomes more and more elusive.

It is no surprise that when it comes to taking care of our medical needs, many of us and our Hispanic, Native American and Asian Pacific Islanders are slipping through the safety nets available to other Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the total number of uninsured has actually increased from 41 million, just a few years ago, to 46 million by the most recent numbers. In the country where we pride ourselves as being the world's leading and most prosperous democracy, we have millions of children and young adults walking around without health insurance.

A sad reflection of how ominous the absence of health care insurance can be is the death of a 16-year-old boy in Maryland who died from infections caused by an abscessed tooth because his family had no health insurance to seek medical care.

Mr. Speaker, in the next few weeks, we'll address the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, or SCHIP, which is a vital Federal program which allows States to target and cover low-income children with no health insurance and families with incomes above the Medicaid eligibility levels.

Almost 90 percent of these children live in households with a working parent. More than half live in two-family households. Many of these children are actually eligible for coverage under SCHIP or Medicaid but are not enrolled due in large part to barriers to enrollment in programs and complex eligibility rules that make it difficult to obtain or keep coverage. Millions more children are underinsured or at risk of

losing coverage if their parents change jobs or if employers drop health coverage for families.

Mr. Speaker, we need to do more than just renew SCHIP. We need to expand it so that it adequately covers every uninsured child living in the United States.

Early and preventive screening, diagnosis and treatment, EPSDT, which would include services such as dental, vision and mental health services should be available to all children. EPSDT is the current requirement under Medicaid to make sure that the health needs of children are being met, and we should bring this requirement to SCHIP.

Coverage for low-income pregnant women. We need to make sure that women are receiving the necessary prenatal care needed to ensure that infants have a healthy start in life.

Presumptive eligibility. We need a unified application system for SCHIP. There are many social services programs, such as reduced or free school lunch, that have eligibility requirements clearly more restrictive than SCHIP. So if a child is eligible for such a program, it is a virtual certainty that he's also eligible for SCHIP.

The problem arises that States do not presume eligibility, and parents are required to fill out different applications in different offices, often with the exact same information, just to access the services they obviously qualify for.

A commonsense solution would be to streamline the application process for SCHIP and other programs so that if you're enrolled in another social service program, you should not have to fill out another application just to get health care benefits. Money to promote the streamlining of this process should be included in the reauthorization of SCHIP.

Mr. Speaker, there is an urgent need for expanded health care coverage for children, and that's why I introduced H.R. 1688, the All Healthy Children's Act. That act has been endorsed by the Children's Defense Fund. It's a logical, smart, and achievable incremental next step to close the child coverage gap and guarantees that all children will have access to health care coverage that they need to survive, thrive, and learn.

This proposal will ensure that all children are covered by expanding the coverage of both Medicaid and SCHIP programs, while eliminating the procedural red tape that currently prevents children from being covered by either program. The comprehensive program would include all basic health care, as well as coverage for mental health and prenatal care.

Mr. Speaker, the United States health care system has yet to solve the fundamental challenge, delivering health care coverage to all Americans at an affordable price. The tragedy is that we know what to do to fix the problem once and for all. And what is

required is a national health care system with universal access to comprehensive prevention-oriented benefits. And it is time to take action, and we should start with our children by passing the All Healthy Children's Act.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. SCOTT, thank you very much for your leadership on that issue.

Let me speak for a moment about another piece of legislation that I've introduced with regard to health care disparities. About 7 years ago, one of my staffers approached me with an idea for a piece of legislation. He told me a story of one of his female friends who had been suffering from uterine fibroids. Her condition had taken a tremendous toll on both her and her family, mainly because she was unsure of her options.

This young lady is not alone. There are many women across this country who are silently dealing with this painful, sometime deadly, disease.

Uterine fibroids are noncancerous tumors that form within a woman's uterine lining. It is estimated that three in every four American women have uterine fibroids, with one in four women seeking medical care for the condition. African American women are three to nine times more likely to develop uterine fibroids.

Uterine fibroids can be hard diseases to combat, given the fact that women are diagnosed with the disease at various stages and physical conditions. While the fibroids may develop slowly in some women, others may develop more aggressively.

Right now, hysterectomy is the most common treatment for uterine fibroids, accounting for 200,000, or 30 percent, of all hysterectomies in the United States. It is for this reason that I have reintroduced the Uterine Fibroid Research and Education Act to find new and better ways to treat, or even cure, uterine fibroids.

The Uterine Fibroid Research and Education Act would double Federal funding for uterine fibroid research and fund a public education campaign on the condition. Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland introduced companion legislation in the Senate, and we introduced identical legislation in the 109th Congress, but neither received a floor vote.

Even though an estimated three-quarters of all reproductive-age women have uterine fibroids, little is known about them, and there are still few good treatment options available. Women deserve better. I have made it a priority to make sure women are not left out or left behind when it comes to health care.

This legislation would authorize \$30 million in Federal funding for uterine fibroid research each year for 5 years, doubling the budget from last year's \$15 million. Research is needed to find out what causes uterine fibroids, why African American women are disproportionately affected, and what can be done to prevent and treat the condition.

It is time that we put the health of the women of America in the forefront of our agenda. Therefore, I'm asking all to be supportive on this crucial issue.

Right now I'd like to yield such time as she may consume to Representative DONNA CHRISTENSEN, who is, in fact, a medical doctor; and she chairs the Congressional Black Caucus Health Disparities Health Brain Trust. And this weekend in the Virgin Islands you're hosting a health care health disparities conference, correct?

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Yes. Not only that, but Congressman CLYBURN's district will be hosting a disparities conference, as well as the Tri-Caucus, the Hispanic, Black and Asian Pacific Caucus this weekend.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to join my colleagues to call attention to some critical unmet health care needs that this 110th Congress is called upon to address.

And I also want to applaud our chairwoman, CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK, for making this hour available to us and to thank Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES for her leadership as well.

Before I speak about the children's health insurance program, which is up for reauthorization, I want to remind this body that we have not yet appropriated the level of funding that would make a dent in the health disparities that result in 100,000 unnecessary deaths every year because of our country's failure to address them. We worry more about a few dollars that may be less than necessary than we worry about the unnecessary loss of life that happens every day in this country, although we have the wherewithal to stop them.

□ 2015

Until our country funds disparity elimination adequately, people of color will continue to get to health care services late, if at all, and become disabled or die prematurely from preventable causes.

This Congress will have the opportunity to do just that by passing the Healthcare Equity and Accountability Act, introduced by the Black, Hispanic, and Asian Pacific Caucus last week. That is the way to improve health for everyone and to begin to drive down the skyrocketing cost of health care.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to call our attention to the now chronic underfunding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, or ADAP. As we have underfunded it every year, the gaps have grown and the waiting lists for life-saving medicines have grown longer. Some of those waiting in line have died because of our neglect. This Congress, led by Democrats who have always understood the challenges faced by the HIV/AIDS community, more than half of which are people of color, needs to correct this deficiency in funding for this important program.

And, also, Mr. Speaker, very soon we will be reauthorizing the State Chil-

dren's Health Insurance Program. We need to do so fully. Now when we have the opportunity to do the right thing for America's children with whose welfare we are charged, we are poised to shortchange them, to let them down, and to leave them without access to health care. That is unbelievable. There are 9 million uninsured children, of which 6 million are at or below 200 percent of poverty and eligible for SCHIP. I think we should cover all of them, but current proposals don't even cover one-third of those who are eligible.

This Congress should do nothing less than cover all 6 million eligible children, and we must do so with robust programs to foster their mental, dental, and nutritional health. Investing in our children is investing in our future.

The CBO has said that it would cost at least \$60 billion to cover all of those eligible children. We are told there are not enough offsets, not enough money to cover the costs.

Well, there are no offsets for the civil war in Iraq, which we are funding while our children are being caught in the crossfire, and there were no offsets for the tax cuts to the wealthiest individuals in this country, both of which are funded in part with money borrowed from Communist China. If we can go into bad debt for those, then we can certainly go into good debt for our children because it is an investment that pays back invaluable dividends. I am willing to bet, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, that we will have to set PAYGO aside for some measure that is deemed important, probably even before this Congress adjourns. So let's do it now for America's children. There is no one and nothing more important than they.

There is one other alternative, and that would be to provide funding to cover all 6 million children for a shorter period of time and revisit that program 2 or 3 years from now when we should be out of Iraq and the tax cuts for the rich would expire. That, I think, is another viable alternative.

We know that the President has said that he will veto a bill if it costs what he considers too much and even the modest proposals from the House and Senate fit that bill. I think that that is a fight the American people would want us to take on because our children are just that important. And so using his own words, I would say "bring it on."

Let's not let there be any more Deamonte Drivers, the 11-year-old who died because he could not get an \$80 tooth extraction. We are a better country than that.

Thank you, Congresswoman TUBBS JONES.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Thank you, Dr. CHRISTENSEN, for your leadership not only this year but every year that I have been in Congress on the health disparities issue and health care on behalf of all Americans while particularly focused on African Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure at this time to yield to my colleague and good friend DANNY DAVIS from Illinois.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend and thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for not only her leadership on this but her leadership on many issues that affect not only African Americans but people all over America.

Although we are talking about health disparities, let it be known that we don't believe that merely dealing with the disparities is going to get us where we need to be relative to health care in this country. I am firmly convinced that the only way that we will address adequately all of the health care needs that exist in this country is to have a national health plan where everybody is in and nobody is out; where everybody will have access to quality, comprehensive health care without regard to their ability to pay.

I have spent a great deal of my time over the last 2 or 3 years dealing with the particular needs of young African American males. And if we look at that population group, nearly four out of 10 young African American men lack health insurance. The percentage of uninsured African American men, while higher than that of whites, is lower than that of Hispanics, American Indians, and Native Hawaiians. Young men, regardless of race or ethnicity, are more likely to be uninsured than any other age group.

People without health insurance are more likely than those with health insurance to delay needed care, less likely to fill prescriptions, and more likely to be diagnosed at a later stage when they do finally seek care. They are also less likely to have a usual or regular source of care.

Young African American men die at the rate that is at least 1.5 times that of young white and Hispanic men and almost three times the rate of young Asian men. While the death rate drops for men ages 25 to 29 for most groups, it continues to rise among African Americans. The leading causes of death for all young men ages 15 to 29, regardless of race or ethnicity, are unintentional injuries such as car accident, firearm, or drowning, suicide and homicide. For young African American men, more deaths are caused by homicide than any other cause.

Additionally, HIV is the sixth leading cause of death for young African American and Hispanic men. Yet for other racial groups, HIV is not among the top 10 causes of death.

When I hear my colleagues talk about what we need to do and when Representative CLARKE was here a few minutes ago talking about the need for gun control legislation that would make it more difficult to acquire and make use of handguns, that is so real. Not only are those tragedies taking place in New York, but I also take this

opportunity to commend Reverend Jesse Jackson and a coalition of individuals, including Reverend Gregory Livingston, who every Saturday morning have been picketing gun shops outside the City of Chicago. Fortunately, you cannot purchase a handgun in Chicago, but you can go right outside and purchase all that you want.

So I commend them for their efforts to make real the notion that change can occur, but it only comes as we are activated, motivated, stimulated, and involved.

So, again, Representative JONES, I thank you for your leadership. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to put a face on this problem that is plaguing African Americans all over America.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. I want to say to you, Mr. DAVIS, also your leadership on the Second Chance Act, you and I have been working on that issue for several years, and, hopefully, it will come to fruition in the next couple, 3 weeks. I look forward to working with you on that and discussing that issue with you.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I must tell you, I was in Detroit at the NAACP convention last week, and there were some folks there from Ohio. And as we talked about what needed to happen, I know I don't have to ask you, but I just know that my representative, Representative Stephanie TUBBS JONES, is up on this, as in my man, you got it right. You're on it; stay on it. We appreciate you so much.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure at this time to have the opportunity to yield to the awesome Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. She has shown such great leadership not only in this role but as Chair of so many other events that the Congressional Black Caucus has done.

I yield to my sister, the Congresswoman from the great State of Michigan, CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK.

Ms. KILPATRICK. I thank you, Madam Chair, for yielding. I certainly appreciate your leadership and all that you do for this body. I thank you for being the coordinator for this Special Order as we move through this 110th session. We thank you for your leadership, delta woman. We appreciate you.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand here tonight as chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus. We are from 26 States. We are 43 Members. We represent over 40 million Americans. Eighteen of our Members have less than 50 percent populations of African Americans. The highest percentage that any Member represents is 61 percent African Americans. So we represent all ethnicities of America: Latino Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, Arab Americans, Italian Americans, European, and the whole conglomerate. So we call ourselves the conscience of the Congress because we are they, 43 of us, 26 States,

representing over 40 million Americans who can speak and represent all ethnicities in America.

Disparities in health care is real. It's alive. And it is really determined by how you live, where you live, what economic standards are you able to afford with you and your family, from generations yet unborn. So we are here tonight to talk about how do we close that gap? What ought to be the policies of our United States government to take care of American citizens, 300 million of us, from disparate backgrounds? What can we do to close the gap?

One thing we can do is to make sure that education, quality education, is had for every American; that they may compete not against Ohio or Michigan or California and New York, but to compete in the world, China, India, other countries of the world who revere, and in knowing that education is the key not only to a successful life but a key to adequate health care opportunities.

Number two, that we invest in those communities so that we put the dollars where they are necessary, so that we don't have underserved communities as we have today across America, underserved as it relates to health care, their access to quality health care. Can they really participate in programs that make their lives better?

When we have a healthy America, then we have healthier families, we have healthier cities, and then, of course, our country is one of health.

We talk about disparities of health care, and it refers to the difference between two or more population groups, the outcomes and the prevalence of certain illnesses, heart disease, diabetes, access to quality health care, are we really providing what is necessary for America's families? And we, the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, don't believe that we do.

Our Federal budget is 2.9 trillion of your tax dollars. We round that off and say \$3 trillion in this 2008 budget that we are dealing with. Of that budget three entitlements: Medicare, health insurance for 44 million American seniors; Medicaid, over 40 million low-income, disabled, and children's programs; and then our veterans, our proud veterans, who have fought in our wars ever since the beginning, some in battle, some in theater, some not, but defending our country.

□ 2030

When you take out the main three entitlements, our Appropriations Committee handled 600 to \$800 billion. Two-thirds of those monies goes to the entitlements, as was mentioned, and a few others handled by the Ways and Means Committee, where some of those health programs were had. And the other, what we call discretionary funding, is what is handled in the Appropriations Committee.

Of the \$800 billion in 2008, \$600 billion of that is going to defense, to defense. Proud that we are of our Defense Com-

mittee, but never is it intended that two-thirds of that budget, three-fourths in many instances, will go to defend the country. We have to end the war. We've got to bring our soldiers home. We have to invest in American families.

I believe that health care, education, housing, environment and access to capital are those things that this Congress must fund. That's why we have disparities, because many families start at a disadvantage; low income, poor schools, health crisis, unable to get quality health care.

So as we come to you tonight as members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we ask you, America, stand up for what you believe. If you want a strong family, if you want strong opportunities, if you want investment in your children and in your families, speak to that.

Our theme for the Congressional Black Caucus is "Change Course." Do something different, America. Join. Speak out. Donate. Volunteer. Be a part of something that you believe in that will make America stronger. Health care, we believe, is one of those things that you will find yourself participating in.

Change course and then confront the crisis. Confront the crisis of education. Why is it that our schools can't compete with schools around the world? Confront the crisis of the war. And yes, confront the crisis of the disparities in health that we find ourselves in today. We can do better. We can be better. Make sure you're a part of that equation.

And then let us all rise up and continue the legacy. Change course, confront crises, and continue the legacy that all of us have put together as members of the African American Congressional Black Caucus, Latino Caucus, Tri-Caucus, the Asian Caucus as well. We work together to make sure that we begin to address some of the disparities that we see.

So, Madam Chair, thank you for your leadership. Thank you as we try to talk to America to become involved, to change course, to confront crises, to continue the legacy that so many have given their lives and time that we might be on this floor tonight.

This is the greatest country in the world. Let's eliminate the health disparities. Let's make our families stronger. Provide better education opportunities, better work opportunities and, yes, access to capital. When we do that, we will eliminate the disparities that we find now in our health system.

With that, Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Thank you, Madam Chair, for that great presentation and for your leadership.

Being uninsured means going without needed care. It means minor illnesses become major ones because care is delayed. Tragically, it also means that one significant medical expense can wipe out a family's life savings.

There are millions of working uninsured Americans who go to bed worrying about what will happen to them and their families if a major illness or injury strikes.

In my home State of Ohio, there are currently 1,362,000 uninsured, an increase of 18,000 people since 2003. We've also seen the strain on many of the local hospitals in my district when people are forced to use emergency rooms as their source of primary care. The problem is getting worse. As the price of health care continues to rise, fewer individuals and families can afford to pay for the coverage. Fewer small businesses are able to provide coverage for their employees, and those that do are struggling to hold on to the coverage they offer. It is a problem that affects all of us, and we cannot sit idly by while the people of this country continue to go without health insurance.

I am pleased at this juncture to yield such time as she may consume to my colleague and good friend from the great State of Texas, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Let me thank my distinguished colleague from Cleveland, Ohio, the chairwoman of the Ethics Committee, and as well the first African American woman, only African American woman on the Ways and Means Committee. These two distinctive positions are so important, one, for the health of this body, the Ethics Committee, and two, for the great city that she represents. And I might compete with her, she has the Cleveland Clinic; I have the Texas Medical Center. And I know that we have had the opportunity to work with each other, and I want to thank her for what I think is an enormously important Special Order.

I want to begin, as many of my colleagues have begun, and I want to acknowledge the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman KILPATRICK, for the importance of putting a face on the issue of disparities in health care.

In doing that, I'm reminded of the language in the beginning of the Constitution that the Founding Fathers organized to create a more perfect Union. But as they struck out on faith to establish this fledgling United States of America, only 13 colonies, feeling the redcoats breathing down their backs, afraid that at any moment this very fragile government might be toppled, they had enough courage to declare some words that I believe, if this Congress would use it as a moral compass, these issues of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES would be very clear, and those are the words of the Declaration of Independence that said we all are created equal with certain inalienable rights; the right to pursue life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We are all created equal with certain inalienable rights; the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Clearly, health care is intimately involved in life and the pursuit of happi-

ness. And so in actuality, the Founding Fathers put down a marker of what kind of Nation they wanted this to be. Tragically, over the last years, when our good friends were involved, many of the serious issues of health care were diminished in terms of care and funding. And so it is important that we stand here tonight to be able to lay down the challenge and the charge that we are here to fix it up. We are here to make it right. We are here to correct some of the ills, governmental ills, budgetary ills that have caused health care to be diminished.

And let me cite some important statistics that represent the districts of individuals in this body coming from the south, coming from the midwest, coming from the far west, next to Texas, and parts of the mountain area.

The cost of the war in one district is costing \$1 million. And out of that waste of money in the Iraq war, we would be able to provide people with health care: 336,000 adults and 527,000 children, plus, with health care.

Another district, the war is costing them \$1.2 million, plus. We would be able to provide 420,000 people with health care if that war was ended, 758,000 children.

Another district, the war is costing them \$1.1 million—755,000 people would be able to have health care and 633,000 children. Another district, \$812,000 it's costing them, and we would be able to provide 310,000 adults with health care, and children, 502,000.

So, we can already see that we would be able to provide thousands, hundreds of thousands of Americans with health care and hundreds of thousands of children with health care if we, first of all, brought our troops home and ended the Iraq war.

Now, why should we be concerned with that? And the Congressional Black Caucus has gone on the record on questions of disparities in health care. And I might say that this whole issue of disparities is not just an issue of race; it's an issue of dealing with economics. It is the kind of health care that poor people are able to manage to get versus those who are covered, who have means. Some people have means where they pay outright for the care. The Texas Medical Center, for example, has long-time hosted international patients who outright pay for good care. We don't have that luxury here in the United States for many of those who are struggling.

And I might give you just a real-life example, Mr. Speaker, having left my home district and had the challenge and the desire to visit constituents who were ailing. They are now surviving because they happen to be individuals who had the care and the sophistication of family members who could get them to a spot that would, in fact, determine what was the final need of their care. Mr. Speaker, they had a disastrous cancerous organ that was not initially found, and they could have died. But because they had the

means, they were able to go through test after test, and one expensive test that is rarely given, an MRI, was able to find that cancerous organ, their life has been saved. Another person with a severe injury or severe disease was able to be cared for and is in the best of care because of means. They live today. But that is not the case in the question of disparities on economics, what you make, and also on race.

I'm very glad to be part of the CBC effort and Health Task Force to focus on ensuring that the Ryan White CARE Act is passed with language that emphasizes minority HIV organizations.

I believe in fixing health care disparities on the ground. I have organized a series of testing activities or actions to engage the community in being tested. Our first effort with a church, 245 persons were tested. And our message is that HIV testing is not a one-shot deal. Just recently, a good friend, Representative Borris Miles, was able to get 7,000, or thousands of persons tested, possibly 7,000 persons, for HIV. We are going to launch another effort of testing and a campaign that says "HIV testing is not a one-shot deal."

I am a strong supporter of believing in the Health Centers Renewal Act of 2006. For the time that I have been here, I have emphasized that we have not enough community-based health clinics that were privately owned in neighborhoods accessible to grandmothers and young mothers with children. And we have worked hard to ensure that more community health centers come to Houston, Texas.

I'm proud that in my own congressional district we've opened one in Fifth Ward. We've opened two that are under the auspices of the Martin Luther King Community Center that I worked with and kept their doors open with a \$400,000 grant from HHS in the early years of my congressional career. This is a stopgap to the disparities in health care, allowing those in the community to have immediate access to health care.

Then, of course, one of the largest, if I might use the term, Mr. Speaker, "elephants" in the room, is the question of obesity in America. As the co-chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, we have worked on the issue of obesity in children. I was very proud to join Congressman DONALD PAYNE for a very thoughtful, forward-thinking session on obesity in New Jersey, and providing remarks dealing with the question of obesity in our children. And it is a disparity in health care as it relates to Hispanic and African American children who are victimized, if you will, in large numbers by the lack of nutritious food that generates an overweight child. That turns into hypertension as an adult, type II diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke, gallbladder disease, asthma, bronchitis, sleep apnea, and other respiratory diseases.

There are also increases in overweight among children and teens. For

children age 2 to 5, the prevalence of overweight increased from 5 percent to 13 percent; 6 to 11 years, prevalence increased from 6.5 percent to 18.8 percent; and for age 12 to 19 years, 5 percent to 17.4 percent.

We're working to ensure in the agricultural reauthorization bill that's coming forward that school lunches and school breakfasts are nutritious. That has to be for those children who are poor and are dependent upon those meals as sometimes their only meal.

I passed legislation that involved the creation of an Office of Minority Populations that still stands today, and the idea is to keep the question of disparities in health care before Health and Human Services regardless of who the Secretary is. We can do better in this Congress.

And there are issues dealing with our veterans. I'm very pleased that my VISTA bill was marked up in the veterans which provides added resources for visually impaired veterans in order to assist them in the care of those who are impaired by their recent, if you will, deployment to Iraq and those who are veterans who have suffered injury or have lost their sight.

But we come now to the issue of the SCHIP, which is in the process of being reauthorized. And the difficulty, of course, is that we need to emphasize the crucialness of SCHIP in the Nation and in our States. I believe that the work of the Congressional Black Caucus and all of us in our respective States is a telling answer to health care for children who are at a certain economic level.

Tragically, the State of Texas, after the passage of the 1997 budget resolution which created SCHIP, was one of those States that turned back \$400 million because they could not enroll the children. As we move forward, I want to make sure that we move forward on the package that will cover 6 million children. I would like to see us go up to 9 million, but I think we need to look at process. I hope that we do not privatize and make this a market-based program so that people can stuff their pockets with money.

□ 2045

This should be a program that goes directly to these families. Any State that fails to enroll should be penalized by the State's having to refund their own tax dollars, not the money sent for the children. Let us not penalize the children, but let us cause those States to pay fines for their inertia and their inability to enroll these children. I hope that we will have that kind of reform.

Let me close by suggesting that we have an enormous road to take on health care. I am gratified that I hear more African Americans and Hispanics and others of a certain economic level who are prone to these disparities in health care talking about eating right, talking about an intake of less red meat. For those who are on the

ranches, and I am from Texas, a good steak is a good thing to have. But to focus on vegetables, and some people have become vegetarians and are drinking water. These are elements that can encourage good health care.

For those of us who have our schedule here in Washington, D.C., a little walking, a little exercise would be good as well. We should probably look at ourselves in the mirror and try to improve our own health status. We have the capability and capacity if and when some health matter would come to our attention, that is a personal matter, but we must speak for the millions of Americans, 44 million, that are uninsured, that do not have access to health care. I do believe that it is time to move for universal access to health care.

So as we move in the 110th Congress and complete this session, I would say to all of my colleagues, be reminded of the Declaration of Independence; we all are created equal with certain inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Health care has to be a constitutional issue and a right for Americans.

Certainly for the least of those we must stand ready to provide them with a strong and forceful statement and action on health care in America. We should have the SCHIP passed without hindrance and without a market-based approach. We should pass universal access to health care so that all Americans, all Americans, can have the ability to be blessed with the virtues of the pursuit of happiness and have good health care.

Mr. Speaker, let me thank my colleague for yielding. Might I also suggest that we have our marching orders at this point, that we will not take a "no" on passage of the SCHIP out of this House. We want to see universal access to health care come to the floor.

On the disparity question, I am looking forward to the Congressional Black Caucus and the Tri-Caucus health disparity bill being made in regular order and being brought to this floor as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, we must save lives. We must.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Special Order to recognize the importance of closing the racial and ethnic health disparities in this country. It is crucial that we continue to bring awareness to the many health concerns facing minority communities and to acknowledge that we need to find solutions to address these concerns. My colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus and I understand the very difficult challenges facing us in the form of huge health disparities among our community and other minority communities. We will continue to seek solutions to those challenges. It is imperative for us to improve the prospects for living long and healthy lives and fostering an ethic of wellness in African-American and other minority communities. I wish to pay special tribute to my colleague, Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN, the Chair of the CBC Health Braintrust, for leading the Congressional Black Caucus in its efforts

to bring attention to the health challenges facing minority communities. I thank all of my CBC colleagues who have been toiling in the vineyards for years developing effective public policies and securing the resources needed to eradicate racial and gender disparities in health and wellness.

Let me focus these brief remarks on what I believe are three of the greatest impediments to the health and wellness of the African-American community and other minority communities. The first challenge is to provide everyone access to healthcare. This includes supporting the reauthorization and expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) so that all of our children who need health insurance will receive it. The second challenge is combating the scourge of HIV/AIDS. The third challenge is to reverse the dangerous trend of increasing obesity in juveniles and young adults.

DIFFERENTIAL ACCESS MAY LEAD TO DISPARITIES IN QUALITY; SUPPORT FOR HEALTHCARE LEGISLATION—H.R. 676

Across this great Nation the health disparities between minority and majority populations are staggering. Most major diseases—diabetes, heart disease, prostate cancer, HIV/AIDS, low-birth weight babies—all hit minority communities harder. As minorities, we constantly have had to endure decreased access to care, and often of lesser quality care, than do members of the majority race in America.

H.R. 676, "THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT"

Earlier this year, I was proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 676, "The United States National Health Insurance Act." This Act would allow for every American to receive health insurance. You, the American people called for universal health care, as it was one of the most prominent issues for Americans in the 2006 election.

The need for a high-quality, accessible and affordable health care system has never been more urgent. There are currently 47 million uninsured Americans, 8 million of whom are children. Another 50 million are underinsured. Although the U.S. spends twice as much on health care per capita as countries with universal coverage, the World Health Organization ranks us 37th in overall health system performance. Major American corporations such as General Motors bear the brunt of an outdated health care system because they are at a competitive disadvantage relative to their international counterparts who pay less for health care. A Harvard study found that almost half of all bankruptcies are partially or fully related to health care bills.

Our plan, H.R. 676, "The United States National Health Insurance Act," guarantees every resident of the United States access to a full range of medically necessary services, including primary care, prescription drugs, mental health care and long term care. The role of the government would be limited to collecting revenues and disbursing payments; care would continue to be delivered privately. Patients could continue to use the same hospital, physician or health clinic from which they currently receive services. H.R. 676 is supported by over 210 labor unions and more than 100 grassroots groups across the country. The former editor of the New England Journal of Medicine, two former U.S. Surgeons General and 14,000 physicians support national health insurance.

## HEALTH EQUITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2007

I also strongly support the Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2007, an important bill that my colleague Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN has crafted to address the health disparities we face in our community. This bill will provide for:

Creation of Regional Minority Centers of Excellence Programs in medically underserved regions of the country

Creation of Health Information Technology Zones

Data Collection and Analysis Grants for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Services Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Asian American and Pacific Islander-serving institutions with accredited public health, health policy or health services research programs

Reauthorization of the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities

Expansion of funding the Minority AIDS Initiative (\$610 million)

Grants for Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health

Access to programs and activities and establishes support center to those with limited English proficiency and ensures antidiscrimination provisions and sets standards for these services, such as hiring bilingual staff and informing patients of their rights in their primary language.

Federal agencies that carry out health related activities are mandated to adopt a guidance model on language services.

The Secretary is required to conduct a demonstration project in no less than 30 states or territories showing the impact of costs and health outcomes to those with limited English proficiency.

Grants to improve healthcare for those with communities with low functional literacy.

The preparation and publication of a report that describes government efforts to provide access to culturally and linguistically appropriate healthcare services including an evaluation of activities and an explanation of best practices and models.

DHHS will be responsible for submitting a report on health workforce diversity with descriptions of any grant support provided for workforce diversity initiatives.

Establishment of a technical clearinghouse for health workforce diversity with statistical information, model health workforce programs, admissions policies, etc.

Evaluation of workforce diversity initiatives, data collection and reporting by health professional schools, and supporting institutions committed to workforce diversity.

Providing career development for scientists and researchers and for those non-research health professionals.

Provide cultural competence training for health care professionals.

To increase the number of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds in health professions by enhancing their academic skills and supporting them in training.

Examination of providers and the delivery of culturally and linguistically appropriate services in geographic areas

Makes public the data collected and analyzed.

Grants to eligible institutions to conduct and coordinate research on the built environment and its influence on individual and population-based health.

Such a bill will go a long way in providing for the healthcare needs of minorities and will help to narrow the health disparity gap.

There is no reason why this country should continue down a dreadfully deleterious road of denying healthcare to any citizen of this country who needs it. Many of the health conditions, such as diabetes, obesity, kidney failure, cancer, hypertension and HIV/AIDS, the prevalence of which plagues our community the most, could be curtailed or even prevented if everyone had access to health insurance. I will continue to fight hard for the most effective policy measures that aim to narrow the racial health disparity gap.

It is a misconception that minority healthcare is just about helping minorities. Keeping Americans healthy ensures that children can stay in school and that their parents can go to work. It ensures that our emergency rooms are not glutted. It ensures that our hospitals are not wasting time and money chasing the uninsured with massive bills they cannot afford to pay anyway. Keeping Americans healthy ensures that all of our friends, neighbors, and loved ones can have longer, more productive lives to contribute to our communities and to our economy.

We all pay the cost of leaving people in America without health coverage. We cannot afford to pay that high cost any longer. The time for health equality is now. We need to work to improve access to care for people, in general, but there are also areas where more specific interventions are necessary.

I have worked to improve awareness on prostate cancer, and have worked with MD Anderson to help start clinics in Houston that will open access to quality affordable prostate screening and care. I have worked with Hepatitis C advocates in Houston, and across the Nation, to spread the word that Hep C is a silent killer that is cutting down our minority communities and our veterans. There is so much misinformation out there about Hep C. I am pushing the Government Accountability Office to do a full report on the Hep C problem so that we can work to stop this epidemic.

There is also a significant shortage of minority doctors, dentists, and health professionals of all sorts; a shortage that contributes significantly to quality healthcare access. It has been shown that people tend to seek care from people who look like them, and share similar backgrounds. So, the lack of diversity is not just a civil rights issue, it is an issue of health access. We need to boost minority enrollment in health professional programs.

Success will require young people to redouble their efforts to pursue their scholarly pursuits with a renewed commitment to health and medical research. I am very bullish on academic achievement. That is one reason why I was so interested in securing increased funding for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and research.

There are so many areas in which we need to work together and address the critical needs of the people who are being left out of our health care system. Putting energy and resources into decreasing health disparities is a solid investment, one that will reduce unnecessary suffering, and make our workforce and our society stronger. I pledge to you that I will continue to do my part. By your presence here today, I have no doubt you will continue to do yours. And together, we will see the eradication of serious health inequalities in our lifetimes.

We must ensure that all Americans have access to healthcare. Access to healthcare is an important prerequisite to obtaining quality care. Some access barriers, whether perceived or actual, can result in adverse health outcomes. Patients may perceive barriers to delay seeking needed care, resulting in presentation of illness at a later, less treatable stage of illness. For example, a usual source of care can serve as a navigator to the healthcare system and an advocate to obtain needed evidence-based preventive and health care services. Of the major measures of access, the lack of health insurance has significant consequences. Avoidable hospitalizations are a good example of the link between access and disparities in quality of care. These hospitalizations may reflect, in part, the adequacy of primary care. When health care needs are not met by the primary health care system, rates of avoidable admissions may rise. Many racial and ethnic minorities and individuals of lower socioeconomic status are less likely to have a usual source of care. As a result:

Hispanics and people of lower socioeconomic status are more likely to report unmet health care needs.

While most of the population has health insurance, racial and ethnic minorities are less likely to report health insurance compared with whites. Lower income persons are also less likely to report insurance compared with higher income persons.

Higher rates of avoidable admissions by blacks and lower socioeconomic position persons may be explained, in part, by lower receipt of routine care by these populations.

Many of these circumstances are the direct result of lack of healthcare coverage.

## STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (SCHIP)

Until we have a healthcare system that covers all Americans, it is crucial that we reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP. We know that the lack of healthcare contributes greatly to the racial and ethnic health disparities in this country, so we must provide our children with the health insurance coverage to remain healthy. SCHIP, established in 1997 to serve as the healthcare safety net for low-income uninsured children, has decreased the number of uninsured low-income children in the United States by more than one-third. The reduction in the number of uninsured children is even more striking for minority children.

In 2006, SCHIP provided insurance to 6.7 million children. Of these, 6.2 million were in families whose income was less than \$33,200 a year for a family of three. SCHIP works in conjunction with the Medicaid safety net that serves the lowest income children and ones with disabilities. Together, these programs provide necessary preventative, primary and acute healthcare services to more than 30 million children. Eighty-six percent of these children are in working families that are unable to obtain or afford private health insurance for their children. Meanwhile, health care through SCHIP is cost effective: it costs a mere \$3.34 a day or \$100 a month to cover a child under SCHIP, according to the Congressional Budget Office. There are significant benefits of the State Children's Health Insurance Program when looking at specific populations served by this program.

## CHILDREN IN RURAL AREAS

SCHIP is significantly important to children living in our country's rural areas. In rural areas:

One in three children has healthcare coverage through SCHIP or more than half of all children whose family income is under \$32,180 received healthcare coverage through Medicaid or SCHIP.

Seventeen percent of children continue to be of the 50 counties with the highest rates of uninsured children, 44 are rural counties, with many located in the most remote and isolated parts of the country. Because the goal is to reduce the number of uninsured children, reauthorizing and increasing support for SCHIP will be crucial to helping the uninsured in these counties and reducing the 17 percent of uninsured.

## MINORITY CHILDREN

SCHIP has had a dramatic effect in reducing the number of uninsured minority children and providing them access to care:

Between 1996 and 2005, the percentage of low-income African-American and Hispanic children without insurance decreased substantially.

In 1998, roughly 30 percent of Latino children, 20 percent of African-American children, and 18 percent of Asian American and Pacific-Islander children were uninsured. After enactment, those numbers had dropped by 2004 to about 12 percent, and 8 percent, respectively.

Half of all African Americans and Hispanics are already covered by SCHIP or Medicaid.

More than 80 percent of uninsured African-American children and 70 percent of uninsured Hispanic children are eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid and SCHIP, so reauthorizing and increasing support for SCHIP will be crucial to insuring this population.

Prior to enrolling in SCHIP, African-American and Hispanic children were much less likely than non-Hispanic White children to have a usual source of care. After they enrolled in SCHIP, these racial and ethnic disparities largely disappeared. In addition, SCHIP eliminated racial and ethnic disparities in unmet medical needs for African-American and Hispanic children, putting them on par with White children.

## CHILDREN IN URBAN AREAS

SCHIP is also important to children living in urban areas of the country. In urban areas: One in four children has healthcare coverage through SCHIP. More than half of all children whose family income is \$32,180 received healthcare coverage through SCHIP.

## HIV/AIDS

Ensuring that everyone has healthcare coverage will also help to combat HIV/AIDS in this country, and in particular in African-American and minority communities. In 1981, HIV/AIDS was thought by most Americans to be a new, exotic, and mysterious disease which seemed to inflict primarily gay white males in New York City and San Francisco. But since then we have learned that in the America of 2006, AIDS is overwhelmingly a black and brown disease. And that means that we have to assume the major responsibility for finding the solutions to rid our communities of this scourge. Consider the magnitude of the challenge confronting us:

HIV/AIDS is now the leading cause of death among African Americans ages 25 to 44—ahead of heart disease, accidents, cancer, and homicide.

The rate of AIDS diagnoses for African Americans in 2003 was almost 10 times the rate for whites.

Between 2000 and 2003, the rate of HIV/AIDS among African-American males was seven times the rate for white males and three times the rate for Hispanic males.

African-American adolescents accounted for 65 percent of new AIDS cases reported among teens in 2002, although they only account for 15 percent of American teenagers.

Billions and billions of private and federal dollars have been poured into drug research and development to treat and “manage” infections, but the complex life cycle and high mutation rates of HIV strains have only marginally reduced the threat of HIV/AIDS to global public health.

Although the drugs we currently have are effective in managing infections and reducing mortality by slowing the progression to AIDS in an individual, they do little to reduce disease prevalence and prevent new infections. It simply will not suffice to rely upon drugs to manage infection. We can make and market drugs until we have 42 million individually tailored treatments, but so long as a quarter of those infected remain detached from the importance of testing, we have no chance of ending or even “managing” the pandemic.

Currently, the only cure we have for HIV/AIDS is prevention. While we must continue efforts to develop advanced treatment options, it is crucial that those efforts are accompanied by dramatic increases in public health education and prevention measures.

Learning whether one is infected with HIV before the virus has already damaged the immune system represents perhaps the greatest opportunity for preventing and treating HIV infection. According to the Centers for Disease Control, CDC, between 2000 and 2003, 56 percent of late testers—defined as those who were diagnosed with full-blown AIDS within 1 year after learning they were HIV-positive—were African Americans, primarily African-American males.

African Americans with HIV have tended to delay being tested because of psychological or social reasons, which means they frequently are diagnosed with full-blown AIDS soon after learning they are infected with HIV. This is the main reason African Americans with AIDS do not live as long as persons with HIV/AIDS from other racial/ethnic groups.

Researchers have identified two unequal tracks of HIV treatment and care in the United States. In the first, or “ideal track,” a person discovers she or he is HIV-infected, seeks medical care, has regular follow-ups, and follows a regimen without complications. Persons in this track can now in most cases lead a normal life.

But some individuals follow a second, more-dangerous track. These individuals come to the hospital with full-blown AIDS as their initial diagnosis. They may have limited access to care because of finances or because other social or medical problems interfere. The vast majority of deaths from HIV/AIDS are among this second group. And the persons making up this group are disproportionately African-American males.

I have strongly supported legislation sponsored by CBC members and others to give increased attention and resources to combating HIV/AIDS, including the Ryan White CARE Act. I support legislation to reauthorize funding

for community health centers (H.R. 5573, Health Centers Renewal Act of 2006), including the Montrose and Fourth Ward clinics in my home city of Houston, and to provide more nurses for the poor urban communities in which many of these centers are located (H.R. 1285, Nursing Relief Act for Disadvantaged Areas). I have also authored legislation aimed to better educate our children (H.R. 2553, Responsible Education About Life Act in 2006) and eliminate health disparities (H.R. 3561, Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act and the Good Medicine Cultural Competency Act in 2003, H.R. 90).

Twenty-five years from now, I hope that we will not be discussing data on prevalence and mortality of HIV/AIDS among African Americans, but rather how our sustained efforts at elimination have come into fruition. But for us to have that discussion, we must take a number of actions now. We must continue research on treatments and antiretroviral therapies, as well as pursue a cure. We absolutely have to ensure that everyone who needs treatment receives it. And we simply must increase awareness of testing, access to testing, and the accuracy of testing. Because we will never be able to stop this pandemic if we lack the ability to track it.

African Americans are 11 times as likely to be infected with HIV/AIDS, so we must make 11 times the effort to educate them until HIV/AIDS becomes a memory. We simply do not have any other alternative but to work continuously to eliminate HIV/AIDS in our community.

When it comes to the scourge of HIV/AIDS, the African-American community is at war. It is a war we absolutely have to win because at stake is our very survival. With HIV/AIDS we need not wonder whether the enemy will follow us. The enemy is here now. But so is the army that can vanquish the foe. It is us. It is up to us. For if not us, who? If not now, when? If we summon the faith of our ancestors, the courage of our great grandparents, and the determination of our parents, we will march on until victory is won.

## OBESITY

The obesity epidemic in the African-American and other minority communities is also of great concern. Although the obesity rates among all African Americans are alarming, as Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I am especially concerned about the childhood obesity epidemic among African-American youth. More than 40 percent of African-American teenagers are overweight, and nearly 25 percent are obese.

Earlier this year, my office in concert with the office of Congressman TOWNS and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, held a widely-attended issue forum entitled, “Childhood Obesity: Factors Contributing to Its Disproportionate Prevalence in Low Income Communities.” At this forum, a panel of professionals from the fields of medicine, academia, nutrition, and the food industry discussed the disturbing increasing rates of childhood obesity in minority and low-income communities, and the factors that are contributing to the prevalence in these communities.

What we know is that African-American youth are consuming less nutritious foods such as fruits and vegetables and are not getting enough physical exercise. This combination has led to an epidemic of obesity, which directly contributes to numerous deadly or life-threatening diseases or conditions, including

the following: hypertension; dyslipidemia (high cholesterol or high triglyceride levels), Type 2 diabetes; coronary heart disease; stroke; gallbladder disease; osteoarthritis; asthma; bronchitis; sleep apnea; and other respiratory problems; and cancer (breast, colon, and endometrial).

When ethnicity and income are considered, the picture is even more troubling. African-American youngsters from low-income families have a higher risk for obesity than those from higher-income families. Since the mid-1970s, the prevalence of overweight and obesity has increased sharply for both adults and children. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), among African-American male adults aged 20–74 years the prevalence of obesity increased from 15.0 percent in 1980 survey to 32.9 percent in the 2004.

There were also increases in overweight among children and teens. For children aged 2–5 years, the prevalence of overweight increased from 5.0 percent to 13.9 percent; for those aged 6–11 years, prevalence increased from 6.5 percent to 18.8 percent; and for those aged 12–19 years, prevalence increased from 5.0 percent to 17.4 percent.

As the debate over how to address the rising childhood obesity epidemic continues, it is especially important to explore how attitudes, environmental factors, and public policies influence contribute to obesity among African Americans and other minorities. Some of these contributing factors are environmental, others are cultural, still others are economic, and others still may be lack of education or information. But one thing is clear: we must find ways to remove them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue to support initiatives and programs that close the racial and health disparities gaps. It is imperative that we continue to seek workable solutions to the health and wellness challenges facing our communities. I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to achieve these goals.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the State Children's Health Insurance Program is one of the most important priorities for the Congressional Black Caucus. Let me give you some information about SCHIP.

Of children living in rural areas, one in three children have health care coverage through SCHIP or Medicaid. More than half of all those whose family income is under \$32,180 receive health care coverage through Medicaid or SCHIP. Of the 50 counties with the highest rate of uninsured, 44 are rural counties, with many located in the most remote and isolated parts of the country. Because SCHIP's goal is to reduce the number of uninsured children, reauthorizing and increasing support for this program will be crucial to helping the uninsured in these counties and reducing the 17 percent of uninsured.

Let's talk about children living in urban areas. One in four children have health care coverage through SCHIP or Medicaid. More than half of all the children whose family income is under \$32,180 receive health care coverage through Medicaid or SCHIP. Nineteen percent continue to be uninsured. Because SCHIP's goal is to reduce the number of uninsured children, reau-

thorizing and increasing the support will be crucial in this area.

Let me talk about minority children just for a moment. SCHIP had a dramatic effect in reducing the number of uninsured minority children and providing them access to health care. Between 1996 and 2005, the percentage of low-income African American and Hispanic children without insurance decreased substantially. In 1998, roughly 30 percent of Latino children, 20 percent of African American children, and 18 percent of Asian American and Pacific Islander children were uninsured. After SCHIP's enactment, those numbers have dropped by 2004 to about 21 percent, 12 percent, and 8 percent.

Half of all African American and Hispanic children are already covered by SCHIP or Medicaid. More than 80 percent of the uninsured African American children and 70 percent of the uninsured Hispanic children are eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid and SCHIP, so reauthorizing and increasing support will be crucial to insuring this population.

One of the discussions that we have been having about the program is apparently the difficulty in getting young children enrolled in the program, whether they are African American, Hispanic, low-income, rural, or urban. One of the things that we have been talking about with the reauthorization is implementing new ways in which we can enroll children and get parents on board with providing health care to their children. The beauty of the program, as we have talked about previously, is the preventive arm of the program, so that children who have injuries or conditions can get treatment early in the process so that their problems will not escalate.

One of the exciting things that is going on this weekend is the fact that the Congressional Black Caucus is going to be participating in health care disparity events all over the country. In South Carolina, Congressman CLYBURN will be hosting a health and wellness event in Charleston this coming weekend. The 5th Annual Tri-Caucus Minority Health Summit will be held in San Diego, California. As I said previously, Representative DONNA CHRISTENSEN will be hosting an event in St. Croix, Virgin Islands.

We continue to be concerned about the SCHIP program. We are supportive of reauthorization. We are not only supportive, we are demanding reauthorization and requiring that the amount of money that is put into the program be extended such that it will cover most of the young men and women, or children, excuse me, in America. There is some debate about whether or not pregnant women ought to be included in this process. But the reality is, if we don't take care of pregnant women, the children will suffer as a result. So we are moving forward with those issues, as well.

I want to close with just a few more additional facts in and around the issue

of health care disparities, because we can never say enough about the impact that it has. Let me talk to you for a moment about amputation. The differences in amputation rates reveal one of the many treatment disparities that exist between racial and ethnic minorities. In general, African Americans and Latinos have higher rates of lower extremity amputation than non-Hispanic whites. It brings to my mind an aunt that I have. Her name is Evelyn Shelton. She is in a nursing facility, having lost both of her legs as a result of a condition of diabetes. Among Medicare beneficiaries, the rate of amputation of all or part of the lower limb was 6.7 percent per 1,000 for African Americans and 1.9 percent per 1,000 for whites.

Let's talk about asthma care. Asthma rates are disproportionately high among racial and ethnic minorities, particularly among the African American community. Moreover, disparities also appear to exist in how asthma is treated in minority populations, with racial and economic minorities often receiving inadequate asthma care. Insured African Americans with asthma are more likely than insured whites to be hospitalized for asthma-related health conditions and are less likely to be treated by an asthma specialist.

African American children are about three times more likely to be hospitalized for asthma than their white peers, and about five times more likely to seek care at an emergency room. Among families in which parents lack any postsecondary education and do not have access to a primary care physician, African American and Latino children with asthma are more likely than white children to underuse routine medications, such as anti-inflammatory agents.

There are other facts that I would like to go on and discuss at the moment, but I don't have the time. There are issues around cancer care, there are issues around cardiovascular care, there are issues around HIV treatment.

But I am pleased to stand this evening with my colleagues from the Congressional Black Caucus to discuss the issue of health disparity and to bring attention to those State Children's Health Insurance Program. This is the first of future hours that the Congressional Black Caucus will be hosting on issues that affect the African American community, and particularly but often affect the entire community of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague BARON HILL, we came to Congress at the same time, and I thank you for having the opportunity to speak out on these issues.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for the continuation of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Since 1997, this program has served as a safety net for our Nation's low-income uninsured children. Today, the number of uninsured low-income children participating in SCHIP has fallen by more than one-third. The

number of minority children that participate in the program has decreased even more drastically.

In 2006, 6.7 million of America's children received health care benefits through SCHIP; of these, 6.2 million came from families whose income was less than \$33,200 a year for a family of three. SCHIP working in conjunction with Medicaid through State programs provides necessary preventive, primary and acute health care services for the lowest income children and those with disabilities. Overall, these programs service more than 30 million children.

Children living in both rural and urban areas benefit from the SCHIP program. In rural areas, one in three children is covered either through SCHIP or Medicaid. In spite of this statistic, 17 percent of the children living in these areas remain uninsured. In urban areas one in four children has healthcare coverage through SCHIP or Medicaid, but 19 percent continue to be uninsured.

SCHIP also helps to reduce the number of uninsured minority children. The percentage of low-income African-American and Hispanic children without insurance decreased between 1996 and 2005 because of this program. Prior to SCHIP's enactment, approximately 30 percent of Latino children, 20 percent of African-American children, and 18 percent of Asian-American and Pacific Islander children were uninsured. By 2004, those numbers had dropped to 21 percent, 12 percent, and 8 percent respectively.

Mr. Speaker, let's not undermine the purpose of the SCHIP program. We have a responsibility to our children to provide them with one of the most basic needs in our society, equal access to health care. Let us not ignore the great strides that SCHIP has made in reducing the number of uninsured children. Reauthorize the SCHIP program and keep our children insured.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, members of the Congressional Black Caucus wish to call greater attention upon the disparities that exist in health care.

Children of color suffer disproportionately from a lack of health insurance.

In my State of Texas, the problem is severe.

Texas has the highest rate of uninsured children in the Nation, with over 21 percent of children—that's 1.4 million—lacking health care coverage.

Across the nation, more than 9 million American children lacked health care coverage in 2005.

The State Children's Health Insurance Program, called SCHIP, is critically important to prevent low- and moderate-income minority children from slipping through the cracks of our health care system.

One problem is that eligible children are not enrolling in SCHIP.

Nearly three-quarters of uninsured children were eligible for health coverage through SCHIP or Medicaid in 2004.

A disproportionate number of those eligible, but uninsured, were either Black or Hispanic.

Without insurance, children living in poverty are likely to have poorer health compared to children with insurance.

Uninsured kids are more likely to lack a regular source of health care, delay or have unmet health care needs, use less preventive care, and receive poorer quality care than children with insurance.

I urge my colleagues to remember our uninsured—especially the children—and have compassion on our Nation's most vulnerable.

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

#### SPEAKING THE TRUTH: OPPOSING UNTRUE STATEMENTS ABOUT THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this weekend I noticed one of my colleagues in the majority on the Senate side on Fox News Sunday discussing our Nation's Iraq policy. In his conversation with Brit Hume he asserted that our Iraq policy was a failure because of limited progress on the political front in Iraq.

Mr. Hume challenged him on this point by pointing out that progress has been made recently in other areas of Iraq. Mr. Hume noted that if a lack of political progress in Iraq was the only thing that mattered, then couldn't people call the Democrats a failure because of their dismal record on enacting their priorities this session of Congress? The Senator from Michigan responded by drumming up a list of Democrat success, the first of which I find to be entirely dubious.

He attempted to prove that the majority party has not been a complete failure by first saying the Democrats have adopted a budget for the first time in years.

Mr. Hume had asked him, "My understanding is that you got the minimum wage increase, but nothing else passed. Does that make you a failure?"

The Senator responded, "Well, no, because it is not true. There is a lot of things that have passed. For the first time in years we have adopted a budget."

I am not sure if he has been in the same Congress that I have been serving in. He makes it look like it has been years since we passed a budget, and that is simply not true. In 2005, a budget resolution passed the House and the Senate as well as a conference report. In 2006 a budget resolution also passed the House and the Senate without an accompanying conference report.

So I am a little confused as to where the Senator is getting his facts. Unfortunately, Mr. Hume did not catch the untrue statement. As a result, the millions of Americans watching the popular Sunday news program were led to believe that somehow the fact that the majority has adopted a budget resolution was an unusual feat, unseen for years in Congress. I wish to set the record straight.

Some people might wonder why I call attention to this. My reasoning is simple: The truth matters. When we allow untrue statements to enter the public record, we have allowed the public to be led astray. Those to whom we are accountable deserve so much better. The American people deserve the whole

truth, the whole picture, not half truths or dodgy statements intended to cloud a less than stellar record of accomplishment.

I will give the Senator from Michigan the benefit the doubt. Maybe he really thought that it has been years since Congress adopted a budget. But if that is the case we have an equally large problem; he can't keep his facts straight. Both problems serve to mislead the American people.

Fortunately, at this point I don't think the American people have been too misled. They know that this majority has quickly established itself as the party of broken promises. Recent polls tell the whole story. Since taking office, the majority's job approval ratings have taken a nosedive. It is not a temporary dip either. Ever since January, their approval ratings have consistently trended negative, dropping from 37 percent to a low of 23 percent. These sorts of ratings are so low that they have even turned heads in Washington, where unpopularity in the polls seems to be a way of life. I will submit for the RECORD a chart showing the plummeting of the Democrat job approval.

But I am concerned about the public dialogue at stake. If Congressional leaders can't be trusted with the basic facts and insist on creating a track record of truth distortion and promise breaking, I see it as my duty to voice opposition. Even if I am the only one raising the alarm, I will continue to call for integrity in all aspects of public life, and especially in that most important of arenas, communicating with the American people.

The facts are important. The American people deserve the respect that comes with not taking liberties with the facts.

□ 2100

#### AMNESTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I come to the well this evening to talk about a very, very important subject that we just went through some very contentious debate on, and my colleagues are familiar with that, and it is the immigration issue. The American people are familiar with it. And the people in the great State of Georgia, the 11th Congressional District that I serve, are familiar with it as well.

And the big concern was to not do something in a, quote, "comprehensive way" that resulted in granting amnesty to up to 12 million people, possibly more than that, that have over the last 20 years, since 1986, the last time we granted amnesty to 3 million at that time, we have not secured our borders and because of porous borders,

it is estimated that something approaching 400,000 a year, and some are turned back, obviously, but approximately 400,000 get through. I am talking about illegal immigrants now. And when you do the math over 20 years, that is how we got to the 12 million that are here today. So that bill was all about we need to have the triggers. I am very proud of my Senators, our senior Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS and JOHNNY ISAKSON. JOHNNY ISAKSON who obviously had the trigger so you couldn't do any of this stuff even if you didn't call it amnesty, you had to secure the borders first.

In the final analysis, because of their great concern, our Senators from Georgia said "no" to the bill that was being cooked up on the Senate side and could not be amended to their satisfaction. I am proud of them for that.

But there is another problem, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, something that maybe the American people are not sufficiently aware of, and that is the fact that so many people come into this country every year on a program called the visa waiver program. I want to repeat that because I want each and every one of you to remember this, the visa waiver program. It too was started back in the mid-1980s, about the time of the amnesty bill we were talking about. What it does is this: it allows citizens from 27 countries, mostly Western European, and it didn't start as 27, but basically the initial countries were the United Kingdom, Germany, France, some of the countries that are really our best friends and best allies, there is no denying that. Without question, over the history of our great country, we have had wonderful friendships in Western Europe.

So the thinking back in 1986 was we need to not spend our time on worrying about doing background checks and our consulates, and those are the offices of our Department of State that exist in all of the other countries. They are part of our embassies. There are more consulates in a country than embassies. My colleagues know what I am talking about, and hopefully folks listening understand that you have State Department employees in all of these countries so when people come and apply for a visa and they want to come visit the United States or come over here to study, or get permanent legal resident, a so-called green card, they have to go through our consulates. They have to fill out forms and pay an application fee. They are all checked to a fare-thee-well, as the old Georgia expression goes, but it was decided in 1986, you know, for the countries where these are our friends, they look like us and in some instances they speak our own language, we don't need to worry about them, and so let's just let them come in without a visa. Therefore, the visa waiver program.

Now it has been expanded to 27 countries and growing. So they just show a passport. Our customs agents at our ports of entry, airports mainly, simply

look at the passport. If the passport is from one of the 27 countries, they put a stamp on it and in the person comes.

The thinking is this is good for relations with other countries and we want to be on a friendly level with them. And of course it promotes tourism. And certainly folks involved in the travel industry, and maybe it is businessmen coming over for a 2-week or 2-month period of time. Actually, under the visa waiver program, the maximum amount of time that can be spent here under that program is 90 days.

In the year 2005, Mr. Speaker, 15 million people came to the United States under the visa waiver program. At first it was just a temporary program in 1986, and then it was expanded to more countries. And finally it was made permanent in about the year 2000, this visa waiver program. But we began to realize maybe there was a little bit of security risk, and so we said, look, we want to make sure these passports that we are just looking at and stamping and letting folks come in from these so-called friendly countries, that these are legitimate passports, that these are not fraudulent documents.

Those of my colleagues, and most of you are either parents or grandparents, and you have gone through those teenage years yourself and with your children and grandchildren, and you know it is pretty darn easy to get a fake driver's license. And of course my children, adult children now, never did that. They wouldn't do anything like that, Mr. Speaker. But some of their friends did, and they showed me how it was done. You can go on the Internet and just take your picture and paste it on. That is the kind of thing that is bad enough if it is a fake driver's license in this country, but when we are talking about a fake passport, and they are pretty easy to fraudulently prepare, that is where the danger arises.

Some of the countries, the 27 countries that are participating with us in the visa waiver program, have reported that they have had literally hundreds of passports stolen, and we don't really keep a close record on that but we should. We should be very worried about that, as a matter of fact.

So in 2000 we said, look, here is the way we prevent passport document fraud when people are coming into this country under the visa waiver program. It is a passport issued by Spain, France, Germany, Finland, Sweden, Australia, and I'm not going to name all 27 of the countries, but we want to say, look, we want a digital photograph that we can scan. We don't want some fake overlay laminated on a passport, and we also want to be able to machine read this document.

So, therefore, all of you countries that are participating in this program, that is promoting business and tourism in exchange between countries, you are going to have to prepare your passport in that manner so we know that you have done a background check and we can do a background check. We look at

that passport. We know we have a watch list, a terrorist watch list, a criminal felon watch list, so that we do not just let them come in that minute, 1½ minutes that a busy custom agent has at the Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport. They have to do this quickly. If you spend 10 minutes per passport, you are going to have some people outraged, and that is not acceptable. They have to be able to do that quickly.

We knew this back in 2000, and keep in mind, my colleagues, I am talking about a year, a year and a half before 9/11 occurred. We said in the reauthorization of the visa waiver program and making it permanent, the countries had to have these passports based on biometrics, and we called that program US-VISIT. It has not been completed to this day. And after 9/11, of course, a huge wake-up call on many aspects of how we can do things better in regard to maybe we need some armed guards on the planes, and maybe we need to secure the cockpit door and maybe we should allow in certain circumstances the pilots, if they are trained properly, to carry a weapon, we have done a lot of these things to improve.

And of course all these lines, and every Member of this body, every one of you, probably waited in line today for a good little while getting through security before you were allowed to go to the gate to board your plane, and hopefully the plane was on time. If you were delayed too long going through security, hopefully the plane was delayed.

We continue to do these things, but yet this very important aspect, US-VISIT, to make sure, Mr. Speaker, those 15 million folks that come in for business or tourism or whatever, to promote goodwill with these other countries, and I am for that, but they are to stay 90 days. We don't know where they are or how to find them if they don't go back home in 90 days. And to think that even after 9/11, we still keep putting off that date certain these countries have to have and abide by US-VISIT and have to have the biometric passports and we have to have all of the equipment at our ports of entry so the custom agent can simply swipe that passport and it is fine, or a red light goes off.

This is what I am here tonight to talk about, and hopefully you are aware of it. I think most of my colleagues are. But we need to be thinking about this. We need to be thinking about it in a bipartisan way. This is not one of those issues that we should be fighting about politically. We know that this is for the citizens of this country, whether they are Democrats or Republicans, whether they are young or old, whatever their occupation, their religion, ethnicity. This is for everybody. This is not for PHIL GINGREY's district, the 11th Congressional District of northwest Georgia. This is for all of my colleagues' districts. That is why I am here tonight

talking about such an important thing, and I hope we can get everybody's attention on this.

Later on in the hour I am going to talk about a bill that I introduced in regard to the visa waiver program, talk a little bit about what is going on in the other body in regard to the 9/11 bill that we passed I think the first day we were voting on anything in this 110th Congress, the so-called 6 for '06, to do those things that the 9/11 families asked us to do.

After all, they suffered then, are suffering now, and will suffer forever. We listened to them on both sides of the aisle, and we passed a bill. We did most of what they asked in the 109th Congress under different control, and now we have added a few things in the 110th Congress, and we are waiting on the other body. There are some provisions in their version in regard to this visa waiver program that gives me a little heartburn; we will talk about that as well.

I am expecting that some of my colleagues will join me during this hour, Mr. Speaker, and certainly when they get to the floor after their busy meetings that they are attending right now, I am going to yield time to them to give a little different aspect to this visa waiver issue or some other issue of concern to them.

I am a proud member, Mr. Speaker, of the Immigration Reform Caucus. In this 110th Congress, the Immigration Reform Caucus under the leadership of the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY), we have worked hard to make sure that the Immigration Reform Caucus is a bipartisan group of Members, and it is.

□ 2115

I'm not going to stand here and try to name names, but we have got great Members on both sides of the aisle under the leadership of Congressman BILBRAY from California, and I think that's good. I think that's refreshing that Members know that this is not for politics. This is for policy, and this is for protection.

I see that Mr. BILBRAY is actually on the floor now, and I will look forward to hearing his perspective on the visa waiver program. And then we'll develop a colloquy during the next 40 minutes or so. At this time, it's my distinct privilege to welcome him to the floor and to this Special Order hour. I'm grateful to our leadership, the Republican leadership, for making this the minority party's Special Order hour for the evening and that Congressman BILBRAY is going to share the time with me. So I yield to my friend from California.

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Georgia for yielding, and Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate you in holding the Chair tonight and thank you very much for the courtesy of allowing us to speak tonight. I appreciate the privilege.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that the American people have not only

asked, they have demanded, is that the Federal Government live up to its responsibility of defending our neighborhoods from forces from afar that may be entering this country with harm in their hearts and weapons and viciousness in their hands. I think that one of the things that we've really recognized in the past is the review and the oversight of who we allow to come into this country is one of our big responsibilities.

Let's face it, it doesn't take an act of Congress for a community to hire a teacher or hire police officers, but it takes an act of Congress and it takes the Federal Government to make sure that the people that are allowed into this country are people that are going to be friendly to us, to help us, to actually add to the quality and security of America rather than threaten it.

The visa system has always been sort of the minimum we've done in the past, and the visa waiver actually is an extraordinary concept of saying we are so sure that these countries are so secure and so safe that we're willing to waive the traditional international policy of having people kind of report in and prove that they are who they are and we allow them into the country.

And we've allowed this with many countries like Britain, my mother's home country, and Australia, and we've allowed it with many countries. But it's almost as if we've taken this concept that a little is good, a whole bunch must be great, where the political pressure is to expand this program to such a force that there's no counter-balance of saying, no, wait a minute, who's there really checking and keeping a tab on what is reasonable from a security point of view.

And I think what's important tonight for us to say is tonight is a way for the Immigration Caucus to sort of push back and balance. And I don't mind people that are wanting to have this waiver expanded, but I do mind that when we do not balance the perception, that those who may for business reasons or for their own special reasons want to throw away the paperwork, throw away the procedure for security and say it'd just be easier to do without it, they can say that but then there should be those of us who are willing to stand up and say, yes, but it's there for a reason and that reason is very important, the protection of our families and our homes and our neighborhoods. And only the Federal Government can provide this protection.

Remember, if we allow somebody with harm in their heart to enter this country, there is no defense once they're in this country from gaining access to those neighborhoods, those playgrounds, those schools, those hospitals that we take for granted are protected.

Local government cannot check a visa once the United States Federal Government allows them into the country. A county sheriff cannot check a visa once we've allowed them

through that port of entry at the airport or at that seaport.

So it is incumbent on us that we're extraordinarily vigilant to make sure that only those that we are sure should be in this country are in this country, and it is extremely important that we only allow the waiver process in those extraordinary situations where we can look the American people in the eye and say we really believe this is a safe and prudent way of treating our immigration policy.

I think people will say then, well, why is there debate here? And I think that the gentleman from Georgia understands, there's people that want for business reasons, for personal reasons, to have people coming, going from all kinds of different countries, and they have their personal reasons to do that. Some may be profit and some may be convenience, but those reasons and those pressures need to be counter-balanced.

And the Federal Government must be reminded again and again that there's not just one agenda here, convenience of people coming into the country. There's not one agenda here, people making money by tourists coming and going. There's not one agenda, just business wanting to be able to have their partners come and go as they want. There is the major agenda that needs to be introduced into the formula, and that is the defense of the communities.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to make the point to the gentleman that the first slide that I wanted to show, and let me read this quote from the 9/11 Families for a Secure America. I can't tell you how many of the 9/11 families are a part of this group, but this is how they feel. This is a quote. "If Islamic extremists commit another 9/11, it will not make any difference to the victims of that attack that the people responsible carried French passports rather than ones issued by Iran, Saudi Arabia or Lebanon."

This is when they endorsed the bill that I introduced, and we will talk about that a little bit later, but I wanted to yield back to the gentleman for his additional thoughts. But I thought it would be good at this point to interject this quote from the 9/11 Families for a Secure America.

Mr. BILBRAY. I think the real key there, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that the outcome does matter when you talk about the security of our Nation, and we forget sometimes when we talk about the security of the Nation that we're talking about the security of our neighborhoods and our homes.

I had the privilege of serving as mayor and chairman of San Diego County and mayor of a small county on the border, and I know and I think any mayor will tell you that those of us in local government just assume the Federal Government's going to do its part. The trouble is the mayor and the police chiefs and the county sheriffs end up having to take on these responsibilities, and they don't have the right to

do what is the Federal Government's responsibility and, that is, check these documents and make sure that the right type of people are coming into the country.

Local government, the mayors, the city council members, the county supervisors, county commissioners, sheriffs, police chiefs, they have to live with the repercussions and the challenges once someone's here, but they don't get the chance to be able to review and approve this. And so that's why it's essential that the Federal Government, which is the only agency that can do this, the one line of defense that we have over inappropriate entry in this country, has to be strong and vigilant and effective.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California.

Mr. Speaker, the next slide that I want my colleagues to focus in on now is really the kind of a passport that we are wanting, and that U.S. VISIT, and indeed the law in regard to the visa waiver program that was made permanent in 2000 requires them to have this type of passport because let me make one thing perfectly clear to my colleagues.

The visa waiver program trusts the security of our Nation to the background check capabilities and the passport procedures of all these foreign governments, the 27 countries that I mentioned and expanding all the time.

Basically, what we're saying, and if you will look at this next slide, on one side of the passport would be a digital photograph, again, one that is scannable. We have these iris scans, not just the old-fashioned finger prints, but everything in a digital way, including the photograph on the passport. And then I'm going to have to get a little closer to read this, but a machine readable passport has two lines of text, has letters, numbers and something called chevrons. Those are those greater than or less than, these little upside down Vs that you put, but it's a way of bringing a secure method to make sure people are not using fraudulent documents.

I want to talk a little bit now, Mr. Speaker, about some of the things that have been happening lately. It's hard to believe that 9/11 was almost 6 years ago. 2001, we're now 2007 and approaching September. It's almost unbelievable, but people tend to forget, and that's part of the problem.

One of my colleagues, whenever he gives a 1 minute or a 5-minute speech or has an opportunity to speak from the well, he always says, and this is the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), as he concludes, and we will never forget 9/11. God bless him for doing that. Sometimes it gets a little trite, but JOE WILSON knows of what he speaks.

But it's easy to forget, but nobody has forgotten about these doctors, doctors, medical doctors, health professionals that just within the last couple, 3 weeks in London and at the airport in

Scotland, Glasgow, tried to blow up the terminal with the car bomb, laden with highly explosive material, and there was a warning in fact. Someone had said in some text messaging, beware of those who would cure you, meaning the doctors will kill you; those who cure you will kill you.

Well, these doctors in the United Kingdom were citizens of that country. I mean, they had passports, British passports, and in fact, a couple of them had actually, Mr. Speaker, made an application to come to the United States, I think to come to a hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They wanted to practice medicine here. Everybody does want to practice medicine in the United States because, despite the previous hour from the other side, we do have a great health care system. Certainly it needs some improvement, and we're going to work on that hopefully in a bipartisan way, but these terrorists, those who would cure you that would kill you, were trying, at least some of them, to come into this country.

And they could have come in under this visa waiver program and simply showed a passport that did not, by the way, have a digital photo or any digital text or iris scanning. And we didn't have a U.S. VISIT machine that we could run that passport through that so that that would immediately come, go into a data bank so when the 90 days were up or the period of time that they planned to stay, that we could find them, ferret them out and have the ICE, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, agents go after them.

So this is not child's play that we're talking about here. This happened just within the last 3 weeks, and these were homegrown British terrorists that had ties to al Qaeda in Iraq.

I don't doubt the United Kingdom was one of our closest allies. Indeed, they are. Tony Blair has been our best friend and Gordon Brown will be and has been one of our best friends, but this just goes to show that even our greatest friends can be vulnerable to these homegrown terrorists possessing legitimate citizenship documentation and authorized legal passports.

So this is where we are, and this is what's going on this hour, and I will be happy to yield back to my good friend and colleague, the chairman, once again of our Immigration Reform Caucus for additional thoughts. I proudly, by the way, serve on his executive committee of the Immigration Reform Caucus, and I yield to my friend from California.

Mr. BILBRAY. Thank you. I appreciate the gentleman from Georgia's kind words, and let me just say that in the words of the former Inspector General of Homeland Security, specifically said that we should be abolishing the waiver system, not expanding it. So, on a minimum, we've got to stop the expansion.

I think that it just shows a lack of understanding of just how far the pres-

sure's going to back off on our due diligence when it comes to border security by those people that don't see the big picture, and to think that at this time where we're talking about threats, especially what just happened in England, where somebody who they thought was a safe immigrant, literally drove a fire bomb into the front door of a terminal, if I remember right, and what will happen when we allow somebody to do that?

Frankly, I haven't spoke a lot about this, but on 9/11, I was in the immigration commissioner's office the day the plane started crashing into American buildings.

□ 2130

I was actually in the office, and we watched the second plane crash into the second tower. That commissioner said, can you imagine being the agents who let these guys into the country. Now, we didn't know who did this. We didn't know who was responsible. We had no idea.

But the immigration commissioner had the foresight of saying, my God, somehow I know I am responsible, and you imagine being the agent who personally let these people in.

I don't think we think about this, but tightening up and controlling the waiver process is going to be one of the things we have got to do so we don't look back and say, my God, we were warned, we knew this was coming, and why didn't we do more. Why weren't we there to stop this from happening?

All I have got to say is that I was out of politics. I was just meeting with them about immigration issues, but I saw the anguish and the frustration in his eyes and his voice realizing that somehow he knew the immigration agency that he was in charge of somehow contributed to this disaster.

The fact is, I hope all of us start looking at this as being what are we doing today to make sure that we are not faced off in saying, my God, why didn't I do more. Why didn't I push harder? Why wasn't I the bothersome one that told the administration, I know you are being pressured by these guys, but I am going to pressure you back? I am going to give some balance to the process here in Washington?

I think that's all the American people have asked for, a little balance. Again, as the Inspector General said, now is not the time to expand this program. If the President and the administration honestly believes that this country is under a threat, that this country must do extraordinary things to defend our neighborhoods, then the minimum is not to expand this program.

I think reasonable people should say the administration, rather than looking into expanding this program, should be looking to reduce it, at least temporarily, and ratcheting down and reducing the opportunities for people to come in here unreviewed. Because for every country, for every person

that we allow in this country that we have not done our due diligence, we are exposing the Nation to that threat, and we are exposing ourselves to a lifetime of regrets that we did not do the right thing by the American people.

Mr. GINGREY. Colleagues, what Mr. BILBRAY is talking about, of course, is almost unbelievable, but what he says is true. He knows of what he speaks.

In December of this past year, just 8 months ago, the Department of Homeland Security said that they were going to temporarily, not dismantle, thank God, but temporarily suspend the US-Visit program. I am not sure why they made that decision, maybe too much work, they don't have enough money, I don't know. But we asked them to do it in 2000, we asked them to do it again in 2001 with the PATRIOT Act. We asked them in 2002 with the Secure Border Act. We put deadlines on it.

I guess it's kind of like the fence bill. I know my constituents in the 11th District of Georgia know all about that. They asked me, didn't you guys, PHIL, weren't you part of a group that had an amendment in the 109th Congress where when you guys were in control, when the Republicans were in control, wasn't it your amendment that was adopted that called for 700 miles of fencing along the 2,100 mile southern border where we have got some severe problems, not just people coming, seeking jobs, but potential drug lords and gang members, and, yes, terrorists carrying maybe even a nuclear weapon in a suitcase or a briefcase?

I said, yes, I was part of that. We did pass it. I am very proud of it. Then we came back and passed it again. They want to know why we have only got about 15 miles of the 700. It's hard to explain, and we need to have some conversations with the administration in regard to things that the Congress says need to be done, and we vote them into law, and appropriate money. Yet things either don't happen or happen far too slowly.

To think, though, that they just decided we are going to suspend this US-Visit, and as Mr. BILBRAY, the gentleman from California, just said, this is not the time to suspend US-Visit; this is the time to ramp it up, to make sure that we have a machine that reads these passports at every port of entry.

Hey, if American Express can do it, it seems to me the United States of America can do it. American Express and Visa and MasterCard, they have been doing it a long time. They don't get any cash unless they know you are who you say you are.

This is crazy that we haven't completed this. It's just outrageous, outrageous to suspend a program like that when we need it more than ever.

I know my friend from California has a thought on that, because he just stood up. I look forward to your comments.

Mr. BILBRAY. Just a couple of weeks ago, the Senate was shocked, the

White House was shocked at what they saw was a groundswell from America against a proposal that America rightfully thought was amnesty. They wonder why is there so much animosity against Washington on the immigration issue.

It's exactly because of things like the US-Visit system. The American people think that the political leaders of Washington just don't get it and aren't willing to do the heavy lifting. It has been how many years that since, is it 1996, that the US-Visit system was supposed to be implemented. It still hasn't been implemented. Now we have people at a point where they say let's just forget about it.

This is much like the commitments and promises, much like building the fence that the American people have heard so many promises and seen their promises broken so often that they assume this town just does not care or, worse, has been enticed by whatever forces for whatever reason not to do the right thing.

I think when it comes down to developing confidence on the immigration issue, the American people are saying, before you ask us to trust you one more time, we want you to prove to us that you deserve to be trusted.

Go back to the things that you have been promising us for 20 years and do those, get your House in order and take care of it. Things like finish the visit system to where you know who has come into the country and who has gone out of the country. Without that, both, you don't know who stayed in the country.

What's your excuse, Washington? Why are you doing all of these other things that everybody talks about? You can talk about health care. It doesn't take an act of Congress to hire a doctor. It does take an act of Congress to stop a terrorist from crossing the border.

I want to say that it was very scary in February that the Senate was actually looking at expanding the visa waiver. Frankly, I was very proud of one move my Senators, Senator FEINSTEIN, for standing up and saying, whoa, whoa, whoa, we are going a little faster. I want to thank her for that.

It's important that we have bipartisan effort here. The American people are tired of both parties finding excuses and not doing the right thing. They want both parties working together to protect their neighborhoods. When a neighborhood gets blown up, it's Democrats, Republicans and independents whose lives are at stake.

It doesn't draw political lines where the threat is.

Frankly, the issue of being able to address these commonsense things like implementing the US-Visit system, to implement or reduce the impact of the waiver system is something that we need to work together. I want to publicly thank Senator FEINSTEIN for standing up on that issue. I think that we need to push more on that.

But this one right now is that if we can't get the visit system in, what are we doing expanding the visa waiver? That's an extraordinary, extraordinary challenge.

Again, this is why the American people are saying, I don't understand it. How can you ask me to trust you with another law that could be 300 or 1,000 pages when you haven't taken care of the promises you have made over the last 20 years?

Mr. GINGREY. How does the saying go? Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me. I think that's exactly the point the Congressman is making in regard to the American people.

They are not happy about being fooled about border security and the nonbuilt fence. They are not happy about this either. They are not happy one bit about suspending this US-Visit program.

I have the next slide, and I think my colleagues will recognize some of these infamous characters. I want to point them out to you, though, once again. Over here, I will point to him, this gentleman right here, is named Richard Reid, but he is better known as the shoe bomber, the shoe bomber.

The shoe bomber flew from Paris with a passport, a citizen from a visa waiver country, got on a plane, had no intention, of course, with a visa waiver, he could stay in the United States for 90 days. He had no intention of getting to the United States. He just wanted to blow that plane to smithereens. Fortunately, we caught him, from a visa waiver program country.

The guy next to him, that's Moussaoui, Zacarias Moussaoui. He is known as the 20th hijacker. He was from Morocco, a French citizen from Morocco, living in France. He flew from London to Chicago and then, as we all remember in the 9/11 report, in particular, this guy, this terrorist with a passport, a legal passport, then enrolled in flight school in Oklahoma City.

Thank goodness that we had very attentive FBI agents who recognized that here was someone that was in this country under the visa waiver program who overstayed his visa. Well, not really a visa, but he overstayed the 90 days, and, fortunately, we caught him. He was the 20th hijacker.

To my near side are the photographs of the Fort Dix Six. These are the so-called pizza delivery guys who were going on the military base at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle that represent New Jersey understand the potential horror that these guys, these guys, these terrorists that were here with a passport from a visa waiver country were about to inflict on one of our major military installations.

Well, what I want to talk about now is what I plan to do about this problem with the visa program, not to expand it. The gentleman from California is absolutely right. The other Chamber,

there are Members in this 9/11 bill that we passed back in January, and it's about to go to conference, the Senate version being a little different than the House version, there were some Senators that wanted to expand the visa waiver program, not limit it to the 27, but to expand it far beyond that.

As my colleague pointed out, his Senator from California, Senator FEINSTEIN, said maybe we ought not to do that yet. Well, I do commend her. I join him in commending her for that.

But I want to go a step further. What I want to do, and this is called for in my legislation, H.R. 1342, H.R., House of Representatives bill, 1342, the Secure Entry Act, it's time to suspend this program. It's not time to suspend US-Visit. It's not time to expand the U.S. visa waiver program, as Representative BILBRAY and Senator FEINSTEIN so well know.

We need to suspend this program and say to those countries, the 27 or any others that we expand to, I am not opposed in the future to expand it if they have those biometric machine-readable passports, and they have done the due diligence before they have given those passports, just like you would with a visa. If somebody is going to come over here for two or three years to study or something, they have to answer something like 40 different questions and all these background checks.

Not so with a passport. Getting a passport is about like getting a driver's license or a bank credit card or something. It's just a question or two. What's your name, where do you live, give us a photo.

We are not going to be safe with this program, this program that was initiated, I said at the outset of the hour, back in the mid-1980s to promote tourism, friendship and cultural exchange and to promote international trade and business. The Statue of Liberty says it all. But we are living in a different time now.

□ 2145

We are living in a time that we are not safe with this program. 15 million, I mentioned this earlier, Mr. Speaker, in the hour. 15 million people used this program in the last year that we were counting, 2005. It is probably more than that now. Certainly if we expand it, it will be more than that. So I introduced H.R. 1342, the Secure Entry Act, and this would suspend not end, not end. And I want to say to the ambassadors from the State Departments for these other countries, I have talked to them. They say, well, you are going to hurt tourism. Well, tourism is great, but you tell it to the families of the 9/11 victims, the over 3,000 that are no longer with us. We can do this.

But it seems like in this body and in any situation where you have to accomplish things, people for some reason want to wait until the 11th hour and they won't do it and they will procrastinate and they will drag their feet. It's too much trouble, don't have

personnel, don't have the money. Well, you have got to make them do it. And you say, we will suspend the program and you can come to this country only if you have a visa, not with a passport, until you have done what we have our laws require you to do. That is it. That is the bill. And I think when you consider the safety of our people, it is not too much to ask.

We have another. This was someone that came in 1993. I am going back now a little bit. Remember, my colleagues, the first attack on the World Trade Center? They didn't bring it down, but they came close. They came very close, killed a few people, caused a lot of damage. And we treated it as some criminal act, not as an act of terrorism which is what it clearly was. Well, one of those characters we were able to catch, Ahmed Ajaj. And the slide, if you look closely says, "On September 1, 1992, Ahmed Ajaj fraudulently presented a Swedish, and, yes, my colleagues they are one of the 27 visa waiver countries, presented a Swedish passport without a visa for INS inspection when he arrived at JFK Airport in New York on a flight from Pakistan. Thank goodness, on secondary inspection Ajaj's luggage was searched revealing six bomb making manuals, six as if one wouldn't do, videotapes calling for terrorism against Americans, multiple fake passports, maybe some of those stolen visa waiver passports that we are not keeping up with, and a cheat sheet on how to lie to United States immigration inspectors. They are good at that, these people. Fortunately, Ajaj was arrested for passport fraud, and he was serving, long since over, with a 6-month sentence at the time that his fellow conspirators, his co-conspirators attacked the World Trade Center February 26, 1993.

Mr. Speaker, I want to show another slide, and this is from the Associated Press dated July 13, 2007, 3 days ago. And here is what the Associated Press said: "Al Qaeda is stepping up its efforts to sneak terror operatives into the United States and has acquired most of the capabilities it needs to strike here, according to a new U.S. intelligence assessment. The group will bolster its efforts to position operatives inside the United States borders. U.S. officials have expressed concern about the ease with which people can enter the United States through Europe," that is where most of these visa waiver countries are, in the continent of Europe, "because of a program that allows most Europeans to enter without visas."

That is where we are, Mr. Speaker. That is exactly why I am here tonight. That is why the chairman of the bipartisan House Immigration Reform Caucus is with me during this hour. It is that important. It is that important. And we deeply appreciate you listening to us because it is not all about, as we talked about at the top of the hour, this bill that just went crashing down in flames. Because I think, and many

of my colleagues feel, and fortunately the Senate rejected anything that looked like amnesty, we have got to secure those borders first and foremost, and that was what everybody has said. Well, maybe, a sigh of relief certainly from Georgians. But this is a different issue but equally important. This is what you call internal security. Not necessarily just securing the southern border, but who do you let in, and under what terms do you let them in, and where are they going? Are they going to do what they say they are going to do, or are they who they say they are? And if they overstay, even if they are legitimate, who is going to round them up? 15 million of them. 15 million in 2005, maybe more now.

Listen to this, Mr. Speaker, some of the participating countries, and I would like my colleagues to pay attention. The 27, I may not mention them all, are: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the U.K. I left out a few, but you get the picture. You get the picture. I think there is something like 43 countries in Europe. Most of them, 27 at least, are part of this visa waiver program.

We are getting close to the hour that we need to wrap up, but before I do that I want to yield back to my friend from California, who is really a stalwart on immigration reform because he knows the problems that it has created if we don't do the due diligence that the American people have elected us to do. And he knows what has happened and the havoc that it has created in his State, our most populous State, the State of California.

Mr. BILBRAY, I appreciate that. And, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about a visa and we talk about a proposal to go to a \$10 visa processing fee, I go to Latin America on most of my family's casual time; it is kind of the untold story that the chairman of the Immigration Caucus spends so much time in Latin America. But they charge \$10 for a visa and you go through a process down there. And as a visitor, I don't feel put upon to participate in their security in places like El Salvador or Nicaragua or Mexico. But here, when you talk about these countries that are under the visa, you are talking about some of them with massive amounts of immigration. So somebody could come in from Iran, immigrate to Australia, like I said, my mother's former country, could immigrate from Morocco into France, and then once they get their citizenship in that country then use that citizenship as being a free ride into the United States. So in reality, because immigration has become so fluid and nationalization of foreign nationals has become so easy in so many countries, that the issue of allowing some countries to be exempt from review and oversight and others not really are becoming antiquated, and we

need to get back there. If you do not want a terrorist coming in from the West Bank, going through France and coming into this country, then we have to review everyone who comes into this country.

So, in reality, we should be reducing the visa waiver, because we are not talking about people who have come from those countries, born in those countries, and have long term loyalty to those countries. We are also talking about people who have moved to those countries and might have moved there just a few years ago with the intention of getting their citizenship or getting legal residency to use that residency for the next move. And I think the doctors that tried to kill so many in England this last few months is an example that we really do have to be careful how we get it. Who would have thought that doctors from England could be terrorists. History has proven that those assumptions are wrong. And how many other assumptions are we making today that could be proven wrong in a much more graphic way?

I appreciate the chance, Mr. Speaker, for your patience of allowing us to address you here tonight and the American people here tonight, and I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his leadership on this issue. And I do thank the Georgia delegation for standing so strong and so firm and defending our national sovereignty and defending our neighborhoods by standing strongly for immigration control and proper regulation.

Mr. GINGREY. I thank the gentleman from California. And it reminds me, Mr. Speaker, as we talk about my colleagues from Georgia, Dr. Norwood, Charlie Norwood. We will elect tomorrow someone to replace him, but you can't replace him. Dr. Norwood was so strong on all these immigration issues in regard to that CLEAR Act that would let State and local law enforcement departments participate in apprehending illegals who had committed a felony in this country, God rest the soul of a great Member, Dr. Charlie Norwood.

NATHAN DEAL, our longest serving member second to JOHN LEWIS, and everybody knows JOHN LEWIS; but NATHAN DEAL says we ought to end this nonsense of birthright citizenship, Mr. Speaker. You sneak into this country, the husband and wife both illegals, and have eight children and all of a sudden they are all United States citizens. A lot of countries, most countries have stopped allowing that. So, I am glad my colleague gave me an opportunity to pay tribute to some of my Georgia colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, when we started I didn't think it would take an hour, but when you are passionate about something the time goes by pretty quickly. And this is such an important issue.

Who supports, other than me and I hope the majority of my colleagues in the House of Representatives, suspending the visa waiver program? I will

tell you who: The 9/11 families for a Secure America, the Federation for American Immigration Reform, and last but not least because they represent thousands of people in this country, Numbers USA. They are all strongly supportive of this bill. And I hope that we can get it passed, Mr. Speaker, because here again I am not calling for eliminating the visa waiver program; I am saying let's suspend it, let's don't expand it, I agree with Senator FEINSTEIN, and let's get it right. We can get it right, and then people will be safe here.

Listen to what the European terrorist cells have said recently. A quote from Taliban military commander Mansoor Dadullah, as reported by Brian Ross of ABC News. This was just a couple of days ago. "These Americans, Canadians, British, and Germans come here to Afghanistan from far-away places. Why shouldn't we train them?" That is what I am talking about, Mr. Speaker, and that is why we are here tonight. We need to suspend this program until we can get it right so that we can protect the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their attention, and I yield back the balance of my time.

#### CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCHWARTZ) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased this evening to introduce the subject of children's health insurance and what has really been a remarkably successful Federal-State, public-private initiative that has really helped to make sure that middle class working families across this country have been able to get health insurance for 6 million of their children. So it has really been helping families all across this country be able to do what they want to do as responsible parents, and that is to be able to help pay for health insurance. Every State does it a little bit differently. That is what we are going to talk about this evening; we are going to talk about how important it has been for 10 years in this country to help children in America get the health care they need and they deserve, and it helps them get off to the right kind of start. So I want to talk more about that and I will be joined by some of my colleagues. But because one of my colleagues is going to be taking over in the chair, I am going to give him a few minutes just to talk about the subject. He is a colleague of mine from Pennsylvania. And I will say in Pennsylvania we are very, very proud of having been one of the first States well before the Federal level to start a children's health insurance program. In fact, we called it CHIP, then the SCHIP program started. In 1992 is when we started it in

Pennsylvania, and I was instrumental in creating the Children's Health Insurance Program in Pennsylvania. It has been incredibly successful. 130,000 children have health insurance in Pennsylvania.

□ 2200

So a colleague of mine, who has also worked in health care for a good long time and knows about the experience of the Children's Health Insurance Program from the other part of Pennsylvania, in the western part of the State, my colleague, a freshman who's done a wonderful job already, JASON ALTMIRE, Congressman ALTMIRE is going to say a few words, and then we'll continue for the hour.

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, she is correct. In the State of Pennsylvania, she did a fantastic job in the State legislature in crafting Pennsylvania's plan with regard to children's health insurance. And Pennsylvania, I think, has one of the best, if not the best plans, the model for the entire country on this issue.

And we're going to be joined tonight by some other people who know a lot about health care and especially know a lot about the children's health insurance programs.

We're going to be joined by Mr. PALLONE, who's the chairman of the Health Subcommittee right here in the House of Representatives for the Energy and Commerce Committee which has jurisdiction over this issue, and there's no one in this Congress who has worked harder on this issue over the years and has more experience with crafting this. He was involved in putting this together 10 years ago and now, as chairman, has certainly had a lot to say about it.

And we're going to be joined by our colleague from Connecticut, Mr. MURPHY, CHRIS MURPHY, who was instrumental in his State legislature on these issues. So we really do have some folks here tonight to talk about this issue who have experience, who have detailed knowledge on this issue.

And what could possibly be more important on the domestic front than health care?

And I'm sure my colleagues would agree, as I travel around my district, I'm sure they have the same experience in their district. That's the issue that comes up more often than any other issue because it affects everybody. It is an issue that, no matter whether you're rich or poor, live in an urban setting, rural setting, you have issues with your health care costs.

Small businesses can no longer afford to offer health insurance in many cases. Large employers are having the same issue.

We have 45 million uninsured in this country, people who lack any health insurance at all, tens of millions more that live in fear of losing their health coverage or are underinsured, don't have adequate coverage to cover their needs.

And 9 million of that 45, Mr. Speaker, are children. And, unfortunately, 6 million of those 9 million children are eligible to participate in the SCHIP program. And the SCHIP program has worked. We're at a 10-year point of reauthorization. And over the past 10 years the number of uninsured children in this country has decreased by 25 percent, while the number of uninsured Americans has increased. This is a program that has worked.

And we talk a lot in this House and a lot during these discussions about the differences between what the President wants to do on the budget level and what this Congress wants to do in a variety of issues. But there is no issue on which there is a starker contrast of opinion than this SCHIP program.

We, as Democrats, want to expand the program in a way that makes sense. It's fiscally responsible, but it's going to pick up many of those 6.2 million children who lack health insurance. We want to find a way to cover those kids.

What could possibly be more important in this country than finding a way to give health insurance to children who live in families that don't have health insurance? I can't think of any more important task.

The President, on the other hand, offered up a budget that actually decreased the number of children that are going to be covered under this program by 1 million. His 5-year budget would have knocked a million children who currently qualify for the program, would have knocked them off the rolls and they would no longer qualify.

And I know my colleagues are going to talk about some of the President's comments recently about what his views are on the program, and I will leave it to them to have that discussion, as I do appreciate the Speaker's indulgence as I have to take the chair following my remarks here.

But I did want to take a moment to just emphasize how important this issue is and to talk about the difference of opinion that exists, not just with Republicans and Democrats, but especially with the administration, Mr. Speaker, and this Congress. There is a stark contrast of opinion, and we're going to have that discussion tonight.

And I thank the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania for her time and all of our colleagues here for their leadership on this important issue.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. I thank the Congressman, and I appreciate that he has other duties to contend with, so he'll be a part of this conversation in a way. But thank you for taking the time to come to the floor and for your help on this.

And I think for many of us, and I know you've just come off the campaign trail this last year, and even those of us who were not campaigning every minute but certainly out and about talking to people, we do hear from everyday families about how hard

it is to be able to buy health insurance for kids.

I mean, I remember a story, and maybe my colleagues I'm hoping will share some as well. When I was actually out and about once, and it was actually a church group. And afterwards a woman came up to me and said, you know, I haven't always shared this, but my husband, it was actually a fairly well-to-do area. But she said, my husband was laid off last year and it was a really, really tough time for us as a family. And one of the things that affected us is that we didn't have health insurance. But because of the CHIP program in Pennsylvania, SCHIP as we know it federally, she said, I was able to make sure that my kids had health insurance and they got the health care that I know that they needed and deserved and that we wanted to help make sure they got.

And as someone who, and Congressman ALTMIRE referred to this, in Pennsylvania I'm known as the mother of CHIP. People do come up to me and say, well, we don't always get thanked as elected officials, but do thank me, whether it's stories where someone came up and said my granddaughter who had some health issues, daughter was working hard trying to get a degree and just didn't have health coverage. She said, my granddaughter would not have health coverage without CHIP.

So these are the stories we hear all the time. And I think probably my colleagues will share it. We're going to talk tonight about some of the numbers they already referred to, the 6 million children who have had access to health care, private health care in a lot of situations across the States, the money that we've been able to work with the States where they've put in their own dollars that have made a difference in helping a lot of American families who didn't think that we'd be there to help them who have been able to get health insurance for the kids. But this is a place where we are making a difference in people's lives.

One last story, and then I am going to turn it over to my colleagues. I was talking to a group of school counselors, and some of them, one of them said, stood up and said that she had a child come to her, a teacher came to her and said they had a child in the class who never raised his hand. He's in third grade. Never raised his hand. Never participated in discussions. And she finally broke through to found out what was going on. Turns out he had never had any dental care, and he literally was afraid to open his mouth. It hurt. He had some discomfort. He was embarrassed about the way his teeth looked. And when he got children's health insurance coverage, he got to a dentist, she said he was a different kid. And that would have been a child who would have been a dropout, would have been a troublemaker in school because he just wasn't going to be able to participate.

So she said, health care's important because of health care, but it's also important because of education. If kids are not well, if they don't get the preventative care they need, if they don't get the eyeglasses, if they don't get treated when they're sick, I know it makes a difference to the teachers in my school to be able to teach those kids.

So on every level, and again we're going to talk about big numbers here. The President wants to do \$5 billion which will barely be enough to sustain this program. It sounds like big numbers to families listening, but the fact is that we need to make that commitment. And I think we, as Democrats, have said we are going to make a commitment to make sure that the Children's Health Insurance Program continues, that it continues in the dynamic way that it has working with the States. But we're going to even do more. We're going to be a little bold, even in these tough budget times, and we're going to make sure that more children who are now on waiting lists in some States are able to get the health coverage that they deserve. And this is something we can do, we should do. It's about having the political will to make it happen. We're going to protect health care for seniors; we're going to do it for kids. And that's what our discussion is about tonight.

And I'm going to close, and I know you mentioned this as well, the previous speaker talked about the fact that the President, and I'm a little, I have to say, this is very disturbing to many of us because our Republican colleagues helped make this program happen. It was a bipartisan effort. This wasn't something that one side or the other sort of pushed without anyone else caring about it. But the fact is that 193 House Republicans, 10 years ago, voted to make this happen. It was a bipartisan effort; 153 House Democrats. This was a joint effort. We said we wanted to make this happen. We all stand up from time to time and we are really, really proud of this.

So when the President last week said, you know, he just doesn't think this is important, that, in fact, we ought to be doing something else. We ought to be helping families buy private health insurance by getting them some tax deductions. They can't afford it? Well, I don't know what he means.

He actually went on to say that kids can get health care in this country. They can go to the emergency room.

That's really just stunning, given what we know about the high cost of going to emergency rooms, the fact that that is not the best place for primary care. It certainly is not the best place for children who might just need a well-child checkup. So it's absolutely going in the wrong direction on the health care. It's why we wanted to stand up tonight and talk about this. That's why we will continue to until we actually get it done. And I think that the commitment that we have made is to make it happen.

And I'm joined tonight by two colleagues, one, Mr. PALLONE from New Jersey, who has not only been a leader on upgrading the Children's Health Insurance Program, but continues to work out all the details of how to make this happen. And I'm sure he's one of the people who thought we were going to have bipartisan cooperation, and we still hope we will, but is really working on some of the details of how we can and we should do this.

One of the reasons we reauthorize programs is that we want to see what worked best and what didn't; we want to see what changes have to be made given our experience. He is going to talk about some of that work.

And my colleague from Connecticut, who as a State legislator was involved in working on the State level to make this happen and to work in a special way to make Connecticut, make it work for children in Connecticut, and feels a special connection to the Children's Health Insurance Program there.

So gentlemen, I would ask you to share your stories and your help on this. Maybe we'll start with Mr. PALLONE, and if you would help us just sort of by giving us maybe some of the facts and figures or some of the stories that you hear from your colleagues as well.

Mr. PALLONE. I'd be very pleased to do that. And if I could, maybe I'll talk; first of all, let me thank you for doing this hour tonight and for everyone who's joining you, because it is really important. And maybe I'll talk about three things, and then I'll turn it back; and that is, one, how we came about with the SCHIP program because I think that relates to the whole bipartisan nature of it, which is what you stressed and is so important. And then maybe I can talk a little bit about the preventative nature of it because you talked about the emergency room and the President's comments about using the emergency room. And then I'll give you my one story.

I'm glad you're here, in part because last week we had some of my Republican colleagues, including some on the Health Subcommittee that I chair, who were talking about this program as if it was an entitlement, as if it was almost socialism, you know, sort of raising the specter that we wanted the government to run the health care system. And nothing could be further from the truth. I mean, first of all, you know they neglected to mention that this was bipartisan. And remember, when we're talking 10 years ago, this was the Gingrich Congress. This was the Republican majority that hadn't been the majority for very long. I mean, they were on the crest of this conservative right wing wave and in the midst of that were willing to adopt this bipartisan measure.

And the reason was because, in fact it wasn't an entitlement; it wasn't government control. It was just a practical solution to the problems that we faced

at the time and still face. I mean, we all know that if people are very poor and likely not working, then they're eligible for Medicaid. And we have a lot of kids, and we have a lot of adults and, you know, people who find themselves because they're not working and their income is very low, having to use the Medicaid program, which is a very legitimate program and covers a lot of people very successfully.

But what we found 10 years ago was that there were a lot of other people who, because they were working, for the most part, were above the Medicaid guidelines. Their income was too high. But what were they making? Maybe 20,000 a year, 30,000, in some cases maybe 40,000 a year and they still had kids. And because they were working in jobs where there wasn't a health insurance option available to them, the employer just didn't offer it, or when they went out in the private market, you know, the costs were so prohibitive for them to buy insurance on the private market, which, you know, in New Jersey you might be paying \$12,000 if you want to go out and buy insurance on the private market for a family of four, today that they simply couldn't get health insurance.

And so there wasn't any ideology involved here. In fact, it was a block grant. It was set up as a block grant which, I don't know if you guys remember because you haven't been here as long as me, but that was like the Republican mantra at the time; that everything should be block granted, all Federal Government programs should be block granted; this shouldn't be an entitlement. And that's what we did. We said, okay, fine. You want to make it a block grant. You know, President Clinton was the President, so we had a divided Congress, and we said, that's fine. Send the money to the States. We'll set up certain guidelines that, you know, you had to be up to 200 percent of poverty. And then if the States wanted to, they could go get waivers and go to 300 percent or higher.

□ 2215

And we will give the money to the States. They will match it, and we will cover these kids.

Now, the second point I wanted to make is this is a preventative measure, as you pointed out. For President Bush to say people can always use the emergency, that's not the point. The point is we want people to have health insurance so that they go to the doctor on a regular basis, so they take preventative measures, and they don't get so sick, particularly if they are kids, that they have to go to an emergency room to get care. As you said, that is not the way to operate. So we save money because through prevention, and everyone will tell you, any doctor or medical professional will tell you, that the most important thing for a person is to get health care in those first 4 or 5 years of their life. If they are properly cared for and they have the type of pre-

ventative care and regular doctor care and dental care that you mentioned in those formative years, then they are likely to be healthy for the rest of their life because that is the most important time. So it makes sense; right?

And then I will tell you my story. My story is that before this was enacted, about maybe 11 years ago, I don't go there as much anymore, but I used to go to a luncheon place that was like a diner, but not a New Jersey, but more of a luncheonette, we used to call it then. It is like an old-fashioned word, I guess. And there was a waitress there who I knew for a long time, and she had young children. And she would always say that her husband worked and she worked as a waitress but she was never able to afford health insurance for her kids. She wasn't eligible for Medicaid. She and her husband were both working. I don't know how much they made. But she had tried repeatedly and asked me about getting private insurance. I even gave her some ideas about how whom to contact. And they couldn't afford it.

The day that we passed SCHIP, I went back there. I forget how long it was going to be enacted, maybe a couple months from then, and the President signed it. And I said, We are going to have this program now. You can go sign up for it. I went back there whenever it went into effect, and she had signed up her children, and it was the nicest thing that could ever happen.

You know how we always say we want to do things for people but a lot of times we are not able to? For me to be able to go back there and have lunch and have her say, Well, now my kids are covered through this program, it was such a wonderful thing.

And I think the gentleman from Pennsylvania said that right now there are about 6.7 million kids that are covered by SCHIP. There are about 6 million that are eligible and not enrolled. And the reason they are not enrolled, in part, is because the States have run out of money. Some of them ran out of money in March of this year, and we had to do a supplemental appropriation. So we are not talking about all this extra money in a vacuum. We are talking about needing it in order to try to cover as many of these kids as possible. And our reauthorization will not only include more money but also ways of getting them enrolled. One stop so that they sign up for one Federal program. They can get this so that they don't get dropped. This is a streamlined application. These are all the things that we are doing in addition to the dollars in order to try to cover as many kids as possible.

I am staying but I will yield back to the gentlewoman.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to let my colleagues share their stories too so maybe we could have a little conversation about it. But I just want to say that certainly one of the points that have been criticized by the other side is that families that make as

much as \$40,000 for a family of four might be eligible or are eligible for the Children's Health Insurance Program. Now, in Pennsylvania it is a subsidy to buy private health insurance. So you either get a complete subsidy or you might just get half of it or you can buy it at cost. In fact, many parents are contributing.

But as you point out, for a family of four making \$40,000 a year and both parents might be working, by the time they pay their mortgage and pay the baby-sitter and pay their utility costs and maybe fill up their car with gasoline and pay the loan on the car and they pay their taxes, there is not a lot of money left over to find the \$12,000 that they might have to find to purchase private health insurance. So you can say, fine, go to the marketplace, but you need a little help to go to the marketplace. And that is what this is about. And it has made such an enormous difference, thinking you can put a smile on a parent's face for doing the right thing. And good for you to go back and actually say to a person we really did do something for you, and it made such a huge difference.

I think the other point, and this is a lead in to our colleague from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) that the States have always done these programs in different ways. They have written these programs in ways that they think work best.

In 1992, 5 years before the Federal level when we were running it in Pennsylvania, we knew that a lot of these working families wanted a private health insurance card. Some States got very creative and expanded Medicaid and called it cute names, and that made it friendlier, and it is an issue just to tell people it exists. But we actually worked very hard with the private sector to get the benefits package right, to make sure that the cost was right. There were a lot of rules and regulations about it. But the fact is at the end of the day, people could walk in, families could walk into their physicians' offices with a private health insurance card, and that made them feel really proud that they were able to get some help so they could get that private health insurance. But it has made an enormous difference in Pennsylvania. And we have, as I say, about 130,000 children covered on the number of uninsured. It just goes to show it can work. When we work together, we can really make it work.

Mr. MURPHY, if you want to add a bit about the experience in Connecticut. We have been joined by another colleague of ours, Mr. ALLEN from Maine, who also has a long history in being an advocate for children's health insurance and making it happen. So thank you for joining us.

I yield to Mr. MURPHY.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Thank you, Representative SCHWARTZ. I am thrilled to be here with Representative PALLONE and Representative ALLEN, who have been advocating for this issue and many other issues regarding health care equity for a very long time.

I come from the State of Connecticut, where I served, as you mentioned, Representative SCHWARTZ, in the State legislature for about 8 years, and I chaired the Health Committee there for the last 4 years. And what we figured out was what Pennsylvania figured out a little bit before us and what dozens of other State legislatures figured out over the past few years, which is that by expanding our SCHIP program, and we have got a cute name for that program in Connecticut, where we call it the Husky program after the mascot of our University of Connecticut sports teams, we figured out over time that not only was expanding children's health care, and we actually make some adults, some of their parents, eligible for that benefit as well, that not only was it the right thing to do because, as you said and you are exactly right, in the high cost of living in a State of Connecticut, \$40,000 doesn't go very far, and at a time we live in today where wages are remaining pretty much stagnant and flat, and when we celebrate a year in which the average health care premium increase stays at around 10 or 11 or 12 percent, you simply can't do much with an income hovering around \$40,000, \$45,000 or \$50,000. In Connecticut certainly that becomes a problem. So what we figured out was that not only was it the right and fair thing to do to go out and insure these thousands of children who didn't have health care insurance before, but it was cost-effective thing to do it. We have referenced that on the floor here today.

I give some credit to the President in his remarks that he at least recognizes that we do have one single place that very ill children and adults can go, the emergency room. But what he neglects to mention in those remarks is that not only is it the most inhumane place to dump the sick and the ill but it is also the most expensive place for those patients to end up. We know that the care that children, and we are talking about children today, end up getting in the emergency room is amongst the most expensive care that you can get. And for just a few cents on the dollar in that preventative care that in Connecticut the Husky program provides and in Pennsylvania the CHIP program provides, you cannot only get care that is the right to do and the moral thing to do for those kids, but it, frankly, saves the health care system money in the end. The cost of insuring kids is actually pretty low compared to the cost of insuring you or me or other people out in the community. Kids are generally pretty healthy. They are cheap when they are healthy, but they are very expensive when they are sick. So if you don't get them that care up front, and the reality is that a lot of illnesses that may not present themselves to be major that may not cause a parent, even without health care insurance, to drag that child down to the emergency room, it may end up being something very serious. And the barrier to getting that preventative care

is often that \$100 or \$200 doctor visit that stands in the way.

The last thing to say is to just reinforce the notion that both of you have brought up here, which I am sure we will talk about, which is that bipartisan spirit in which this bill was brought into being. I wasn't here when the bill was passed, but my predecessor was. I was preceded in this House by Representative Nancy Johnson, a Republican who served here for a very long time. And she was very proud to come back here as a Republican and talk about her role in the passage of that bill. The problem was over time there were fewer and fewer people like her in the Republican caucus who were proud to talk about insuring children, standing up for kids. And you stand here now on the Republican side of the aisle that looks and sounds very different, unfortunately, than the group that stood up in 1995.

And, lastly, it is not just bipartisan within that House, but you also have a wide range of ideological and advocacy groups that are standing up for the reauthorization of SCHIP, and I will mention just one and that is the United States Chamber of Commerce. Not a fan of big government, if you have ever seen any of the propaganda coming from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. So when you listen to the President or Republicans talk about the Democrats and children's health care being yet another government program, listen to what their friends are saying. Their friends in the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Business Roundtable and all of the groups that are traditionally the main cheerleaders against any minute expansion of government are standing up for children's health care, are cheering on the Democratic effort to reauthorize the SCHIP program, because they know what we know; that not only is it the right thing to do but it is the cost-effective thing to do. We figured that out in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and Connecticut and Maine. And I hope that we will be able to return to that bipartisan spirit again.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. If I may, I was very well aware of the fact that so many different organizations were supportive and, again, outside some of their own realm a little bit. So I asked my staff to produce a list. And I have four pages of a closely typewritten list of all the groups. It is the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Business Roundtable and it is also the AFL-CIO, AFSCME, and SEIU. But it is groups that you would think who are advocates for children: the March of Dimes and Families USA and the Children's Defense Fund. But it also is all the senior organizations: the AARP and the Center for Medicare Advocacy and the Alliance for Retired Americans. And so many of the provider groups: AMA and the Academy of Family Physicians and the Academy of Pediatricians. But also America's Health Insurance Plans and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association, PhRMA, who are saying this is an important thing

to do as well, and the American Hospital Association. These are groups where you might say, well, why do they care? Now, hospitals, maybe they could get reimbursed for some of the uncompensated care that they provide, but the fact is that all these groups recognize how important it is. And we have the faith-based organizations: the National Council of the Churches of Christ and the Catholic Health Insurance Association. I mean all of them, all of them, have come together.

For the RECORD I will submit these four pages of the list of all of the different folks who have actually said this is so important. It works. It matters to people. It is helping Americans be healthier and stronger and more productive. And what more important thing can we do than that? I think that was said earlier.

But it is also doable. And we are taking a lot of fiscal responsibility in this new Congress among the Budget Committee. And the gentleman who is going to speak in just a minute is on the Budget Committee, and we have argued in the Budget Committee about how important it is to be smart about how we spend our money, to only spend money we can account for. So we are working very hard in this Congress to say we will not only maintain this program but we will expand it and we will find the money to do that because it is important. And when we are committed to doing something, we will find the money to do it, and that is what we are going to do in this.

I was going to ask my colleague, and I know you have some remarks you would like to make, but if you think about what happens if we don't continue the SCHIP program, I mean that is one of the things that people presume will, of course, continue. But, in fact, the President just said today said that he might veto a reauthorization continuation, just the maintenance of the Children's Health Insurance Program if it is not constructed the way he likes, which is really shocking that 6 million children on October 1 may be without health coverage because of his unwillingness to do this.

So knowing your history and your commitment to health care in general but particularly to children's health care and the good work that your State has done, if you would speak to that as well, I think it would be very helpful for Americans to understand that we are at risk here, that our children are at risk.

And I yield to my colleague Mr. ALLEN from Maine.

□ 2230

Mr. ALLEN. I thank the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania for organizing this event tonight and for yielding to me.

I was here in 1997 when the SCHIP program was passed, and it was passed with very strong bipartisan support. People on both sides of the aisle, and many of the same groups that you just

mentioned, people on both sides of the aisle believed, as virtually all Americans do, that our children should get health care. They ought to be able not just to go to an emergency room when they're seriously ill or have had an accident, but they should be able to get preventive care so they can grow up to be healthy children and healthy productive adults. That's really, I think, a fairly basic proposition. And that's what drove us back in 1997.

And now you were asking, what happens if this program doesn't continue? Well, if it's not reauthorized, then 6 million children in this country lose their health insurance. And if they lose their health insurance, maybe some of them, when they're seriously injured, will go to an emergency room, but most of them will lose the preventive care that they get today.

The President put in his budget \$5 billion over 5 years for an increase in SCHIP, which would fund about one-third of the amount that States are estimated to require over the next 5 years. In other words, the President's position is that this is a program that should be cut back. And that probably is why he made the veto threat, which he basically said, look, people, children and adults, have access to an emergency room; and one thing we want to be careful not to do is expand health insurance if it's through a government program, which is bizarre, because the SCHIP program is designed for people who cannot afford to buy health insurance in the private market today. That's why they don't have it.

What we're trying to do is continue this public/private partnership because most States provide coverage through private plans. It's a Federal/State partnership, with 70 percent of the money coming from the Federal Government and about 30 percent coming from States. So States are choosing to fund this program for the obvious reason that our kids deserve to have health care coverage. Outside of the White House, this, I think, is a broadly accepted proposition.

I just want to say a few things about my State of Maine. Maine has been very aggressive in using this particular program. We have one of the lowest rates of uninsured children in the country. Only 7 percent of our children do not have health insurance, and the national rate is about 12 percent. But that, for us, we're a small State, but that's about 19,000 children who do not have health insurance. And for those families, for those parents, they know it makes a difference whether or not their kids have health insurance. And they, I know because I've talked to them, worry about whether they're going to get the kind of coverage, the kind of vaccinations, the kind of preventive health care that everyone hopes for their children, because that's really a fundamental point here.

I don't think there is a parent in America that doesn't want their children to have good health coverage, to

get the health care they need when they need it. And that is what this program attempts to do. Because there are 6 million children in this country today who qualify for the SCHIP program but are not signed up, for whatever reason. Some States aren't being aggressive enough and the Federal Government contribution is falling short.

There are another 3 million who don't qualify for SCHIP and still don't have coverage. And all we're trying to do, as Democrats, is to expand that coverage. Now, we can argue about how fast we expand it, we can argue about how we pay for it, but the bottom line is this: children in America deserve to have health care. And we know if they have health insurance, whether the program is privately run or whether the program is publicly run, or some combination, they are much more likely to grow up into healthy, productive children and healthy, productive adults. That's what we're fighting here today for.

I want to thank you, my colleague, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania, and all the rest of my friends here tonight for pushing this issue so hard and so long. We will not fail. And I yield back.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. And I think this is where we can get a chance to have a little bit of a conversation. There is a lot of feeling about it. I think all of us feel that we should be working as hard as we possible can to be getting this done, not be sort of saying, okay, I'm not interested, we'll do something else.

There are a lot of priorities here. We stand up on the floor frequently and say, okay, one of the most important things we can do is this, one of the most important things we can do is that. But the fact is if we aren't all parents, and many of us are, then we certainly have nieces or nephews we love, or neighborhood children. All of us know someone who has struggled through a moment when they couldn't provide the essentials. This is not a frill. And I think that's what you were saying, Mr. ALLEN, is this is not an, okay, if you can get to do it, go do it. This is something that's really essential for every child in America. And we're helping parents to be able to meet that essential requirement for their children.

Some of you may know, my husband is a physician. And I was joking with my staff that he cuts out articles from the New England Journal of Medicine all the time for me to read. And mostly they're not so readable for me, I have to admit, you know, they sort of need some interpretation. But just in the last week's journal there is a wonderful article talking about the imperative to continue the SCHIP program. And I'll share it with my colleagues, I'll send it around to everyone tomorrow, but really it made it very, very clear that this is something that we need to do because of the medical imperative, the health care imperative. And we know it is something that we can do.

So, it's something we're proud of and we should be and we want to do.

Mr. PALLONE, you look like you're ready to jump in here.

Mr. PALLONE. You know, when you relate your own experiences, I can relate so much to it myself.

I have to say, I was thinking back about 10 years ago when we first started the program. Of course, my wife and I were just starting to have kids. My oldest daughter now is 13, so she was three at the time. And I guess I had my son at the time, he was only one. And we were starting to realize at the time about the fact that, first of all, as parents, the idea of kids not having health insurance, you know, young kids at that age was really an awful thing. And that's why we got involved. I say "we" because my wife got involved in the whole issue as well. And to think about the fact that you have children and they can't have health insurance or you have to take them to an emergency room is just an awful thing.

I worry myself even now because a lot of times your health insurance doesn't cover everything. Like I was faced with the orthodontist bill a couple years ago. And I suddenly realized our insurance doesn't cover orthodontistry. And that was upsetting, but to think of parents that can't even take their kids to the doctor is just an awful thing.

One of the things that my wife would always say to me that she observed was that many times government officials, and I don't want to speak about ourselves because I don't want to be critical, but a lot of times politicians don't think about kids because of the fact that they don't vote. And I would almost kind of differ with the gentleman from Maine when he says that, you know, one of the things that we found and one of the reasons why States like Connecticut and New Jersey have covered some of the parents is because they have noticed that a lot of times the parents wouldn't enroll the kids unless they were eligible themselves to be enrolled in the program. And I again go back to, this is really a very practical thing. If some States have found that the parents won't enroll the kids unless they're enrolled, they actually allow the parents to enroll as an incentive to get the kids enrolled.

Because you can be cynical. I mean, you have to say that unfortunately sometimes parents don't care or sometimes politicians don't care. And the fact that we were able to do this and basically do a kids' health initiative program and get the political support for it in some ways was an amazing thing. You would say, well, gee, that's a basic thing, why wouldn't that happen? But it wasn't that easy. And we're going to have to continue to fight to expand it today.

I just wanted to answer your question, because I know that the gentleman from Maine did, but you said, what would happen if we don't reauthorize?

Well, I will just say, first of all, essentially this has happened in some fashion in the last few years. States have run out of money because there wasn't enough money as early as March in a given calendar year. Georgia ran out of money this March. And my own State started to run out of money by May. So we had to actually do a supplemental appropriation. The world knows it as the "Iraq supplemental," but actually it was the supplemental that included the funding for Iraq, and it included about \$750 million for SCHIP because States, in fact, were running out of money.

In my own State of New Jersey a couple of years had to cut back on the program and actually lower the eligibility and eliminate parents because of the fact that they started to run out of money. So we have experience of what actually happens if we don't provide the additional funds.

The other thing, too, is that until last year, every year for the first 9 years of the program, the number of uninsured kids in the country was going down. But last year, for the first time, the number of uninsured kids went up. So this is a crisis. I mean, if we're going to get to those extra kids, we really have to do something.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. And just on that note, if the gentleman would yield, we do know that the number of uninsured for the first time in a long time is going up again. So we're talking about 45 million Americans. And the fact that, of those, 9 million are children who, again, through no fault of their own, don't have access to health insurance.

And one of the reasons is that health insurance is expensive. And even for businesses that want to provide health insurance for their employees, sometimes they're faced, particularly small businesses, with how do I actually pay that whole amount for family coverage? And they just cover the employee. And so even here, where you're talking about employers trying to do the responsible thing, but just looking at their bottom line and saying I can't do anything about this, when the parent is covered and the child is not is one situation where certainly CHIP comes in and really can be very, very helpful.

There has been some discussion obviously about adults. And I think this is intended for children. Some States have brought along the parents because it does help with enrollment, and we think that's true in Pennsylvania as well. But we also know that when the parents don't have health insurance, and if they can't get timely health care, then they don't have an ongoing relationship with a physician or a medical group. And the children also learn from their parents. Their parents are their models. And so if the parents are going for regular checkups and their kids are going for regular checkups and it's part of what you learn to do as a responsible person, that's a good pack-

age. It's what we want adults do be doing as well.

So I know that there is some discussion about that, too, whether States, now they're not allowed anymore to be able to sign up adults alone, but they're usually signed up with their children as a family coverage. And that's the way most people who buy insurance do it, too. They buy insurance for their family. That's the way it's sold mostly. So I think it's making sure that we actually allow people to sort of use the marketplace the way it really works and not punish them for that.

Mr. PALLONE. If I could point out one thing, too, because I know there is some debate about this. The States don't get any more money because they cover kids at a higher percentage of poverty or because they cover the adults, and I think there has been some debate about that. Remember, as I said before, this is a block grant, and the money that goes to the States is dependent upon the number of children that they have. So the fact of the matter is that if a State decides, like Connecticut did, that they're going to cover the adults, they just have to stretch out the Federal funds and contribute more State dollars to pay for it. They don't get additional money. I know that this sounds like such a bureaucratic comment, but some Members are worried, well, is my State going to get more because they cover kids at a higher level of poverty or another State covers adults. They don't. It's just a question of usually they're providing more State dollars and having the flexibility to include the parents so that they can cover the kids.

Mr. ALLEN. If the gentlewoman would yield, there are differences among States and now aggressively they seek to use the money that comes from the Federal Government. So there certainly are differences among States in that respect.

But I just wanted to comment. It is absolutely true that most people who buy insurance through a private plan will try to cover their kids as well, except that today one of the trends in this country is that the wheels are coming off this employer-based health care system and increasingly, by about a million people a year over the last 4 or 5 years, the number of uninsured is going up. It's now about 46 million people. And one of the reasons, and this is why I've done a plan for small businesses, one of the reasons is the small business community is simply not able to afford the kind of insurance they had in the past. And what they're doing, they're tending not to cover family members, which includes the children, and to require the employee to pay a higher and higher percentage, which some employees simply can't do.

So what we're seeing here, at the same time as the President is saying we don't want to expand this successful children's health care program, we're watching the number of uninsured

steadily climb, both adults, and now children for the first time in a long period of time, having the number of uninsured climb because the private market, the employer-based market isn't working as well as it did in the past.

We have a national health care crisis on our hands, and this is a part of the solution. It ought to be the easiest part of the solution. But here is the President's spokesman the other day saying this will encourage many to drop private coverage purchased through their employer or with their own resources to go on a government-subsidized program. This is a program that is designed for people who don't have health insurance. We know these children don't have health insurance. We know how many there are. We know where they are. And we ought to be able to do a better job than simply to raise this kind of ideological objection. We ought to cover them first in the most practical, cost-efficient way.

I yield back.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. ALLEN, if you would yield. I guess I come to the thinking, we wish we were in that position. I mean, wouldn't it be lovely, wouldn't it be wonderful if we were in the position in which the choice was between a government-sponsored program and an employer-sponsored program or a privately available sponsored program. It just isn't the reality. And anybody who spends time out in their communities, in their social halls, in their churches and synagogues listening to families will realize that, that there are just more and more families largely, as Mr. ALLEN noted, that work for small businesses and simply don't have the access to health care insurance that they once did.

And I want to hit one more point, and I mentioned it the other night when Mr. PALLONE and I were down here talking about this. We also have to disabuse people of this notion that we all aren't paying for those kids and those parents who don't have health care insurance. If the employer doesn't provide it, and then the HUSKY program in Connecticut, the SCHIP programs go away, somebody is going to pay for that health care. And we pay for it largely in two ways: one, all of the premiums that we pay, as insured people, are higher because they are basically subsidizing the care of people that don't have health care insurance, because a doctor is going to have to treat, by law, someone that shows up in an emergency room, and the hospital has to be compensated for that.

□ 2245

So private insurance normally pays about 120 percent, 110 percent of what the average Medicare rate is. They are paying a 20 percent, 10 percent premium in order to subsidize the care of the uninsured. I don't know if this is the case in all States, but in Connecticut, we also have an uncompensated care pool, a taxpayer-funded

pool, where tax dollars go directly to hospitals and health care providers to help them pay for the kids that walk in, 70,000 of them without health care insurance in Connecticut that have no insurance.

So the idea that we are going to be spending any more money on this, when really what you are doing is you are shifting money that we are all spending in our private rates and through these taxpayer-subsidized pools of money that go to hospitals, it is just shifting it to preventive care. We have to sort of remind people that we are paying every day for the uninsured that we have now. It is simply about building a more cost effective and more humane way of paying for it.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. I think we should continue this discussion about what is the smartest and most efficient way to do this. Again, what is interesting about the way SCHIP, the children's health insurance initiative, was set up is it said to each State, one, you don't have to do it if you don't want to, if you don't have a problem, or you don't think this is an issue. We were not even sure how it would all work out. They also said, then you can create whatever initiative works for you, what really works for you. It turns out every State has chosen to do it.

Actually, we already had SCHIP in Pennsylvania for 5 years when the Federal Government came in. Our governor was very nervous about taking it. He wasn't sure he wanted to do this. He was concerned it would be a new entitlement program and that he would be stuck with the bill at the end of the day. I know States had legitimate worries about that, that we actually tell them to do things and then don't give them any help in doing it.

But this is one case where we said, no, you have to do it. You have to structure the program. Here are some guidelines. Here is how we think you should do it. Then we are going to pay a part of it, a good part of it, but we are not paying all of it. You have to buy into it. You have to want to do it, also. You have to structure this.

So every State did this. We learned from each other. That also was a good thing, to look around and see what worked for other States and what didn't. When our governor was saying, should we do it? He really was very torn about it. Actually, he didn't decide to do it until September 30, and that was the deadline that year. I was very anxious. I was on the floor of the State senate many nights saying we ought to do this. I was pushing him to do that.

Of course, we were able then to triple the number of children who were covered because of the partnership we had with the Federal Government. That is what this is about. It really is. This is a great example of a very innovative way to create a partnership between the Federal Government and the States, between insurers in some ways and the States as well, in many cases,

and between parents and families and health care providers, and say, we are all going to help make this happen.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Just to add to that partnership, it is also a partnership of health care professionals as well, because, to tell the truth, in a lot of States, Connecticut being one of them, the rate that we pay physicians for participating in the program is a little bit below the level of sufficiency. So there are a lot of physicians who want to do the right thing, who want to get compensated, but are okay not getting compensated at the same levels that they do by private HMOs.

It really becomes in the end, it really becomes a partnership of not only the Federal Government and the State Government, but also the provider community as well who has agreed to say, listen, because we really care and we really want to take care of this constituency, we are willing to do it for a little bit less than we would do otherwise. That has been a great benefit to the Government, to be able to get away with paying a little bit less, at least in Connecticut, than private payers do. But it is a wonderful partnership of all constituency groups.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Again, the debate here is how much can we do? What can we afford to do? What is the best way to do it? Mr. PALLONE is working on all those details. I know we bug him and give our him suggestions about how to make this easier and streamline the bureaucracy and make it work for both providers and for children and for the States. So we are learning from that. I think that is pretty exciting.

But that is not the discussion that some are in. We were in that discussion since January, actually. This is certainly something that the President proposed. We wanted to push much further. But I just say that is unfortunate. I think that is why we are so deeply disturbed.

I will say that the President is consistent here. I will add just a note that when he was Governor, he was very reluctant to participate in the Children's Health Insurance Program and actually worked quite actively not to be engaged, not to have his State do it, and then tried to keep the level of the family to be as poor as possible.

He did not want to go to 200 percent of poverty. He wanted to keep it lower. He did not want to reach into the sort of the really working folks in Texas who were struggling. You may want to comment on that.

But I think for so many of my constituents, and again I think, Mr. PALLONE, you pointed this out earlier, for very poor people in this country, we do have health care coverage. But for the people who are above that level, who say I don't know that there is anyone there to help me, this is actually one way to say, that is right, we are going to help you be able to get health insurance for your kids. You are working. You are trying to do the right thing, and this is the way we can help you do it.

So for the very people who are playing by the rules, trying to do it right, struggling to make ends meet, to be able to help them get health insurance for their kids makes such a world of difference to their peace of mind and, of course, to the actual health of their kids.

Mr. PALLONE. I just think the President has been very inconsistent. You talk about his experience as governor of Texas. But keep in mind that for the last 6 or 7 years, he has actually been granting the waivers. For example, right now the law says 200 percent of poverty, is what the law says in terms of eligibility. But it allows for waivers, and he has given waivers for so many States, I think as many as around 15 States, to go to 300 percent of poverty, to allow adults in some cases. His administration had to approve all those.

So I was very surprised in the early part of this year when he said that he wanted to keep it at 200 percent, he didn't want to cover any of the adults, because he has allowed that flexibility during his administration.

One of the things that the National Governors Association said unanimously was that they wanted States to have the flexibility. Again, I point out, this is a block grant. The States don't get any more money because they cover adults or go to higher levels of poverty or lesser levels. There is also flexibility, and some States don't count assets in determining that 100 percent or the 300 percent.

I think it really makes sense, and the National Governors Association said it makes sense to leave it to the States to have that flexibility, and the President historically has been in favor of that kind of flexibility. So I really don't understand where he is coming from.

The other thing I wanted to mention is we were talking about alternatives. When I listened last week to our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, some of them were saying, well, people can go to community health centers. That was another thing that I heard. Well, the President talked about emergency rooms and some of our colleagues on the Republican said, well, they can go to community health centers.

Well, I am all in favor of expanding community health centers, but in my district I think we have maybe four Federally sponsored, maybe 5, community health centers. There is absolutely no way that the kids and the parents are going to line up. They don't have the ability to handle all the kids.

So what you said is true. They are going to end up being in an emergency room. They are part of charity care whose responsibility is on the rest of the taxpayers.

Then I heard another one of our Republican colleagues say, well, what we really need is, and I wrote it down, competition in the marketplace. And I was saying, what are we talking about here? Again, this is people who are

working, who can't afford health insurance. What competition? They can't go out and buy it on the individual market.

So we hear a lot of inconsistencies. I don't want to be so critical of our Republican colleagues, because I want them to join us on this. But some of the statements that have been made by the President in the last few days.

I would point out in the Senate, as you know, the Republicans and Democrats came together and they are about to pass a bipartisan SCHIP expansion. So the Republicans in the Senate hopefully can talk to the President and the Republicans in the House and say, what are you doing? We want to continue with this on a bipartisan basis.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Again, our hour is concluding, but I think, in other words, we certainly are very interested, I certainly am, in making sure that the marketplace, the insurance marketplace, you are from Connecticut, so I am sure you have an interest in this, that it works; that in fact it is affordable, that we can figure out a way for businesses to work together, to be able to get a market share, to be able to maybe do some things on the individual marketplace so that in fact it can be more affordable.

Some of the ideas that the President has about tax deductions, not as substitutes, but for individual coverage, that's fine. We should be doing that. But not say, okay, which are going to make sure that 6 million children who have had access to health care, and another 6 million who could, who are now eligible but are not signed up, we are going to continue to deny them care, and we are going to do that by scaring you into thinking somehow we are creating some new expanded government program that is somehow just going to be evil.

That is sort of kind of what the President is saying, instead of saying wait a minute, this is an initiative that works. It works in every State. People are proud of it. Republicans and Democrats stand up and praise it, doctors are happy about it, hospitals are happy about it, parents are happy about it. I don't know how the kids feel when they get their immunizations, how happy they are about it.

But the fact is we are doing the right thing and we are meeting a priority that American families talk to us about all the time. And it is not instead of doing something else. It is really just because it is a high priority for us. It is always a question of priority, but we really I think, certainly what I want to say, we are determined to get this done, and we want to work in a bipartisan way to do it. We want to do it in a fiscally responsible way. We want to continue to build on the success of the Children's Health Insurance Program, and that is why we are going to keep talking about it until we get it done and hopefully be joined by not only our colleagues on the other side, but the President as well.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Let me just add some final thoughts to add to the theme of inconsistency here. This is a President who has presided over the largest expansion of a government paid for health care program in my generation at least with the addition of the prescription drug benefit to the Medicare program. But it was okay when it resulted in a massive giveaway to the pharmaceutical industry.

But when we are asking to expand health care for kids who don't have, as Mr. PALLONE said, not only do they not vote, but they also don't have political action committees and they also don't have lobbyists patrolling the hallways here and within the administration. When it comes to helping the most vulnerable, the most voiceless group of individuals out there, this administration results in a deafening, deafening silence.

So I am so glad we are down here talking about this tonight. I came to Congress, gave up my seat working on a health care policy in the Connecticut legislature because I figured out that this really had to be a Federal fix, to try to do something for the millions of uninsured.

I frankly hope in a lot of places I think I am going to depart from the legacy of the person I replaced, but on this I hope to be able to work with all of you to join back across the aisle and build that bipartisan consensus to stand up for those voiceless, lobbyist-less PAC-less constituents of ours, uninsured kids.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. We have an enormous opportunity here. We want to meet that challenge and we want to do it right. So that is the challenge over the next few months. My guess is we are going to continue to talk about this for the weeks ahead, and certainly if we are lucky enough to take some vacation this summer and see those cute kids on the beach on the Jersey shore, and Connecticut has some nice beaches too, to look at them and think which ones of those, because there are, who don't have health insurance, whose parents may delay care that they should get, not get an immunization, should not get care, maybe not even treat some simple illness that ends up running through school or camp and everybody gets sick.

But this is about giving kids the right healthy start. It is about doing it in a cost-effective way, about being creative and innovative, and meeting that challenge that American families have every day.

So I thank my colleagues for joining me this evening, and I look forward to continuing to work with you. Thank you for your leadership, Mr. PALLONE, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the list of all groups who support the SCHIP package.

ALL GROUPS WHO SUPPORT SCHIP PACKAGE  
SENIORS GROUPS

AARP  
Alliance for Retired Americans

American Association for International Aging  
 American Society on Aging  
 Association of Jewish Aging Services of North America  
 B'nai B'rith  
 National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys  
 National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers  
 National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs (NASOP)  
 National Association of RSVF Directors  
 National Association of Social Workers  
 National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare  
 National Council On Aging  
 National Indian Council on Aging  
 OWL, The Voice of Midlife and Older Women  
 American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry  
 Medicare Rights Center  
 National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare  
 National Senior Citizens Law Center

PROVIDER GROUPS

American Dental Association  
 American Hospital Association  
 American Medical Association  
 American Health Care Association  
 Federation of American Hospitals  
 National Association for Home Care & Hospice  
 National Association of Community Health Centers  
 PhRMA

LABOR UNIONS

AFL-CIO  
 AFSCME Retiree Program  
 American Federation of Teachers  
 International Union, United Auto Workers  
 National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association  
 Service Employees International Union  
 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)  
 International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers  
 International Union, United Auto Workers  
 United Steelworkers

CHILDREN'S GROUPS

Academy of Pediatricians  
 Children's Defense Fund  
 Families USA  
 March of Dimes  
 National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions

DISABILITY GROUPS

AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition  
 AIDS Treatment Data Network  
 American Academy of HIV Medicine  
 American Association of People with Disabilities  
 American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities  
 American Network of Community Options and Resources  
 Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs  
 Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)  
 Gay Men's Health Crisis  
 HIV Medicine Association  
 Council for Learning Disabilities  
 Easter Seals  
 NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals  
 National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
 National Association of People with AIDS  
 National Disability Rights Network  
 National Down Syndrome Society  
 The Arc of the United States

ADVOCACY GROUPS

Military Officers Association of America

Bazon Center for Mental Health Law  
 Campaign for America's Future  
 Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.  
 Center on Budget and Policy Priorities  
 Consumer's Union  
 National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
 National Health Law Program  
 National Organization of Social Security Claimants' Representatives  
 National Respite Coalition  
 National Spinal Cord Injury Association  
 NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
 Project Inform  
 Protestants for the Common Good  
 The American Federation of Teachers  
 Title II Community AIDS National Network (TII CANN)  
 United Cerebral Palsy  
 United Spinal Association  
 USAction

STATE AND LOCAL GROUPS

AIDS Action Baltimore, Inc.  
 AIDS Drug Assistance Protocol Fund  
 AIDS Education Global Information System  
 AIDS Legal Council of Chicago  
 AIDS Resource Alliance, Inc.  
 AIDS/HIV Health Alternatives  
 Alliance for Family Education Care & Treatment  
 California Health Advocates  
 Center for Independence of the Disabled in New York  
 Champaign County Branch NAACP  
 Chicago Women's AIDS Project  
 Clinical Social Work Guild 49  
 Coleman Global Telecommunications, LLC  
 Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP)  
 Community Information Center  
 Desert AIDS Project  
 Douglas County AIDS Project  
 Family Service Association of Bucks County  
 HIV/AIDS Program  
 Florida Legal Services  
 F.O.U.N.D., Inc.  
 Friends of The Poor International  
 Georgia Rural Urban Summit  
 Health Equity Project  
 Hemophilia Association of New York  
 Hep C Advocate Network, Inc. (HepCAN)  
 HIV/AIDS Law Project  
 HIVictorious, Inc.  
 IndependenceFirst  
 International Foundation for Alternative Research in AIDS, Portland, OR  
 Kleine Editorial Services  
 La Fe Policy and Advocacy Center  
 L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center  
 Latinos for National Health Insurance  
 Living Hope Organization  
 Michigan Positive Action Coalition  
 NAMES Project Central New Jersey  
 NETWORTH/Positive Action  
 New Mexico Poz Coalition  
 New York AIDS Coalition  
 New York Legal Assistance Group  
 New York State Consumer Coalition on Part D  
 New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage  
 Northwest Health Law Advocates  
 Ohio AIDS Coalition  
 Pennsylvanians United for Single Payer Healthcare (PUSH)  
 Physicians for a National Health Program, NY Metro Chapter  
 Positive Opportunities, Inc.  
 Pueblo Family Physicians  
 Redwood AIDS Information Network and Services  
 Regional Addiction Prevention (RAP), Inc.  
 Regional AIDS Interfaith Network Colorado  
 Salt Lake Community Action Program

Search For A Cure  
 Selfhelp Community Services, Inc.  
 South Carolina Campaign to End AIDS (SC-C2EA)  
 Teamsters Retiree Club of Santa Clara County  
 Tennessee Justice Center  
 The Evangelical Catholic Diocese of the Northwest  
 The North American Old Catholic Church  
 The Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation  
 Topeka Independent Living Resource Center  
 Tia's Foundation  
 Triad Health Project  
 Twin States Network  
 Ursuline Sisters HIV/AIDS Ministry  
 West House, Inc.  
 West Oahu Hope For A Cure Foundation  
 Western

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:  
 Mr. BOUCHER (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.  
 Mr. TIAHRT (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of attending an event in his district.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:  
 (The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)  
 Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mr. BISHOP of New York, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Ms. CLARKE, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mr. SPRATT, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.  
 (The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)  
 Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, July 23.  
 Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and July 17, 18, and 19.  
 Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes, today and July 17 and 18.  
 Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, July 23.  
 Ms. FOX, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 975. An act granting the consent and approval of Congress to an interstate forest fire protection compact; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 556. An act to ensure national security while promoting foreign investment and the creation and maintenance of jobs, to reform the process by which such investments are examined for any effect they may have on national security, to establish the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, and for other purposes.

#### SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced her signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1701. An act to provide for the extension of transitional medical assistance (TMA) and the abstinence education program through the end of fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, July 17, 2007, at 9 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2502. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a supplemental update of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1106; (H. Doc. No. 110-46); to the Committee on the Budget and ordered to be printed.

2503. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2504. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No. 07-06, concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to United Arab Emirates for defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2505. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to Section 62(a) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), notification concerning the Department of the Army's proposed lease of defense articles to the Government of Singapore (Transmittal No. 03-07); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2506. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the thirty-sixth Semiannual Report to Congress on

Audit Follow-Up, covering the period October 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007 in compliance with the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1988, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2507. A letter from the Acting Executive Secretary, Agency for International Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2508. A letter from the Assistant Director, Executive & Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2509. A letter from the Assoc. Gen. Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2510. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Semiannual Management Report to Congress for October 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007, and the Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2511. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Mgmt., Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2512. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2513. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2514. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's Strategic Plan for FY 2007 to FY 2012; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2515. A letter from the Human Resources Management Office, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's report on the use of the Category Rating System for each of the first three years following implementation of an alternative rating and selection procedure, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3319(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2516. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting a semiannual report on Office of Inspector General auditing activity, together with a report providing management's perspective on the implementation status of audit recommendations, pursuant to Public Law 100-504, section 5; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2517. A letter from the General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General of the National Labor Relations Board for the period October 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2518. A letter from the General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2519. A letter from the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, American Chem-

ical Society, transmitting the Society's Annual Report and the Audited Financial Statements for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2005, pursuant to Public Law 88-504, section 3; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2520. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition on behalf of a class of workers from W.R. Grace in Erwin, Tennessee be added to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC), pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2521. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition on behalf of a class of workers from Los Alamos National Laboratory be added to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC), pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2522. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's determination on a petition on behalf of a class of workers from the Dow Chemical Company site in Madison, Illinois be added to the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC), pursuant to the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2523. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report on the activities of the review panel on prison rape in 2006, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 15603(c); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2524. A letter from the President, National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, transmitting the 2006 Annual Report of independent auditors who have audited the records of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 10101(b)(1) and 150909; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2525. A letter from the General Counsel, National Tropical Botanical Garden, transmitting the annual audit report of the National Tropical Botanical Garden for the period from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 4610 Public Law 88-449, section 10(b); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2526. A letter from the Chief Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California, transmitting the 2006 Annual Report for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2527. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Clayton Fireworks, St. Lawrence River, Clayton, NY. [CGD09-07-039] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 22, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2528. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Papermill Island Fireworks, Baldwinsville, NY [CGD09-07-041] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 22, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2529. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lake Erie Interclub Race, Presque Isle Bay, Erie, PA. [CGD09-07-044] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received

June 22, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2530. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Tom Graves Memorial Fireworks, Port Bay, Wolcott, NY. [CGD09-07-047] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 22, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2531. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Peninsula Celebration Association Annual Fireworks Spectacular, San Francisco Bay, CA [COTP San Francisco Bay 07-024] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 22, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2532. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; Lake Tahoe Fireworks, Lake Tahoe, CA [COTP San Francisco Bay 07-023] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 22, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2533. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Summer Solstice/US Chamber of Commerce Fireworks, Mystic Seaport, CT. (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 22, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2534. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Lesbian and Gay Community Center Fireworks, Fire Island Pines Harbor, NY. [CGD01-07-063] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 22, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2535. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; French Festival Fireworks, St. Lawrence River, Cape Vincent, NY [CGD09-07-042] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 22, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2536. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Thunder on Wheathouse Bay, St. Lawrence River, Ogdensburg, NY. [CGD09-07-046] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 22, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2537. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Rochester Harborfest, Genesee River and Lake Ontario, Rochester, NY [CGD09-07-045] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 22, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2538. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Fireworks Displays in the Captain of the Port Puget Sound Zone [CGD13-07-017] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 22, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2539. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of

Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; City of Long Beach Fireworks, Atlantic Ocean, Long Beach, NY. [CGD01-07-065] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 22, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2540. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Fireworks Extravaganza, City of Antioch, San Francisco Bay, CA [COTP San Francisco Bay 07-022] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 22, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2541. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce Fourth of July Fireworks Display, San Francisco Bay, CA [COTP San Francisco Bay 07-018] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 22, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2542. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; City of San Francisco Fourth of July Fireworks Display, San Francisco Bay, CA [COTP San Francisco Bay 07-016] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 22, 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. FRANK: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2547. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to prevent misrepresentation about deposit insurance coverage, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-234). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Ms. MATSUI: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 547. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3043) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-235). 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 Ms. SHEA-PORTER:

H.R. 3045. A bill to regulate the judicial use of presidential signing statements in the interpretation of Acts of Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. McNULTY (for himself, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MCCREERY, Mr. STARK, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. WOLF, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. FARR, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. FILNER, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. HINCHAY):

H.R. 3046. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance Social Security account number privacy protections, to prevent fraudulent misuse of the Social Security account number, and to otherwise enhance protection against identity theft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAMBORN (for himself, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. HAYES, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. FORTUÑO):

H.R. 3047. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processing of claims for benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DINGELL:

H.R. 3048. A bill to provide for and approve the settlement of certain land claims of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DUNCAN:

H.R. 3049. A bill to establish a pilot program for the expedited disposal of Federal real property; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN:

H.R. 3050. A bill to grant the consent and approval of Congress to an interstate forest fire protection compact; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. HINCHAY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. EMANUEL, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HALL of New York, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. HOOLEY, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SIRES, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 3051. A bill to improve the diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injury in members and former members of the Armed Forces, to review and expand telehealth and telemental health programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SPACE (for himself, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. REGULA, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. TURNER, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. JORDAN, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. HOBSON, and Ms. PRYCE of Ohio):

H.R. 3052. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 954 Wheeling Avenue in Cambridge, Ohio, as the "John Herschel Glenn, Jr. Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr. SEN-SENBRENNER, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mrs. DRAKE):

H.R. 3053. A bill to protect private property rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WOLF (for himself, Mr. TERRY, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. McNULTY, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. PITTS, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. OLVER, Ms. WATSON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. STARK, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia):

H.R. 3054. A bill to establish a program to assist Sudanese refugees in the United States known as the "Lost Boys and Lost Girls of Sudan" to voluntarily return to southern Sudan to assist in reconstruction efforts in southern Sudan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. YARMUTH (for himself and Mr. PLATTS):

H.R. 3055. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide expanded resources, technical assistance, reasonable accountability, and professional development to eligible entities implementing Even Start programs; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. ACKERMAN (for himself, Mr. PENCE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. BOUSTANY):

H. Res. 548. A resolution expressing the ongoing concern of the House of Representatives for Lebanon's democratic institutions and unwavering support for the administration of justice upon those responsible for the assassination of Lebanese public figures opposing Syrian control of Lebanon; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H. Res. 549. A resolution recognizing the importance of America's Waterway Watch program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself and Mr. PAYNE):

H. Res. 550. A resolution congratulating the people of Ethiopia on the second millennium of Ethiopia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. JEFFERSON (for himself, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. BACA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. CLAY, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. WATT, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. WYNN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. REYES, Mr. HONDA, Mr. SIRES, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. FILNER, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MELANCON, and Mr. MCCREY):

H. Res. 551. A resolution acknowledging the progress made and yet to be made to rebuild the Gulf Coast region after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 23: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H.R. 178: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 180: Mr. TIERNEY.

H.R. 346: Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. JINDAL, and Mr. CANNON.

H.R. 418: Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 657: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CARNEY, Ms. CARSON, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, and Mr. PAUL.

H.R. 687: Mr. FATTAH and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H.R. 690: Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 695: Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. WEINER, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. CLARKE, and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 725: Mr. TERRY.

H.R. 734: Mr. MAHONEY of Florida.

H.R. 760: Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BERMAN, and Mr. WALZ of Minnesota.

H.R. 784: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico and Mr. KELLER of Florida.

H.R. 826: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 840: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. CAPUANO, and Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 861: Ms. FOX.

H.R. 864: Mr. BOUCHER and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 962: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 1029: Mr. GINGREY and Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas.

H.R. 1038: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 1043: Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 1076: Mr. FATTAH.

H.R. 1125: Mr. COHEN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 1228: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.

H.R. 1275: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 1320: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 1330: Mr. KANJORSKI.

H.R. 1346: Mr. WYNN.

H.R. 1357: Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. SAXTON, Mrs. DRAKE, and Mr. GINGREY.

H.R. 1376: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania and Mr. McNULTY.

H.R. 1384: Mr. HUNTER, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Ms. WATSON, and Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 1399: Ms. FOX and Mr. TIAHRT.

H.R. 1400: Mr. LOEBACK.

H.R. 1415: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 1416: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia and Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 1418: Mr. McNULTY.

H.R. 1422: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 1464: Mr. MCHUGH.

H.R. 1466: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 1497: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 1509: Mr. NUNES.

H.R. 1514: Ms. CLARKE.

H.R. 1553: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 1590: Ms. CLARKE.

H.R. 1632: Mr. SPACE, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1713: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mrs. TAUSCHER, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 1732: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 1740: Mr. CAPUANO and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 1818: Mr. PAUL, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mr. RADANOVICH.

H.R. 1964: Mr. CARNAHAN.

H.R. 2003: Mr. JEFFERSON.

H.R. 2005: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 2027: Mr. PAUL.

H.R. 2050: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 2066: Mr. MARSHALL.

H.R. 2164: Mr. COHEN and Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 2205: Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 2216: Mr. RUSH and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 2217: Mr. RUSH and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 2265: Mr. CROWLEY and Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 2266: Mr. OBERSTAR.

H.R. 2295: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. PUTNAM, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 2303: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 2325: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 2342: Mr. McNERNEY.

H.R. 2364: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 2464: Mr. CARNAHAN and Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 2478: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 2495: Mr. SPRATT and Mr. GORDON.

H.R. 2566: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

H.R. 2585: Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 2587: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 2593: Mr. PASTOR.

H.R. 2596: Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. WEINER.

H.R. 2606: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. BOUCHER.

H.R. 2630: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 2668: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.

H.R. 2733: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 2750: Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 2757: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 2758: Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 2778: Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 2818: Mr. WYNN, Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 2832: Mr. WYNN.

H.R. 2840: Mr. GUTIERREZ, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 2865: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 2870: Ms. WATERS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 2892: Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 2902: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 2903: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.

H.R. 2929: Mr. NADLER, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. WATT, Mr. YARMUTH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 2933: Mr. SOUDER.

H.R. 2934: Mr. PAUL, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. BARROW.

H.R. 2941: Mr. SPACE.

H.R. 2954: Mr. WAMP and Ms. FOX.

H.R. 2966: Mr. LANTOS.

H.R. 3005: Mr. BOOZMAN.

H.R. 3008: Mr. CUELLAR and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 3029: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H. Con. Res. 28: Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. TIBERI, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. KIND, and Mr. CARTER.

H. Con. Res. 49: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. WOLF, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. LAHOOD.

H. Con. Res. 75: Mr. NADLER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WOLF, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.

H. Con. Res. 108: Ms. CLARKE.

H. Con. Res. 176: Mr. LAHOOD and Mr. LAMBORN.

H. Res. 111: Mr. SHULER, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CARDOZA, and Mr. FILNER.

H. Res. 121: Mr. FORTUÑO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H. Res. 123: Mr. SHAYS.

H. Res. 143: Mr. HINCHEY and Mr. SKELTON.

H. Res. 146: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. NADLER.

H. Res. 345: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.

H. Res. 351: Mr. SESSIONS.  
 H. Res. 356: Mr. KIRK.  
 H. Res. 407: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. MCGOVERN.  
 H. Res. 417: Mr. WYNN.  
 H. Res. 443: Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. ARCURI, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.  
 H. Res. 457: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.  
 H. Res. 487: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.  
 H. Res. 499: Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. ALTMIRE, Mr. PICKERING, and Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.  
 H. Res. 529: Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.  
 H. Res. 535: Mr. STUPAK, Mr. STARK, and Mr. GONZALEZ.  
 H. Res. 541: Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. PITTS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. WALBERG, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mrs. CAPITO,  
 Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. CULBERSON, and Mr. MANZULLO.

#### AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 2641

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 35: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:  
 None of the funds in this Act may be used for the South Carolina HBCU Science and Technology initiative (SC).

H.R. 2641

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 36: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:  
 None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Environmental Science Center, University of Dubuque, IA.

H.R. 2641

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 37: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:  
 None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Emmanuel College Center for Science Partnership, MA.

H.R. 2641

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 38: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:  
 None of the funds in this Act may be used for Roosevelt University Biology Laboratory Equipment (IL).

H.R. 2641

OFFERED BY: MR. HENSARLING

AMENDMENT No. 39: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:  
 None of the funds in this Act may be used for Nanosys, Inc.

H.R. 3043

OFFERED BY: MR. CONAWAY

AMENDMENT No. 1: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:  
 SEC. \_\_\_\_ . None of the funds made available by this Act for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program may be used while there continues in effect a Federal prohibition on the exploration, leasing, development, or production of oil or natural gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge or the Outer Continental Shelf.

H.R. 3043

OFFERED BY: MR. CONAWAY

AMENDMENT No. 2: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:  
 SEC. \_\_\_\_ . It is the sense of the House of Representatives that any reduction in the

amount appropriated by this Act achieved as a result of amendments adopted by the House should be dedicated to deficit reduction.

H.R. 3043

OFFERED BY: MR. GINGREY

AMENDMENT No. 3: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ . None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used by the Commissioner of Social Security or the Social Security Administration to pay the compensation of employees of the Social Security Administration to administer Social Security benefit payments, under any agreement between the United States and Mexico establishing totalization arrangements between the social security system established by title II of the Social Security Act and the social security system of Mexico, which would not otherwise be payable but for such agreement.

H.R. 3043

OFFERED BY: MR. PRICE OF GEORGIA

AMENDMENT No. 4: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ . Appropriations made in this Act are hereby reduced in the amount of \$1,517,480,000.

H.R. 3043

OFFERED BY: MR. SESSIONS

AMENDMENT No. 5: Strike section 111.

H.R. 3043

OFFERED BY: MR. JORDAN OF OHIO

AMENDMENT No. 6: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following new section:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ . Each amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act that is not required to be appropriated or otherwise made available by a provision of law is hereby reduced by 4.6 percent.