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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Pastor Guillermo Maldonado, King Jesus International Ministry, Miami, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Let's bow our heads and pray.

Heavenly Father, thank You for this opportunity for the religious freedom that we enjoy in this country. We are grateful to our Founding Fathers who fought and died for us to have this freedom.

Today, I lift up a prayer for each Member of Congress, and I ask You to give them the wisdom they need to govern and pass laws in favor of Your people.

Lord, You are who places and removes kings from their throne, and You ask us to pray for all those in positions of authority so that we may live peacefully in this Nation.

Lord, let Your will be done in this House as it is in heaven, for it brings peace and justice to this country. Let Your Holy Spirit guide each one of these men and women and rest upon their hearts and mind.

In Jesus' name, amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KIRK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING PASTOR GUILLERMO MALDONADO, KING JESUS INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY, MIAMI, FLORIDA

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida, Congressman MARIO DIAZ-BALART, is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, Pastor Guillermo Maldonado is the founder of Rey Jesus International Ministry in Miami, Florida. It is recognized as the largest Hispanic church in the entire country.

He, along with his wife, Ana Maldonado, who is joining us today in the gallery, are spiritual leaders for so many in our community. His dedication and commitment to serving God and to serving his fellow man is, frankly, unparalleled.

It's a great honor, a huge honor to have Pastor Maldonado as our guest chaplain in the House today, for he is truly an inspiring figure. I am so glad that this House is able to benefit from the spiritual guidance that so many of us in south Florida have been able to do over the years.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

WHITTEMORE PETERSON INSTITUTE SCIENTISTS DISCOVER SIGNIFICANT LINK BETWEEN XMRV AND ME/CF'S

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, a recently identified retrovirus called

XMRV has been linked to the debilitating neuroimmune disease that affects more than 1 million people in the United States. Scientists from the Whittemore Peterson Institute, located at the University of Nevada, Reno, and their collaborators from the National Cancer Institute and Cleveland Clinic have discovered a retroviral link to chronic fatigue syndrome. This is a major breakthrough in understanding the origins of this debilitating disease.

I rise in order to congratulate Harvey and Annette Whittemore. Ms. Annette and her husband, Harvey, have a daughter that was diagnosed with chronic disease syndrome. They have worked tirelessly and relentlessly to fund and ensure that they can find a cure to this disease.

I rise also to tell people that the money to purchase the equipment used to discover this medical breakthrough was funded by an earmark by the United States Congress. This is a good expenditure of taxpayers' dollars and will ultimately save millions of our fellow Americans' lives.

I congratulate the Whittemores and the institute. I look forward to working with them, not only to identify and isolate this enzyme that causes this disease, but to actually cure it.

YOU AMERICANS ARE RUNNING OUT OF OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, in medicine, the rule is do no harm. But look at these Medicare cuts just approved by Speaker PELOSI. The Congressional Budget Office reports that the bill cuts Medicare, nursing, wheelchairs, home health, even hospice. Hospice? Yep. Medicare hospice is cut.

Another principle is this: the right hand of government should know what

□ 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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the left hand is doing. Just a few months ago we enacted a stimulus bill to put money in the economy, but the bill we are going to consider has a \$400 billion tax increase that takes money out of the economy.

In the teeth of the great recession, this is what we are going to do. But you know what? That's okay, because we can still borrow billions from foreign lenders; right? Or, as one British MP correctly said when he summed it all up, you Americans are running out of other people's money.

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

(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, do no harm. What we are really doing in health care reform is to ensure that we have an efficient, effective, and secure Medicare, not cuts. But really what we want to talk about is insuring all Americans.

Our job is not yet done. We thank the Senate Finance Committee for moving forward, but our job is not done. It's not done because a 17-pound, 4-month-old baby that had the Rocky Mountain Health Plan was denied insurance because of obesity. What more are Americans going to face?

Listen to this debate. The legislation that we have here in the House means that health insurance reform will come and an insurance company can no longer decide to deny you coverage or jack up your rate because of a pre-existing condition. It means it will be against the law for insurance companies to drop your coverage when you get sick or water it down. It means insurance companies will no longer be able to place some arbitrary cap on the coverage. It means there will be a yearly limit on how much you can be charged on out-of-pocket expenses. It means relief. It means that your bouncing baby boy will not be denied insurance because he happens to be chubby.

Let's get the job done, access to health insurance for all Americans.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH/TEENS AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Domestic violence is one of the most chronically underreported crimes in America, with 85 percent of the victims being women. In an effort to raise awareness about this often-concealed problem, Teens Against Domestic Abuse, TADA, will be joining with the Women's Fund of Miami-Dade County to host an event, "Women Ending Domestic Violence."

TADA is a local student activist group run by a caring and passionate young woman, Emily Martinez-Lanza, and her event will be next week, October 22, in Miami. Through education, awareness, and prevention, students are working to help break the cycle of domestic abuse.

I commend TADA for its efforts in promoting domestic violence education in our schools. I also commend the Women's Fund of Miami-Dade County for its outstanding contributions to ending domestic violence in our south Florida community.

As Domestic Violence Awareness Month reminds us, everyone deserves a safe home, one free from violence and free from abuse.

SUPPORT IRAN SANCTIONS ENABLING ACT

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1327, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009.

This commonsense bill would empower State and local governments and educational institutions to divest from those foreign companies supporting Iran's energy sector if they so choose. I support the efforts of our diplomats both to engage Iran and to work with Iran's key trading partners to impose meaningful, multilateral sanctions.

However, if Iran still refuses to take meaningful steps towards transparency in halting its nuclear ambitions and if China and Russia refuse to go along with multilateral sanctions, then I believe it is critical that the President be prepared to act, including imposing crippling sanctions.

This bill will provide the President with the authority he needs.

PREMIUMS WILL RISE UNDER HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, in the next few weeks, the House of Representatives will be taking up health care reform legislation.

A report released Monday by PricewaterhouseCoopers showed the Senate Finance Committee's version of the health care bill will impose stiff costs to the American people. According to the report, a family paying \$12,300 currently for their health insurance policy would find themselves paying nearly \$26,000, on average, by 2019 under this bill. Premiums for a single person would go up by \$600 a year.

Mr. Speaker, Americans want reform which expands access to affordable health care and gives families the freedom to choose the policy which fits their needs. Americans want meaningful medical liability reform to help

deter frivolous lawsuits, and they also want to be able to buy health insurance across State lines.

Republicans are willing to work with our colleagues to find bipartisan solutions to the hurdles standing in the way of health care reform.

□ 1015

HEALTH CARE REFORMS CLOSER

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, with each House of Congress finally preparing to bring a health care bill to the floor, we are now closer to reform than we have been in decades. And while we still have a few hurdles to jump before the finish line, there are major issues on which there is widespread agreement. So what can the American people be sure will be in any health care reform bill that is passed?

That it will be against the law for insurance companies to drop your coverage once you get sick and that they will no longer be able to exclude you based on a preexisting condition; routine checkups and preventive care will be covered without copayment; and your insurance plan will be portable, even when you change jobs.

In short, Americans will be able to keep the coverage they have and be safeguarded against losing it when they change jobs or get sick. These reforms are long overdue, but they are now one step closer to reality.

RESOLVE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Nation is at war in Afghanistan. The commander of the multinational forces says he needs several thousand more U.S. troops. But the United States has not sent him more troops. Our country is indecisive. Why do we delay?

Our enemy is not hesitant about their determination to continue to murder in the name of religion. Our inaction causes our national credibility and resolve to be in doubt. It encourages our foes and puzzles our allies.

If our troops needed more food, we would immediately send food. If our troops wanted more equipment, arms and vehicles, we would immediately send munitions. But if our troops want more troops, we stall, delay and ponder. Why?

It is said we need time to reevaluate the situation. Well, after years of fighting, are we not sure about our mission, our goal, our strategy? We are giving the impression to the world and to our military that we don't have the moral will to finish this war.

We can delay no longer. Our troops are already in the field. Their safety and success is of paramount importance. Let there be no question of our

resolve to eliminate the terrorists who threaten the innocents of the world.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING EISENHOWER HIGH SCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to recognize Eisenhower High School in my hometown of Rialto on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. This Saturday, October the 17th, the Rialto community will celebrate this important milestone.

Eisenhower first opened its doors in the fall of 1959, and since then has achieved great success in academics, athletics and community involvement. Eisenhower athletic teams have consistently won titles in a wide range of sports, including football, basketball, wrestling and swimming. In fact, this past winter the Eisenhower boys' basketball team won the California Interscholastic Federation's State title, marking the first time ever a school from San Bernardino County held the State title.

Eisenhower's impressive list of alumni include NFL Hall of Famer Ronnie Lott, baseball star Jeff Conine, golfer Brandi Burton, and Olympic speed skating gold medalist Derek Parra. In addition, my two sons, Joe Baca, Jr., former State Assemblyman and now Mayor Pro-Tem for the City of Rialto, and Jeremy Baca, who has done an outstanding job in work in the Inland Empire area, have also graduated from Eisenhower High School.

For their outstanding academics, Eisenhower High has been recognized both as a National Blue Ribbon School and a California Distinguished School.

I thank all the students, teachers and parents who have contributed so much to Eisenhower High and the Inland Empire community these past 50 years.

SCRAP H.R. 3200

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, as a physician and a father and a Member of Congress, I join the majority of Americans that do not want the government takeover of our health care system. They are demanding Congress scrap H.R. 3200 and come together in a bipartisan fashion to craft a commonsense plan to reduce costs, expand access and increase the quality of care in a way that America can afford.

We need to create a health care plan that will ensure that the government does not interfere with the doctor-patient relationship, ensure that the government does not deny care on the basis of disease or years of life left, ensure that government does not break the bank at a time when America simply cannot afford it, ensure that if you lose or change your job, you and your

family would continue have to access to affordable health care coverage, ensure that if you have a preexisting condition you will not be denied access to coverage, and, finally, ensure that any medical liability reform will be real and meaningful.

I challenge my colleagues to put principle above politics and represent the will of the American people when it comes to health care reform.

GIVING PEACE OF MIND AND HEALTH SECURITY

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with my colleagues a letter I recently received from a constituent in Niles, Illinois. He writes:

"As one of your constituents, I urge you to move forward and pass comprehensive health reform, including a public option. I have been self-employed for 18 years. My continued ability to afford medical insurance and health care has been my biggest concern. Without a public option, those of us who do not have an employer-provided medical insurance are at the mercy the insurance industry. As an example, six years ago when I turned 55, my medical insurance premium increased 33 percent in 7 months. Each year I wonder if I will have to give up my business, because I will no longer be able to afford medical insurance on my own."

We need to pass comprehensive reform this year to give my constituent and other self-employed individuals peace of mind and health security.

TESTIMONIAL ON SUSAN G. KOMEN RACE FOUNDATION AND BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I stand as a proud cosponsor of a resolution honoring Nancy Goodman Brinker, founder of the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation. This October marks the 25th anniversary of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the 27th anniversary of Komen for the Cure.

In the Palmetto State, breast cancer occurs in over 5,000 women a year and kills over 1,000, but according to the American Cancer Society, these numbers have been falling since the 1990s. However, there is always more to be done, and we can all get involved in promoting breast cancer awareness.

This Sunday is the 16th Annual Komen Lowcountry Race for the Cure in Charleston and I congratulate our local affiliate staff, Lindsay Wiltshire, Michelle Temple, Lucy Spears, Taffy Tamblyn and Patricia Simon for their hard work organizing this event. Their efforts bring us all closer to the ulti-

mate goal of a world without breast cancer. We are very proud of them and all of their efforts in the First Congressional District.

EDUCATION KEY TO REBUILDING ECONOMY

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, as we continue working to strengthen our economy and put Americans back to work, it is important to note that our economy has stabilized a great deal since the economic collapse a year ago. But there is still much more work to be done.

Because of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, an estimated 8,500 teaching jobs have been saved in my home State of Missouri alone. Without the Recovery Act, thousands of teachers would have lost their jobs. Hundreds of thousands of students would be losing out on individual attention vital to their education. It was the right thing to do to provide States with the resources to keep America's teachers teaching and continue investing in our children's education.

This stimulus is putting us on the road to recovery by putting money back in the pockets of middle-class Americans and making critical investments in our future, like education and preparing for today's clean energy jobs.

We must continue our aggressive push to put Americans back to work and make investments in ourselves for this new era of global competition. Rebuilding our economy must continue to be our top priority.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to ask a simple question: Where are the jobs?

When Congress was asked to rubber stamp the President's trillion dollar stimulus proposal last February, we were told that legislation was the only way to keep the national unemployment rate from rising above 8 percent and that it would create jobs. Unfortunately, as we all know, this so-called stimulus bill has failed to do either of these things.

Nearly 3 million people in the private sector have lost jobs in America since the stimulus bill was signed into law. And the national unemployment rate? 9.8 percent and climbing, the highest level in 26 years. Moreover, 15.1 million people who are unemployed are looking for work, again the largest number in history, and it includes my son, who is celebrating his 38th birthday today standing in the unemployment line.

Happy birthday, Billy.

In my home State of Georgia, my State has lost 116,000 jobs since the

stimulus was signed. I ask again, Mr. Speaker, where are the jobs?

BRINGING DOWN HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, a lot of us have gotten a good chuckle over the last few days over the PricewaterhouseCoopers study of the impact of the Senate Finance Committee health reform bill on health insurance premiums. I mean, after all, after only a few days, they had to come out and say, well, we really didn't analyze the whole bill, and in fact if some of the cost reform measures were put into place, we would save money.

But they missed the important point. The most important point is that the Senate Finance Committee bill doesn't include the public option that provides real competition for America's health insurance companies. The House bill, H.R. 3200, does include that public option competitive force.

As I was home over the weekend, I talked to many people who just opened their renewal forms from their insurance companies and saw increases projected of 20, 25 and 30 percent. That is why the public option is so important.

We can bring down health insurance costs and we can provide competitive pressure on the health insurance companies if we adopt the public option in the House bill.

MEDIA GIVING PRESIDENT A FREE PASS

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, unemployment under President Obama is at a 26 year high. The last time unemployment was this high was when President Reagan took office.

Despite the similar unemployment figures during the Obama and Reagan Administrations, the media have treated President Obama far more favorably than they treated President Reagan, according to an analysis by the Business and Media Institute. BMI found that 91 percent of the stories mentioning the Reagan Administration and unemployment were negative, while only 7 percent of the Obama administration stories were negative. That is absolutely astounding. Furthermore, the networks connected the Reagan White House to negative job numbers almost twice as often as they have the Obama administration.

Why is the media giving President Obama a free pass? The media should report the facts, not play favorites.

PASS COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday, America's Health Insurance Plans, the trade group representing the largest health insurance companies in this country, released a report. The insurance companies contend that health insurance reform will raise premiums on families by as much as \$4,000 in the next 10 years.

I am here to tell you this morning, Mr. Speaker, that this is simply not true. Just last week, the Tax Foundation, a nonpartisan tax research group, released a report that said middle-class American families will see a savings of about \$1,900 from the House's health reform bill.

Insurance companies are worried that health insurance reform is going to cut into their profits. This report is a last-ditch effort to stop this Congress from providing real relief to the millions of Americans who already are struggling with the high cost of health insurance.

Even the company hired to produce the report has issued a statement saying that they produced a skewed report that analyzes only part of the bill because that is what the insurance industry paid them to do. That company has since distanced itself from this report.

This report completely ignores critical policies that hold down the cost of health insurance, such as the grandfather policy that allows you to keep the plan you have, affordability credits, and the health insurance exchange.

PROVIDING MORE FREEDOM AND BETTER HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICANS

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I respect the President of the United States of America. I pray for this President often in my private devotions. But after months of extraordinary public opposition to a government takeover of health care, opposition that spontaneously drew more than 1 million people to the West Front of this Capitol just one month ago, President Obama spoke words this weekend that were, frankly, hard to take.

He said in his radio address, "What is remarkable is not that we have had a spirited debate about health insurance reform, but the unprecedented consensus that has come together behind it."

Unprecedented consensus that has come together behind a government takeover of health care? Well, maybe here in Washington, D.C., but not across America.

There is an unprecedented consensus. The American people are fed up with runaway Federal spending and government takeovers. And now that the committee work is done and both chambers of the House and Senate are

headed to the back rooms to write up health care reform, let's home and let's pray that the unprecedented consensus that will shape this bill will be based upon the consensus of the American people for more freedom and lower health care costs, and not the consensus in Washington for more government and higher taxes.

□ 1030

HAPPY HALLOWEEN TO THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today just weeks before Halloween to unmask the health insurance industry. At long last they've revealed themselves to the American people as profit-mongers and protectors of CEO salaries.

For months, the industry engaged in a game of pretense. They danced with the President, the Congress and the American people, pretending that they care about reform. Now we see the industry and their lobbyists for what they are: a little shop of horrors. They're so opposed to reform that they're making up their own data, manipulating the results, and writing a so-called independent report to threaten the American people with increased premiums.

Mr. Speaker, this industry is not interested in health care or reform. For them it's profits, profits, and more profits at the expense of millions of Americans. Enough.

We have one message for the insurance industry, its lobbyists and millionaire CEOs: with or without you, we will achieve quality, affordable, and accessible health care for all Americans, with choice. What they've done is proved the need for a robust public health insurance option for real competition, affordability and accountability for the industry.

Let me close by thanking the health insurance industry for delivering this gift that proves that they can't be trusted. It's time for the industry to turn in their costumes. Happy Halloween. We're on to you.

HONORING THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD 81ST BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

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

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues this morning in honoring the members of the Army National Guard 81st Brigade Combat Team and Air National Guard of the State of Washington on the completion of their recent deployment to Iraq.

These soldiers and their families have shown us the sense of duty, the sense of honor, and the sacrifice that we all aspire to and admire. Many of them know the pain of losing someone, a soldier, a fellow warrior, giving everything to defend the freedoms that we cherish in this country each and every day. And all of them know the perils of deployment, time away from their families, their children, their community, and possibly the ultimate sacrifice, their life.

This government comes here and performs its work each and every day. We can debate the issues each day because of the dedication of these soldiers and their families. And today, though it's not enough, we say thank you.

CONGRATULATING ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church as they celebrate their 50th anniversary as a congregation during the month of October.

As the first Greek Orthodox Church in southern Nevada, St. John has welcomed new Americans of Greek descent to Las Vegas and helped them feel at home in the community. St. John has educated thousands of children in the rituals and faith of the Greek Orthodox Church, ensuring the strength and vitality of the doctrine. Over the past 50 years, the church has expanded from a small group of patrons to a large community meeting in a beautiful church in the Third District.

Today, the church has a vibrant membership and is host to a community center and educational facility. The church is active in social justice projects that benefit children, seniors, the sick, and the poor. The church hosts regular events celebrating Greek heritage such as folk dancing and Easter egg hunts. And there's an annual Greek food festival in Las Vegas which is famous throughout the valley for its wonderful music, camaraderie, and the best food outside of Athens.

I again congratulate St. John the Baptist Church and the Greek Orthodox community for their 50 years of success, and I wish them 50 more.

NET NEUTRALITY

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to point out a timely editorial on net neutrality that ran recently in *The Washington Post*, and I'll submit it for the RECORD, "The FCC's Heavy Hand," that ran on Monday, September 28, 2009. This editorial

makes good points, but the bottom line is one I have been making since this issue came up so many years ago. The broadband marketplace has been, is, and will remain one of the most competitive areas in our economy.

Today, if you don't like your cable Internet, you switch to your phone company service. If you need mobility you can't get from your wire-line phone company, you purchase a wireless broadband plan. If you don't like one wireless provider's broadband plan, you ask the guy sitting next to you surfing the Web in the park who he uses for their wireless broadband, and you switch to that company.

Why do we have options? Because broadband companies have invested billions of dollars to build the best networks they can to attract as many customers as they can. Why would they block applications or content when they know the customer they're interfering with could just switch to another provider? They won't, as long as that customer isn't harming the network.

Mr. Speaker, the contrast is here. We should look at why the government needs to do such as addressing health care, and prices are spiraling out of control. Tens of millions of Americans have no choice on health care and having insurance, whereas, in the broadband market, there is plenty of competition and companies are competing. There could not be a more stark contrast for where government must act, and where competition in the marketplace is benefiting consumers, driving investment, and creating jobs. Further regulation is not the answer to keeping the Internet open; fostering competition and investment in broadband infrastructure is.

PRESIDENTS REAGAN AND OBAMA

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I've listened to 1 minutes here, and some of my Republican colleagues have made comments I listened to. And one who I respect tremendously talked about President Reagan and President Obama, and certainly they have a lot in common. They're both dynamic speakers and great communicators. Both of them have had high unemployment rates during their first year in office.

But the commonality is that those high unemployment rates were caused by their predecessors. And the press properly pointed out that Jimmy Carter's failed policies in the late 1970s and George Bush's failed policy at the beginning of this century were the cause of the economic malaise that each of these great communicators, Presidents Reagan and Obama, found themselves with.

Each will find that the economies will improve. Reagan did, and Obama will, and this Congress is helping to improve this economy.

Another gentleman talked about health care and said we should pray. I'm Jewish, and at our Yom Kippur holiday it's said that we should pray for national leaders that have a government that is compassionate and just. I believe that compassion and justice dictates that we have a health care plan and take care of everybody. I think it's the basis of the Judeo-Christian philosophy.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 846. An act to award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, in recognition of his contributions to the fight against global poverty.

S. 1510. An act to transfer statutory entitlements to pay and hours of work authorized by the District of Columbia Code for current members of the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division from the District of Columbia Code to the United States Code.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill (H.R. 1016) "An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide advance appropriations authority for certain accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that pursuant to section 276n of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints the following Senator as Chairman of the United States-China Interparliamentary Group conference during the One hundred Eleventh Congress:

The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY).

The message also announced that pursuant to Executive Order 12131, renewed by Executive Order 13446, the Chair reappoints and appoints the following Members to the President's Export Council:

Reappointment:

The Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN).

Appointment:

The Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) vice the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI).

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 incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

RECOGNIZING THE VITAL ROLE FAMILY READINESS VOLUNTEERS PLAY IN SUPPORTING SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 408) recognizing the vital role family readiness volunteers play in supporting servicemembers and their families.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 408

Whereas since 2001, nearly 2,000,000 active duty and reserve sailors, soldiers, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guard personnel have deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas the more than 1,800,000 family members of regular component members of the Armed Forces and an additional 1,100,000 family members of reserve component members make significant sacrifices on behalf of the United States in support of their loved ones deployed overseas;

Whereas the readiness of the United States Armed Forces is predicated on the ability of each member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard to focus on their mission during deployments;

Whereas the military necessity of long and often unpredictable deployments, frequent relocations, and infrequent family contact for members of the Armed Forces can be extremely challenging for members and their families;

Whereas, in response to these sacrifices and challenges, family readiness volunteers from each branch of the Armed Forces have stepped forward to provide critical support during deployments to service members and their families;

Whereas the family readiness volunteer programs in each service help commanding officers have a better understanding of the welfare of the families within his or her command during a deployment and allow families to be informed about the status of their loved ones' unit overseas;

Whereas family readiness volunteers consist of Army Family Readiness Volunteers, Navy Ombudsmen, Coast Guard Ombudsmen, Air Force Key Spouse Volunteers, and Marine Corps Key Volunteers;

Whereas the thousands of family readiness volunteers are generally spouses of members of the Armed Forces who provide assistance to military families while also enduring the challenges of military life;

Whereas these volunteers are motivated by the desire to improve the lives of other military families and to assist future generations;

Whereas family readiness volunteers also connect the community with military families and local military installations, often leveraging donations and resources for military families;

Whereas family readiness volunteers provide their services on a voluntary basis, with little public recognition and financial assistance, and often contribute their own resources to help other military families; and

Whereas the outstanding performance of our service members is a testament to the great success of family readiness volunteers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes and honors the family readiness volunteers of each branch of the Armed Forces who selflessly devote their time, talent, energy, and resources in service to the

United States and commends family readiness volunteers for their dedicated contributions to the quality of life of members of the Armed Forces and their families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 408. I introduced this resolution to honor the work of the Army's Family Readiness Volunteers, Air Force Key Spouse Volunteers, Navy Ombudsmen, Marine Corps Key Volunteers and Coast Guard Ombudsmen. Each day, thousands of these men and women volunteer their time to help improve the quality of life for military families by serving as a channel between deployed units and their loved ones at home. Most of these important volunteers are military spouses, frequently with a loved one deployed overseas.

I also introduced this measure to bring their efforts to the attention of all Americans. As chairwoman of the Military Personnel Subcommittee, I know that today's all-volunteer force is, in many ways, less integrated into the society that they are sworn to protect. My hope is that this resolution will help shed light on a group of dedicated volunteers that the average American may know little about but who are a crucial component of military readiness. I firmly believe that the outstanding performance of our servicemembers is directly connected to their efforts, and with today's high operational tempo, their services are as important as ever.

Family Readiness volunteers and ombudsmen help our military families solve a variety of problems and meet the challenges servicemembers and their families face before, during, and after deployments. As Admiral Mullen wrote when he was Chief of Naval Operations, "A strong command Ombudsman Program, both ashore and afloat, will help ensure that families have the information necessary to meet the challenges of a military lifestyle."

Across each service, these volunteers also assist newly enlisted servicemembers and spouses and their families with a wide range of issues, from understanding their health and retirement benefits to serving as a conduit of information to the command.

Mr. Speaker, I am fortunate enough to be able to meet with Navy ombuds-

men in my district several times a year to discuss the issues that military families care most about, from everyday issues like day care to uniquely military issues such as coping with the deployment.

And, in fact, when I first came to Congress, it was a Navy ombudsman in San Diego who helped me understand the complex issues faced by our all-volunteer force. And just last week, I had the pleasure of meeting with over 100 Army Family Readiness Volunteers who traveled to Washington to learn how to improve their abilities to advocate on behalf of the families they help at home. I was inspired by the willingness of these women and men who traveled from across the United States for training that will ultimately help them support their soldiers.

When you meet with volunteers, you quickly realize that a key component to our overall military readiness is the readiness of our military families. In my view, and the view of our top military leaders, America's deployed men and women could not do their jobs abroad if they were constantly worried about their families back home. Simply put, Family Readiness volunteers and ombudsmen help reduce uncertainty and ease anxiety around deployments by keeping families involved so our servicemembers can stay focused on their mission.

Today, it would be really impossible for our military to mitigate some of the stresses of war if there was not the valuable and active family contact maintained by these individuals. With every year of war, these volunteers have taken on an increasing amount of responsibility, so much so that the services have even begun to compensate a small number of individuals for their efforts.

While volunteers help provide peace of mind for our deployed personnel, they also provide information about the status of a unit's deployment overseas.

I recall the role that the Navy ombudsmen played when the USS *New Orleans* and the USS *Hartford* collided in the Strait of Hormuz earlier this year. For the families of the sailors and marines aboard both ships, the news was startling. Families were all wondering the same things: Was their loved one injured? Was the ship still able to sail? How would the incident impact the length of their deployment?

The ombudsman for the USS *New Orleans*, a ship stationed in my district, recounted to my office how within 10 minutes of the news breaking, he had over 20 calls from concerned family members. It was at that point that he e-mailed his families a simple message, with the subject line reading: "USS New Orleans Collision, Everyone is safe." His message at a time of need let the families know not to worry.

□ 1045

This ombudsman told my office, "The emails and phone calls that I

fielded that day calmed my families. They were getting some bad news, but from a familiar voice . . . someone that they know and have spoken to . . . this does not necessarily make the news better but certainly more palatable.”

Many of the families of the sailors and marines aboard the USS New Orleans responded to the ship’s ombudsman about the valuable service he provided. One family member wrote, “Thank you so much for the updates. Having you as a connection to information to our loved ones has been critical and really important. My parents and I are incredibly grateful as we have been very worried about my sister.”

Another family member wrote and said, “Thank you. You have been helpful through this difficult time. I appreciate the phone call and the reassurance that everything was okay.”

Thanks to the work of this ombudsman, families at home had the right information at the right time. This is the invaluable role family readiness volunteers play and will continue to play as long as our military is at war.

Before I yield back, Mr. Speaker, I would like to strongly encourage all of my colleagues who have not yet had the opportunity to meet with these men and women to reach out to the family readiness volunteers and ombudsmen in their districts or States. I hope that they will do that. I also hope my colleagues will help me recognize the important role readiness volunteers and ombudsmen play in helping military families and honor their enormous contribution to our Nation’s defense by supporting this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to rise today in support of resolution 408 and thank the author, Representative DAVIS of California, for putting this resolution forward.

This resolution commends a large group of selfless and dedicated people, the vast majority of whom are volunteers, in organizations that provide support to the families and children of deployed members of the Armed Forces as well as to the servicemembers themselves.

Because these organizations go by various names and work quietly and effectively behind the scenes, it’s important today that we acknowledge them explicitly. They are the Army Readiness Volunteers, the Navy Ombudsmen, the Coast Guard Ombudsmen, the Air Force Key Spouse Volunteers, and the Marine Corps Key Volunteers.

Our military families face extraordinary demands, stresses and challenges related to the service of their loved ones. To ease these burdens, family readiness groups unselfishly step in to connect military families with the community and with local military installations.

Among the approximately 2.9 million family members of those serving in the Active and Reserve components, the

needs are many, and supporting these needs is a matter of military readiness. The support challenge is made more complex because virtually all the families of National Guard troops and Reservists reside in civilian communities spread across this Nation. Yet the family readiness groups have taken on that challenge to provide help and support, particularly during extended periods of mobilization and deployment.

Our military forces could not have sustained the stress related to repeated deployments and combat without the assistance, dedication, and outstanding work over the years of these family readiness groups. Today’s resolution is a fitting way to celebrate and thank such dedicated volunteers.

Again, I want to thank Representative DAVIS for putting this resolution forward, and I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 408.

I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, at this time, 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 (Mrs. DAVIS) 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.

HONORING THE 56TH BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 754) honoring the citizen-soldiers of the National Guard of the State of Pennsylvania, including the 56th Brigade Combat Team (Stryker) of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard on its return to the United States from deployment in Iraq.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 754

Whereas the members of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard of the State of Pennsylvania reside throughout the State and come from various communities, backgrounds, and professions;

Whereas units and members of the Pennsylvania National Guard have been deployed, and are continuously being deployed, in support of United States military operations at home and overseas in Iraq, Afghanistan, and dozens of other countries;

Whereas one such unit, the 56th Brigade Combat Team (Stryker) of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, is composed of approximately 4,000 citizen-soldiers from throughout the State of Pennsylvania;

Whereas the 56th Brigade Combat Team (Stryker), following a mobilization and de-

ployment to Kosovo in 2003, was placed on Federal active duty for a second overseas mobilization on September 19, 2008, and deployed to Iraq on January 15, 2009;

Whereas during the deployment of the 56th Brigade Combat Team (Stryker) in Iraq, the brigade was primarily engaged in convoy security, force protection, provincial reconstruction, and base operations missions; and

Whereas the 56th Brigade Combat Team (Stryker) returned to the United States and demobilized in September 2009, upon completion of one year of service in support of military operations in Iraq; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its gratitude to the members of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard of the State of Pennsylvania and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States;

(2) commends the members of the 56th Brigade Combat Team (Stryker) of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard on the completion of their most-recent deployment to Iraq; and

(3) recognizes the achievements of the members of the 56th Brigade Combat Team (Stryker), and all other formerly and presently deployed Pennsylvania Army National Guard and Air National Guard units and members, for their exemplary service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have legislative 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN).

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington for yielding me the time.

I rise in strong support of House Resolution 754, Mr. Speaker, to honor and say “thank you” to the members of the Pennsylvania National Guard from the 56th Stryker Brigade on their return home from Iraq and “a job well done.” And I want to commend and thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and all the members of the Pennsylvania delegation for being co-sponsors of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, during the deployment of the 56th Stryker Brigade, I had the opportunity to travel to Mississippi and Louisiana with Congressman SHUSTER, Congressman GERLACH and Congressman DENT, and then we had the opportunity, along with Congresswoman DAHLKEMPER, to travel over to Iraq to see our citizen-soldiers in action. And I can tell you that we, as members of the Pennsylvania delegation and the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, are very proud of our

citizen-soldiers' performance, as I believe the entire country is.

They have returned home with the job well done. As a matter of fact, when we had the opportunity to be in Iraq and meet with General Odierno and General Jacoby and talk about the performance of General Wright's soldiers under the command of Colonel Ferraro, they expressed how proud they were as commanders in theater for the job that was well done.

The Pennsylvania National Guard is the only National Guard who hosts a Stryker Brigade. And, Mr. Speaker, that did not happen by a lottery held at the Pentagon. It happened because of the strong professionalism, the training and the work that this brigade has done previously in their deployment. They are the second-most deployed National Guard unit of any in the country. And the reason is because of the job that they do when they are asked and they are called upon to serve our country and to serve the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

During their deployment, they served with distinction. The awards that were granted to the 56th Stryker Brigade include four Bronze Star Medal for Valor, 10 Army Commendation Medal for Valor, 33 Purple Hearts, and unfortunately they had two tragic deaths during their deployment, Staff Sergeant Mark Baum and Specialist Chad Edmundson. And certainly our prayers and thoughts go out to the families of those two who made the supreme sacrifice during their deployment.

Again, as a member of the Pennsylvania delegation speaking in concert with the other members of the delegation and on behalf of this entire body, I want to congratulate and commend the 56th Stryker Brigade on their performance.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield such time as he might consume to my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT).

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise today as an original cosponsor and strong supporter of House Resolution 754, and I would like to thank Congressman TIM HOLDEN of Schuylkill County for introducing this resolution.

The United States National Guard is the oldest component of our Armed Forces, dating back to pre-Revolutionary War times. Over the past 8 years, we have witnessed thousands of Guard members answer the call as they are asked to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Approximately 4,000 members of the Pennsylvania Guard were deployed to Iraq last fall, the largest deployment of the Pennsylvania National Guard since the Korean war. Prior to the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team's deployment to Iraq, I, along with some of my colleagues, TIM HOLDEN, BILL SHUSTER and JIM GERLACH, visited the Pennsylvania Stryker Brigade in Mississippi and Louisiana at Camp Shelby and Fort Polk as they prepared for their mobilization overseas.

In June 2009, I traveled to Iraq to meet with the Pennsylvania National Guard 56th Stryker Brigade and other Pennsylvania troops, accompanied by many Members who are here in the Chamber today, including Representative DAHLKEMPER.

During my visit to Iraq, I saw a significant improvement in the security conditions on the ground. And the fact that we were able to safely drive through the bustling streets of Baghdad was an encouraging and welcome development. I know, without a doubt, it is the sacrifice, perseverance and bravery of these young men and women that enabled such progress.

I am pleased that just 1 year later, the 56th Stryker Brigade is returning home. As of late September, most of the brigade has returned home. I am honored to be standing here today to pay tribute to these heroes. Our military families demonstrate tremendous bravery as they watch their loved ones go overseas to fight in harm's way for the freedoms we experience every day in this great Nation. We say "thank you" to the entire Pennsylvania National Guard for protecting the families and communities of our great Commonwealth and standing at the ready to defend our homeland.

I urge Members to support House Resolution 754.

Mr. SHUSTER. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Mrs. DAHLKEMPER).

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for recognizing me.

I want to rise today in proud and enthusiastic support to House Resolution 754, honoring the citizen-soldiers of the Pennsylvania National Guard, including the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, known as the Stryker Brigade of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, on its return to the United States from deployment in Iraq.

On January 15, 2009, the 56th Stryker Brigade was deployed to Taji, Iraq. Just last month, this extraordinary combat team, 4,000 strong, returned to their families in Pennsylvania after an incredibly successful deployment. They were welcomed home with proud, open arms throughout our State.

In June, I was grateful and honored to have had the opportunity to visit Iraq and to meet personally with members of the 56th Stryker Brigade from the Third District of Pennsylvania. These brave Pennsylvanians embodied the fire of patriotism and the humility of sacrifice. I was in awe of their accomplishments and the high standard of excellence by which they executed their mission.

Just yesterday, I was on a plane ride back to Washington sitting next to a general whose son's division from Fort Hood took the place of our 56th Stryker Brigade from Pennsylvania, and he mentioned to me how honored

his son was to take over from such an excellent group of soldiers. It was certainly a joy and an honor to greet our troops as they returned to Cambridge Springs just last month, the division out of my district.

Never had I felt such intense pride in our country as I did when meeting these extraordinary soldiers and witnessing the sacrifices they have made so that we may live in freedom and prosperity.

Our Pennsylvania National Guard has answered the call to defend these United States of America and ensure the security of our people and our way of life. Today, we honor these Guardsmen and thank them for their service. In doing so, we also renew our pledge to provide our men and women in uniform with the highest quality of care and benefits they have earned. In doing so, we show our intense gratitude and enormous respect for our soldiers who so rightly deserve it.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my unwavering support of House Resolution 754. I thank Congressman HOLDEN for bringing this resolution forward. Our Pennsylvania National Guard and our 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team certainly deserve this recognition. May God bless our troops.

Mr. SHUSTER. At this time, I would like to yield such time as he might consume to my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, my colleague from Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise today in support of House Resolution 754, a resolution commending the members of the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard on the completion of their most recent deployment to Iraq. And I thank all of my Pennsylvania colleagues for their support of this resolution.

The Stryker is a combat vehicle similar to a tank but operates on wheels rather than on tracks. And the vehicle is essential to protecting our soldiers' lives and is vital to the Army's Interim Brigade Combat Teams. The 56th Stryker is a special unit not just to my home State, but my home. My son, Logan, served with the 56th Stryker Brigade before changing to Active Duty, and a number of my former Eagle Scouts from my scout troop serve currently with the 56th Brigade and serve proudly in Iraq.

The 56th Stryker Brigade was deployed in February of this year to Iraq and returned home this past summer. And while in Iraq, they captured some 80 hidden supply dumps, which caused severe shortages and disrupted enemy operations. Their service in Iraq and Afghanistan has not gone unnoticed and has saved many lives.

Upon arriving home last month, these heroes were finally embraced by their families, their friends and their loved ones. From Venango County to Lycoming County, many constituents from my district bravely and honorably served on this brigade. We say

“thank you, welcome home,” and “God bless you” for your selfless service. Your actions will never be forgotten.

I urge my colleagues to support our troops and vote in the affirmative for the underlying resolution.

□ 1100

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today in support of House Resolution 754, which honors the citizen-soldiers of the Pennsylvania National Guard, including the 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, on its return to the United States from a deployment in Iraq. I am proud to have authored this resolution with my colleague, Mr. HOLDEN from Pennsylvania. It is an honor, as I said, to speak in favor of this resolution and to have the support and cosponsorship of the entire Pennsylvania delegation.

The men and women being honored today are not only brave soldiers; they are also our neighbors, friends, and relatives. Their mission in Iraq was vital to our national security, and they served with honor and distinction.

In November of last year, I was joined by my colleagues, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. GERLACH and Mr. DENT, to visit the members of the 56th Stryker Brigade when they were training at Camp Shelby in Mississippi and at Fort Polk in Louisiana in preparation for their deployment.

In June of this year, Mr. HOLDEN and I, along with Mr. DENT and Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, visited Iraq to meet with our deployed troops from Pennsylvania to thank them for their service. We also met with troops at Camp Liberty outside of Baghdad, and in Taji. While there, we also were able to meet with General Odierno, the commander of the Multinational Force in Iraq. And General Odierno spoke in glowing terms of the Pennsylvania Guard and told us that our soldiers are doing an outstanding job bringing security to Iraq.

I also had the opportunity to meet with many of my constituents, and there were dozens and dozens. And they truly are citizen-soldiers. I just want to highlight three of them. Lieutenant Colonel Sam Hayes, who is a native of Tyrone, Pennsylvania. His father also happened to be the former Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary. Sergeant Buchanan, a resident of Altoona, Pennsylvania, and is employed by McAleers Plumbing and Heating. He is my plumber and spent time in my basement trying to fix leaky plumbing. So it is good to have Sergeant Buchanan home. And, finally, Sergeant Gibbons, another neighbor, a friend. His son plays on the Hollysburgh High School soccer team with my son. In fact, I will be on the sidelines tonight talking to Sergeant Gibbons.

I also wanted to thank and to remember Chad Edmundson, one of my constituents who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Our thoughts and our prayers

continue to go out to his family and, again, to thank him for his service and his sacrifice to this Nation.

The text of this resolution speaks for itself. It is my pleasure to express our gratitude and commend our soldiers on their most recent deployment and recognize their achievements. I hope to be participating on November 8 in a major parade in Tyrone, Pennsylvania, welcoming home our soldiers.

I would also like to thank my staff for their work on this resolution, in particular my Army fellow, Lieutenant Colonel Eric Estep, for his great work and late hours in putting this together.

I urge all Members of the House to support this important resolution.

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 754, which honors the Pennsylvania National Guard's 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team on its return to the United States from its deployment to Iraq.

The 56th Stryker Brigade is comprised of more than 4,000 citizen soldiers from across the Commonwealth.

The 56th served North of Baghdad and conducted more than 800 operations with the Iraqi Security Forces.

These soldiers served their country with great distinction, and it is my great honor to represent them in Congress.

I would also ask the House of Representatives to extend its deepest condolences to the families of two members of the 56th who gave the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Iraq.

Staff Sergeant Mark C. Baum, 32, of Quakertown, was killed when hit by small arms fire on Feb. 21 and

Specialist Chad A. Edmondson, 20, of Williamsburg, was killed by an improvised bomb explosion on May 27.

Passing this resolution today honors the memory of these brave soldiers of the 56th Stryker Brigade and marks the significant contribution that this unit has made to defend our Nation.

Mr. SHUSTER. With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 754.

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.

RECOGNIZING 100 YEARS OF MILITARY AVIATION

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 445) recognizing 100 years of military aviation and expressing continued support for military aviators of the United States Armed Forces, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 445

Whereas Orville and Wilbur Wright secured the patent for their powered airplane in 1906, affording them the opportunity to compete for contracts with the Army;

Whereas the United States Army Signal Corps made its first purchase of an airplane, the Wright Military Flyer, in 1909 at a cost of \$30,000;

Whereas the Wright Military Flyer carried a passenger over a distance of 125 miles;

Whereas today's military aircraft can travel around the world without landing;

Whereas the importance of military aviation and air superiority in battle was first demonstrated in World War I;

Whereas, during World War II, United States Naval aviation was decisive in reversing the Japanese advance and winning the war in the Pacific;

Whereas United States Army Air Corps played a crucial role in executing strategic bombing campaigns in both the European and Pacific theaters;

Whereas the National Security Act of 1947 established the United States Army Air Corps as a separate military branch, the United States Air Force;

Whereas the Vietnam War brought about new, more modern fighter jets and bombers, including the F-105 Thunderchief and the F-4 Phantom;

Whereas military aviators continue to provide invaluable offensive, defensive, logistical, and intelligence support to the Armed Forces;

Whereas military aviators have been on the front lines of combat and humanitarian missions in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas the increase in technology over the last century has made military aircraft an essential component in the safety and security of the United States homeland; and

Whereas the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution will commemorate the centennial of military aviation with programs and exhibits throughout 2009: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes 100 years of military aviation and expresses its continued support for military aviators of the United States Armed Forces.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Washington. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

I rise to support House Resolution 445 and thank my colleague from Texas (Mr. OLSON) for introducing this measure.

This resolution recognizes 100 years of military aviation and expresses continued support for military aviators of the United States Armed Forces.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am privileged to

be joined here today by a number of my colleagues in the House to recognize the service, sacrifice, professionalism, and commitment of all those who serve and have served our Nation as aviators in the United States Armed Forces.

Our Nation's military aviation began on August 2, 1909 when the United States Army accepted its first aircraft built by the Wright brothers. Military aviation quickly expanded to the other services. Less than 2 years later, in 1911, the Navy ordered its first aircraft. Marine Corps aviation had its inception in 1912 when the first Marine Corps officer reported for duty at the Naval Aviation Camp in Annapolis, Maryland, and qualified as a pilot less than 3 months later. Coast Guard aviation began in 1916, when its first officer received orders for flight training.

World War I focused more attention on aviation. Despite a combat record of only 9 months, February–November 1918, the Air Service made a respectable showing during World War I. The 740 American aircraft assigned to squadrons at the front on November 11, 1918, Armistice Day, represented little more than 10 percent of the total aircraft strength of Allied nations, but the Air Service had conducted 150 separate bombing attacks.

World War II began an enormous expansion of military aviation. The U.S. Army Air Forces strength in World War II would swell from 26,500 men and 2,200 aircraft in 1939 to over 2.2 million men and 63,000 aircraft by 1945. Similarly, U.S. naval aviation began the war with one small and seven large aircraft carriers, about 5,200 aircraft and about 27,000 men. During that war, this force grew to over 100 carriers of various types, over 40,000 aircraft, 160 airships, and 60,000 pilots.

After World War II, President Truman signed the National Security Act of 1947, which created today's Department of the Air Force. Since World War II, military aviation forces have played major roles in such conflicts as the Korean and Vietnam Wars, as well as all major humanitarian and combat operations. America's first seven astronauts were all military aviators, paving the way for future decades of American leadership in space.

Today's military aviators have been engaged in Operation Noble Eagle since September 2001, Enduring Freedom since October 2001, and Iraqi Freedom since March 2003, and are performing with valor, distinction, and steadfast commitment to accomplish this mission.

As a Representative of the Ninth District of the State of Washington, I would also like to take a moment to especially note McChord Air Force Base. Their service is part of the Air Mobility Command, primarily flying C-17s and serving our country across the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor 100 years of air service in the military. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of House Resolution 445 to recog-

nize those 100 years of military aviation and express continued support for military aviators of the United States Armed Forces.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield to my colleague from Texas, who served as a naval aviator, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON), for as much time as he may consume.

Mr. OLSON. I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today in support of House Resolution 445, a resolution I introduced earlier this year honoring 100 years of military aviation.

Before I begin my remarks, I would like to thank Armed Services Chairman SKELTON, Ranking Member MCKEON, as well as Subcommittee Chair Abercrombie and Ranking Member Bartlett.

Mr. Speaker, as a former naval aviator, I have firsthand knowledge of the vital and essential role the airmen of the United States military play in protecting our homeland and strengthening our global alliances.

Given the air superiority the United States enjoys today, it is easy to forget that 100 years ago there was much skepticism about the usefulness of aircraft for our Armed Forces. Shortly after the Signal Corps purchased its first aircraft for military purposes, "Scientific American," a respected publication wrote, "Outside of scouting duties, we are inclined to think that the field of the aeroplane will be rather limited. Because of its small carrying capacity and the necessity for its operation at great altitude, if it is to escape hostile fire, the amount of damage it will do by dropping explosives upon cities, forts, hostile camps, or bodies of troops in the field, to say nothing of battleships at sea, will be so limited as to have no material effects on the issues of a campaign."

One hundred years later, American courage, ingenuity, and innovation have proven them very wrong. We have come a very long way since Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Theodore Roosevelt, recommended that the Secretary investigate Professor Samuel Langley's so-called "flying machine" and report on its potentiality for use in combat.

The earliest planes were open-cockpit, single-seat mounts, and the only weapon was a sidearm and perhaps a few bricks that could be dropped on the enemy. During World War I, America's first military aviators wrote their instruction manual as they lived it and created traditions that are still honored and followed today.

In the aftermath of Pearl Harbor, America's airmen delivered the first moral victory of World War II. Flying B-25s from the deck of the Aircraft Carrier Hornet 400 miles from the shore of Japan, Colonel Jimmy Doolittle and the Knights of the Air struck back and

struck back hard. And less than 2 months later, U.S. military aviation changed world history at the Battle of Midway.

In 1947, Congress and President Truman wisely recognized the important role our country's airmen play on the battlefield and established the United States Air Force, a new, separate branch of military service.

From the hills of Korea, where our newest branch rose to the occasion and won 10 out of every 11 air engagements, to the jungles of Vietnam, where the ingenuity and versatility of our military aviators were tested like never before, the stories of the valor and the courage displayed by our country's airmen throughout our history are too numerous to tell.

On September 11, 2001, as F-16s were flowing low over Washington, D.C. and our country entered a new, unconventional war against an unknown enemy, America's brave airmen were on duty ready to defend. Whether pinpointing enemy fighters along the ridges of eastern Afghanistan from the cockpit of a P-3 Orion, manning a C-17 to deliver needed supplies to our troops on the ground, or operating strategic air strikes with a Predator drone from thousands of miles away, today in Iraq and Afghanistan our military aviators remain on guard.

General Curtis Lemay once said, "If we maintain our faith in God, love of freedom, and superior global air power, the future looks good. And, today, as we look back on 100 years of military aviation in the United States of America, we honor the heroes of military aviation and thank them for the shining path they created for our country. Indeed, the future looks good."

I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 445.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 445, which was introduced by my friend from Texas (Mr. OLSON). As I added earlier, he served as a naval aviator. We appreciate his service.

This resolution recognizes 100 years of military aviation and expresses continued support for our military aviators in the United States Armed Forces.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I am proud to speak in strong support of this resolution that honors the service, sacrifices, professionalism, and commitment of all those who have served as aviators.

For the last 100 years, the fact of the matter is that whether in times of peace or war, whether in Iraq or Afghanistan or somewhere else in the world, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week military aviators are always engaged, putting their lives at risk to protect our country. So I am honored to speak in favor of this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H. Res. 445.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 445, 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.

HONORING THE 81ST BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM OF THE WASHINGTON ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 627) honoring the citizen-soldiers of the National Guard of the State of Washington, including the 81st Brigade Combat Team (Heavy) of the Washington Army National Guard, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 627

Whereas the members of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard of the State of Washington reside throughout the State and come from various communities, backgrounds, and professions;

Whereas units and members of the Washington National Guard have been deployed, and are continuously being deployed, in support of United States military operations at home and overseas in Iraq, Afghanistan, and dozens of other countries;

Whereas one such unit, the 81st Brigade Combat Team (Heavy) of the Washington Army National Guard, is composed of approximately 2,478 citizen-soldiers from throughout the State of Washington, 843 soldiers from the California Army National Guard, 80 soldiers from the Texas Army National Guard, 38 soldiers from the Indiana Army National Guard, 23 soldiers from the Arkansas Army National Guard, 20 soldiers from the United States Army Reserve, 13 soldiers from the Montana Army National Guard, 2 soldiers from the Kentucky Army National Guard, 2 soldiers from the Maryland Army National Guard, and 1 soldier from each of the Alabama Army National Guard, New Mexico Army National Guard, Virgin Island Army National Guard, Wisconsin Army National Guard, Hawaii Army National Guard, New York Army National Guard, Utah Army National Guard, Minnesota Army National Guard, Massachusetts Army National Guard, Illinois Army National Guard, and Michigan Army National Guard;

Whereas the 81st Brigade Combat Team was placed on Federal active duty for a second overseas mobilization on August 18, 2008, and deployed to Iraq in October 2008;

Whereas, during the deployment of the 81st Brigade Combat Team in Iraq, the brigade was primarily engaged in convoy security, force protection, provincial reconstruction, and base operations missions; and

Whereas the 81st Brigade Combat Team returned to the United States and demobilized in August 2009, upon completion of one year

of service in support of military operations in Iraq: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its gratitude to the members of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard of the State of Washington and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States;

(2) commends the members of the 81st Brigade Combat Team (Heavy) from the Washington Army National Guard, the Army Reserve, and the other State National Guards specified in the preamble on the completion of their most-recent deployment in Iraq; and

(3) recognizes the achievements of the members of the 81st Brigade Combat Team, and all other formerly and presently deployed Washington Army and Air National Guard units and members, for their exemplary service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women of the Washington National Guard, including the members of the 81st Brigade Combat Team, who recently returned from an overseas deployment in Iraq.

I want to thank the entire Washington State delegation, who have all cosponsored this resolution in honoring this unit for their service to our State and to our country.

Throughout the Nation, hundreds of thousands of men and women in the Guard and Reserves serve our country. Over the last 8 years, we have asked more of them than anybody could have possibly imagined, and every single time, they have answered that call at great personal sacrifice. These are men and women who have lives, they have other jobs, they have families, and it is highly unpredictable when they are going to be called up and asked to serve, and yet they always respond.

It is critical to the safety and security of our country that they do this. They do it with great courage and dedication, and they honor our country by their service.

In my home State, various elements of the Washington National Guard have been deployed over that time period overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan, but also we must remember that the Guard and Reserves serve us here at home as well. We have had numerous emer-

gencies in the State of Washington during that time period on which the Guard and Reserves have helped us out. As well, we have had them deployed across the country in places like Louisiana. When Hurricane Katrina hit, they were called upon to do that. Their service continues for all of us in the State and across the country.

Most recently, the 81st Brigade Combat Team, led by Colonel Ronald Kapral and Command Sergeant Major Robert Sweeney, just completed their second 12-month deployment to Iraq. The brigade primarily engaged in convoy security, force protection, provincial reconstruction, and base operations missions around Iraq during their yearlong deployment.

They made our State proud during this service, as they have during all of their previous deployments. Again, this is done at no small sacrifice both by the individual members of our Army National Guard and also by their families, who have to deal with the disruption.

One of the most important things we can do in our State and across the country is to always support the families when the men and women are deployed, and to let them know that they are not alone in their service.

Their deployment was highly successful, honored by all who watched them serve. Tragically, one member of the team died during the course of his service. Specialist Samuel Stone, of Port Orchard, was killed on May 30, 2009. We all honor his loss and his service, and I ask that we keep him and his family in our thoughts and prayers.

The National Guard serves our State and our country in ways that most of us are unaware of, but it is absolutely critical to the security of our country. With our all-volunteer force, it simply could not function without men and women who are willing to take on this dual responsibility to continue in their civilian lives and who are also making themselves available for service whenever they are called, and they do not know when that is going to be.

As I said, it can be from the Governor in the State or across our country, or as has happened most recently, overseas deployments can come up when they are asked by our Federal Government to serve our Nation. Yet they are always ready, and they always respond, and they have served our Nation in a way that should make us all proud.

We literally could not have the national security we have in this country without their willingness to serve, and I thank the 81st Brigade Combat Team for their service on this most recent deployment, and I thank all those in the Washington National Guard who have served and who, today, stand ready to continue to serve. We honor their service. We thank them.

Again, I want to thank my colleagues in the Washington State delegation for unanimously signing onto this resolution honoring their service.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support and as a cosponsor of House Resolution 627, which does recognize the service and sacrifices of members of the 81st Brigade Combat Team, Washington Army National Guard, during the unit's recent tour of duty in Iraq.

I want to commend Representative SMITH for putting forth this legislation. The 81st Brigade came home in August, having successfully completed its second overseas rotation. While in Iraq, its men and women performed admirably in a range of missions that included convoy security, force protection, provincial reconstruction, and base operations support.

The 3,500 remarkable men and women who comprised the brigade combat team came not only from the Washington State Army National Guard but from around the country, which is so typical of our Guard units today. That so many citizen soldiers came from so many different locations and different walks of life and operated so successfully is a tribute not only to the patriotism and to the commitment of those men and women but also to their professionalism, adaptability and leadership.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution that expresses the House's gratitude to the 81st Brigade Combat Team for their service to our Nation. It commends them upon the completion of their most recent deployment, and it recognizes their achievements.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD).

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and, most importantly, in strong support of the men and women of the 81st Brigade and of our entire National Guard, not only in Washington State but across the Nation.

These brave men and women have served our country multiple times, as my colleagues have said, not just in times of war but in times of peace. We have had catastrophic flooding in my district a number of times, and the National Guard has always been there to respond to that call. It has been my great privilege to join our National Guard during their training in Yakima, during deployment ceremonies here Stateside, at Camp McCoy, then again in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and back home.

I will tell you, as we all know, they make us proud every single day. They are truly the finest that America has to offer, and it is their example of courage, professionalism, integrity, and compassion more than anything else, in addition to their combat and civilian skills, which help them successfully complete their mission at home.

I want to particularly congratulate General Timothy Lowenberg, who has

been an outstanding leader of the Guard, again during both war and peacetime; Colonel Sabatini, whom I met with this last week on a homecoming visit with the troops; and Daniel Kern, who served in Afghanistan while many of the other Guardsmen were in Iraq.

Particularly, I want to thank the families. As Congressman SMITH mentioned, the families serve as well. While their loved ones are overseas and are in harm's way, it is the families back home—the moms and dads, the brothers and sisters, and the children—who keep the home fires burning, and we must not forget them.

In knowing the fact that our unit is back home, we must keep in our hearts all those who are still deployed and who have been deployed.

I also want to mention the employers. Employer support of the Guard and Reserves is an incredibly important organization. They make sure that, when our men and women are deployed overseas, they have a chance to come home and resume their employment. Also, there are the educators who are helping people. There are our community colleges and universities and our vocational and technical education schools, which are helping retrain our soldiers when they come home.

Most importantly, I think it's essential that we acknowledge that Iraq is a better place because of the service of these men and women. Afghanistan is a better place. Our country is a better place, and we are grateful, and we cannot express in words our profound respect and gratitude.

I thank the gentleman for introducing the resolution.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume just to offer closing remarks.

I want to thank Congressman BAIRD for his very well-expressed remarks and Congressman SHUSTER for his support as well. I urge us to support this resolution honoring the 81st Brigade Combat Team for their service in Iraq. I think we also need to remember, as we go forward in a number of policy areas, the support that we need to show for the Guard and Reserves and for their families, whether we're talking about dealing with their retirement issues, with the GI Bill, as Congressman BAIRD mentioned, with the ability to retrain and to give more service to the men and women who serve in the Guard and Reserves—anything we can do to support them and make it easier and more possible for them to continue to serve and, as Brian mentioned, to make sure that their employers continue to employ them and to work with them.

We need to do this in this House as we work not just on these resolutions but on the legislation that offers the support that is so critical to the men and women who serve in the Guard and Reserves and to their families.

With that, I urge passage.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my strong support for H. Res. 627, legis-

lation I co-sponsored honoring the citizen soldiers of the National Guard of the State of Washington, including the 81st Brigade Combat Team of the Washington Army National Guard.

The National Guard plays a vital role in the defense of our communities and country. When we need them, they are always there, whether it be responding to a natural disaster at home or deploying to a combat zone overseas. The men and women of the Washington National Guard are our friends and neighbors, and their dedication and patriotism make us all very proud every time they put on the uniform.

More than 11,000 Washington State citizen soldiers have answered the call to duty since 9/11, including the 81st Brigade Combat Team that recently returned home from a mission in Iraq. Tragically, Specialist Samuel Stone, of Port Orchard, Washington, was killed during the deployment.

Outside my office in the Longworth House Office Building I have placed pictures of all the soldiers from the State of Washington who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan. Every day, visitors coming to or passing by the 7th Congressional District Office stop and look at the faces of the fallen. In so doing, we honor those who have died in service to their country and consider the consequences of sending soldiers off to war.

We are proud of the men and women of the Washington National Guard who willingly place themselves in harm's way to protect our lives, property and country. They deserve public recognition and our heartfelt thanks. I think of H. Res. 627 as a medal awarded to every citizen soldier for service above and beyond the call of duty. Thank you on behalf of a grateful State and Nation.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 627, a resolution honoring Washington's National Guard, and specifically the members of the 81st Brigade Combat Team. The brave men and women of the Army National Guard who make up the members of the 81st Brigade recently returned to Washington after a one-year deployment to Iraq where they served with honor, valor and distinction.

The 81st Heavy Brigade Combat Team is headquartered in Seattle, and is comprised of units from all over our state filling its ranks. Deploying to Iraq in August of 2008, this Brigade spent the next year in support of the mission of Operation Iraqi Freedom and our efforts to protect America and promote freedom and security in the Middle East. During their time in Iraq, the members of the Brigade were most frequently tasked with convoy security, force protection, provincial reconstruction and base operations.

Many members of the 81st Brigade live in Central Washington, with units headquartered in Pasco, Yakima and Moses Lake within my district. These soldiers are also members of our local communities. They are husbands and wives, small business owners, lawyers, and farmers. Not only do they fight to protect our freedoms overseas, but they also work every day for a brighter future back home.

The deployment of combat troops does not just affect those serving in Iraq, however. I must also recognize the support and sacrifice of the families of these brave soldiers. The patient and steadfast support of all the wives, husbands, mothers, fathers and children should be applauded; I send my thanks to each and every one of them today.

Our community and the entire nation are proud of these brave men and women, and we are glad to see them home safely. Soldier-citizens who voluntarily make such a tremendous sacrifice are what have kept our nation safe, free and strong for over 200 years. The work performed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom is important—requiring personal commitment and sacrifice. Your service to our country will not be forgotten.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the return home of the 81st Brigade.

In August 2008, it was a cloudy day in Eastern Washington when our community said goodbye to the men and women serving in the 81st Brigade. These citizen soldiers volunteered to serve a year in Iraq. The day they departed, we all had tears in our eyes. However, I also saw in every mother, father, wife, husband, and friend how proud they were of their soldier. I am grateful for the uncommon commitment as a "citizen soldier" leaving not only family and friends, but putting your job and perhaps educational goals on hold.

I also want to applaud the families of the 81st Brigade. More often than not, as soon as a servicemember deploys, the spouse is faced with an unforeseen obstacle like their brand new car needing to go back to the shop or the refrigerator deciding not to work. The families of the 81st Brigade have much catching up to do. They will have a Thanksgiving to celebrate, Christmas presents to open, birthday candles to blow out, Easter eggs to hunt and many, many kisses and hugs to share.

The operations we face in Iraq and Afghanistan have now lasted longer than World War II. In the last five years our nation has tasked every branch of the military and every component; active duty, National Guard and Reserve. Each has responded admirably and consistently. Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines are a vital part of that critical response in keeping America safe. We could not protect our nation if it were not for what each of them bring to the fight.

Mr. Speaker, the 81st Brigade recently returned on a sunny day back to Washington State. I am proud to welcome them home and congratulate them on a job well done.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 627, 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.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF LIFE ON AMERICAN SAMOA AND SAMOA AFTER THE EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 816) mourning the loss of life caused by the earthquakes and tsunamis that occurred on September 29, 2009, in American Samoa and Samoa, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 816

Whereas, on September 29, 2009, at 1748 UTC, a powerful earthquake struck below the ocean about 140 miles southwest of Pago Pago, American Samoa, and 125 miles south of Samoa, centered only 11 miles below the seabed;

Whereas the earthquake registered 8.3 on the Richter scale and is recognized as the world's largest earthquake of 2009;

Whereas a second earthquake with a magnitude of 5.6 occurred at 1808 UTC in the vicinity of the first one;

Whereas the first undersea earthquake created a massive tsunami that crashed into American Samoa, Samoa, and neighboring Tonga, sweeping cars and people out to sea as survivors fled to high ground;

Whereas the tsunami, with towering waves that reached up to 20 feet in height and penetrated one mile inland, caused death and destruction on a nearly unprecedented scale;

Whereas the death toll, as of October 7, 2009, is estimated at 32 in American Samoa and 135 in the Independent State of Samoa;

Whereas many individuals and families affected in this region are now lacking basic survival necessities and there remains the risk of numerous additional deaths due to shortages of clean water, adequate shelter, food, sanitation, and basic healthcare;

Whereas the human cost of this disaster transcends mere statistics and has resulted in deeply personal tragedies for numerous families and communities in the region and throughout the world;

Whereas children in the United States Territory of American Samoa running for home unknowingly ran in the direction of the tsunami;

Whereas the villages of Fagamalo, Poloa, Amanave, Fai'lolo, Nua, Se'etaga, Afao, Asili, Amaluia, Leone, Fagasa, Fagatogo, Pago Pago, Aua, Afono, Vatia, Masefau, Faga'itua, Pagai, Utusia, Alofau, Auto, Alao, and Tula in American Samoa were devastated by the disaster;

Whereas in response to this disaster and call for assistance, the people of the United States have responded with a generous and heartfelt outpouring of aid;

Whereas a team of more than 300 responders from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the American Red Cross, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and other Federal agencies is on the ground in American Samoa coordinating relief and recovery operations;

Whereas the United States Navy (USN), the United States Coast Guard (USCG), the Hawaii Air National Guard, and the U.S. Army Reserve American Samoa, under the leadership of Admiral Timothy J. Keating, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM), and Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Iuniasolua T. Savusa, Senior Enlisted Leader, PACOM, with the support of Major General Robert G.F. Lee, the Adjutant General, State of Hawaii, provided critical transport of the life-saving and life-sustaining supplies and equipment to meet the immediate needs of the survivors, including more than 26,000 meals, 14,000 liters of water, 1,800 blankets, 800 tents, more than 800 cots, and 9 pallets of medical supplies and medical equipment in support of American Samoa's mass care operations;

Whereas foreign governments, including Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, Palau, Thailand, Samoa, Fiji, Grenada, Hungary, Uzbekistan, Republic of China (Taiwan), Indonesia,

Nauru, Australia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Japan, Pacific Islands Forum members, and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) sent messages of support and offers of aid to the people of American Samoa;

Whereas organizations including the Li Ka Shing Foundation, the Hanwha Group, Save the Children, the American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, Latter-day Saint Charities, Catholic Charities, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, StarKist, Bumble Bee, the National Football League (NFL), and many others are providing assistance;

Whereas the Samoan community in areas such as California, Utah, Washington, and Hawaii have been instrumental in helping their "aiga" abroad;

Whereas President Barack H. Obama telephoned the Governor of American Samoa and American Samoa's Delegate to the United States House of Representatives to personally extend his and the First Lady's condolences to the families and loved ones of those who lost their lives in the earthquake and tsunami in American Samoa and the region, and to assure the Governor and the Delegate that he would speed the deployment of resources and provide the tools necessary for a full, swift, and aggressive response;

Whereas Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton also telephoned American Samoa's Delegate in his capacity as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment to convey her sympathy and offer her full support which subsequently included the authorization to airlift emergency supplies to Samoa;

Whereas Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi issued a press statement on behalf of the entire Congress promising to quickly address the needs of American Samoa and the Americans who live there; and

Whereas Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, House Majority Leader Steny H. Hoyer, Chairman John F. Kerry of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Chairman Howard L. Berman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Chairman Nick J. Rahall, II, of the House Committee on Natural Resources, as well as many other Members of Congress also offered expressions of support in the aftermath of the devastating tsunami: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) mourns the loss of life caused by the earthquakes and tsunamis that occurred on September 29, 2009, in American Samoa, Samoa, and Tonga;

(2) offers its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the many earthquake and tsunami victims, and to Head of State His Highness Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese and Prime Minister Tullaepa Lupeolai Saillele Malielegaoi of Samoa, as well as to His Majesty King George Tupou V and Prime Minister Feleti Vaka'uta Sevele of Tonga;

(3) pledges its full support to the people of American Samoa and the villages of Fagamalo, Poloa, Amanave, Fai'lolo, Nua, Se'etaga, Afao, Asili, Amaluia, Leone, Fagasa, Fagatogo, Pago Pago, Aua, Afono, Vatia, Masefau, Faga'itua, Pagai, Utusia, Alofau, Auto, Alao, and Tula as they begin the long and difficult process of rebuilding their homes and lives;

(4) recognizes the humanitarian response that is currently underway and commends the efforts of all persons and relief organizations who continue to alleviate the suffering by providing financial and material support;

(5) urges continued attention by donors and relief agencies to the needs of vulnerable

populations in the stricken areas, particularly the children and elderly who have been devastatingly affected by this disaster;

(6) expresses gratitude and appreciation to the foreign governments from around the world that are lending their support to the United States Territory of American Samoa;

(7) commends the over 100,000 Samoans residing in the United States from American Samoa and Samoa for coming to the aid of their "aiga" in the affected islands; and

(8) pays tribute to the people of American Samoa and Samoa for their strength of spirit and their deep and abiding faith in God which brings hope to all of us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution mourning the loss of life caused by the earthquakes and tsunamis that occurred on September 29, 2009, in American Samoa, in the independent state of Samoa and in Tonga.

On September 29, 2009, a powerful earthquake, which registered 8.3 on the Richter scale and is recognized as the world's largest earthquake of 2009, struck below the ocean about 140 miles southwest of Pago Pago and 125 miles south of Apia, in the state of Samoa, creating a massive tsunami, or tidal wave, that crashed into American Samoa, the Independent State of Samoa, and the Kingdom of Tonga, sweeping cars and people out to sea as survivors fled to high ground. The tsunami, or tidal wave, with towering waves that reached up to 20 feet in height and penetrated 1 mile inland, caused death and destruction on a nearly unprecedented scale.

The human cost of this disaster transcends mere statistics and has resulted in deeply personal tragedies for numerous families and communities in the region and throughout the world.

In the U.S. territory of American Samoa, children running for home unknowingly ran in the direction of the tsunami. The villages of Fagamalo, Poloa, Amanave, Failolo, Afao, Asili, Amaluia, Leone, Fagasa, Fagatogo, Pago Pago, Aua, Afono, Vatia, Lau'i, Faga'itua, Masefau, Alao, Tula, and Aoa in American Samoa were devastated by the disaster. Villages were also wiped out in the independent state of Samoa.

In response to this tragedy, President Barack Obama speedily deployed the

tools necessary for a full, swift and aggressive response by FEMA.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton also offered her full support and authorized the airlift of emergency supplies to the independent state of Samoa.

Speaker of the House NANCY PELOSI issued a special statement on behalf of the entire Congress, promising to quickly address the needs of American Samoa and the Americans who live there.

Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID, House Majority Leader STENY HOYER, Chairman JOHN F. KERRY of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, Chairman HOWARD L. BERMAN of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Chairman NICK RAHALL of the House Committee on Natural Resources, as well as many other Members of Congress also offered expressions of support in these trying times.

I especially want to thank my colleague and dear friend, Congresswoman LAURA RICHARDSON, for her working side by side with my office in support of our Samoan communities living in her district and in Samoa, as well as in American Samoa. Congresswoman RICHARDSON has stood by us every step of the way and has earned her rightful place in our hearts for leaving no stone unturned in relief efforts.

I also want to thank our Samoan communities and congregations—churches from Hawaii, Washington, Utah, and California—which collected critical supplies that will now be airlifted or transported by surface transportation to Samoa and, hopefully, also to American Samoa.

I want to also thank the Reverend Liki Tiatia, the Reverend John Mailo, the Reverend Misipauena Tagaloa, and High Chief Loa Pele Faletogo, who have been instrumental in gathering emergency supplies for our families abroad.

With so many people in need of basic supplies, words cannot express how grateful I am to all of my fellow Americans and to our friends from around the world who have responded to this disaster and to our call for assistance with a generous and heartfelt outpouring of aid. More than 300 responders from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the American Red Cross, the U.S. Corps of Engineers, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other Federal agencies are on the ground in American Samoa, coordinating relief and recovery operations.

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Organizations including the Li Ka Shing Foundation, the Hanwha Group, Save the Children, Habitat for Humanity, Latter-Day Saint charities, Catholic Charities, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, tuna canneries like StarKist, Bumble Bee, even the Polynesian professional football players with the National Football League and the coalition of various Sa-

moan organizations like the Office of Samoan Affairs and many others that are providing assistance.

The United States Navy, the Coast Guard, the Hawaii International Guard and the U.S. Army Reserves in American Samoa provided critical transport of the life-saving and life-sustaining supplies and equipment to meet the immediate needs of the survivors.

On behalf of the people of America Samoa, I express my gratitude for all of those who have stood by us when we have needed you most.

I also join with Governor Togiola Tulafono and First Lady Maryanne Togiola Tulafono of American Samoa conveying my deepest condolences to the families of the many earthquake and tsunami victims, and to the Head of State, his Highness Tui Atua Tupua Tamasese and Prime Minister Tuilaepa Lufesoliai Sailele Malielega of Samoa, as well as to His Majesty King George Tupou V and Prime Minister Feleti Vaka'uta Sevele of Tonga.

As we begin the long and difficult process of rebuilding, we thank God for the prayers you have offered on our behalf and express appreciation to all persons and relief organizations who continue to alleviate our suffering.

In memory of those who are no longer with us, I urge my colleagues to support passage of House Resolution 816, mourning the loss of life caused by the earthquakes and tsunamis that occurred on September 29, 2009, in American Samoa, Independent State of Samoa and the Kingdom of Tonga.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as my friend from American Samoa said, a terrible tragedy occurred on September 29, 2009, in the South Pacific. American Samoa and Samoa were struck by separate tsunami waves which devastated numerous communities on each of the islands. We offer our deepest sympathies and condolences to the many victims in the region.

The outreach of support and humanitarian efforts to assist each of the islands in their recovery efforts has to be commended. Federal agencies, military services, foreign governments, relief organizations, and private citizens have all reached out to assist these island nations.

These islands face months, if not years, of recovery actions. They will depend on Congress and the continued efforts of the Federal Government, relief organizations, and private citizens to recover.

I urge all of us to be steadfast in our support for the communities on American Samoa and Samoa and assist them to recover from this terrible event.

Finally, I would like to commend and extend my best wishes to our friend and colleague, Eni Faleomavaega, who has worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents to meet the needs of his

constituents who have suffered much during this very, very difficult period.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and gentleman from Washington for his support and endorsement as well as the chairman of our Committee on Natural Resources, NICK RAHALL, for his support.

At this time I would like to yield 2 minutes to my distinguished friend and colleague, the gentlelady from the State of Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO).

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 816 which expresses the condolences of the Congress to the Samoans following the natural disasters in the South Pacific.

I cannot stress how much these terrifying events were so deeply felt throughout the State of Hawaii because of our close familial, historical, cultural, and geographical ties to these islands.

I would like to extend a heartfelt "mahalo"—my thanks—to Hawaii's Army Air and Army Guard Medical Communication and search and rescue specialists who assisted in the recovery efforts. It is worth noting that this was the first time the Hawaii National Guard had deployed such a sizable tax force outside our State in support of a Pacific partner.

I would also like to thank the 15 Red Cross volunteers from Hawaii who focused on outreaching to the families who lost loved ones in the disasters and served meals that included local favorites like spam and saimin. I would also like to thank the many Hawaii businesses who made monetary or in-kind donations.

The outpouring of support for relief efforts from Hawaii's Samoan community has been tremendous. I know that much of their strength in the wake of these disasters is derived from their personal faith for which I have long had great admiration.

I want to close by letting my dear friend and colleague, Congressman ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, know that I stand ready along with other Members of Congress to continue to support his efforts to help the people of American Samoa and Samoa in any way that we can.

Mahalo.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I thank the gentlelady for her kind remarks from the State of Hawaii.

At this time, I would like to yield 4 minutes to my good friend from California, Congresswoman LAURA RICHARDSON.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 816, to mourn the loss of the lives and all of the tragedy that we had with the earthquake and the subsequent tsunami that devastated American Samoa and the independent State of Samoa.

May I first of all take a moment to really commend Congressman ENI

FALEOMAVAEGA from American Samoa. There is no tougher time as a Member that we have when a disaster hits our community to respond where he has been working over the last week visiting all of the territories, all of the areas to assess and to understand how we can help best.

You might ask how I got involved. Why would an 8.3 magnitude earthquake 120 miles away, that caused a tsunami, that caused death throughout many of our communities, why would I be engaged? Well, in the United States we have over 80,000 Samoans who live here, over 52,000 who live in California, and almost 30,000 of those actually live in my district. So this is beyond an issue of just a concern of a community that had a disaster. It's actually family and friends and people that I've worked with for a long time who are looking for help and assistance.

So when we stand today, I want to stand in full support with Congressman ENI FALEOMAVAEGA to really look at the tragedy that has happened but also how we can move forward. The Congressman has been successful in working with the Secretary to be able to send aid this very week that's going to go to western Samoa which the chairman has been a chairman over for many years on the committee. But we need to continue to work so when disasters like this occur, we can get help and assistance quickly, and time should not be with delay.

I also want to thank Secretary Clinton publicly for her assistance. We appreciate the initial efforts that had been done in American Samoa, but much more needs to be done, and we will work in concert to ensure that that continual work supplies things that many people care desperately for actually get to the people.

As I conclude my comments, I want to say that as Members, as we stand together to deal with this tragedy, people should know that there are over 60 organizations in my district who have now donated over 200,000 pounds of various supplies: water, food, clothing, things that people desperately need. But what they really need is they need to also know from us as leaders that they're not there alone, that we are watching what's happening, we are watching the response of FEMA and the other aspects of our government, and we are committed to them not only today but we're committed as they're going to have to rebuild which will take for many months to come.

I commend you, Congressman, for all your efforts. You passionately lead the people in your community. We're fortunate to have you here. And I will work with you and other members of our caucus to ensure not only this support, but all of the support that you need that you have us right there standing side by side.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute to again ex-

press my sincere appreciation to the comments by my dear friend and colleague, Congresswoman LAURA RICHARDSON.

Just to give my colleagues a sense of what took place, as I said earlier in my remarks, it was an earthquake right on the fringe of the Tonga Trench. The Tonga Trench is one of the two deepest trenches in the world, second only to the Marianas Trench. And when the earthquake struck at almost 7 in the morning, it caused tremors in the Samoan Islands for about 3 minutes, but the shock wave was traveling at about 500 miles an hour. So there was no way that anybody could possibly prepare for this disaster to occur because in a manner of minutes—I've seen tidal waves before, and what happens is that the water is totally sucked out from the shoreline from the reefs so pretty much you can prepare yourself to anticipate the coming of the tidal wave.

What made this disaster so different is the fact that the tremors occurred for about 3 or 5 minutes, then 5 minutes later, the tidal wave was up there 20 feet in height coming to the many people who were so surprised and shocked that early morning at 7 o'clock when the tidal wave came in.

So we're looking at two disasters: an earthquake that caused a lot of problems and then the tsunami. So the two disasters occurred at the same time.

I wanted to share that with my colleague that this is what made a very unusual disaster because there was no way that anybody could properly prepare for what was coming when this earthquake occurred.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 2 minutes to my colleague from the Virgin Islands, DONNA CHRISTENSEN.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. I thank you for yielding, and I want to rise also in strong support of H.R. 816, mourning the loss of life caused by the earthquake and tsunami that occurred on September 29, 2009, in American Samoa and Samoa, and to extend my thoughts and prayers and that of the people of the Virgin Islands to the victims of that 8.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami that devastated our brothers and sisters in the U.S. territory of American Samoa and the Nation of Western Samoa and to offer our condolences to those that lost loved ones as a result of that tragedy.

Like my colleague from California, I've been to American Samoa several times with the Congressman. We were there in early August and visited his own village of Leone—which we heard so much about in the wake of the earthquake and the tsunami because they were so hard hit—and I remember how the people came out and welcomed us. They fed us. We had a joyous time with them. That evening they showered us with so many gifts, and we just hope that we can return those gifts to them in their time of greatest need.

As I speak to you, there is a young girl—and I wish I had her name with

me—who has started a drive at home for the people of American Samoa and Western Samoa. When I go back home on Saturday, I will join her at one of our shopping centers to continue to raise supplies and funds to help our neighbors.

I know as a Congresswoman from the U.S. Virgin Island, a community of islands that is also vulnerable to tropical disasters, I am very aware of the toll it can take on the people, infrastructure, and our time and resources. I know how hard it has been on our colleague, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA to be home. I called him one morning, forgetting that it was 5 o'clock in the morning in American Samoa, but he was already up and preparing to go and visit just another area that had been devastated.

The people of my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, have asked me to express their solidarity with the people of American Samoa at this time of their distress, and to extend our support to our colleague, Congressman ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, as they make and we make with them the necessary arrangements to mobilize and deploy urgently needed emergency assistance and to assure them that all of the American people, but especially those on the other off-shore territories, are ready to assist them.

In visiting American Samoa you cannot help but be struck by the strong community spirit that exists there and the strong faith, and I know that will bear them up through this difficult time, but they still need our support, and we're here for them.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentlelady from Florida, the ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I thank the gentleman for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I was honored to join my good friend, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, in serving as an original cosponsor of this critical resolution. This resolution offers the condolences in a heartfelt way of the Congress to those who endured suffering and loss in American Samoa and Samoa and neighboring Tonga during the tragic events of September 29 and the aftermath. We join with the people of American Samoa, Samoa and the entire Samoan community here in the United States in mourning those who have died in this terrible disaster.

□ 1145

The previous tragic events of 2004 made us all keenly aware of the devastation which can be wrought by a tsunami after an earthquake takes place in ocean waters.

Waves from this tsunami in American Samoa were reportedly 20 feet high and rushed 1 mile inland, causing unprecedented death and destruction. The latest death toll reported is 32 dead in American Samoa and 135 dead in Samoa. Children mistakenly running in the direction of the tsunami were among the victims.

The Governor of American Samoa was quoted as saying that the quake and subsequent tsunami ranked right up there with some of the worst disasters to hit the area. Survivors are in urgent need of necessities, including water, adequate shelter, food, sanitation, and health care. Three hundred emergency responders have reportedly been dispatched by FEMA. The Red Cross, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Department of Health and Human Services are coordinating relief and recovery operations.

The U.S. military, under the direction of the U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii, is providing emergency assistance, including food, water, tents, blankets, and medical supplies. In this regard, military personnel are helping their friends and colleagues, as the young people of American Samoa are well known for their patriotic spirit of service in the United States military, including in both Iraq and Afghanistan. We appreciate and honor that service.

I urge my colleagues to give their strong support to this resolution.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, again, I thank my good friend, the senior ranking member of our House Foreign Affairs Committee, for her kind comments, mentioning also about the military participation of the sons and daughters of American Samoa.

According to the recent reports of USA Today newspaper, American Samoans have the highest percentage per annum in the whole United States in terms of those who sacrificed their lives in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, with about 136 percent above all States and territories. I do want to thank the gentlelady for reminding us of that.

Mr. Speaker, if I could ask how much more time do we have?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from American Samoa has 5 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Washington has 16 minutes remaining.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from California, my dear friend, Ms. CHU.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 816. Last month's magnitude 8.0 earthquake in Samoa, Tonga, and American Samoa was devastating, setting off tsunamis that washed over islands killing 168 people.

The quake generated three separate tsunami waves, the largest measuring 5.1 feet, completely destroying villages, leaving families whose entire lives had washed away with nothing. On the small islands, ocean waters washed away houses, cars, and main access roads, making it all the more difficult for rescue parties and aid to reach hard-hit areas.

In the aftermath of the disaster, local aid agencies, foreign nations, the U.S. Coast Guard, and FEMA instituted a quick and much-needed response. With the lack of proper sanitation, water and shelter continuing to be a

problem, I urge relief organizations to bolster their efforts to keep residents safe and healthy.

I commend President Obama for declaring American Samoa a major disaster area. My heart goes out to the Samoan community, many of whom live in my area of Los Angeles County.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to my namesake and friend from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS).

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I thank my colleague for yielding. I did not ask my distinguished good friend, because I didn't know how many speakers he had, and I didn't want to interdict the program as it is set forth.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in very strong support of the resolution offered in a bipartisan fashion and demonstrating very strongly how we do respond to those who are in need.

In the case of ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, American Samoa has had for a considerable period of time a distinguished Member of this body who has helped so many of us when we have had difficulties such as in Hurricane Andrew. Those that live in these areas, or my friend that just spoke from Hawaii, all of us understand these dynamics.

ENI, our heart goes out to you. As one who has visited American Samoa with you on three different occasions and had the good fortune of bringing my son there, I just want you to know how heavy my heart was when I saw those places, and my heart goes out to you and all.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to my good friend from the Northern Mariana Islands, Congressman SABLAN.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago I came to the floor to offer my condolences to the people of American Samoa and to their far-flung families who were still reeling from the initial shock from the tsunami and from the many losses suffered. Today, we meet in a more formal manner to broaden the expression of these condolences to include this House and all the people we represent from across our Nation.

I said before that the people of the Pacific, though separated by thousands of miles, feel that we are part of one family. We understand the vulnerability and isolation of life on an island in the midst of a sea, a vast sea. That shared understanding makes us one.

Today, I rise that all Americans, though separated by experience and culture, by language and distance, are part of one family. It is inexplicable how this may be so, but this evidence makes clear that it is so. When many of us are in need, as American Samoa is and will continue to be, then we find we are not alone. Then we remember we are all Americans.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from American Samoa has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 1½ minutes to my

good friend from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN).

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I believe that there is but one race, and that is the human race. I believe that one God created all humanity to live in harmony. I am honored to be here today to express my sympathies and my oneness with the people of American Samoa, Indonesia, as well as the Philippines.

I also want to make it very clear that my district is a polyglot melting pot. It is, in fact, a culture of cultures. Because it is such, I have a special kinship and relationship with the persons who have been devastated by these natural disasters.

I believe that we cannot do enough to help them recover. But I also understand in my heart that when you cannot do enough, you have a duty to do all that you can. I want us to do more because these are our fellow human beings. They are part of the one race, the human race.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I have no more requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank my good friend from Washington for his assistance and partnering with me in putting this resolution before our colleagues.

I also have a proverbial expression, going along with what my good friend from Texas has said, that, yes, there truly is only one race, and that's the human race. That's what makes this country so great.

I also believe that this country is but a microcosm of the whole world in itself, and the fact that it seeks no race or creed or boundaries to the extent that we are all fellow human beings, and whenever there is a need, it's our moral responsibility to do all that we can to give assistance.

There is also a saying among the Chinese people that says there are many acquaintances but very few friends.

I will say, Mr. Speaker, to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to my colleagues who truly are my friends, when I am in need, just from the fact that many of our colleagues have had occasions of having to appear before the floor and expressing and asking for assistance when disasters occur in their States and their territories, this is what the Congress is all about. This is what democracy is all about in this great country.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I cannot say enough words to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude for the offered help from the administration, from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, from everybody in the Congress, knowing of the difficulties that we are going through. I am going to say, our people are in good spirits. The prayer services, all that has been offered has been tremendous. I just want to say again, thank you to my colleagues.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 816 and to express my con-

lences and deepest sympathies to the people of American Samoa and Independent Samoa for the loss of life that was caused by the earthquakes and tsunamis that hit these islands on September 29, 2009.

Struck by towering waves that reached up to 20 feet in height, the people of American Samoa, Independent Samoa and Tonga are today confronting staggering losses of life and property as they watched helplessly as the in-rushing sea swallowed up coastal towns and villages.

As of last week it is estimated that 32 American Samoans and 135 residents of Independent Samoa lost their lives. And today, many families in the affected areas still lack basic necessities resulting in the risk of additional deaths because of scarce clean water, shelter, food and basic health care.

I was pleased to have had the opportunity to visit American Samoa earlier this year with my good friend and colleague, Congressman ENI FALÉOMAVAEGA, the author of the resolution we are debating today. Among the places we visited while we were there was the Village of Leone; one of the areas on American Samoa that was severely impacted. I want to express my profound condolences to the people of Leone for their suffering as well as to thank them once again for the warm welcome and hospitality they offered us.

I want to also commend Congressman FALÉOMAVAEGA for his efforts in marshalling the response of the federal government in responding to the disaster in his home island. ENI and his staff labored around the clock to coordinate the efforts of FEMA, the Red Cross, Army Corps and the other federal agencies tasked by President Obama to speedily deploy all the resources and tools necessary for a full, swift and aggressive response.

Mr. Speaker, American Samoans in the Pacific and in the mainland United States are an integral part of our country's history and of our American social fabric. They are our brothers who fight valiantly in our wars and contribute immensely to the prosperity of our country. Today, I send my thoughts and prayers to the victims and their family members in this moment of grief and tragic loss. We stand in solidarity with our brothers and pray for their speedy recovery.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 816 in mourning the loss of life caused by the earthquakes and tsunamis that occurred on September 29, 2009, in American Samoa and Samoa.

I want to express my sincere condolences to those that have lost family, friends and other important people in their lives. Despite this loss, the people of American Samoa and Samoa remain strong and resilient. They are continuing on, picking up the pieces of what can be salvaged, cleaning their homes and cities and helping each other through the struggles of trying to regain the life they once had. As thousands of people continue to struggle with this tragedy, I join my colleagues in our commitment to the relief efforts and offer support for the families of the many victims.

I would like to commend Representative ENI FALÉOMAVAEGA for his tireless efforts to help relieve the suffering and devastation in American Samoa. I will do everything I can to assist my friend and colleague in speeding any additional federal assistance needed to the area.

I am also proud of the rapid response by Major General Bob Lee and the Hawaii Na-

tional Guard, which is a testament to their training and professionalism. I know FEMA, the Hawaii Red Cross and other relief organizations are on the ground, as well, aiding communities to cope with the devastation.

There are many people in Hawaii with friends or family back in American Samoa and Samoa. They are our brothers and sisters of the Pacific and we will do all we can to help and support them.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and the people of American Samoa and Samoa.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support and sympathy to the people of the U.S. Territory of American Samoa and Western Samoa in the aftermath of the devastating tsunami that hit the region last week. The wave claimed over 200 lives and left thousands more homeless. I ask that this body support our colleague, Congressman Faleomavaega and his community as they recover from this disaster. All necessary aid to this region in the South Pacific should be brought to bear for our fellow Americans.

We on Guam have experienced our share of disasters. I recognize the efforts of my constituents, many of whom have banded together to raise money and donate clothes, blankets, and food to the relief effort for Samoa. The people of American Samoa and Western Samoa have shown great courage in the face of this tragedy. Following the disaster they have pulled together and expressed their determination to recover what was lost. They deserve our backing and support in their time of need. My thoughts and prayers will remain with the families and those impacted by this disaster.

Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 816, 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. FALÉOMAVAEGA. 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.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND SUPPORT TO INDONESIA IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE EARTHQUAKE THAT STRUCK SUMATRA

Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 810) expressing condolences to the citizens of Indonesia and support for the Government of Indonesia in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that struck the island of Sumatra.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 810

Whereas, on September 30, 2009, a 7.6 magnitude earthquake originated northwest of

the city of Padang in West Sumatra, Indonesia;

Whereas over 700 lives have been lost, many are missing and injured, and thousands have been displaced as a result of collapsed homes and buildings;

Whereas the area of the earthquake is along the same fault line that caused the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami that killed more than 230,000 people and caused many panicked residents to flee to higher ground in fear of another tsunami;

Whereas strong aftershocks continue to rock the region and create hazardous conditions for both residents and rescue workers;

Whereas the Indonesian Government sent relief teams Thursday from the capital, Jakarta, including army units to look for survivors and deliver food and medicine;

Whereas international aid agencies said they were sending rapid assessment teams to the area and preparing to rush in supplies;

Whereas the Indonesian Government stated that the earthquake destroyed more than 83,700 houses, approximately 200 public buildings, a total of 285 schools, and also caused extensive damage to an additional 100,000 buildings including hotels, mosques and shops, and approximately 20 miles of roads;

Whereas a damaged building in the main public hospital had to be evacuated, and patients are being treated outside and without electricity;

Whereas humanitarian aid agencies in the United States and around the world are mobilizing to provide much needed assistance to the relief and recovery efforts;

Whereas the United States offered assistance and immediately released \$300,000 to help provide for the most immediate and pressing needs and an additional \$3,000,000 has been set aside once greater need is determined;

Whereas the United States Government deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team to provide assistance and is sending a field hospital, three United States Navy ships with helicopters and lift capability, and 45 metric tons of emergency relief commodities; and

Whereas President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and the Indonesian Government responded quickly to the disaster: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) mourns the loss of life and expresses its deepest condolences to the families of those killed and injured in the earthquake;

(2) recognizes the deep ties between the United States and Indonesia and expresses continued solidarity with the people of Indonesia during this time of crisis;

(3) applauds the courageous response of Indonesian and international rescue workers;

(4) supports President Obama's offer of United States assistance to Indonesia in response to this catastrophic event;

(5) urges the people of the United States to generously support those humanitarian aid agencies working to assist the people of Indonesia in this time of need; and

(6) expresses gratitude to the people of the United States who have generously supported those humanitarian aid agencies working to assist the people of Indonesia in this time of need.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank my good friend Congressman DAN BURTON of Indiana, distinguished member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and co-Chair of the Indonesia Caucus, for his leadership in introducing this resolution.

This resolution extends our profound sympathy and condolences to the people of Indonesia for the terrible losses they suffered as a result of the massive earthquake that struck the island of Sumatra on September 30, 2009. Landslides triggered by the quake wiped out three villages in the province of West Sumatra. Nearly 700 lives were lost. Thousands have been injured and displaced, and a staggering number of houses, schools, and public buildings were destroyed or seriously damaged.

I want to extend my deepest sympathy and support to the Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who has been working tirelessly to deliver assistance to victims in response to this catastrophic event.

As a representative of American Samoa, a place that has also recently experienced calamity caused by a natural disaster, I know firsthand how difficult it is to see the people who elected you facing such profound losses. I also know how much it means to have support from friends and allies during these times of crisis.

Indeed, Indonesia has many friends around the world, as seen by the outpouring of international support for the earthquake relief efforts, which currently stands at about \$16 million in financial commitments from more than 20 countries. For our part, the United States has released \$300,000 for earthquake relief and has set aside an additional \$3 million for recovery operations.

In addition, the Secretary of Defense has authorized \$7 million for relief operations in Indonesia, which includes setting up a field hospital, sending three U.S. Navy ships with helicopters and lift capability, and 45 metric tons of emergency relief commodities.

□ 1200

These are all signs of enduring friendship between our two countries.

Time and time again, Indonesia has shown the world that democracy can not only survive, but thrive in a vibrant, multiethnic, moderate Islamic country. This resolution reflects our commitment to maintain a strong U.S.-Indonesia relationship and ex-

presses our solidarity with the good people of Indonesia during these difficult times.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, introduced by my good friend and colleague, DAN BURTON of Indiana, expressing the condolences of the Congress and the American people regarding the loss of life and property suffered by the people of Indonesia. The devastating earthquake which struck the island of Sumatra on September 30 has reportedly led to the deaths of at least 700 people and the displacement of thousands more from their homes.

The concern and the generosity of the American people is well-known to the people of Indonesia, as demonstrated following the devastating tsunami which struck their country in late December of 2004. The sight of U.S. military personnel engaged in tsunami rescue and relief operations made all Americans proud. The involvement of our two former U.S. Presidents in the Bush-Clinton Tsunami Relief Fund further demonstrated that when a crisis occurs, we are indeed our brothers' and sisters' keeper.

The United States came to Indonesia's assistance once again after this most recent earthquake. We provided \$300,000 in immediate response and set aside an additional \$3 million for further relief efforts. The U.S. Navy was once again deployed, with three ships being dispatched with helicopters to provide emergency relief and supplies.

We send the relief workers and the people of Indonesia our prayers and our best wishes for a rapid and full recovery as they continue their courageous efforts to assist the injured and to locate the missing.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO).

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 810. I would like to thank Congressman DAN BURTON for his work on this resolution.

In February 2008, I visited Indonesia as a member of the House Democracy Partnership. While our focus was meeting with members of the Indonesian House of Representatives, we made it a point to also visit Banda Aceh on the island of Sumatra.

As you may recall, in December 2004, Banda Aceh was the closest major city to the epicenter of an Indian Ocean earthquake and suffered further damage by a tsunami that struck shortly afterwards. That earthquake measured 9.3 on the Richter scale.

The awesome power of the tsunami was brought home to us as leaders of Banda Aceh showed us how the whole

area had literally been leveled and ships from port were swept inland by the water's force. Of course, the human tragedy was incalculable. Children became orphans instantly. Mothers, fathers and families were devastated.

The recovery efforts in which the United States played a major role were extraordinary. What I was most impressed with, however, was the remarkable resiliency and spirit of the people of Banda Aceh. It is that same resiliency that I am sure will rise again out of the tragedies of the earthquakes and aftershocks of September 2009.

My thoughts are with those who were lost, their loved ones, and the tens of thousands of survivors who are struggling in the aftermath. I stand with President Obama in his offer of assistance that will help alleviate the suffering and provide relief in this region.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, we continue to reserve.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will say that Indonesia has come a long way in establishing its democracy, being the largest democratic country. It happens to be a Muslim country with a population of some 225 million people.

I want to also commend President SBY for all that he is trying to do in helping the good people of West Papua. There have been some difficulties along the way, but I suspect that every effort is being made to address the needs of the people of West Papua. Certainly I congratulate them on the recent national elections that were done in such a way that it was again demonstrated that democracy can happen in a Muslim country like Indonesia.

So I want us to realize that only 5 years ago we had a tsunami that also impacted Indonesia, that some 220,000 people died as a result of that terrible disaster, and for which I am very grateful that our country responded in such a way that I think the people of Indonesia deeply appreciated our assistance.

So we are at this again. Another disaster struck Indonesia, and I thank the administration for all the efforts that are being made to give assistance to the good people of Indonesia.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor and privilege of co-chairing the Congressional Indonesia Caucus with my good friend, Congressman WEXLER. Accordingly, I want to take this moment to express my heartfelt condolences to the citizens of Indonesia, the President, and the Indonesian government in the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes that struck the West Sumatra region this past month.

On September 30, 2009, a 7.6 magnitude earthquake that originated northwest of the city of Padang (population: 900,000) led to the loss of 800 lives. Countless more remain missing and are presumed dead while thousands have been displaced from their homes that were either destroyed or remain unsafe as ongoing tremors continue to bring uncertainty to the area.

The quakes have devastated the region, destroying over 83,700 houses, 200 public buildings, 285 schools, and have also caused extensive damage to an additional 100,000 buildings including hotels, mosques, shops, and hospitals, and approximately twenty miles of roads. Lying near the intersection of shifting tectonic plates, Indonesia is prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Such devastation is yet another tragedy to strike the region, which is still recovering from the 2004 earthquake born from this very same fault line that resulted in the Indian Ocean tsunami and the loss of over 230,000 lives.

As a result, I am very pleased to join my colleagues today in passing House Resolution 810 expressing our condolences to the Indonesian people for the devastating earthquake and loss of life in their Sumatra region.

I would also like to commend the courage and perseverance of the Indonesian government and people as they work tirelessly with humanitarian organizations in distributing aid and mobilizing relief efforts. All the while, strong aftershocks continue to rock the region and create hazardous conditions for both residents and rescue workers.

There is still much to be done, yet the Indonesian government and countless other humanitarian and private groups continue to provide emergency assistance to those in need.

The U.S. also shows our support as we reaffirm our commitment by releasing millions in aid and contributing to the widespread international response. We continue to regard Indonesia as an important ally, recognizing its recent democratic transition and transformation into the world's third largest democracy. In addition, hosting the world's largest Muslim majority, the people of Indonesia demonstrate that Islam and democracy are not mutually exclusive and can successfully work in tandem. Thus, we look forward to fostering future cooperation between the United States and Indonesia in the areas of trade, national security, and cultural awareness and appreciation.

The Indonesian people have seen tremendous change in the last decade, and they once again continue to persevere through tragedy. It is my hope that our nations will only continue to grow in our commitment to one another and to freedom, justice, and democracy.

I would like to thank Congressman BERMAN and Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN for helping to move this important resolution to the floor.

And, again I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Indonesian people and the family and friends of those who are suffering greatly as a result of this disaster.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, we yield back the balance of our time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 810.

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.

COMMEMORATING THE CANONIZATION OF FATHER DAMIEN DE VEUSTER TO SAINTHOOD

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 786) commemorating the canonization of Father Damien de Veuster, SS.CC. to sainthood, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 786

Whereas Father Damien de Veuster, SS.CC. was born Joseph de Veuster in Tremelo, Belgium, on January 3, 1840, and in 1859, at age 19, he entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in Louvain and selected Damien as his religious name;

Whereas in 1863, Father Damien received permission to replace his ill brother, and sailed to the Hawaiian Islands to perform missionary work;

Whereas Father Damien arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii on March 19, 1864, was ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace on May 21, 1864, and began his pastoral ministry on the island of Hawaii;

Whereas the Hawaiian Government deported individuals infected with leprosy, now also known as Hansen's disease, to a peninsula on the island of Molokai, to prevent further spread of the disease, and Bishop Louis Maigret, SS.CC. sought the help of Father Damien and other priests to provide spiritual assistance for the sufferers of Hansen's disease;

Whereas several priests volunteered to work on Molokai for a few months, but Father Damien requested to remain permanently with the individuals suffering from Hansen's disease, and was among the first to leave for the island of Molokai on May 10, 1873;

Whereas for 16 years, Father Damien served as a voice of hope and a source of consolation and encouragement for the individuals afflicted with Hansen's disease;

Whereas working together, Father Damien and the people isolated on the Kalaupapa peninsula accomplished remarkable achievements, including building houses and hospitals, taking care of the patients' spiritual and physical needs, building 6 chapels, constructing a home for boys and a home for girls, and burying the hundreds who died during his years on the island of Molokai;

Whereas Father Damien died on April 15, 1889, after contracting Hansen's disease, and his remains were transferred to Belgium in 1936, where he was interred in the crypt of the church of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts at Louvain;

Whereas in 1938, the process for beatification for Father Damien was introduced at Malines, Belgium;

Whereas in April 1965, the Legislature of the State of Hawaii selected Father Damien as the first of its two selections for the National Statuary Hall Collection in the U.S. Capitol;

Whereas, on April 15, 1969, a statue of Father Damien and a statue of King Kamehameha I, gifts from the State of Hawaii, were unveiled at the Capitol Rotunda;

Whereas, on July 7, 1977, Pope Paul VI declared Father Damien "venerable", the first of 3 steps that lead to sainthood;

Whereas, on June 4, 1995, Pope John Paul II declared Father Damien "Blessed Damien", and his feast is on May 10, the day Father Damien first entered the island of Molokai; and

Whereas Father Damien will be canonized a saint on October 11, 2009, by Pope Benedict XVI: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors and praises Father Damien for his legacy, work, service, and his insistence on recognizing the human rights and dignity of every individual, particularly those who lived alongside him at the Hansen's disease settlement on the island of Molokai.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. 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 gentleman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution commemorates the canonization of Father Damien de Veuster for his selfless works ministering to those suffering from Hansen's disease, also known as leprosy, on the Hawaiian island of Molokai. I would also like to thank my good friend Ms. HIRONO from the State of Hawaii for sponsoring and authoring this resolution and for working to ensure that Father Damien's legacy is never forgotten.

Many of us here and our colleagues who walk the Halls of the Congress have oftentimes passed by the distinctive statue of Father Damien in the Capitol, yet few of us understood that this was a man who essentially gave his life in order to help others.

In 1863, at the age of 23, Father Damien left his home in Belgium, sailing to Hawaii to perform missionary work. At that time, the Hawaiian Government deported those who had contracted Hansen's disease to a place called Kalaupapa on the island of Molokai to prevent the spread of the disease. Though he was aware of the risks of contracting leprosy, Father Damien decided to move to Molokai permanently in order to be with those who suffered there.

Isolated from society on the Kalaupapa peninsula on the island of Molokai, Father Damien and those to whom he ministered had many remarkable achievements: building schools and hospitals, constructing churches and homes, and attending to the spiritual and physical needs of those suffering from Hansen's disease, or leprosy.

For 16 years, Father Damien served as a voice of hope and a source of consolation and encouragement for individuals afflicted with Hansen's disease,

until he died on April 15, 1889, after contracting the disease himself.

In 1977, recognizing his life of good works and the sacrifice he made in helping others, Pope Paul VI began the process that would ultimately lead to sainthood for Father Damien.

Mr. Speaker, just last Sunday, Father Damien was finally canonized as a saint by Pope Benedict XVI.

I urge all my colleagues to honor the life and accomplishments of Father Damien and his legacy of self-sacrifice by supporting this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution commemorating the canonization of Father Damien on Sunday, October 11, by Pope Benedict XVI. I thank Ms. HIRONO and the Hawaiian delegation for introducing this resolution honoring a true American hero.

When Father Damien first arrived in Hawaii as a missionary in 1864, he was only 24 years old. After the Hawaiian Government ordered the quarantine of those affected with leprosy to a settlement on the island of Molokai, Father Damien volunteered to go minister to their care.

The Catholic bishop introduced Father Damien to his new 816 parishioners in the year 1873 as "one who will be a father to you, and one who loves you so much that he does not hesitate to become one of you, to live and die with you."

While Father Damien's first action was to build a church, he did not limit his role to that of a priest. He dressed ulcers, built homes and beds, built coffins and dug graves. Father Damien's arrival was a turning point for the disease-afflicted community, which, given new hope, built homes instead of shacks, constructed new schools and organized working farms.

Father Damien contracted the disease as a result of this ministry and died at the age of 49 on April 15, 1889, a date still commemorated in Hawaii.

No less an authority than Mahatma Gandhi wrote the following concerning Father Damien: "The political and journalistic world can boast of very few heroes who compare with Father Damien of Molokai. It is worthwhile to look for those sources of such heroism."

Given his work with those who suffered from a disease which carried a social stigma, Father Damien has also become the unofficial patron of those afflicted with HIV/AIDS. The world's only Roman Catholic memorial chapel dedicated to those who have died of HIV/AIDS, located in Montreal, Canada, is consecrated to him.

We in the Congress have long been aware of the deep affection felt by the people of the Aloha State for their adopted son. A statue of Father Damien was one of the two sent from the then-new State of Hawaii to be placed in the Nation's Capitol in 1965.

We all fervently wish that this past Sunday's canonization of yet another American saint will bring blessings to our country at a time of economic uncertainty at home and perils abroad.

I urge my colleagues to strongly support this resolution.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, years ago it was my privilege to have been invited by the famous native Hawaiian navigator Nainoa Thompson to be a member of the crew of the famous Hawaiian voyaging canoe Hokule'a. We sailed from Tahiti, and it took us about 27 days until finally we sighted the famous mountains of Mauna Kea.

Part of our traveling along the Hawaiian chain of islands was that we also visited the famous peninsula called Kalaupapa on the island of Molokai where we visited and stayed there, resting before we went on to the island of Oahu. It was there, Mr. Speaker, that I saw the legacy of Father Damien's work in dealing with the native Hawaiian people, or anybody who contracted leprosy who was sent to that island to remain there for the rest of their lives.

The unfortunate stories that I have heard in the treatment of these people is that they were just dropped off, not even on the wharf. They were just simply taken there, and they had to swim to the islands in order to get there. What a terrible way of treating those people that were screened or realized that they had Hansen's disease.

But I just wanted to describe the memory of seeing the school and the grave sites and the little community that was built, for which Father Damien was very responsible in helping those who were in need and the people who contracted Hansen's disease on the island of Molokai on this particular peninsula, the beautiful, beautiful peninsula of Kalaupapa, very, very historical; and I know this is true also to our native Hawaiian community.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my good friend, the distinguished author of this legislation, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO).

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my friends, the gentleman from American Samoa and the gentlelady from Florida, for their kind remarks in support of this resolution.

I rise today in support of my resolution commemorating the canonization of Father Damien, a member of the congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, to sainthood this past Sunday, October 11, 2009.

We can all celebrate the life of St. Damien, a man who put his faith and principles into action in the service of a group of people who suffered not only the physical effects of leprosy, now known as Hansen's disease, but also from the terrible stigma associated with the disease.

□ 1215

Father Damien is recognized for his 16 years of selfless service to the people who were forcibly isolated on the peninsula of Kalaupapa, on the island of Molokai, Hawaii, because they were diagnosed with Hansen's disease. Living among the people of Kalaupapa from 1873 to 1889, he eventually contracted the disease, ultimately died from its effects, and was buried on Molokai.

The policy of exiling persons with the disease that was then known as leprosy began under the Kingdom of Hawaii and continued under the governments of the Republic of Hawaii, the Territory of Hawaii and the State of Hawaii. Children, mothers and fathers were forcibly separated and sent to Kalaupapa, which for most of its history could only be accessed by water or via a steep mule trail. Children born to parents at Kalaupapa were taken away from their mothers and sent to orphanages or to other family members outside Kalaupapa. Hawaii's isolation laws for people with Hansen's disease were not repealed until 1969, even though medications to control the disease have been available since the late 1940s.

I believe that all people, regardless of their religious beliefs, can recognize truly extraordinary persons who give of themselves without reserve for the betterment of their fellow human beings. Father Damien was surely such a person. No sickness was as feared as leprosy in the late 1800s, but he volunteered to serve at Kalaupapa and requested to stay there in order to serve those who were most shunned. He recognized the human rights and inherent dignity of all people, especially those he lived alongside at Kalaupapa.

Father Damien worked with the people of Kalaupapa to improve their living conditions. A skilled carpenter, he led in the building of houses and hospitals, six chapels, a home for boys and a home for girls. At the same time, he ministered to the spiritual and physical needs of his parishioners and helped to bury the hundreds who died during his years there.

It is noteworthy that shortly after Hawaii became a State, Father Damien was the first selection of the State legislature to be memorialized in a statue as part of the National Statuary Hall in Washington, DC. Despite the fact that he was not born in Hawaii and lived so long ago, Hawaii's people recognize that his life embodied the true spirit of aloha, which means, love, compassion, mercy, grace, and malama, which means to care for.

Last week in Louvain, Belgium, prior to the canonization, some 400 Hawaii residents, including 11 former Hansen's disease patients from Kalaupapa, attended a mass with the King and Queen of Belgium near St. Damien's birthplace. Addressing those who came all the way from Hawaii, Cardinal Danneels, a native of Belgium said, "We gave life to Father Damien. You gave him back as a saint. We thank you."

I have visited Father Damien's grave at Kalawao on the Kalaupapa peninsula, and as you can see by this photo that was taken when I visited Kalaupapa, it seems almost unreal. It is a beautiful place where tremendous suffering took place, but also a place imbued with great spiritual feeling. Father Damien's grave site is marked on this photo in the far left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. HIRONO. I hope that you will have the opportunity to visit Kalaupapa at some point in your lives. I know that you will be deeply moved, as I was, by the example of this man, this saint, as well as by the courage and perseverance of the people he dedicated his life to serving.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I would like to ask just a couple more minutes to say I want to share with my colleagues another beautiful story, a legacy of Father Damien. This is a story about a native Hawaiian leader by the name of Jonathan Napela. And when this Hawaiian leader found out that his wife had contracted Hansen's disease, he went with her to Kalaupapa, lived with her throughout the rest of his life, and he also contracted Hansen's disease because of the love that he had for his wife, and they lived there, working with Father Damien and other leaders there in this little community of Kalaupapa.

And I just wanted to note that for the RECORD. This famous native Hawaiian leader by the name of Jonathan Napela also was a beautiful story of how much he was able to help the community there in Kalaupapa and the island of Molokai.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 786 in commemorating the canonization of Father Damien de Veuster to sainthood.

The canonization of Father Damien completes his ascension to sainthood and gives universal veneration to a life of extraordinary commitment, charity, and faith. It has been more than 120 years since his death on the Kalaupapa Peninsula on the island of Molokai, but Father Damien's life continues to illuminate for all humankind the pathway of service to the needy.

Father Damien's mission in life and the journey he took to fulfill it were inspired by a simple yet profound compassion, to recognize the human rights and dignity of every individual, particularly those who were cast aside to Kalaupapa. He challenged the orthodoxies of his own church and the government to provide the needed resources to care for Hansen's disease patients who had been banished to Kalaupapa—attracting worldwide attention to his demonstration of humanity.

He lived, worked, and died in geographic isolation with the people he cared for, but his timeless teachings and inspiration have reached a vast congregation that reaches

around the world without regard to time and place. Father Damien's hope and devotion continue to strengthen all of us today, and his sainthood affirms this for eternity.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and Father Damien's work and legacy, a timeless example of compassion and dedication.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 786, 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. FALEOMAVAEGA. 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.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF UNITED STATES-POLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 266) celebrating 90 years of United States-Polish diplomatic relations, during which Poland has proven to be an exceptionally strong partner to the United States in advancing freedom around the world, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 266

Whereas the United States established diplomatic relations with the newly independent Second Polish Republic in April 1919;

Whereas the year 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the fall of communism in Poland, as well as the restoration of democracy and market economy in that country;

Whereas the year 2009 marks the 10th anniversary of Poland's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

Whereas the year 2009 marks the 5th anniversary of Poland's accession to the European Union (EU);

Whereas the year 2009 marks the 50th anniversary of the Fulbright Educational Exchange Program in Poland;

Whereas Poland has overcome a legacy of foreign occupation and period of communist rule to emerge as a free and democratic nation;

Whereas Poland is a valued partner in the fight against global terrorism and has contributed troops to the stabilization and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq; and

Whereas Poland has cooperated closely with the United States on issues such as democratization, nuclear nonproliferation, human rights, regional cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe, and reform of the United Nations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) celebrates the 90th anniversary of United States-Polish diplomatic relations;

(2) congratulates the Polish people on their great accomplishments as a free democracy; and

(3) expresses appreciation for Poland's steadfast partnership with the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The gentleman from American Samoa is recognized.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. 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 gentleman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am in strong support of House Resolution 266, which celebrates 90 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Poland. I wish to thank my good friend, the distinguished gentleman from the State of Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) for his authorship and introduction of this bill that enables the House to join the Senate in marking this significant anniversary and reaffirming our friendship with an important ally.

It is remarkable to think that it has been only 20 years since Poland began to emerge from a period marked by war, Communist rule and occupation. On June 4, 1989, the good people of Poland voted in semi-democratic parliamentary elections. They resulted in a landslide victory for opposition candidates fielded by the Solidarity trade union over the ruling Communists. The new government moved swiftly to reestablish democratic practices and a free market economy.

This election marked a turning point in the region, as other Soviet satellite states in Central and Eastern Europe regained their freedom by the end of 1989. Poland undertook internal reforms that enabled its rapid integration into the Euro-Atlantic community. Indeed, 2009 marks the fifth anniversary of Poland's membership with the European Union and the 10th anniversary of its accession to NATO. Poland has since been playing an active role in the international community, helping to secure peace and stability through its contributions to civilian and military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In addition, Poland has been a strong ally of the United States. This year we are marking 90 years of diplomatic relations, with the United States being the first country to recognize the newly independent Second Polish Republic in January 1919. This was par-

ticularly fitting given the key role played by President Woodrow Wilson in demanding that an independent Poland be included in the Treaty of Versailles.

Since that time, there has continued to be a close friendship between our two peoples and countries. The estimated 10 million of our fellow Polish Americans who comprise 3 percent of the U.S. population have made considerable contributions to the cultural, economic, social, and political fabric of our great Nation. I welcome the planned visit by Vice President BIDEN to Poland later this month, as it provides an excellent opportunity to affirm our strong bilateral relationship.

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

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 266, which celebrates 90 years of U.S.-Polish diplomatic relations and the fact that Poland has proven to be a strong partner for the United States in advancing freedom around the world.

Poland has come a long way since throwing off the yoke of Communism 20 years ago. In fact, it was only 2 months ago that Poles celebrated the 20th anniversary of the first free and democratic parliamentary elections in their country, held in 1989, which followed decades of Communist rule and Soviet domination of Poland. The election, in fact, helped provide the inspiration for the peoples of other Central and Eastern European nations to subsequently free themselves from the shackles of the Communist regimes in their countries.

Today, Poland is a free and democratic country and a full and valued member of a number of international organizations, including the European Union and NATO. Through NATO, Poland is a full ally of the United States and, in that role, has significantly contributed to the United States-led efforts to fight global terrorism.

This resolution, Mr. Speaker, celebrates the 90th anniversary of the U.S.-Polish diplomatic relations. It congratulates the Polish people on their great accomplishments as a great democracy, and it expresses appreciation for Poland's partnership with the United States.

Given the specific intent of the resolution before us today dealing with the importance of our relationship with our ally, Poland, I would like to comment on the recent decision by President Obama to cancel the long-range missile defense project with Poland. We could debate the recent decision to cancel the long-range missile defense project in Poland, a decision with which many of us, obviously, disagree. In light of the history of Eastern Europe over the past century, and of Poland, in particular, we should exercise care in the ways that we arrive at decisions that have great consequence to our allies in that region.

In this instance, the decision to cancel the missile defense project was communicated to Polish officials only the night before it was announced. The decision was also announced on the 70th anniversary of the invasion of the Soviet Union of Poland in 1939. What an insult. In light of the timing of the decision, and given that Russian troops invaded Georgia last year, should we have been surprised when our Polish allies reacted with alarm at the suddenness of the announcement? I think not.

In short, Mr. Speaker, our relationship with Poland requires skillful handling and needs to take into account what Poland has experienced over the past 100 years in order to avoid sending unintended and potentially damaging messages to such a close ally.

Mr. Speaker, I support the resolution before us today.

I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman, the author of this piece of legislation, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI).

□ 1230

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 266, celebrating 90 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Poland and recognizing Poland's critical role in advancing freedom and democracy across the globe. We must never forget Lech Walesa's leadership inside Poland and the Polish pope, Pope John Paul II's leadership from the outside which helped lead to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the collapse of the wall separating the East and West and the freedom that that brought to so many hundreds of millions of people around the world.

As a Polish American, as the co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Poland, and as someone who represents part of the most Polish city outside of Poland, I'm especially proud to sponsor this resolution. I would like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for working with me on this resolution and on other important issues.

In addition to marking the 90th anniversary of U.S.-Poland diplomatic relations, this year also marks the 20th anniversary of the fall of communism in Poland, the 10th anniversary of Poland's accession to NATO, and the 5th anniversary of Poland's membership in the European Union.

Ninety years ago, there were already 150,000 Polish immigrants in and around Chicago. The Polish American Association recently noted that following World War II, "Polish Americans made up a large part of the countless families moving into Chicago suburbs, especially southwest suburbs such as Oak Lawn and Hickory Hills and western suburbs such as Berwyn and Lyons." These are all areas I represent, and such communities are one reason our countries are so close.

Poland's struggle against communism and its emergence as a free and democratic nation are a great chapter in the history of the 20th century. In recent years, Poland has strongly supported the United States diplomatically and militarily, helping to combat global terrorism and contributing troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution and in conveying America's thanks to the Polish people. Poland has been one of our Nation's best friends and strongest allies. We must honor this relationship and make sure that we work to continue it and work to strengthen that relationship with great respect.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS), a member of the Armed Services and Judiciary Committees and the co-Chair of the House Missile Defense Caucus.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I thank the gentlelady, as always.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to stand here today in strong, wholehearted support of our cherished ally, the nation of Poland, and in strong support of House Resolution 266. And I want to thank Mr. LIPINSKI, a cherished friend of mine, for his willingness to put forth this resolution.

After the recently announced decision by the Obama administration abandoning our promised missile defense interceptors in Poland, our allies' newspaper headlines stated the situation in rather stark terms, Mr. Speaker. One Polish newspaper had the headline, "Betrayed! The USA has sold us to the Russians and stabbed us in the back."

Now, Mr. Speaker, it's a travesty beyond words that the United States of America, the bastion of freedom throughout the entire world, would give reason to a loyal ally like Poland to write headlines like that. Poland has strongly supported the United States diplomatically and militarily and has joined with us courageously in combating global terrorism and has contributed troops to the coalitions led by the United States of America both in Afghanistan and in Iraq.

For these reasons and so many others, Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to stand here today with my colleagues to warmly congratulate the Polish people on their remarkable accomplishments as a free nation and to express our gratitude for Poland's steadfast partnership with the United States and to affirm our clear and unwavering support for the free democratic nation of Poland.

Mr. Speaker, I would go one step further by stating that one of the best ways we could demonstrate our deep love and appreciation for the nation and people of Poland would be to prove that we mean this by extending the Visa Waiver Program to our Polish allies. We've already extended the Visa

Waiver Program to 35 other allies, including other European nations like Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia, and I strongly believe we should have extended this same courtesy to our allies in Poland long ago. Poland repealed its own visa requirement back in 1991 and allows Americans to travel throughout Poland without the use of a visa.

The nation of Poland has proven time and again, Mr. Speaker, its steadfast dedication to the cause of human freedom as well as its friendship with the United States, and it is appropriate that they understand that America is grateful. And I just reiterate my gratitude to Mr. LIPINSKI and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 1½ minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in wholehearted support of this resolution. I thank Representative LIPINSKI for his outstanding work that he has done to bring this resolution to the floor.

In 1919, the United States established diplomatic relations with the newly formed Polish Republic. After 90 years of diplomatic relations, our relations have never been stronger.

Over the last 90 years, the Polish people have overcome profound challenges, and Poland has emerged as a beacon for democracy and economic revitalization. In the 1980s, Polish workers rose against the Soviet elite, and despite significant oppression, forced democratic elections in 1989 and was a significant factor in the fall of the Iron Curtain. Despite the decades of Soviet control, over the last 20 years, the Polish economy has expanded dramatically and now is one of the economic engines of Europe.

Over the years, Poland has cooperated closely with the United States on issues such as democratization, nuclear proliferation, human rights, regional cooperation in Eastern Europe, and reform of the United Nations.

Today we can recognize these great contributions and reaffirm our commitment to our relationship with this great ally by voting in support of this resolution. I urge my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to vote in support of House Resolution 266.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to also join in support of H. Res. 266, celebrating 90 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Polish Republic.

In those years, Poland has suffered invasion, and then the cruel domination of communism.

The religious faith and the courage of Poland's people carried them out of those dark years, and Poland today is a beacon of democracy to the rest of the world.

With an impressive history, Poland is also poised to be a leader of Europe's future.

I visited Poland with a group of other Members, so I have a firsthand sense of the hospitality of Poland, and also of Poland's commitment to freedom and national security.

I am very disappointed in President Obama's decision not to follow through with the placing of ground-based missile defense systems in Poland. In the United States House of Representatives and in the Senate, there are still many supporters of such a system.

I appreciate the serious debates and commitments Poland has made to be an ally of the United States on missile defense, and I will continue to urge full cooperation between the United States and Poland on this matter.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I have no further speakers and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 266, 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.

RECOGNIZING THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MAHATMA GANDHI

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 603) recognizing the 140th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 603

Whereas October 2, 2009, marks the 140th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi; Whereas Mahatma Gandhi was a great political leader, devout and spiritual Hindu, and leader of India's nationalist movement;

Whereas all his life Gandhi courageously supported, and in fact gave his life for, the cause of Hindu Muslim amity;

Whereas Gandhi helped to make India the largest democracy in the world;

Whereas his philosophy of nonviolent civil disobedience has influenced people around the world for the betterment of mankind;

Whereas Gandhi developed the term Satyagraha, meaning vindication of truth, not by inflicting suffering on others but through nonviolent and patient self-suffering;

Whereas his autobiography "My Experiments with Truth" reveals the inner voice of one of history's most spiritual leaders;

Whereas Gandhi counseled humankind to "Hate the sin, and love the sinner", urged people everywhere to "be the change you want to see in the world", and reminded the world that "Freedom is not worth having if it does not connote the freedom to err"; and

Whereas as a result of his timeless legacy, Gandhi's name has come to symbolize freedom and justice around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 140th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi;

(2) acknowledges and commends Mahatma Gandhi's unique and lasting role in the establishment of the state of India and its

democratic institutions, which will be revered for generations to come; and

(3) congratulates the visionary leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, which enhanced the rapidly deepening friendship between the United States and India, the world's oldest and largest democracy, respectively.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The gentleman from American Samoa is recognized.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. 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 gentleman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

This resolution recognizes the 140th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, one of the 20th century's greatest political leaders, a devout and spiritual Hindu, and the father of India's nationalist movement.

While much has been said about the great works of Gandhi's life, it is important that we never forget that without Gandhi, the fates of what is now the world's largest democracy, India, and the oldest democracy, the United States, would likely be far different.

Mahatma Gandhi served as an inspiration for a movement that ended the rule of the British Raj and created a free and independent Indian state. I might also add, Mr. Speaker, it ended the rule of the British Empire. But of equal significance, especially to us in this Chamber today, Mahatma Gandhi inspired the American civil rights movement that hailed one of America's most remarkable social and political transformations.

By advocating nonviolence, a radical new form of resistance, Mahatma Gandhi transformed the methods used around the world to protest oppression. Mahatma Gandhi developed the term "Satyagraha," meaning vindication of truth not by inflicting suffering on others but through nonviolent and patient self-suffering. He counseled humankind to "hate the sin and love the sinner" and urged people everywhere to "be the change you want to see in the world." The late Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., became the agent, an instrument, of that change here in the United States.

In India, at a time when sectarian tensions threatened to disrupt the independence movement, Mahatma Gandhi encouraged dialogue between Muslim and Hindu community leaders, working to cool passions and put an end to religious-based violence.

Though his life was cut tragically short by an assassin's bullet, his legacy is seen in the over 1.5 billion people who inhabit the free and independent countries of the Indian subcontinent and by our own embrace of the principles of nonviolent political action, unity, and religious tolerance within the United States.

I urge all my colleagues to honor the 140th anniversary of the birth of the great Mahatma Gandhi by supporting this resolution.

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

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

I rise in support of House Resolution 603, a measure recognizing the 140th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi. At the outset, let me express my deep appreciation to our distinguished chairman, Mr. HOWARD BERMAN, my good friend from California, for his strong support of this bipartisan resolution and to the co-Chairs of the India Caucus for their cosponsorship.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced this resolution to honor the extraordinary life and the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi. The broad outlines in the life story of this remarkable human being are, of course, generally well known: his struggles as a young lawyer in South Africa for the civil liberties and the political rights of Indian immigrants; his return to India and his leadership in the long and complex struggle for home rule and then independence; and his campaign against violent communalism and terror, a struggle that ultimately cost him his life.

In the course of this journey, Gandhi believed and developed the distinctive philosophy of nonviolence. This philosophy has influenced so many great figures of world history from Nehru to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., to Aung San Suu Kyi.

Today, Cuban dissidents and political prisoners such as Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet turn to Gandhi's tenets of peaceful civil disobedience to challenge the Cuban tyranny and demand the freedom of the Cuban people.

In a world too often worked marked by violence and vast inequity, Gandhi said, "be the change you want to see in the world."

"Be the change you want to see in the world." This reminds us all of the need for personal integrity in the struggle for peaceful change and the fullest respect for human dignity.

Mr. Speaker, as we have all come to understand, the life and the teachings of this deeply philosophical and spiritual man have touched millions of people around the world. Indeed, in world affairs, the person who arguably affected change more than anyone else, more effectively than anybody else, was Mahatma Gandhi.

Mr. Speaker, ultimately, what was it about this complex and enigmatic man that made him one of the most iconic figures of the 20th century? As a recent

biographer noted, fundamentally, Gandhi was a man of vision and action, who asked many of the most profound questions that face humankind as it struggles to live in a community. It was this confrontation out of a real humanity which marks his true stature and which makes his struggles and glimpses of enduring significance to us all. As a man of his time who asked the deepest questions, even though he may not have had all of the answers, he became a man for all times and all places.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge support for this resolution, and with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1245

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

I want to commend and thank the gentlelady from Florida, our ranking member of our House Foreign Affairs Committee, for authoring this resolution and giving remembrance to our Nation about the legacy and life of this great human being.

You know, the unusual thing about my reading about this great person, Mahatma Gandhi, was that he was a firm believer not only in the *Guida*, but also in the Bible. He believed in a lot of the principles that were taught by Jesus Christ in the Bible itself. And as I recall a statement of the Good Book saying, Love your enemies, do good to them who hate you, I think gives the great substance of what Gandhi had said, hate the sin, but not the sinner. And I think in the same way he tried to say to the British Empire, he loves the British people, but he did not like what the British Government was doing to his people.

I think it was at the time when he had just completed his legal studies from Oxford University that he was given an assignment to go to South Africa to help one of the Indian community people there with some of the problems.

And it was on that train ride that he purchased a first-class ticket on this train, and the porter there stopped him saying, You're not supposed to sit on that first-class trip; you are supposed to be out in the baggage area where all the nonwhite people are supposed to be sitting. And he protested and said, I bought a first-class ticket, I deserve it, and there should be no reason why I shouldn't sit in the first-class cabin on the train. And for that, he was not only beaten, but he was left to himself and the train went on.

It was in that given experience that Mahatma Gandhi said, Something is wrong here; and from there he started believing that the British colonial rule of his people just did not seem to fit right as far as the way that the Indian people were being treated by the British.

For that, Mr. Speaker, history has well spoken. I don't have the exact quote that was given by Albert Einstein that said no mortal in the last 100

years has ever been given as an example of this one human being that, by the way, the former Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, described him as a "naked fakir," in very derogatory terms, I suppose, in that respect because Mr. Winston Churchill believed that the British Empire should rule for another 1,000 years perhaps.

But I must say that, yes, there is absolutely no question that the life and the legacy of this great man, Mahatma Gandhi, literally transformed even the civil rights movement here in our own country. And for good, I say, yes, absolutely, influenced people like Rosa Parks, and especially the great and the late Martin Luther King, Jr. for what he has done to transform American Society, making it better than what it was.

I would like to quote to my colleagues what Albert Einstein said: "I believe Gandhi's views were the most enlightened of all the political men in our time."

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. To close on our side, Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentlelady from Florida.

As cochairman of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, I rise in support of House Resolution 603, recognizing the 140th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi.

Today, we give special remembrance to one of the most revered people of the last century. Preaching nonviolence, Gandhi dedicated his life's work to helping others. As a leader in the Indian National Congress, Gandhi led campaigns to ease poverty. He led the campaigns to expand women's rights. And of course he is remembered for his efforts to build religious amity. Above all else, however, Gandhi worked tirelessly to free his nation and helped direct India into a new era of democracy.

His methods to do this included leadership by example. It included his organizational ability. It also included peaceful civil disobedience as a tool and his power to persuade by force of argument. These were the ways in which he motivated those not only in his own nation, but around the world to this cause.

Having traveled to India during the second round of voting during India's recent election, the largest democratic display the world has ever seen, I would have to say that Gandhi himself would indeed have been proud of how far his nation has come. Under his guidance, India has become a pluralistic democracy of many religions and ethnic groups, I think probably as pluralistic as the United States. We are here today to help keep the spirit of Gandhi alive and to remember his remarkable achievements.

Before I close, I would also like to extend my best wishes to the millions of

people that will celebrate Diwali this Saturday; I certainly hope it will be a joyous occasion.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 603.

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.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE PHILIPPINES DEALING WITH TROPICAL STORM KETSANA AND TYPHOON PARMA

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 800) expressing sympathy for the citizens of the Philippines dealing with Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 800

Whereas, on September 26, 2009, Tropical Storm Ketsana made landfall on the Philippines with the heaviest rainfall in 40 years equivalent to a typical month of rain during monsoon season;

Whereas 80 percent of the capital, Manila, was submerged under water as a result;

Whereas at least 3,000,000 persons have been affected by Tropical Storm Ketsana;

Whereas more than 135,470 families or 686,000 persons have been forced into evacuation centers;

Whereas the casualties, as of October 9, 2009, include at least 237 dead, 308 injured, and 37 missing;

Whereas more than 4,640 houses were damaged or destroyed;

Whereas Tropical Storm Ketsana has caused at least \$4,800,000,000 in damages;

Whereas following the devastation caused by Tropical Storm Ketsana, Typhoon Parma hit land October 2, 2009, bringing with it more torrential rain causing further flooding, landslides, crop damaged, and killing at least 193 more people;

Whereas the United States and the Philippines have a unique and enduring relationship that is based on shared history and commitment to democratic principles, as well as on strong economic ties;

Whereas the historical and cultural links between the Philippines and the United States remain important; and

Whereas the Filipino American community is the second largest Asian-American group in the United States with a population of approximately 3,100,000; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) mourns the terrible loss of life caused by Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma that occurred on September 26, 2009, and October 1, 2009;

(2) expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the many victims;

(3) urges President Obama to continue to support the Philippines with emergency relief supplies, logistical, transportation assistance, and financial support; and

(4) works closely with the Government of the Philippines to improve disaster mitigation techniques and compliance among all key sectors of their societies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. Faleomavega) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. 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 gentleman from American Samoa?

There was no objection.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution extends our profound sympathies and condolences to the good people of the Philippines for the terrible losses they suffered as a result of Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma. I would like to thank my good friend and colleague, Representative JACKIE SPEIER from California, for her leadership in introducing this important legislation.

On September 26, Typhoon Ketsana brought the heaviest rainfall in 40 years, leaving 80 percent of Manila under water. The storm killed more than 330 people, left nearly 40 missing, forced more than 135,000 families into evacuation centers, and destroyed or badly damaged nearly 40,000 houses. Eight days later, Typhoon Parma hit the Philippines, causing further destruction in areas that were still saturated by the previous storm and resulting in the loss of an additional 28 lives.

I certainly would like to express my deepest condolences and sympathies to the families who lost their loved ones in the storms and to those who were injured and displaced from their homes. It is my sincere hope that the good people of the Philippines will find strength and solace knowing that the world stands by them in these very trying times.

The United States and the Philippines continue to maintain close ties based upon historical relations, common interests, and shared values. The Filipino American community is the second largest Asian American group in the United States, and they make an invaluable contribution to our own country here in America.

This resolution reflects our steadfast commitment to this relationship, as well as our strong desire for a speedy recovery of our friends in the Philippines who are suffering from the aftermaths of these two major natural disasters.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, to open the debate on our side of the aisle, I am so pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade.

Mr. ROYCE. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 800, expressing condolences to the people and Government of the Philippines in the aftermath of the devastating storms that struck the Philippines.

Several weeks ago, Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma inundated the Philippines with heavy rains, forcing the evacuation of more than half a million people and killing more than 600. Typhoon Parma was particularly savage, making landfall twice—which of course complicated rescue efforts—and destroying much of the crop in one of the Philippines' main rice-producing regions.

While the loss of life from these storms is tragic, that tragedy is compounded by the survivors' loss of livelihood. U.S. troops have been quick to respond in the aid efforts, helping in rescue and clean-up missions.

So, again, we express our sincerest condolences to the people of the Philippines; and we let them know that their friend, the United States, stands with them in solidarity as they begin the process of recovering from this tragedy.

Mr. FALDOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the author and the sponsor of this important legislation, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER).

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman BERMAN, Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN, the subcommittee chairman Mr. FALDOMAVAEGA, and Ranking Member MANZULLO for shepherding this resolution through the Foreign Affairs Committee so swiftly.

I also want to single out Chairman FALDOMAVAEGA for his exceptional leadership representing American Samoa. I am blessed with many Samoan friends and constituents in my district, and I am a proud cosponsor of the chairman's resolution recognizing the relief efforts in American Samoa and Samoa.

Likewise, I want to commend Congressman BURTON for introducing a similar resolution recognizing the devastation in Indonesia, of which I am also a cosponsor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 800, which I introduced shortly after two successive typhoons hit the Republic of the Philippines. Tragically, the situation has worsened since then, and the death toll is now estimated at more than 600. In addition, millions more are displaced and estimates of damage run well into the billions of dollars.

On September 26, Typhoon Ketsana battered Manila and nearby provinces,

resulting in at least 337 deaths, 308 injured, and 37 missing. Then, just one week later, as Filipinos labored around the clock on recovery efforts, Typhoon Parma struck Luzon, the heart of the Philippine agricultural region which supplies half of the nation's supply of rice. Typhoon Parma decimated roads, bridges, entire villages, and vast tracts of rice patties waiting to be harvested later this month.

Nearly 200 have perished from this second typhoon, with many still missing and countless more families grieving their loved ones. It is clear that the people of the Philippines will be profoundly affected by these twin tragedies long after the water has receded and the streets swept clean of mud and debris. House Resolution 800 recognizes the hardship caused by Typhoons Ketsana and Parma and salutes the resilience and strength of our friends, the Filipino people.

My resolution also urges our government to continue providing emergency relief, logistical support, and financial assistance, and to work with Philippine officials and nongovernment organizations to improve disaster preparedness programs to mitigate the heartbreak, havoc and loss of life that could be caused by future storms.

Mr. Speaker, the historical and cultural links between the Philippines and the United States run deeper than any flood waters. I am honored to represent the largest Filipino American community of any district in the continental United States. Nationally, Americans of Filipino descent are the second largest population of Asian Americans in our country, numbering some 3.1 million Americans.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 800 to show our friends, the good people of the Philippines, that as they stood with us in World War II, the American people stand with them during this time of great need.

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

I rise in support of this resolution expressing profound sympathy to our good friends and allies, the people of the Philippines, for the loss of life and property that they have suffered in the recent storms which devastated their country.

I also wish to express condolences to those among the over-3 million members of our Filipino American community who lost loved ones or who had family and friends injured in the floods and the landslides.

□ 1300

Over 600 people are now reported dead, and over 4,000 homes have been destroyed. An estimated 400,000 persons in Manila and in its vicinity had to flee their homes after 80 percent of the capital was submerged by water. The damage is estimated to be almost \$5 billion. I was pleased to note that the Agency for International Development, AID, has allocated \$1.8 million in emergency relief funds.

The ties between the United States and the Philippines are among the strongest we have with any Asian country. Our two peoples have stood together in war and in peace, with Filipino comrades-in-arms enduring, with our own veterans, the siege of Corregidor and the Bataan Death March. The Filipino people then fought bravely for over 3 years, waiting for General MacArthur to fulfill his pledge to return. More recently, Manila has served as a stalwart ally in the war on terrorism being waged in southeast Asia.

So your loss is our loss. When the people in the Philippines mourn, we also mourn. As friends and allies, we will continue to stand by you.

I urge my colleagues to strongly support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALDOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I do thank the gentlewoman and the author of this resolution, Ms. SPEIER, for her most eloquent statement. I thank her also for her offered help concerning what happened in my own district in American Samoa.

At this time, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU).

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 800.

Tropical Storm Ketsana ravaged the Philippines, dumping more than a month's worth of rain in just 12 hours. It was one of the worst storms in 40 years, causing landslides and submerging entire towns. Then, not even a week later, Typhoon Parma hit the already waterlogged nation, leaving as much as 36 inches of rain in some areas and causing landslides that imprisoned many residents. With 700 deaths and almost 4 million people who have lost their homes, it is imperative to make sure that the many homeless are provided with shelter.

I commend all of the relief organizations and nations who sent aid to those affected by the disaster. My heart goes out to the Filipino community both abroad and here, many of whom live in my district and who are so worried about their friends and relatives.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALDOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN).

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 800, expressing sympathy for the citizens of the Philippines, dealing with Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma.

These natural disasters have laid waste to much of the northern Philippines. Thousands of Filipinos have not only suffered the losses of their loved ones but of all of their worldly possessions. Images of Filipinos carrying their dead and dying out of the wreckage and attempting to start life anew have dominated our news coverage in recent days.

In the Northern Mariana Islands, the disaster is a personal tragedy to the one-half of the population who are from the Philippines and who are directly impacted by the disasters. These are family; these are friends; these are neighbors. Their loss is also our loss.

Yet there has also been hope. Many local and charitable institutions from around the world, including those in the Northern Mariana Islands, have stepped up to answer President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's call for help from the international community. I am proud to say that the Northern Mariana Islands community has been quick to respond where our Governor, our bishop, our people, and many community organizations, such as the United Filipino Workers and CREAM, to name a few, have made great efforts to assist with the disasters in the Philippines by sending both money and other donations to the victims.

I hope we follow their examples and continue to support the Philippines in their time of need.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 12 minutes remaining.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO).

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 800, which expresses the sympathy of the Congress to citizens of the Philippines after Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma.

I would like to thank Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER for her work on this resolution. She has painted a picture of the devastation that is very hard to remove from our minds.

My heart is with those who are lost. It is with their loved ones, and with the tens of thousands of survivors who are struggling in the aftermath of these cataclysmic events.

The Filipino community in Hawaii, one of the largest outside of the Philippines, has come together out of a sense of *damayan*, or empathy, to help support relief efforts. Since the storms, many families have sent *balikbayan* boxes, or care packages, carrying everything from canned food to clothing to their families and friends in the Philippines.

While not an exhaustive list, I would like to recognize the work of the following community organizations in Hawaii: the United Filipino Council of Hawaii, the Oahu Filipino Community Council, the Filipino Community Center, Inc., the Filipino Chamber of Commerce, the Honolulu Filipino Jaycees, the Hawaiian Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, and the Kasama Filipino studies club at Leeward Community College.

The Filipino community, as well as all others in the State of Hawaii, have come together to provide what supportive relief we can, and we will continue to do so.

Maraming salamat po. Thank you.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 800, which expresses sympathy for the citizens of the Philippines dealing with Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma. I support this resolution because the devastation caused by these two events has created tragic and lasting effects that the world should recognize.

Tropical Storm Ketsana landed on the Philippines on September 26 and deluged the islands with the heaviest rainfall in over 40 years. The capital city of Manila was 80 percent underwater. Nearly 700,000 people have taken refuge in the evacuation shelters. The casualties from Tropical Storm Ketsana are listed at 277 dead and dozens more missing. All told, over 3 million people in the Philippines were impacted. The number of homes destroyed number more than 4,600 and the cost of the damage is estimated at \$4.8 billion.

The damage from Tropical Storm Ketsana was an incredible tragedy by itself, but the impact was compounded when the Philippines was hit by Typhoon Parma less than a week later. On October 2, Parma brought intense rain, causing more flooding. The combination of disasters caused landslides, ruined crops, and brought more deaths. At least 16 people died as a result of Typhoon Parma.

In the week after Parma hit, media reports revealed that the Philippines faced other threats caused by these disasters. The flooding spread debris across the islands and helped boost the mosquito population. The result was a dramatic increase in the prevalence of disease and an increased threat to the health of residents of the Philippines. It is reported that \$128 million worth of crops were destroyed, including rice. The loss of those food staples will cause the nation to have to import rice to prevent a food shortage. The devastation will cause lasting economic damage, which may especially hurt the poor who are not able to return to their jobs and garner wages.

My home city of Houston, Texas is home to one of the largest Filipino communities in the United States. As news came in of the disasters, my constituents waited nervously to hear of the fate of loved ones in the Philippines. My heart goes out to those families who have been touched by the devastation caused by these natural disasters.

In the days before Tropical Storm Ketsana made landfall, I had the pleasure of meeting with Congressman Hermilando Mandanas of the Philippines House of Representatives. A sense of optimism for the future of the Philippines pervaded that meeting. It is my sincere hope that in the months after the period of mourning and the reconstruction begins, that the people of the Philippines are able to regain their spirit. The future of the Philippines is bright and it is my wish that the sadness and sense of loss caused by Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma do not scar the Philippines.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 800 and extend my sympathies for the citizens of the Philippines dealing with Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma.

With a large Filipino community in Hawaii, and the historical and cultural ties that bind our two countries, the impact of these natural disasters hits close to home. I want to express my sincere condolences to those who have

experienced losses in their families and to the many thousands more who are displaced and still struggling with this tragedy. I join my colleagues in our commitment to the relief efforts in the Philippines and in our continued support to the families of the many victims.

U.S. military forces and civilian agencies are supporting local Philippine efforts by distributing relief supplies and assisting in rescuing victims from inundated areas of Manila. As part of this effort, the U.S. Agency for International Development has so far allocated \$1.8 million to respond to the disaster. Our Hawaiian *ohana* stands ready to further assist our friends in the Philippines.

I urge my colleagues to rise in support of this legislation.

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, as cochairman of the U.S.-Philippine Friendship Caucus, I wish to offer my sincere condolences to the citizens of the Philippines that have suffered so much due to the devastation left by Tropical Storms Ketsana and Parma. Since September 26, 2009, the flooding that has occurred due to record amounts of rainfall has forced the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of people, destroyed over 4,000 homes and left more than 700 people dead.

This is a tragic event that reminds us of the fragility of human life when confronted by the forces of Mother Nature. Sadly, the deadly results of Tropical Storms Ketsana and Parma continue to do damage and wreak havoc on the health and well being of the citizens of the Philippines. As Congress offers its condolences, our friends in the Philippines try to restore order to their country.

As an American, I am proud that more than 700 United States Marines and sailors are on the ground in the Philippines providing food and clean drinking water directly to her citizens. With that said, I want to reaffirm the United States commitment to doing all we can to help our friends in the Pacific. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Filipino people and I urge my colleagues to support the underlying resolution.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 800, legislation introduced by my colleague, Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER of California. This resolution expresses sympathy for the citizens of the Philippines as they recover from Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma.

Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma caused widespread landslides and flooding in the Philippines. More than 600 Filipinos have lost their lives due to these storms, and I offer my sincere condolences to their families and friends. H. Res. 800 encourages the U.S. government to work closely with the Philippine government to improve disaster response and also urges President Obama to continue his support of disaster relief efforts in the Philippines.

Just last week, a 22-member team from the Guam National Guard flew to the Philippines to provide medical relief and to support the armed forces of the Philippines as they continue the recovery process. Many of my constituents have family members, who were affected by this storm, and I commend the Filipino community of Guam, who were the first to mobilize our larger Guam community to quickly come together to collect relief items and provide financial assistance to those affected by this natural disaster.

I thank my colleague, Congresswoman SPEIER, for introducing this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 800.

Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALÉOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 800, 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. FALÉOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

AIRLINE SAFETY AND PILOT TRAINING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3371) to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve airline safety and pilot training, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3371

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. FAA Task Force on Air Carrier Safety and Pilot Training.
- Sec. 4. Implementation of NTSB flight crewmember training recommendations.
- Sec. 5. Secretary of Transportation responses to safety recommendations.
- Sec. 6. FAA pilot records database.
- Sec. 7. FAA rulemaking on training programs.
- Sec. 8. Aviation safety inspectors and operational research analysts.
- Sec. 9. Flight crewmember mentoring, professional development, and leadership.
- Sec. 10. Flight crewmember screening and qualifications.
- Sec. 11. Airline transport pilot certification.
- Sec. 12. Flight schools, flight education, and pilot academic training.
- Sec. 13. Voluntary safety programs.
- Sec. 14. ASAP and FOQA implementation plan.
- Sec. 15. Safety management systems.
- Sec. 16. Disclosure of air carriers operating flights for tickets sold for air transportation.
- Sec. 17. Pilot fatigue.

Sec. 18. Flight crewmember pairing and crew resource management techniques.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) ADVANCED QUALIFICATION PROGRAM.—The term "advanced qualification program" means the program established by the Federal Aviation Administration in Advisory Circular 120-54A, dated June 23, 2006, including any subsequent revisions thereto.

(2) AIR CARRIER.—The term "air carrier" has the meaning given that term in section 40102 of title 49, United States Code.

(3) AVIATION SAFETY ACTION PROGRAM.—The term "aviation safety action program" means the program established by the Federal Aviation Administration in Advisory Circular 120-66B, dated November 15, 2002, including any subsequent revisions thereto.

(4) FLIGHT CREWMEMBER.—The term "flight crewmember" has the meaning given that term in part 1.1 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

(5) FLIGHT OPERATIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM.—The term "flight operational quality assurance program" means the program established by the Federal Aviation Administration in Advisory Circular 120-82, dated April 12, 2004, including any subsequent revisions thereto.

(6) LINE OPERATIONS SAFETY AUDIT.—The term "line operations safety audit" means the procedure referenced by the Federal Aviation Administration in Advisory Circular 120-90, dated April 27, 2006, including any subsequent revisions thereto.

(7) PART 121 AIR CARRIER.—The term "part 121 air carrier" means an air carrier that holds a certificate issued under part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

(8) PART 135 AIR CARRIER.—The term "part 135 air carrier" means an air carrier that holds a certificate issued under part 135 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 3. FAA TASK FORCE ON AIR CARRIER SAFETY AND PILOT TRAINING.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall establish a special task force to be known as the "FAA Task Force on Air Carrier Safety and Pilot Training" (in this section referred to as the "Task Force").

(b) COMPOSITION.—The Task Force shall consist of members appointed by the Administrator and shall include air carrier representatives, labor union representatives, and aviation safety experts with knowledge of foreign and domestic regulatory requirements for flight crewmember education and training.

(c) DUTIES.—The duties of the Task Force shall include, at a minimum, evaluating best practices in the air carrier industry and providing recommendations in the following areas:

(1) Air carrier management responsibilities for flight crewmember education and support.

(2) Flight crewmember professional standards.

(3) Flight crewmember training standards and performance.

(4) Mentoring and information sharing between air carriers.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and before the last day of each 180-day period thereafter until termination of the Task Force, the Task Force shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report detailing—

(1) the progress of the Task Force in identifying best practices in the air carrier industry;

(2) the progress of air carriers and labor unions in implementing the best practices identified by the Task Force;

(3) recommendations of the Task Force, if any, for legislative or regulatory actions;

(4) the progress of air carriers and labor unions in implementing training-related, nonregulatory actions recommended by the Administrator; and

(5) the progress of air carriers in developing specific programs to share safety data and ensure implementation of the most effective safety practices.

(e) TERMINATION.—The Task Force shall terminate on September 30, 2012.

(f) APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Task Force.

SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION OF NTSB FLIGHT CREWMEMBER TRAINING RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) RULEMAKING PROCEEDINGS.—

(1) STALL AND UPSET RECOGNITION AND RECOVERY TRAINING.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall conduct a rulemaking proceeding to require part 121 air carriers to provide flight crewmembers with ground training and flight training or flight simulator training—

(A) to recognize and avoid a stall of an aircraft or, if not avoided, to recover from the stall; and

(B) to recognize and avoid an upset of an aircraft or, if not avoided, to execute such techniques as available data indicate are appropriate to recover from the upset in a given make, model, and series of aircraft.

(2) REMEDIAL TRAINING PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall conduct a rulemaking proceeding to require part 121 air carriers to establish remedial training programs for flight crewmembers who have demonstrated performance deficiencies or experienced failures in the training environment.

(3) DEADLINES.—The Administrator shall—

(A) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, issue a notice of proposed rulemaking under each of paragraphs (1) and (2); and

(B) not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, issue a final rule for the rulemaking in each of paragraphs (1) and (2).

(b) STICK PUSHER TRAINING AND WEATHER EVENT TRAINING.—

(1) MULTIDISCIPLINARY PANEL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall convene a multidisciplinary panel of specialists in aircraft operations, flight crewmember training, human factors, and aviation safety to study and submit to the Administrator a report on methods to increase the familiarity of flight crewmembers with, and improve the response of flight crewmembers to, stick pusher systems, icing conditions, and microburst and windshear weather events.

(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS AND NTSB.—Not later than one year after the date on which the Administrator convenes the panel, the Administrator shall—

(A) submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the National Transportation Safety Board a report based on the findings of the panel; and

(B) with respect to stick pusher systems, initiate appropriate actions to implement the recommendations of the panel.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) FLIGHT TRAINING AND FLIGHT SIMULATOR.—The terms "flight training" and "flight simulator" have the meanings given those terms in part 61.1 of title 14, Code of

Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(2) **STALL.**—The term “stall” means an aerodynamic loss of lift caused by exceeding the critical angle of attack.

(3) **STICK PUSHER.**—The term “stick pusher” means a device that, at or near a stall, applies a nose down pitch force to an aircraft’s control columns to attempt to decrease the aircraft’s angle of attack.

(4) **UPSET.**—The term “upset” means an unusual aircraft attitude.

SEC. 5. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION RESPONSES TO SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The first sentence of section 1135(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting “to the National Transportation Safety Board” after “shall give”.

(b) **AIR CARRIER SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS.**—Section 1135 of such title is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) **ANNUAL REPORT ON AIR CARRIER SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall submit to Congress and the Board, on an annual basis, a report on the recommendations made by the Board to the Secretary regarding air carrier operations conducted under part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

“(2) **RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE COVERED.**—The report shall cover—

“(A) any recommendation for which the Secretary has developed, or intends to develop, procedures to adopt the recommendation or part of the recommendation, but has yet to complete the procedures; and

“(B) any recommendation for which the Secretary, in the preceding year, has issued a response under subsection (a)(2) or (a)(3) refusing to carry out all or part of the procedures to adopt the recommendation.

“(3) **CONTENTS.**—

“(A) **PLANS TO ADOPT RECOMMENDATIONS.**—For each recommendation of the Board described in paragraph (2)(A), the report shall contain—

“(i) a description of the recommendation;

“(ii) a description of the procedures planned for adopting the recommendation or part of the recommendation;

“(iii) the proposed date for completing the procedures; and

“(iv) if the Secretary has not met a deadline contained in a proposed timeline developed in connection with the recommendation under subsection (b), an explanation for not meeting the deadline.

“(B) **REFUSALS TO ADOPT RECOMMENDATIONS.**—For each recommendation of the Board described in paragraph (2)(B), the report shall contain—

“(i) a description of the recommendation; and

“(ii) a description of the reasons for the refusal to carry out all or part of the procedures to adopt the recommendation.”.

SEC. 6. FAA PILOT RECORDS DATABASE.

(a) **RECORDS OF EMPLOYMENT OF PILOT APPLICANTS.**—Section 44703(h) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(16) **APPLICABILITY.**—This subsection shall cease to be effective on the date specified in regulations issued under subsection (i).”.

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT OF FAA PILOT RECORDS DATABASE.**—Section 44703 of such title is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (i) and (j) as subsections (j) and (k), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (h) the following:

“(i) **FAA PILOT RECORDS DATABASE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Before allowing an individual to begin service as a pilot, an air carrier shall access and evaluate, in accordance with the requirements of this subsection, information pertaining to the individual from the pilot records database established under paragraph (2).

“(2) **PILOT RECORDS DATABASE.**—The Administrator shall establish an electronic database (in this subsection referred to as the ‘database’) containing the following records:

“(A) **FAA RECORDS.**—From the Administrator—

“(i) records that are maintained by the Administrator concerning current airman certificates, including airman medical certificates and associated type ratings and information on any limitations to those certificates and ratings;

“(ii) records that are maintained by the Administrator concerning any failed attempt of an individual to pass a practical test required to obtain a certificate or type rating under part 61 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; and

“(iii) summaries of legal enforcement actions resulting in a finding by the Administrator of a violation of this title or a regulation prescribed or order issued under this title that was not subsequently overturned.

“(B) **AIR CARRIER AND OTHER RECORDS.**—From any air carrier or other person (except a branch of the Armed Forces, the National Guard, or a reserve component of the Armed Forces) that has employed an individual as a pilot of a civil or public aircraft, or from the trustee in bankruptcy for such air carrier or person—

“(i) records pertaining to the individual that are maintained by the air carrier (other than records relating to flight time, duty time, or rest time), including records under regulations set forth in—

“(I) section 121.683 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations;

“(II) paragraph (A) of section VI, appendix I, part 121 of such title;

“(III) paragraph (A) of section IV, appendix J, part 121 of such title;

“(IV) section 125.401 of such title; and

“(V) section 135.63(a)(4) of such title; and

“(ii) other records pertaining to the individual’s performance as a pilot that are maintained by the air carrier or person concerning—

“(I) the training, qualifications, proficiency, or professional competence of the individual, including comments and evaluations made by a check airman designated in accordance with section 121.411, 125.295, or 135.337 of such title;

“(II) any disciplinary action taken with respect to the individual that was not subsequently overturned; and

“(III) any release from employment or resignation, termination, or disqualification with respect to employment.

“(C) **NATIONAL DRIVER REGISTER RECORDS.**—In accordance with section 30305(b)(8) of this title, from the chief driver licensing official of a State, information concerning the motor vehicle driving record of the individual.

“(3) **WRITTEN CONSENT; RELEASE FROM LIABILITY.**—An air carrier—

“(A) shall obtain the written consent of an individual before accessing records pertaining to the individual under paragraph (1); and

“(B) may, notwithstanding any other provision of law or agreement to the contrary, require an individual with respect to whom the carrier is accessing records under paragraph (1) to execute a release from liability for any claim arising from accessing the records or the use of such records by the air carrier in accordance with this section

(other than a claim arising from furnishing information known to be false and maintained in violation of a criminal statute).

“(4) **REPORTING.**—

“(A) **REPORTING BY ADMINISTRATOR.**—The Administrator shall enter data described in paragraph (2)(A) into the database promptly to ensure that an individual’s records are current.

“(B) **REPORTING BY AIR CARRIERS AND OTHER PERSONS.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Air carriers and other persons shall report data described in paragraphs (2)(B) and (2)(C) to the Administrator promptly for entry into the database.

“(ii) **DATA TO BE REPORTED.**—Air carriers and other persons shall report, at a minimum, under clause (i) the following data described in paragraph (2)(B):

“(I) Records that are generated by the air carrier or other person after the date of enactment of this paragraph.

“(II) Records that the air carrier or other person is maintaining, on such date of enactment, pursuant to subsection (h)(4).

“(5) **REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN RECORDS.**—The Administrator—

“(A) shall maintain all records entered into the database under paragraph (2) pertaining to an individual until the date of receipt of notification that the individual is deceased; and

“(B) may remove the individual’s records from the database after that date.

“(6) **RECEIPT OF CONSENT.**—The Administrator shall not permit an air carrier to access records pertaining to an individual from the database under paragraph (1) without the air carrier first demonstrating to the satisfaction of the Administrator that the air carrier has obtained the written consent of the individual.

“(7) **RIGHT OF PILOT TO REVIEW CERTAIN RECORDS AND CORRECT INACCURACIES.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law or agreement, the Administrator, upon receipt of written request from an individual—

“(A) shall make available, not later than 30 days after the date of the request, to the individual for review all records referred to in paragraph (2) pertaining to the individual; and

“(B) shall provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to submit written comments to correct any inaccuracies contained in the records.

“(8) **REASONABLE CHARGES FOR PROCESSING REQUESTS AND FURNISHING COPIES.**—The Administrator may establish a reasonable charge for the cost of processing a request under paragraph (1) or (7) and for the cost of furnishing copies of requested records under paragraph (7).

“(9) **PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.**—

“(A) **USE OF RECORDS.**—An air carrier that accesses records pertaining to an individual under paragraph (1) may use the records only to assess the qualifications of the individual in deciding whether or not to hire the individual as a pilot. The air carrier shall take such actions as may be necessary to protect the privacy of the individual and the confidentiality of the records accessed, including ensuring that information contained in the records is not divulged to any individual that is not directly involved in the hiring decision.

“(B) **DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided by clause (ii), information collected by the Administrator under paragraph (2) shall be exempt from the disclosure requirements of section 552 of title 5.

“(ii) **EXCEPTIONS.**—Clause (i) shall not apply to—

“(I) de-identified, summarized information to explain the need for changes in policies and regulations;

“(II) information to correct a condition that compromises safety;

“(III) information to carry out a criminal investigation or prosecution;

“(IV) information to comply with section 44905, regarding information about threats to civil aviation; and

“(V) such information as the Administrator determines necessary, if withholding the information would not be consistent with the safety responsibilities of the Federal Aviation Administration.

“(10) PERIODIC REVIEW.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and at least once every 3 years thereafter, the Administrator shall transmit to Congress a statement that contains, taking into account recent developments in the aviation industry—

“(A) recommendations by the Administrator concerning proposed changes to Federal Aviation Administration records, air carrier records, and other records required to be included in the database under paragraph (2); or

“(B) reasons why the Administrator does not recommend any proposed changes to the records referred to in subparagraph (A).

“(11) REGULATIONS FOR PROTECTION AND SECURITY OF RECORDS.—The Administrator shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary—

“(A) to protect and secure—

“(i) the personal privacy of any individual whose records are accessed under paragraph (1); and

“(ii) the confidentiality of those records; and

“(B) to preclude the further dissemination of records received under paragraph (1) by the person who accessed the records.

“(12) GOOD FAITH EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), an air carrier may allow an individual to begin service as a pilot, without first obtaining information described in paragraph (2)(B) from the database pertaining to the individual, if—

“(A) the air carrier has made a documented good faith attempt to access the information from the database; and

“(B) has received written notice from the Administrator that the information is not contained in the database because the individual was employed by an air carrier or other person that no longer exists or by a foreign government or other entity that has not provided the information to the database.

“(13) LIMITATIONS ON ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO RECORDS.—

“(A) ACCESS BY INDIVIDUALS DESIGNATED BY AIR CARRIERS.—For the purpose of increasing timely and efficient access to records described in paragraph (2), the Administrator may allow, under terms established by the Administrator, an individual designated by an air carrier to have electronic access to the database.

“(B) TERMS.—The terms established by the Administrator under subparagraph (A) for allowing a designated individual to have electronic access to the database shall limit such access to instances in which information in the database is required by the designated individual in making a hiring decision concerning a pilot applicant and shall require that the designated individual provide assurances satisfactory to the Administrator that—

“(i) the designated individual has received the written consent of the pilot applicant to access the information; and

“(ii) information obtained using such access will not be used for any purpose other than making the hiring decision.

“(14) AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES.—Out of amounts appropriated under section 106(k)(1), there is authorized to be expended

to carry out this subsection such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2010, 2011, and 2012.

“(15) REGULATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall issue regulations to carry out this subsection.

“(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The regulations shall specify the date on which the requirements of this subsection take effect and the date on which the requirements of subsection (h) cease to be effective.

“(C) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (B)—

“(i) the Administrator shall begin to establish the database under paragraph (2) not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph;

“(ii) the Administrator shall maintain records in accordance with paragraph (5) beginning on the date of enactment of this paragraph; and

“(iii) air carriers and other persons shall maintain records to be reported to the database under paragraph (4)(B) in the period beginning on such date of enactment and ending on the date that is 5 years after the requirements of subsection (h) cease to be effective pursuant to subparagraph (B).

“(16) SPECIAL RULE.—During the one-year period beginning on the date on which the requirements of this section become effective pursuant to paragraph (15)(B), paragraph (7)(A) shall be applied by substituting ‘45 days’ for ‘30 days’.”

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) LIMITATION ON LIABILITY; PREEMPTION OF STATE LAW.—Section 44703(j) (as redesignated by subsection (b)(1) of this section) is amended—

(A) in the subsection heading by striking “LIMITATION” and inserting “LIMITATIONS”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “subsection (h)(2) or (i)(3)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A) by inserting “or accessing the records of that individual under subsection (i)(1)” before the semicolon; and

(iii) in the matter following subparagraph (D) by striking “subsection (h)” and inserting “subsection (h) or (i)”;

(C) in paragraph (2) by striking “subsection (h)” and inserting “subsection (h) or (i)”;

(D) in paragraph (3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “or who furnished information to the database established under subsection (i)(2)” after “subsection (h)(1)”;

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) PROHIBITION ON ACTIONS AND PROCEEDINGS AGAINST AIR CARRIERS.—

“(A) HIRING DECISIONS.—An air carrier may refuse to hire an individual as a pilot if the individual did not provide written consent for the air carrier to receive records under subsection (h)(2)(A) or (i)(3)(A) or did not execute the release from liability requested under subsection (h)(2)(B) or (i)(3)(B).

“(B) ACTIONS AND PROCEEDINGS.—No action or proceeding may be brought against an air carrier by or on behalf of an individual who has applied for or is seeking a position as a pilot with the air carrier if the air carrier refused to hire the individual after the individual did not provide written consent for the air carrier to receive records under subsection (h)(2)(A) or (i)(3)(A) or did not execute a release from liability requested under subsection (h)(2)(B) or (i)(3)(B).”

(2) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Section 44703(k) (as redesignated by subsection (b)(1) of this section) is amended by striking “subsection (h)” and inserting “subsection (h) or (i)”.

SEC. 7. FAA RULEMAKING ON TRAINING PROGRAMS.

(a) COMPLETION OF RULEMAKING ON TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Not later than 14 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall issue a final rule with respect to the notice of proposed rulemaking published in the Federal Register on January 12, 2009 (74 Fed. Reg. 1280; relating to training programs for flight crewmembers and aircraft dispatchers).

(b) EXPERT PANEL TO REVIEW PART 121 AND PART 135 TRAINING HOURS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall convene a multidisciplinary expert panel comprised of, at a minimum, air carrier representatives, training facility representatives, instructional design experts, aircraft manufacturers, safety organization representatives, and labor union representatives.

(2) ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The panel shall assess and make recommendations concerning—

(A) the best methods and optimal time needed for flight crewmembers of part 121 air carriers and flight crewmembers of part 135 air carriers to master aircraft systems, maneuvers, procedures, take offs and landings, and crew coordination;

(B) the optimal length of time between training events for such crewmembers, including recurrent training events;

(C) the best methods to reliably evaluate mastery by such crewmembers of aircraft systems, maneuvers, procedures, take offs and landings, and crew coordination; and

(D) the best methods to allow specific academic training courses to be credited pursuant to section 11(d) toward the total flight hours required to receive an airline transport pilot certificate.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the National Transportation Safety Board a report based on the findings of the panel.

SEC. 8. AVIATION SAFETY INSPECTORS AND OPERATIONAL RESEARCH ANALYSTS.

(a) REVIEW BY DOT INSPECTOR GENERAL.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation shall conduct a review of aviation safety inspectors and operational research analysts of the Federal Aviation Administration assigned to part 121 air carriers and submit to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration a report on the results of the review.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purpose of the review shall be, at a minimum—

(1) to review the level of the Administration’s oversight of each part 121 air carrier;

(2) to make recommendations to ensure that each part 121 air carrier is receiving an equivalent level of oversight;

(3) to assess the number and level of experience of aviation safety inspectors assigned to such carriers;

(4) to evaluate how the Administration is making assignments of aviation safety inspectors to such carriers;

(5) to review various safety inspector oversight programs, including the geographic inspector program;

(6) to evaluate the adequacy of the number of operational research analysts assigned to each part 121 air carrier;

(7) to evaluate the surveillance responsibilities of aviation safety inspectors, including en route inspections;

(8) to evaluate whether inspectors are able to effectively use data sources, such as the Safety Performance Analysis System and the Air Transportation Oversight System, to assist in targeting oversight of air carriers;

(9) to assess the feasibility of establishment by the Administration of a comprehensive repository of information that encompasses multiple Administration data sources and allowing access by aviation safety inspectors and operational research analysts to assist in the oversight of part 121 air carriers; and

(10) to conduct such other analyses as the Inspector General considers relevant to the purpose of the review.

(c) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of the report submitted under subsection (a), the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report—

(1) that specifies which, if any, policy changes recommended by the Inspector General under this section the Administrator intends to adopt and implement;

(2) that includes an explanation of how the Administrator plans to adopt and implement such policy changes; and

(3) in any case in which the Administrator does not intend to adopt a policy change recommended by the Inspector General, that includes an explanation of the reasons for the decision not to adopt and implement the policy change.

SEC. 9. FLIGHT CREWMEMBER MENTORING, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND LEADERSHIP.

(a) **RULEMAKING PROCEEDING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall conduct a rulemaking proceeding to require each part 121 air carrier to take the following actions:

(A) Establish flight crewmember mentoring programs under which the air carrier will pair highly experienced flight crewmembers who will serve as mentor pilots and be paired with newly employed flight crewmembers. Mentor pilots shall receive, at a minimum, specific instruction on techniques for instilling and reinforcing the highest standards of technical performance, airmanship, and professionalism in newly employed flight crewmembers.

(B) Establish flight crewmember professional development committees made up of air carrier management and labor union or professional association representatives to develop, administer, and oversee formal mentoring programs of the carrier to assist flight crewmembers to reach their maximum potential as safe, seasoned, and proficient flight crewmembers.

(C) Establish or modify training programs to accommodate substantially different levels and types of flight experience by newly employed flight crewmembers.

(D) Establish or modify training programs for second-in-command flight crewmembers attempting to qualify as pilot-in-command flight crewmembers for the first time in a specific aircraft type and ensure that such programs include leadership and command training.

(E) Ensure that recurrent training for pilots in command includes leadership and command training.

(F) Such other actions as the Administrator determines appropriate to enhance flight crewmember professional development.

(2) **COMPLIANCE WITH STERILE COCKPIT RULE.**—Leadership and command training described in paragraphs (1)(D) and (1)(E) shall include instruction on compliance with

flight crewmember duties under part 121.542 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) **STREAMLINED PROGRAM REVIEW.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—As part of the rulemaking required by subsection (a), the Administrator shall establish a streamlined process for part 121 air carriers that have in effect, as of the date of enactment of this Act, the programs required by paragraph (1).

(B) **EXPEDITED APPROVALS.**—Under the streamlined process, the Administrator shall—

(i) review the programs of such part 121 air carriers to determine whether the programs meet the requirements set forth in the final rule referred to in subsection (b)(2); and

(ii) expedite the approval of the programs that the Administrator determines meet such requirements.

(b) **DEADLINES.**—The Administrator shall issue—

(1) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, a notice of proposed rulemaking under subsection (a); and

(2) not later than 24 months after such date of enactment, a final rule under subsection (a).

SEC. 10. FLIGHT CREWMEMBER SCREENING AND QUALIFICATIONS.

(a) **REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **RULEMAKING PROCEEDING.**—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall conduct a rulemaking proceeding to require part 121 air carriers to develop and implement means and methods for ensuring that flight crewmembers have proper qualifications and experience.

(2) **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.**—

(A) **PROSPECTIVE FLIGHT CREWMEMBERS.**—Rules issued under paragraph (1) shall ensure that prospective flight crewmembers undergo comprehensive pre-employment screening, including an assessment of the skills, aptitudes, airmanship, and suitability of each applicant for a position as a flight crewmember in terms of functioning effectively in the air carrier's operational environment.

(B) **ALL FLIGHT CREWMEMBERS.**—Rules issued under paragraph (1) shall ensure that, after the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, all flight crewmembers—

(i) have obtained an airline transport pilot certificate under part 61 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(ii) have appropriate multi-engine aircraft flight experience, as determined by the Administrator.

(b) **DEADLINES.**—The Administrator shall issue—

(1) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, a notice of proposed rulemaking under subsection (a); and

(2) not later than 24 months after such date of enactment, a final rule under subsection (a).

SEC. 11. AIRLINE TRANSPORT PILOT CERTIFICATION.

(a) **RULEMAKING PROCEEDING.**—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall conduct a rulemaking proceeding to amend part 61 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to modify requirements for the issuance of an airline transport pilot certificate.

(b) **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.**—To be qualified to receive an airline transport pilot certificate pursuant to subsection (a), an individual shall—

(1) have sufficient flight hours, as determined by the Administrator, to enable a pilot to function effectively in an air carrier operational environment; and

(2) have received flight training, academic training, or operational experience that will prepare a pilot, at a minimum, to—

(A) function effectively in a multi-pilot environment;

(B) function effectively in adverse weather conditions, including icing conditions;

(C) function effectively during high altitude operations;

(D) adhere to the highest professional standards; and

(E) function effectively in an air carrier operational environment.

(c) **FLIGHT HOURS.**—

(1) **NUMBERS OF FLIGHT HOURS.**—The total flight hours required by the Administrator under subsection (b)(1) shall be at least 1,500 flight hours.

(2) **FLIGHT HOURS IN DIFFICULT OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS.**—The total flight hours required by the Administrator under subsection (b)(1) shall include sufficient flight hours, as determined by the Administrator, in difficult operational conditions that may be encountered by an air carrier to enable a pilot to operate safely in such conditions.

(d) **CREDIT TOWARD FLIGHT HOURS.**—The Administrator may allow specific academic training courses, beyond those required under subsection (b)(2), to be credited toward the total flight hours required under subsection (c). The Administrator may allow such credit based on a determination by the Administrator that allowing a pilot to take specific academic training courses will enhance safety more than requiring the pilot to fully comply with the flight hours requirement.

(e) **RECOMMENDATIONS OF EXPERT PANEL.**—In conducting the rulemaking proceeding under this section, the Administrator shall review and consider the assessment and recommendations of the expert panel to review part 121 and part 135 training hours established by section 7(b) of this Act.

(f) **DEADLINE.**—Not later than 36 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue a final rule under subsection (a).

SEC. 12. FLIGHT SCHOOLS, FLIGHT EDUCATION, AND PILOT ACADEMIC TRAINING.

(a) **GAO STUDY.**—The Comptroller General shall conduct a comprehensive study of flight schools, flight education, and academic training requirements for certification of an individual as a pilot.

(b) **MINIMUM CONTENTS OF STUDY.**—The study shall include, at a minimum—

(1) an assessment of the Federal Aviation Administration's oversight of flight schools;

(2) an assessment of the Administration's academic training requirements in effect on the date of enactment of this Act as compared to flight education provided to a pilot by accredited 2- and 4-year universities;

(3) an assessment of the quality of pilots entering the part 121 air carrier workforce from all sources after receiving training from flight training providers, including Aviation Accreditation Board International, universities, pilot training organizations, and the military, utilizing the training records of part 121 air carriers, including consideration of any relationships between flight training providers and air carriers;

(4) a comparison of the academic training requirements for pilots in the United States to the academic training requirements for pilots in other countries;

(5) a determination and description of any improvements that may be needed in the Administration's academic training requirements for pilots;

(6) an assessment of student financial aid and loan options available to individuals interested in enrolling at a flight school for both academic and flight hour training;

(7) an assessment of the Federal Aviation Administration's oversight of general aviation flight schools that offer or would like to offer training programs under part 142 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(8) an assessment of whether compliance with the English speaking requirements applicable to pilots under part 61 of such title is adequately tested and enforced.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the study.

SEC. 13. VOLUNTARY SAFETY PROGRAMS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation of the Senate a report on the aviation safety action program, the flight operational quality assurance program, the line operations safety audit, and the advanced qualification program.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report shall include—

(1) a list of—

(A) which air carriers are using one or more of the voluntary safety programs referred to in subsection (a); and

(B) the voluntary safety programs each air carrier is using;

(2) if an air carrier is not using one or more of the voluntary safety programs—

(A) a list of such programs the carrier is not using; and

(B) the reasons the carrier is not using each such program;

(3) if an air carrier is using one or more of the voluntary safety programs, an explanation of the benefits and challenges of using each such program;

(4) a detailed analysis of how the Administration is using data derived from each of the voluntary safety programs as safety analysis and accident or incident prevention tools and a detailed plan on how the Administration intends to expand data analysis of such programs;

(5) an explanation of—

(A) where the data derived from such programs is stored;

(B) how the data derived from such programs is protected and secured; and

(C) what data analysis processes air carriers are implementing to ensure the effective use of the data derived from such programs;

(6) a description of the extent to which aviation safety inspectors are able to review data derived from such programs to enhance their oversight responsibilities;

(7) a description of how the Administration plans to incorporate operational trends identified under such programs into the air transport oversight system and other surveillance databases so that such system and databases are more effectively utilized;

(8) other plans to strengthen such programs, taking into account reviews of such programs by the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation; and

(9) such other matters as the Administrator determines are appropriate.

SEC. 14. ASAP AND FOQA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.

(a) DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall develop and implement a plan to facilitate the establishment of an aviation safety action program and a flight operational quality assurance program by all part 121 air carriers.

(b) MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED.—In developing the plan under subsection (a), the Administrator shall consider—

(1) how the Administration can assist part 121 air carriers with smaller fleet sizes to de-

rive benefit from establishing a flight operational quality assurance program;

(2) how part 121 air carriers with established aviation safety action and flight operational quality assurance programs can quickly begin to report data into the aviation safety information analysis sharing database; and

(3) how part 121 air carriers and aviation safety inspectors can better utilize data from such database as accident and incident prevention tools.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Science, Commerce, and Transportation of the Senate a copy of the plan developed under subsection (a) and an explanation of how the Administration will implement the plan.

(d) DEADLINE FOR BEGINNING IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall begin implementation of the plan developed under subsection (a).

SEC. 15. SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS.

(a) RULEMAKING.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall conduct a rulemaking proceeding to require all part 121 air carriers to implement a safety management system.

(b) MATTERS TO CONSIDER.—In conducting the rulemaking under subsection (a), the Administrator shall consider, at a minimum, including each of the following as a part of the safety management system:

(1) An aviation safety action program.

(2) A flight operational quality assurance program.

(3) A line operations safety audit.

(4) An advanced qualification program.

(c) DEADLINES.—The Administrator shall issue—

(1) not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, a notice of proposed rulemaking under subsection (a); and

(2) not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, a final rule under subsection (a).

(d) SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM DEFINED.—In this section, the term “safety management system” means the program established by the Federal Aviation Administration in Advisory Circular 120-92, dated June 22, 2006, including any subsequent revisions thereto.

SEC. 16. DISCLOSURE OF AIR CARRIERS OPERATING FLIGHTS FOR TICKETS SOLD FOR AIR TRANSPORTATION.

Section 41712 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT FOR SELLERS OF TICKETS FOR FLIGHTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be an unfair or deceptive practice under subsection (a) for any ticket agent, air carrier, foreign air carrier, or other person offering to sell tickets for air transportation on a flight of an air carrier to not disclose, whether verbally in oral communication or in writing in written or electronic communication, prior to the purchase of a ticket—

“(A) the name (including any business or corporate name) of the air carrier providing the air transportation; and

“(B) if the flight has more than one flight segment, the name of each air carrier providing the air transportation for each such flight segment.

“(2) INTERNET OFFERS.—In the case of an offer to sell tickets described in paragraph (1) on an Internet Web site, disclosure of the information required by paragraph (1) shall be provided on the first display of the Web

site following a search of a requested itinerary in a format that is easily visible to a viewer.”.

SEC. 17. PILOT FATIGUE.

(a) FLIGHT AND DUTY TIME REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with paragraph (3), the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall issue regulations, based on the best available scientific information—

(A) to specify limitations on the hours of flight and duty time allowed for pilots to address problems relating to pilot fatigue; and

(B) to require part 121 air carriers to develop and implement fatigue risk management plans.

(2) MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.—In conducting the rulemaking proceeding under this subsection, the Administrator shall consider and review the following:

(A) Time of day of flights in a duty period.

(B) Number of takeoff and landings in a duty period.

(C) Number of time zones crossed in a duty period.

(D) The impact of functioning in multiple time zones or on different daily schedules.

(E) Research conducted on fatigue, sleep, and circadian rhythms.

(F) Sleep and rest requirements recommended by the National Transportation Safety Board and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(G) International standards regarding flight schedules and duty periods.

(H) Alternative procedures to facilitate alertness in the cockpit.

(I) Scheduling and attendance policies and practices, including sick leave.

(J) The effects of commuting, the means of commuting, and the length of the commute.

(K) Medical screening and treatment.

(L) Rest environments.

(M) Any other matters the Administrator considers appropriate.

(3) DEADLINES.—The Administrator shall issue—

(A) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, a notice of proposed rulemaking under subsection (a); and

(B) not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, a final rule under subsection (a).

(b) FATIGUE RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) SUBMISSION OF FATIGUE RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN BY PART 121 AIR CARRIERS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, each part 121 air carrier shall submit to the Administrator for review and approval a fatigue risk management plan.

(2) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—A fatigue risk management plan submitted by a part 121 air carrier under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Current flight time and duty period limitations.

(B) A rest scheme that enables the management of fatigue, including annual training to increase awareness of—

(i) fatigue;

(ii) the effects of fatigue on pilots; and

(iii) fatigue countermeasures.

(C) Development and use of a methodology that continually assesses the effectiveness of the program, including the ability of the program—

(i) to improve alertness; and

(ii) to mitigate performance errors.

(3) PLAN UPDATES.—A part 121 air carrier shall update its fatigue risk management plan under paragraph (1) every 2 years and submit the update to the Administrator for review and approval.

(4) APPROVAL.—

(A) INITIAL APPROVAL OR MODIFICATION.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator

shall review and approve or require modification to fatigue risk management plans submitted under this subsection to ensure that pilots are not operating aircraft while fatigued.

(B) UPDATE APPROVAL OR MODIFICATION.—Not later than 9 months after submission of a plan update under paragraph (3), the Administrator shall review and approve or require modification to such update.

(5) CIVIL PENALTIES.—A violation of this subsection by a part 121 air carrier shall be treated as a violation of chapter 447 of title 49, United States Code, for purposes of the application of civil penalties under chapter 463 of that title.

(6) LIMITATION ON APPLICABILITY.—The requirements of this subsection shall cease to apply to a part 121 air carrier on and after the effective date of the regulations to be issued under subsection (a).

(c) EFFECT OF COMMUTING ON FATIGUE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall enter into appropriate arrangements with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study of the effects of commuting on pilot fatigue and report its findings to the Administrator.

(2) STUDY.—In conducting the study, the National Academy of Sciences shall consider—

(A) the prevalence of pilot commuting in the commercial air carrier industry, including the number and percentage of pilots who commute;

(B) information relating to commuting by pilots, including distances traveled, time zones crossed, time spent, and methods used;

(C) research on the impact of commuting on pilot fatigue, sleep, and circadian rhythms;

(D) commuting policies of commercial air carriers (including passenger and all-cargo air carriers), including pilot check-in requirements and sick leave and fatigue policies;

(E) post-conference materials from the Federal Aviation Administration's June 2008 symposium entitled "Aviation Fatigue Management Symposium: Partnerships for Solutions";

(F) Federal Aviation Administration and international policies and guidance regarding commuting; and

(G) any other matters as the Administrator considers appropriate.

(3) PRELIMINARY FINDINGS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of entering into arrangements under paragraph (1), the National Academy of Sciences shall submit to the Administrator its preliminary findings under the study.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of entering into arrangements under paragraph (1), the National Academy of Sciences shall submit to the Administrator a report containing its findings under the study and any recommendations for regulatory or administrative actions by the Federal Aviation Administration concerning commuting by pilots.

(5) RULEMAKING.—Following receipt of the report of the National Academy of Sciences under paragraph (4), the Administrator shall—

(A) consider the findings and recommendations in the report; and

(B) update, as appropriate based on scientific data, regulations required by subsection (a) on flight and duty time.

(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subsection.

SEC. 18. FLIGHT CREWMEMBER PAIRING AND CREW RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES.

(a) STUDY.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall conduct a study on aviation industry best practices with regard to flight crewmember pairing and crew resource management techniques.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the study.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3371.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COSTELLO. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you, and I rise in support of H.R. 3371, the Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act.

This legislation will improve aviation safety, and it is one of the strongest aviation safety bills in decades. The bipartisan legislation is authored by Chairman OBERSTAR, Ranking Member PETRI, and me. I would like to thank them for their leadership and hard work to bring this legislation to the floor today.

I also want to thank the families of those who perished in the Colgan accident in Buffalo for their input, cooperation, and persistence. Some of them are here with us today.

In addition, the subcommittee worked very closely with the pilot groups, the airlines, the National Transportation Safety Board, the Department of Transportation inspector general, and members of the Aviation Subcommittee, as well as other Members of Congress, such as Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER, Congressman BRIAN HIGGINS and Congressman CHRISTOPHER LEE, who also helped shape the legislation.

At our Aviation Subcommittee hearing on June 11, I stated that we would not wait on the FAA to go forward with the rulemaking process. Rather, we would move legislation through the Congress to improve safety and to improve pilot training, and that is exactly what we did. On July 30, H.R. 3371 was reported favorably out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The bill has many cosponsors from both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, today is an important day for aviation safety. Ranking Mem-

ber PETRI and I held an Aviation Subcommittee hearing on June 11 on "Regional Air Carriers and Pilot Workforce Issues." The testimony we heard was nearly unanimous—that Congress and the FAA must raise the bar on the current minimum pilot training standards. At the end of the hearing, I stated our intention to pursue legislation.

The bill before us fulfills our commitment to address these safety issues, and we will continue to conduct rigorous oversight to ensure that these measures are implemented after the bill is enacted.

Regional airlines have been involved in the last six fatal U.S. airline accidents, and pilot performance has been implicated in three of these accidents, not including Colgan. It is time to strengthen pilot training requirements and qualifications. Those, among other important issues, are addressed in this legislation.

To address pilot qualifications, the bill increases the minimum flight hours required to be hired as an airline pilot. Currently, individuals only need a commercial pilot's license to be a commercial pilot, which is a minimum of 250 flight hours. Based on the witnesses' testimonies in our hearing, meetings and a roundtable discussion with airline pilots, there is a consensus that 250 hours simply is not enough experience to be an airline pilot, and that safety would be improved by raising the standard.

Under H.R. 3371, all airline pilots must obtain an Airline Transport Pilot license, which is currently needed to be an airline captain. It requires a minimum of 1,500 flight hours, additional aeronautical knowledge, crew resources management, and greater flight proficiency testing.

In addition to the ATP, the bill goes a step further to put in place new statutory requirements to strengthen the qualitative minimum requirements a pilot must have to qualify for an ATP. For example, an individual must be able to function effectively in a multi-pilot environment. We also require pilots to be trained to fly in adverse weather conditions, including icing.

The subcommittee is looking at this issue very closely. In fact, Ranking Member PETRI and I are convening a roundtable tomorrow to discuss what steps can be taken to mitigate ground and in-flight icing and how icing can affect commercial and general aviation aircraft.

In addition, because pilot groups, the FAA administrator and flight education universities have all cited the need to strengthen pilot academic training, the bill allows the FAA administrator to give credit towards the 1,500-flight-hour requirements if a flight school or a university provides academic training that exceeds the strengthened minimum ATP requirements in the bill.

To reiterate, this bill, one, will require all pilots to hold an ATP certificate; two, will strengthen the minimum requirements for an ATP; and

three, will provide a flight-hour credit for coursework that exceeds the strengthened minimum requirements. In addition, the administrator can only award these credits on the basis that specific academic courses will enhance safety more than flight experience.

H.R. 3371 goes a long way to strengthening both the qualitative and quantitative training requirements to become an airline pilot.

The bill mandates several outstanding NTSB recommendations related to pilot training that were discussed at the hearing, such as stall and upset recovery, and remedial training. We require the FAA to convene a multidisciplinary panel on stick pusher training and for the FAA to act on the panel's recommendations. We are also mandating that the Secretary of Transportation must provide Congress with an annual report on each open NTSB recommendation.

To address concerns regarding professional standards, the bill requires regional and major airlines to create pilot mentoring programs pairing highly experienced pilots with junior pilots. New-hire pilots and pilots in command are required to receive leadership training and must undergo instruction on compliance with sterile cockpit regulations.

Also, the bill creates a task force of experts to evaluate best practices in the airline industry regarding mentoring, pilot training and intercarrier information sharing. The task force will report to Congress every 180 days on the progress of implementing these best practices.

To ensure that airlines can make informed hiring decisions, the bill also requires the FAA to create and maintain an electronic pilot records database.

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The database will allow airlines to quickly assess and have access to the pilot's comprehensive record for the purposes of hiring only. The database will have records of the pilot's license, aircraft ratings, check rides, notice of disapproval, and other flight proficiency tests.

Fatigue has been on the NTSB's "most wanted list" since 1990. The bill directs the FAA to implement a new pilot flight and duty time rule. An updated rule will more adequately reflect the operating environment of today's pilots and will reflect scientific research on fatigue. In addition, the bill requires air carriers to create fatigue risk management systems to proactively mitigate fatigue.

Many of us are concerned about the relationship between pilot commuting and fatigue. This is an issue that needs to be looked at more closely. Therefore, the bill directs the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study on the impact of commuting on pilot fatigue. The bill requires all Internet Web sites that sell airline tickets to show on the first Web page display

which air carrier is operating the flight, including multiple flight segments.

Finally, to recap, the bill increases the minimum flight hours required to be hired as an airline pilot to 1,500 hours and an ATP license. Now an individual needs only 250 hours to receive their commercial pilot's license and fly in the left seat of a cockpit as a First Officer. The bill requires the First Officer to have at least 1,500 hours and an ATP.

We are strengthening the ATP by requiring strong qualitative requirements such as knowing how to fly in a multi-pilot environment, being trained to fly in adverse weather conditions, including icing. It mandates several outstanding NTSB recommendations related to pilot training and requires the Secretary of Transportation to provide an annual report to Congress on each NTSB recommendation that is still open.

It mandates regional and major airlines to create pilot mentoring programs, it requires the FAA to create and maintain an electronic pilot database to ensure that airlines can make informed hiring decisions. It directs the FAA to implement the flight and duty time rules and requires airlines to create fatigue management systems.

It directs the National Academy of Science to study the relationship between pilot commuting and fatigue. It requires all Internet Web sites that sell airline tickets to explicitly say which air carriers are operating the flight, including multi legs of flight.

Mr. Speaker, this is most comprehensive safety bill that has come before this Congress in many, many years. It provides important steps to address many safety concerns raised at our hearing. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H.R. 3371, the Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act.

Safety is the highest priority of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, as we've heard from our subcommittee chairman. Even the most well-funded, technologically advanced transportation system is worth less if it cannot move its users from point to point in the safest possible manner. Although the U.S. airline industry's safety record is the envy of the world, recent events offer proof that this safety legislation is needed.

Since 2003, there have been six fatal commercial air carrier accidents. Every one of those six involved regional airlines. In four of the six accidents, the National Transportation Safety Board cited pilot performance as a potential factor. The most recent accident of Colgan Flight 3407 was again a stark reminder that we must remain ever vigilant in our pursuit of aviation safety.

In response to these accidents, the National Transportation Safety Board

has made several recommendations related to pilot training, pilot fatigue, the availability of pilot records, and voluntary safety reporting programs. The bill before us is an important step toward improving safety by implementing the NTSB pilot training requirements.

To address what FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt has identified as a lapse in professionalism on the flight deck, the bill directs the FAA to conduct a rulemaking to improve flight crew member mentoring, professional development, and leadership.

This bipartisan legislation contains several provisions that will help mitigate the dangers associated with pilot fatigue. H.R. 3371 directs the FAA administrator to update and issue new pilot flight and duty time requirements. It also requires the Federal Aviation Administration to coordinate with the National Academy of Sciences in order to conduct a joint study on the effects of pilot commuting.

The bill mandates that all commercial air carriers submit a fatigue risk management plan to the FAA within 90 days of enactment. Pilot fatigue poses a significant risk to air transportation, and I am glad this bill takes measures to eliminate its dangerous consequences.

H.R. 3371 will improve access to pilot records by creating a secure, consolidated FAA-managed database. The database will contain all Part 121 pilots' performance, training, and testing records, and it will enable air carriers to gain a more accurate and complete perspective when making hiring decisions. All commercial carriers will be required to access this database and prescreen an applicant's comprehensive record before making a final decision on hiring.

These are just a few of the provisions included in this important legislation. I would like to express my appreciation for the open, bipartisan manner in which this bill was put together. This collective effort demonstrates that aviation safety is, as it always should be, a nonpartisan issue.

I also want to thank the families of Continental Flight 3407. Their efforts to improve regional airline safety have been most helpful as we drafted the bill before us.

In the other body, the Commerce Committee has included several provisions in its mark of the FAA reauthorization bill that address some of the same issues in the bill before us today. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to complete consideration of their reauthorization package so that we may conference these bills together before the end of this year. These issues are too important to leave to languish due to inaction.

While some have concerns about certain provisions of the bill, I support moving the bill forward and addressing those concerns during the House and Senate conference.

Again, I thank the chairman, as well as my colleagues, for their work on

this important bill, and our subcommittee chairman, Representative COSTELLO from Illinois.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 2 minutes to the chairperson of the Rules Committee, the gentlewoman from New York, Congresswoman SLAUGHTER.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my great gratitude to Mr. COSTELLO for the incredible work that he's done on this in such a short period of time. And those of us who live in the area of the Colgan crash are greatly in his debt. I thank Mr. PETRI for all of the good work. I think this is indeed one of the best safety bills that we've done since I've been in Congress.

Nothing in the bill before us can do anything to bring back the lives that were lost on that cold night in Buffalo back in February when Colgan Air Flight 3407 fell to the ground and exploded into fire. But I am happy to be here today because the House is moving forward with legislation that includes the strong new set of guidelines for improving passenger and crew safety.

This Act will mean safer flights for all of us. As we learned during the NTSB hearings into this issue over the summer, there are far too many pilots flying regional planes who are overextended, undertrained, or exhausted.

The bill establishes comprehensive preemployment screening for prospective pilots and requires airlines to establish pilot mentoring programs so that the highly experienced pilots can mentor more junior pilots, surely an issue in the Colgan crash. In fact, junior pilots will no longer fly alongside a junior pilot under the bill.

In addition, there are new mandates that grew out of the NTSB safety hearings earlier this year: requiring the FAA to ensure that pilots are trained on stall recovery and upset recovery, mandates that the FAA convene a multidisciplinary panel on pilot training for stick pusher operations, and then take action to implement the recommendations of the panel.

It came as a surprise to me that the NTSB ideas were only suggestions to the FAA. So obviously we're going to have to make sure that they're implemented.

There is also a section in the bill to create the new database which Mr. COSTELLO has explained, but most importantly, it requires the Secretary of Transportation to give us an annual report on what they're doing to address each open NTSB recommendation pertaining to small air carriers like Colgan.

I am so grateful for this bill.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield such time as he may consume to an original coauthor of the bill who is before us who has been heavily involved in the deliberations on the bill from its inception, our colleague from New York, Representative CHRIS LEE.

Mr. LEE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support today of H.R. 3371, the

Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act which I introduced with my western New York colleagues, Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mr. HIGGINS.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, unfortunately, arose out of a tragedy. This past February on an icy evening in Buffalo, Continental Connection Flight 3407, operated by regional carrier Colgan Air, crashed into a home killing all 49 people on board and one person on the ground.

Among those on board Flight 3407: a prominent human rights activist, a 9/11 widow, a retired Air Force Reservist, an accomplished jazz guitarist, a cantor at a Williamsville temple, the director of a youth services program, an expectant mother who was going to be due at the end of May, a program manager for Northrop Grumman, a second-year law student, the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, and a Vietnam veteran with two Purple Hearts.

The families of these victims—many of whom are here, and I am honored that they are here today. I've used their personal heartache to advocate for stronger standards for commercial airline pilots. It is due to their tireless efforts that we have come so far.

Being a commercial airline pilot is not an entry-level position. Commercial pilots are entrusted with the lives of our mothers, daughters, sons, and fathers, and we and they both deserve to have them as well-trained as possible. This bill dramatically improves training by requiring commercial airline pilots an FAA airline transport pilot license which requires a minimum of 1,500 flight hours.

In addition, H.R. 3371 requires the first page of a Web site that sells airline tickets to disclose the airline carrier that operates each segment of the flight. From combating pilot fatigue to improving training practices, establishing an electronic pilot records database, and increasing transparency, H.R. 3371 is an important first step in improving commercial airline safety.

I would like to thank again my colleagues, Mr. HIGGINS and Ms. SLAUGHTER, for the support they have given to the families and victims of the Flight 3407 tragedy, as well as Chairmen COSTELLO and OBERSTAR and Ranking Members PETRI and MICA for their hard work on these issues.

While it's horrifying to think that this tragedy could have been avoided, this legislation is a testament to the courage and the strength of the Flight 3407 families who, again, have worked tirelessly to enact these meaningful reforms.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and enable these long-overdue reforms.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York who was instrumental in working with us to craft this bill, Congressman HIGGINS.

Mr. HIGGINS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in support of H.R. 3371, the

Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009. I especially want to thank my colleagues from western New York, Congressman CHRIS LEE and Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER.

On February 12, 50 lives were lost when Continental Connection Flight 3407 crashed into a house in Clarence, New York, 5 miles from the Buffalo Niagara International Airport. Earlier this year, I said that the devastation felt in the aftermath of this tragedy can never be undone. This was an avoidable tragedy, and we owe it to the families and the victims and to all air passengers to learn from this experience and change the system to improve flight safety. This bill will start to do that.

The Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009 will address the many factors that caused the crash of Flight 3407. The bill would require all commercial pilots to obtain an Airline Transport Pilots license which requires a minimum of 1,500 flight hours.

□ 1330

It requires the FAA to ensure that pilots are better trained to recover from stalls, and it would create a database to provide access to pilots' comprehensive records. The bill also established new risk management plans to reduce pilot fatigue and to enhance pilot training for flying in inclement weather, including icy conditions.

This legislation dramatically improves upon the safety of our airways. However, I do have concerns with language in the bill that would give the FAA administrator the authority to allow academic class time to count as class hours towards the 1,500-hour flight requirement. While additional academic class time is important, if we want experienced pilots, there is simply no replacement for flight hours. As this legislation continues through Congress, I will work to perfect the language to ensure high-quality training.

I want to thank Chairman OBERSTAR, Chairman COSTELLO, Ranking Members MICA and PETRI for their leadership. I would also like to thank the families, some of whom are here today and many of whom who were here for many months, including Kevin Kuwik and Karen Eckert, for their commitment to making from this tragedy something positive.

Mr. PETRI. I yield such time as he may consume to the ranking member of the full Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, my colleague, JOHN MICA, from Florida.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I am pleased to come to the House today and join in a bipartisan effort to pass the regional commuter airline safety legislation. I really don't need a prepared speech to talk about this, having been involved with Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. OBERSTAR, our ranking member of the Aviation Subcommittee, Mr. PETRI, on almost a

daily basis for a number of weeks. In fact, having chaired the Aviation Subcommittee and now a leader of the full committee, I can't think of any issue we have probably spent more quality time on and a more bipartisan effort. If all the legislation was fashioned in the manner in which this was, I think Congress would be in great shape and held in great esteem by the public.

As you have heard today, this legislation comes as a result of a tragedy. We have had the good fortune of having our large passenger aircraft not have really a significant incidence of fatalities since, I believe, November of 2001, but we have had at least, since 2003, six regional commuter aircraft crashes, and we have had over 155 deaths in an even shorter period of time.

That prompted me, and I brought the record, and I will probably put it in the RECORD, my calls for looking at commuter airline safety. Unfortunately, the crash in Buffalo, the sixth crash that we had, and the families that have been mentioned here today who had victims in Flight 3407, also took up the banner, turned a horrible personal tragedy and loss into something positive and have worked in a positive fashion to craft good legislation.

Let me just cite for the record that we all came together and we entered in drafting legislation. We introduced it in a bipartisan fashion, as we say around here, the big four, Mr. OBERSTAR and myself, Mr. PETRI, Mr. COSTELLO. Then we thought we had done what we needed to do. But it wasn't long before that legislation saw the light of day, and we got to folks talking about the provisions.

One of the more controversial provisions was going from a smaller number of flight hours to 1,500 flight hours. We felt, we believed then and we firmly believe today, that commuter and regional aircraft passengers shouldn't be second-class passengers. The pilot that's in the cockpit of those smaller aircraft should have the same skills and training, background and educational experience as those pilots in larger commercial aircraft.

After we introduced that, we found, in fact, that we needed to fine-tune the legislation and make certain that the type of hours aren't just simple flight hours. If someone is towing a banner, for example, does that qualify you to fly commercial passenger aircraft as someone flying in, say, the tropics and never experienced a de-icing? If someone is flying a mail route and never had passengers in an aircraft, a crop duster, might rack up 1,500 hours; that wasn't what we wanted.

We sat down. We sat down with experts, pilots. We sat down with officials from the Federal Aviation Administration. We sat down with all the parties who could provide us guidance. I think what we came up with is the best possible guidelines for FAA to ensure that we have quality, qualified pilots in the cockpit of regional carriers.

I just want to thank again everyone who has participated.

Now, let me say that the challenge is just beginning. We have not had an FAA reauthorization, I think, since I have chaired the subcommittee. We just got an FAA administrator some months ago. We were one of the longest times without an administrator. Our overall bill, FAA bill that sets policy projects and all of the important aspects of aviation safety, is still not in place.

Mr. OBERSTAR and I, Mr. PETRI, Mr. COSTELLO, we have done our due diligence in the House. We all need now to work on the other body. It is my hope that we can incorporate this legislation into the master FAA reauthorization and get that signed by the President into law so that, again, we can ensure for regional passengers of commercial aircraft, for the flying public, and for all aircraft in our skies and for the future the best possible safety measures in law.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio, who is a member of the subcommittee, who is an experienced pilot and who made invaluable contributions to this legislation, Mr. BOCCIERI.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Speaker, Chairman OBERSTAR, Chairman COSTELLO, Ranking Members MICA and PETRI, thank you for bringing this bill to the floor today.

I remember my parents telling me: don't just tell me what you believe; show me what you have done and I will tell you what you believe. By us bringing this bill to the floor today, we can now discount the feelings and thoughts that we just believe that we should have safer skies. We are now doing what should be required to make airline travel as safe as possible.

Taken on a whole, Mr. Speaker, airline travel is extremely safe in the United States. However, that is component and functional upon the pilots flying and the training that they receive. In fact, this air crew, by all standards, was a very experienced crew. Yet what we found through NTSB reports and the later testimony by the FAA is that that air crew and this airline did not train their pilots to adequately recover from a stall.

Now, we can measure these types of instant recovery patterns and the upset stall recovery that needs to happen based on simulation. This bill will now force pilots and their trainers to make certain that they will not only recognize a stall, but be able to recover from a stall and be adequately trained on the equipment in their airplane.

We will increase the number of hours for regional pilots. We will add crew resource management that will help pilots cut down on the chatter while they are flying. Important stall recovery procedures will be implemented through pilot training programs that will allow simulation.

We will also end these share agreements, because when you and I buy a ticket, we want to know that we are

flying with the air carrier that we sign up and we pay for, and that's going to change in this bill. Not only are we going to allow these regional airlines to cut corners, to shave times and shoot for the minimums, because when we asked this airline why they were not trained to adequately recover from this, they said the FAA did not require them to do this; that will end. We are going to do this now.

Don't tell me what you believe. Show me what you have done and I will tell you what you believe.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the former chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, my colleague from Tennessee, JOHN DUNCAN.

Mr. DUNCAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise mainly to commend, first of all, Chairman OBERSTAR, who I have always referred to as Mr. Aviation in this Congress, and my own ranking member, Mr. MICA, who has been so kind to me. I especially want to commend my good friends, Chairman COSTELLO and Ranking Member PETRI, who have worked so hard to bring this legislation to fruition and bring it to the floor today.

Unless you have worked on legislation like this, you just can't imagine all of the details that have to be ironed out, all the competing interests that have to be brought together. I especially want to thank them for taking into consideration the needs of our great educational institutions that have aviation programs, such as Embry-Riddle and Middle Tennessee State University in my own State of Tennessee, and many others.

As Ranking Member PETRI just mentioned, I had the privilege of serving for 6 years as chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee. I enjoyed that very much, and I think it's very important work that I had the privilege of doing then and that they are working so hard on now.

We have the best aviation system in the world, without any question. Unfortunately, we have more people killed in 3½ months on the Nation's highways than have been killed in all of the U.S. aviation accidents combined since the Wright brothers' flight in 1903. It's an amazing record.

But you can never rest on your laurels, and you should always be trying to make things better. We have the best airlines and we have the best pilots, but everybody should always be trying to improve and get better. Certainly, when we are faced with the tragedy of a major crash such as we have heard mentioned several times here already today, it's a terrible thing, especially for those who have been killed and their families. We all need to do everything we can and we certainly try to do everything we can to make our aviation system even safer.

I am pleased to be associated with these gentlemen and also with this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support this very fine bill.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield to the distinguished chairman of the full committee, Chairman OBERSTAR, as much time as he may consume.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I thank the gentleman from Illinois, Chair of the Subcommittee on Aviation, for the splendid job he has done, for the diligent, time-consuming, engaged work that he has dedicated to bringing this bill to the House floor today; and to our colleague, Mr. PETRI, a senior member on the Aviation Subcommittee on the Republican side who has also contributed an enormous amount of time and energy and work. We appreciate the kind words of Mr. DUNCAN and Mr. MICA, my ranking member and counterpart, and to the congressional delegation of Members whose constituents included those lost lives in this tragic crash.

It is so often the case that tragedy brings us to the House floor to right a wrong and correct gaps in safety in aviation, in railroad, in trucking, in passenger rail service, transit systems. We should be ahead of the game. We should be prescriptive rather than reactive. This legislation will do that for us. It will make us prescriptive in the field of aviation.

This bill, when enacted into law, will be the most significant improvement in raising the standards of pilot qualifications since 1958, when the FAA was established. There has been a great deal of concentration of public interest in the number of hours required to serve in the flight deck, in the left-hand or the right-hand seat.

This bill is much more than hours served. We have a current standard that a pilot need only a commercial pilot's certificate, 250 hours, in some cases only 190 hours.

□ 1345

Well, to fly an aircraft you need a lot more experience, a lot more flight experience. You need more aeronautical knowledge. You need weather training. You need training in crew resource management in the flight deck so that you have a plan, as in the case of Galaxy Airlines when a sound was heard in the flight deck and all three personnel in the flight deck began troubleshooting and no one was flying the aircraft. You need a flight management plan. And in that case, the aircraft crashed and 93 people died.

We raised the standards for the airline transport pilot certification. The pilot must have flight training, academic training, and operational experience to function effectively and efficiently in an operational environment. You have to be part meteorologist to understand weather conditions. You need training for how to cope with icing, high-altitude operations, multipilot crew, and operating an aircraft under difficult conditions, say, when the autopilot is off.

Those are the raised standards that we include in this legislation, including a number of recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board; remedial training, stall and upset recovery training. You can't get that just on the ground in a simulator. You need that training at six and seven miles in the air, when there is no curb to pull over and look under the hood or call for help. That training has to be instilled in the pilot, in the captain in command and the first officer, before they get in the flight deck.

We also create an air carrier safety and pilot training task force to identify the best practices in the industry for pilot training, professional standards, intercarrier information-sharing and mentoring.

All of these are important. But not just to have those standards. We require them to report to the Congress every 180 days, and I thank Mr. COSTELLO for insisting on that and for the oversight he has conducted. We are going to stay on top of this thing. This full committee and this subcommittee are not going to just fold our hands after the bill passes and say "job well done." "Job just begun" is our method and is our standard.

For pilot fatigue, we require new flight and duty time rules within a year. You know, it took 14 years to get flight and duty time for flight attendants.

So these and a whole host of others are wrapped up with a directive to the General Accounting Office to do an evaluation of flight schools upon enactment of this legislation and report back to Congress. That is a complete package: new standards, higher standards, more requirements, more oversight, reporting to the Congress and keeping our hands on to make sure there are no more Colgan tragedies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

Mr. COSTELLO. I would ask the ranking member if he would yield 30 seconds to me, since I am out of time.

Mr. PETRI. I yield such time as he may consume to my chairman, Mr. COSTELLO.

Mr. COSTELLO. I thank the ranking member for yielding 30 seconds to me.

In closing, let me reiterate that this is the strongest aviation and pilot training bill, as Chairman OBERSTAR said, in over half a decade. It is a good bill. It deserves our support. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and a cosponsor of this bill I rise to lend my strong support of Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009. This important piece of legislation increases commercial pilot training requirements and requires the Federal Aviation Administration to convene a multidisciplinary review panel aimed at improving pilot response to a variety of conditions. It would also create an FAA task force to identify industry best practices.

These are just a few of the many safety improvements in this bill. And while the safety record of our aviation system is admirable, mistakes in the sky can devastate hundreds of lives and we must do everything possible to ensure our pilots are adequately trained, well rested, and best practices are always used.

I urge my colleagues to pass this important piece of legislation to make the skies safer for us all.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3371, the Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act.

On February 12, 2009, 50 lives were lost when Continental Flight 3407 crashed outside of Buffalo, New York. This was truly a national tragedy, one that has raised serious concerns about the safety and oversight of our nation's aviation system.

I would like to take a moment to honor the lives of three of the passengers on Flight 3407 from New Jersey's 12th Congressional District, which I have the privilege to represent in Congress. I have spoken with and heard from their families and friends, and my thoughts and prayers go out to them as they cope with the loss of these outstanding individuals. As they mourn, they have been vigilant in working to ensure that we address the serious safety concerns that led to this crash.

Lorin Maurer from Princeton was a fundraiser for the athletics division of Princeton University. According to her coworkers she was a bright and rising star. She was also a dedicated volunteer for the Greater Princeton Junior League. According to her fellow volunteers she was "an enthusiastic woman who not only had great ideas for improving our community, but took the actions necessary to achieve our goals." I would like to thank Lorin's boyfriend Kevin Kuwik for his hard work on behalf of the families of Flight 3407.

Ron Gonzalez of North Brunswick was a tireless advocate for his community. According to his sister he was a true advocate for life. His humanitarian efforts included running the New York City Marathon, and volunteering for the New York State Healthy Heart Program, HIV AIDS Community Services, and the New York State Prevention Planning Group. Ron worked at New Brunswick Tomorrow where he managed a school based program for at-risk children within New Brunswick Public Schools. During Ron's tenure with New Brunswick Tomorrow, he worked hard to save children who were in crisis due to domestic violence, drugs, gangs, and other social ills. His passing is a great loss to our community.

Coleman Mellett from East Brunswick was a talented jazz guitarist. Coleman's talent was evident from a young age. He came in second at the scholarship competition at the East Coast Jazz Festival while he was still in high school. Coleman played with a number of talented musicians including Chuck Mangione's band. He also released the solo album Natural High in 2007 which demonstrated the depth of his talent. I can only imagine the music that we have lost with Coleman's passing.

Many of the family members of the victims of Flight 3407 are at the Capitol today to remind us that we in Congress need to take action to prevent another tragedy of this scale.

A series of National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) hearings exposed the disturbing fact that this tragedy was preventable. The pilots had received inadequate training on how to recover from a stall and how to proceed in

icing conditions. Severe pilot fatigue also was identified as the cause of the crash. The NTSB found that regional carriers are held to lower safety standards than national carriers despite regional airlines' accounting for one-half of all scheduled flights in the United States. As a result, five of the last seven fatal commercial plane crashes involved regional carriers.

As more Americans rely on commuter airlines for air service, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) must take aggressive action to ensure that there is no difference in the level of safety provided by different air carriers. However, the NTSB hearings also made clear that the FAA has failed to issue regulations based on previous NTSB recommendations to establish uniform standards for training and performance. We owe it to the families and friends of the victims of the Flight 3407 to take action to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Earlier this year I joined my colleagues from upstate New York, CHRISTOPHER LEE and BRIAN HIGGINS in introducing the One Level of Safety Act. Our legislation would require regional carriers to meet the same training and safety standards of national carriers. Additionally, it would require the FAA to implement the unfulfilled NTSB recommendations that were found to be responsible for this crash. I would like to thank Chairman COSTELLO for including a number of these provisions in the Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act that we are considering today. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. 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 Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3371, 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. COSTELLO. 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 THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEORGE BUSH INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 138) recognizing the 40th anniversary of the George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 138

Whereas the George Bush Intercontinental Airport in the City of Houston, Texas (referred to in this resolution as "IAH"), was first opened for operation on June 8, 1969;

Whereas in 1997, IAH was named in honor of the Nation's 41st President, George Herbert Walker Bush, a longtime resident of Houston who, as a Member of the Houston congressional delegation, was present at the 1969 opening of the airport;

Whereas IAH is the largest airport in Houston, serving over 43,000,000 passengers in 2008, is the 8th-largest airport in the United States and the 16th-largest in the world for total passengers served;

Whereas more than 700,000,000 people have passed through IAH's gates since its opening;

Whereas IAH has grown to become a world-class international gateway offering service to more than 109 domestic and 65 nonstop international destinations in over 32 countries;

Whereas in 1990, the City of Houston named the IAH international arrivals building, now the IAH Terminal D, in honor of the distinguished Congressman for the 18th District of Texas, George Thomas "Mickey" Leland, a renowned antipoverty activist who died tragically in 1989 while on a humanitarian visit to Ethiopia;

Whereas IAH operates the largest passenger international arrivals facility in the Nation and was selected by the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security as the first "Model Port" for its efficiency in welcoming international passengers arriving in the United States;

Whereas IAH is a regional and world leader in air cargo processing, consolidation, and distribution;

Whereas IAH is a critical component of the Houston economy, supporting more than 151,000 jobs and contributing over \$24,000,000,000 in economic benefits to the Houston region; and

Whereas IAH serves 30 airlines and is the headquarters and major hub for award-winning Continental Airlines, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2009: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes the 40th anniversary of the founding of the George Bush Intercontinental Airport; and

(2) congratulates officials of the George Bush Intercontinental Airport, the Houston Airport System, and the City of Houston, Texas, for the airport's record of excellent service to the citizens of Houston and the national air transportation system.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 138.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 138, introduced by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

The concurrent resolution recognizes the 40th anniversary of the George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas, and congratulates officials of the airport and the City of Houston

for the airport's service to Houston's citizens and the national air transportation system.

Houston Intercontinental Airport is the largest airport in Houston, serving over 43 million passengers in 2008, and is the eighth largest airport in the United States. The airport has grown to become a world-class international gateway and is a regional and world leader in air cargo processing, consolidation, and distribution.

Finally, the airport supports more than 151,000 jobs and contributes over \$24 billion annually to the Houston regional economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 138.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 138, recognizing the 40th anniversary of the George H.W. Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas.

George H.W. Bush Intercontinental, as has been pointed out, is the eighth largest airport in these United States and served over 43 million passengers in 2008 alone. The airport offers flights to over 32 countries and is the world leader in air cargo processing, consolidation, and distribution.

George H.W. Bush Intercontinental is vital to the economic stability of the greater Houston area. The airport contributes almost \$24 billion in direct benefits to the region and supports more than 151,000 jobs. The airport is a valuable part of our national airspace system and is very important to the greater Houston area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution honoring the 40th anniversary of George H.W. Bush Intercontinental Airport.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the author of this legislation, the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Illinois and as well the chairman and ranking member of the Aviation Subcommittee for your leadership on a number of issues that have been on the floor of the House today.

I thank my cosponsors, who realize in this time of a challenging economy how important the aviation industry is in being an economic engine; how many of our tourists that come to Washington, DC, many drive, but many of them fly, and they want to fly on a safe and secure system.

As the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection, Mr. COSTELLO and myself have common interests about security and safety, but we also are glad for our Nation's airports.

Our Nation's airports are large and small; they are rural and urban. I applaud them all. But I am excited to

stand with my colleagues to recognize one of the strongest airports in the Nation, the George H. Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas, and is the subject of this resolution, H. Con. Res. 138 that I authored. I would like to thank my cosponsors, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. GENE GREEN.

I sponsored this resolution to acknowledge the importance of airport travel and to recognize that this airport in Houston, Texas, is an economic engine and to realize that the airport's record of excellent service to the citizens of Houston and the national air transportation system is deserving of acclamation and applause, for their great service has been a critical component of Houston's economy, supporting more than 151,000 jobs and contributing over \$24 billion in economic benefits to the Houston region over a period of time.

The George Bush Intercontinental Airport in the City of Houston was first opened for operation on June 8, 1969, 40 years ago. In 1997, it was named in honor of the Nation's 41st President, George Herbert Walker Bush, who happens to be a resident, along with his wife, Mrs. Bush, of Houston, Texas. He was also a member of the Houston congressional delegation, and he was present at the 1969 opening of the airport.

In 1990, the City of Houston named IAH's International arrivals building, now terminal D, in honor of my predecessor, Congressman Mickey Leland of the 18th Congressional district, who died tragically on a humanitarian effort trying to help the starving and ravished people of Ethiopia. He was also a figure who cared about people.

Our airport cares about people. It served over 43 million passengers in 2008. It is the eighth largest airport in the United States and the 16th largest in the world for total passengers served, with more than 700 million people having passed through its gates since its opening.

The airport has grown to be worldwide. We are building new terminals now. The anchor airline is Continental; but we are open to the many, many other airlines, as well as international airlines, because this is an international city. Houston is the fourth largest city in the Nation, but soon to be in this new census the possibility of being the third largest city in the Nation.

George Bush Intercontinental Airport has 109 domestic and 65 nonstop international destinations in over 32 countries. We are a part of the economic engine of this great country.

I would also like to note that George H.W. Bush, since we are concerned about being secure, was the President who asked for the Pan Am 103 report on the tragedy of Pan Am 103. He asked the Congress to establish the Pan Am 103 commission, and that commission was part of the effort of being able to respond to that tragedy. George Bush

as President received both the victims of that tragedy and the report while he was in the White House, and our now chairman of the full committee, Chairman OBERSTAR, was then the chairman of the Aviation Committee, served on the commission, and this Congress has implemented 63 of the 64 proposals of that particular commission. That means we worked hand-in-glove to help improve airline and airport security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. COSTELLO. I yield the gentle-lady an additional minute.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. In supporting these airlines and supporting this airport, we are very pleased that this airport has been the recipient of many, many awards and as well many, many thank-you's from the employees to the traveling public. We are now in new construction for expansion.

I want to congratulate the City of Houston and the leadership of the Houston Intercontinental Airport, named for the 41st President of the United States, for providing the kind of economic engine that says to the world, we are open, we are friendly, and says to the City of Houston, we are your economic engine, too!

I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 138, Recognizing the 40th anniversary of the George Bush Intercontinental Airport in my home city of Houston, Texas. I would like thank my co-sponsors, Representative CULBERSON, Rep. GENE GREEN, Rep. MCCAUL, and Rep. OLSON.

I sponsored this resolution to recognize the 40th anniversary of the George Bush Intercontinental Airport and congratulate officials of the George Bush Intercontinental Airport, the Houston Airport System, and the city of Houston, Texas, for the airport's record of excellent service to the citizens of Houston and the national air transportation system. For their great service has been a critical component of the Houston economy, supporting more than 151,000 jobs and contributing over \$24,000,000,000 in economic benefits to the Houston region.

The George Bush Intercontinental Airport in the city of Houston, Texas was first opened for operation on June 8, 1969. In 1997, it was named in honor of the Nation's 41st President, George Herbert Walker Bush, a longtime resident of Houston who, as a Member of the Houston congressional delegation, was present at the 1969 opening of the airport. In 1990, the city of Houston named the IAH international arrivals building, now Terminal D, in honor of the distinguished Congressman for the 18th District of Texas, George Thomas "Mickey" Leland, a renowned antipoverty activist who died tragically in 1989 while on a humanitarian visit to Ethiopia.

IAH is the largest airport in Houston, serving over 43,000,000 passengers in 2008, is the 8th largest airport in the United States and the 16th largest in the world for total passengers served, with more than 700,000,000 people have passed through its gates since opening. Our airport has grown to become a world-class international gateway offering service to

more than 109 domestic and 65 nonstop international destinations in over 32 countries, and today remains a regional and world leader in air cargo processing, consolidation, and distribution.

The George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston operates the largest passenger international arrivals facility in the Nation and was selected by the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security as the first "Model Port" for its efficiency in welcoming international passengers arriving in the United States.

Bush Intercontinental is located approximately 23 miles north of downtown Houston, near the Sam Houston Tollway (Beltway 8 North). The airport is operated and maintained by the City of Houston Department of Aviation. The Houston Airport System functions as an enterprise fund and does not burden the local tax base for airport operations, maintenance or capital improvements. IAH currently ranks 3rd in the United States among U.S. airports with scheduled non-stop domestic and international service (over 170 destinations). With more than 29 destinations in Mexico, IAH offers service to more Mexican destinations than any other U.S. airport. Furthermore, this airport is the 8th busiest airport in the U.S. for total passengers. For these reasons and more we ask for my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield such time as he may consume to our hardworking colleague from the greater Houston area in the State of Texas, Representative PETER OLSON.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I also would like to thank Chairman COSTELLO and Ranking Member PETRI for all your hard work to get this resolution to this point.

In June of this year, George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston celebrated its 40th anniversary. Intercontinental is the largest airport in Houston and served more than 43 million passengers in 2008, making it the eighth largest airport in the United States and the 16th largest airport in the world.

□ 1400

Serving as Houston's gateway to the world, Intercontinental operates one of the largest international passenger arrival facilities in our country. With five terminals and 125 gates, Intercontinental gives passengers the option of service to over 170 nonstop destinations in more than 30 countries around the world. It is one of few airports in the world with five, five, air carrier runways, and the ability to handle triple simultaneous takeoffs and landings in all sorts of weather.

Intercontinental is a key driver for the greater Houston area economy. The airport supports more than 151,000 jobs and contributes more than \$24 billion in economic benefits to the Houston region. Bush Intercontinental Airport is an important part of keeping the goods and people moving around our great nation and the entire world.

I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting House Concurrent Resolution 138 and recognizing Intercontinental's 40th anniversary.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, H. Con. Res. 138, introduced by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), which recognizes the 40th anniversary of the George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas, and congratulates officials of the airport and the City of Houston for the airport's service to Houston citizens and the national air transportation system. I thank Representative JACKSON-LEE for her leadership on this measure.

Houston Intercontinental Airport is the eighth largest airport in the United States, serving over 43 million passengers in 2008. The airport offers 109 domestic and 65 nonstop international destinations in over 32 countries by 30 airlines. More than 700 million passengers have travelled through the airport since it opened in 1969. Furthermore, the airport contributes more than 151,000 jobs and \$24 billion in economic benefits to the Houston region. For air cargo, the airport is a regional and world leader in processing, consolidation, and distribution.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 138.

Mr. PETRI. I have no further requests for time. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 138.

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.

COMMENDING RUSS MEYER ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE NATIONAL AVIATION HALL OF FAME

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 719) commending Russ Meyer on his induction into the National Aviation Hall of Fame, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 719

Whereas the leadership of Russell (Russ) W. Meyer, Jr., former chairman and chief executive officer of Cessna Aircraft Company and a leading proponent of general aviation, has had a dramatic impact on the continued growth of the aviation industry in Kansas and throughout the United States;

Whereas Russ Meyer was one of the principal advocates for the General Aviation Revitalization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-298; 108 Stat. 1552);

Whereas Russ Meyer was instrumental in the development of the "Be A Pilot Program", which has resulted in tens of thousands of new pilots and contributed more than \$200,000,000 to

the United States economy through general aviation operations;

Whereas Russ Meyer was the originator of the Citation Special Olympics Airlift, in which hundreds of owners of Citation aircraft transport athletes from around the country to the Special Olympics National Games; and

Whereas Russ Meyer will join fellow residents of Kansas Olive Beech and Walter Beech, Lloyd Stearman, Clyde Cessna, Amelia Earhart, and Joe Engle in the National Aviation Hall of Fame: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends Russ Meyer for being inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame;

(2) recognizes the achievements of Russ Meyer during his lifetime of service to the aviation industry; and

(3) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to Russ Meyer.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHIFF). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H. Res. 719.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 719, introduced by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT). The resolution recognizes Russell W. Meyer, Jr., for his achievements and lifetime of service to the aviation industry and commends him on his induction into the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

As a leading proponent of aviation, Russ demonstrated strong leadership as the former chairman and chief executive officer of Cessna Aircraft Company. He was instrumental in supporting innovative aviation programs and played a key role in the development of the Be A Pilot program that resulted in tens of thousands of new pilots and contributed more than \$200 million to the economy.

Russ has served on three Presidential commissions and was one of the principal architects of the General Aviation Revitalization Act of 1994.

In 1995 he received one of aviation's most prestigious individual honors, the Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy. It is awarded annually on the anniversary of the Wright brothers' first powered flight.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring one of America's pioneers in aviation by supporting H. Res. 719.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of the resolution before us, House Resolution 719,

recognizing and honoring Russell W. Meyer, Jr., on his induction into the National Aviation Hall of Fame. Probably best known for his role as chairman and chief executive officer of Cessna Aircraft for 28 years, Mr. Meyer is an enthusiastic member of the general aviation community. In the mid-1990s, when the entire general aviation industry was on the brink, he helped push the General Aviation Revitalization Act of 1994 to enactment.

Through the development of the Be A Pilot program, Mr. Meyer did his best to share his love of flying with others. And when Special Olympics athletes faced challenges in transportation to the Games, he organized the Citation Special Olympics Airlift, partnering athletes with Cessna Citation owners and pilots to provide a ride to the Games. In addition to his philanthropic work with the aviation industry, Russ Meyer was also an active philanthropist for local charities in and around his hometown.

For his accomplishments as both an Air Force and Marine Corps aviator, a successful aircraft manufacturing executive and a philanthropist, we honor Russ Meyer and congratulate him on his induction into the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers on our side.

I reserve the balance of our time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to our colleague from Kansas, Representative TODD TIAHRT.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I want to first thank Chairman COSTELLO for his leadership on this legislation and also Ranking Member PETRI for his help in recognizing Russ Meyer.

It's with great pleasure that I come to the floor today to commend Russ W. Meyer, Jr., for his induction into the National Aviation Hall of Fame. In April, Russ joined astronauts Ellen Collins, the late Edward White, and movie legend Jimmy Stewart in the class of 2009.

Russ has had a distinguished career both in the private and public arena. While attending Harvard Law School, Russ served with the United States Marine Corps Reserves from 1958 to 1961. After a few years in the private practice of law, Russ entered the aviation industry as president and CEO of Grumman American Aviation Corporation in Cleveland, Ohio. Then Russ came to Wichita, Kansas. Russ joined the Cessna Aircraft Company as executive vice president in June of 1974. One year later he became the chairman and CEO.

There are few who have done more for the general aviation community than Russ. He led Cessna, both as chairman and CEO, for a total of 23 years. During his time with Cessna, Russ led the expansion of the Cessna line of business jets, the world's most popular line of mid-sized jets.

Russ Meyer recognized that business jets are a tremendous productivity tool. It is productivity that has helped our economy grow. We are the number one economy of the world, and it's not because we have fewer regulations. We have more. It's not because we have the lowest wages. We're among the highest. It's because of visionaries like Russ Meyer who gave the American people the ability to do the same work in less time, making us the most productive and strongest workforce and economy in the world.

In the 1980s, the general aviation industry was faced with a tremendous hurdle that threatened to eliminate a big portion of the general aviation aircraft market. Aircraft manufacturers were forced to cease production of their piston-powered aircraft due to liability issues that extended over the life of the aircraft. In response to this threat, Russ put his leadership to work on Capitol Hill. He became one of the principal advocates for the General Aviation Revitalization Act of 1994. This bill provided limited liability on general aviation aircraft and revitalized the general aviation industry.

But this is just one of many contributions Russ has given to the industry as a whole. Far beyond his leadership in the business sector, Russ is also a philanthropist. One person described Russ as one who has a big heart and wants to serve the underserved. This isn't just talk. Russ was the chairman of a campaign to construct a 42,000-square-foot complex for the Boys and Girls Club of South Central Kansas. He led the fundraising effort and raised over \$9 million for the project.

Russ was also the originator of the Citation Special Olympics Airlift, where hundreds of Citation airplane owners from around the country transport athletes to the national Special Olympic Games. Russ is also a member of the Kansas Aviation Hall of Fame, a Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy holder, has served on three Presidential commissions, and the list goes on.

Like many others, I've known Russ to be a man of vision and action. Whenever Russ takes on a project, he has the ability to rally and inspire everyone around him behind a common goal. Every community wants a Russ Meyer. Every community needs a Russ Meyer. The children of South Central Kansas needed him, and Russ delivered. The aircraft industry needed him, and Russ delivered. He's a big reason why Wichita is known as the air capital of the world.

Once again, I am pleased today that the United States House of Representatives will congratulate and commend Russ W. Meyer, Jr., on his induction into the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TIAHRT. I will be glad to yield to the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. DICKS).

Mr. DICKS. I want to commend my colleague from Kansas for the extraordinary statement about Russ Meyer, who I have known over the years as you've stated, one of the true leaders in general aviation. And I'd also like to mention my good friend, who was very sick out there in Boise, Idaho, Ed Stimson.

Ed was the head of general aviation manufacturing and worked with Russ, and they were a great team. Your colleague, your predecessor, Dan Glickman worked very hard on the general aviation liability legislation, which was an extraordinary piece of work that completely changed the dynamics and helped general aviation recover. And I was a cosponsor of that legislation. But Russ Meyer is just one of the great leaders in general aviation history.

I commend the gentleman for his remarks and urge the passing of this resolution.

Mr. TIAHRT. I thank the gentleman from Washington State, and I appreciate his contributions to the aircraft industry as well. He's been a stalwart in helping us get American jobs made by American companies, American aircraft.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, H. Res. 719, introduced by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT), which commends Russell W. Meyer, Jr. for his induction into the National Aviation Hall of Fame, and for his many contributions to general aviation.

Russ Meyer is an accomplished individual. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from Yale University and a law degree from Harvard University. From 1955–1961, Meyer served as a fighter pilot in both the Air Force and the Marine Corps Reserves. Later, Meyer was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Cessna Aircraft Company from 1975 to 2003. In this role, Meyer won two Collier Trophies for expanding the Cessna's Citation line of business jets.

Meyer was an advocate for the General Aviation Revitalization Act of 1994, which placed fair and reasonable limitations on the time period during which a manufacturer would be legally liable for aircraft defects. He also contributed to thousands of new pilots taking flight in the United States with the "Be a Pilot Program." This program helped to reduce the cost of flight schools for new pilots.

To assist athletes traveling to the Special Olympics National Games, Meyer founded the Citation Special Olympics Airlift, which coordinates transportation to the games on Cessna owners' aircraft. In 1995, he won the Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy for this important work.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 719.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, we have no further requests for time. I urge passage of this legislation.

I yield back the balance of our time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr.

COSTELLO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 719, 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.

MARITIME WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2651) to amend title 46, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a maritime career training loan program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2651

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 "Maritime Workforce Development Act".

SEC. 2. MARITIME EDUCATION LOAN PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 517 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 51705. Maritime career training loan program

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Transportation shall establish a maritime career training loan program (in this section referred to as the 'program') in accordance with the requirements of this section.

"(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program shall be to make maritime career training loans available to eligible students to provide for the training of United States mariners.

"(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The program shall be carried out by the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Maritime Administration.

"(d) DUTIES.—The Secretary shall—

"(1) allocate, on an annual basis, the award of loans under the program based on the needs of students;

"(2) develop an application process and eligibility criteria for the award of loans under the program;

"(3) approve applications for loans under the program based on the eligibility criteria and allocations made under paragraph (1); and

"(4) designate maritime training institutions at which loans made under the program may be used.

"(e) DESIGNATION OF MARITIME TRAINING INSTITUTIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In designating maritime training institutions under subsection (d)(4), the Secretary—

"(A) may include Federal, State, and commercial training institutions and nonprofit training organizations, except that undergraduate students at the United States Merchant Marine Academy shall not be eligible for loans under the program;

"(B) shall designate institutions based on geographic diversity and scope of classes offered;

"(C) shall ensure that designated institutions have the ability to administer the program; and

"(D) shall ensure that designated institutions meet requirements to provide training instruction for appropriate Coast Guard-approved training instruction.

“(2) EXCLUSIONS.—The Secretary—

“(A) may exclude from participation in the program a maritime training institution that has had severe performance deficiencies, including deficiencies demonstrated by audits or program reviews conducted during the 5 calendar years immediately preceding the present year;

“(B) shall exclude from participation in the program a maritime training institution that has delinquent or outstanding debts to the United States, unless such debts are being repaid under or in accordance with a repayment arrangement satisfactory to the United States, or the Secretary in the Secretary’s discretion determines that the existence or amount of any such debts has not been finally determined by the appropriate Federal agency;

“(C) may exclude from participation in the program a maritime training institution that has failed to comply with quality standards established by the Department of Labor, the Coast Guard, or a State; and

“(D) may establish such other criteria as the Secretary determines will protect the financial interest of the United States and promote the purposes of this section.

“(f) STATE MARITIME ACADEMIES.—

“(1) USE OF FUNDS FOR LOANS TO STUDENTS ATTENDING STATE MARITIME ACADEMIES.—The Secretary may obligate not more than 50 percent of the amounts appropriated to carry out this section for a fiscal year for loans to undergraduate students attending State maritime academies receiving assistance under chapter 515 of this title.

“(2) ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS.—Students at State maritime academies receiving loans under the program shall maintain satisfactory progress toward the completion of their course of study as evidenced by the maintenance of a cumulative C average, or its equivalent, or academic standing consistent with the requirements for graduation, as determined by the institution.

“(g) LOAN AMOUNTS AND USE.—

“(1) MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.—The Secretary may not make loans to a student under the program in an amount that exceeds \$15,000 in a calendar year or \$60,000 in the aggregate.

“(2) USE OF LOAN PROCEEDS.—A student who receives a loan under the program may use the proceeds of the loan only for postsecondary expenses incurred at an institution designated by the Secretary under subsection (d)(4) for books, tuition, required fees, travel to and from training facilities, and room and board.

“(h) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a loan under the program, a student shall—

“(1) be eligible to hold a license or merchant mariner document issued by the Coast Guard;

“(2) provide to the Secretary such information as the Secretary may require, including all current Coast Guard documents, certifications, proof of United States citizenship or permanent legal status, and a statement of intent to enter a maritime career;

“(3) meet the enrollment requirements of a maritime training institution designated by the Secretary under subsection (d)(4); and

“(4) sign an agreement to—

“(A) complete a course of instruction at such a maritime training institution; and

“(B) maintain a license or document and work under the authority of the license or document and any associated endorsements for at least 18 months following the date of graduation from the maritime program for which the loan proceeds will be used.

“(i) ADMINISTRATION OF LOANS.—

“(1) CONTENTS OF LOAN AGREEMENTS.—Any agreement between the Secretary and a student borrower for a loan under the program shall—

“(A) be evidenced by a note or other written instrument that provides for the repayment of the principal amount of the loan and any origination fee, together with interest thereon, in equal installments (or, if the student borrower so requests, in graduated periodic installments determined in accordance with such schedules as may be approved by the Secretary) payable quarterly, bimonthly, or monthly, at the option of the student borrower, over a period beginning 9 months from the date on which the student borrower completes study or discontinues attendance at the maritime program for which the loans are used at the institution approved by the Secretary and not exceeding 10 years;

“(B) include provision for acceleration of repayment of the whole, or any part, of such loan, at the option of the student borrower;

“(C) provide the loan without security and without endorsement;

“(D) provide that the liability to repay the loan shall be canceled upon the death of the student borrower, or if the student borrower becomes permanently and totally disabled, as determined in accordance with regulations to be issued by the Secretary;

“(E) contain a notice of the system of disclosure of information concerning default on such loan to credit bureau organizations; and

“(F) include provisions for deferral of repayment, as determined by the Secretary.

“(2) RATE OF INTEREST.—A student borrower who receives a loan under the program on or after January 1, 2010, and before October 1, 2015, shall be obligated to repay the loan amount to the Secretary, together with interest beginning in the period referred to in paragraph (1)(A), at a rate to be determined as follows:

“(A) For a loan for which the first disbursement is made on or after January 1, 2010, and before October 1, 2011, 5.6 percent on the unpaid principal balance of the loan.

“(B) For a loan for which the first disbursement is made on or after October 1, 2011, and before October 1, 2012, 4.5 percent on the unpaid principal balance of the loan.

“(C) For a loan for which the first disbursement is made on or after October 1, 2012, 3.4 percent on the unpaid principal balance of the loan.

“(3) DISCLOSURE REQUIRED PRIOR TO DISBURSEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall at or prior to the time the Secretary makes a loan to a student borrower under the program, provide thorough and adequate loan information on such loan to the student borrower. The disclosures required by this paragraph may be made as part of the written application material provided to the student borrower, as part of the promissory note evidencing the loan, or on a separate written form provided to the student borrower.

“(B) CONTENTS.—The disclosures shall include—

“(i) the address to which communications and payments should be sent;

“(ii) the principal amount of the loan;

“(iii) the amount of any charges collected at or prior to the disbursement of the loan and whether such charges are to be deducted from the proceeds of the loan or paid separately by the student borrower;

“(iv) the stated interest rate on the loan;

“(v) the yearly and cumulative maximum amounts that may be borrowed;

“(vi) an explanation of when repayment of the loan will be required and when the student borrower will be obligated to pay interest that accrues on the loan;

“(vii) a statement as to the minimum and maximum repayment term that the Secretary may impose, and the minimum monthly payment required by law and a description of any penalty imposed as a consequence of default, such as liability for ex-

penses reasonably incurred in attempts by the Secretary to collect on a loan;

“(viii) a statement of the total cumulative balance, including the loan applied for, owed by the student borrower to the Secretary, and an estimate of the projected monthly payment, given such cumulative balance;

“(ix) an explanation of any special options the student borrower may have for loan consolidation or other refinancing of the loan;

“(x) a statement that the student borrower has the right to prepay all or part of the loan, at any time, without penalty;

“(xi) a statement summarizing circumstances in which repayment of the loan or interest that accrues on the loan may be deferred, and a brief notice of the program for repayment of loans, on the basis of military service, pursuant to the Department of Defense educational loan repayment program (10 U.S.C. 16302);

“(xii) a definition of default and the consequences to the student borrower if the student borrower defaults, together with a statement that the disbursement of, and the default on, a loan under this part shall be reported to a credit bureau or credit reporting agency;

“(xiii) to the extent practicable, the effect of accepting the loan on the eligibility of the student borrower for other forms of student assistance; and

“(xiv) an explanation of any cost the student borrower may incur in the making or collection of the loan.

“(C) INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED WITHOUT COST.—The information provided under this paragraph shall be available to the Secretary without cost to the student borrower.

“(4) REPAYMENT AFTER DEFAULT.—The Secretary may require any student borrower who has defaulted on a loan made under the program to—

“(A) pay all reasonable collection costs associated with such loan; and

“(B) repay the loan pursuant to an income contingent repayment plan.

“(5) AUTHORIZATION TO REDUCE RATES AND FEES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Secretary may prescribe by regulation any reductions in the interest rate or origination fee paid by a student borrower of a loan made under the program as the Secretary determines appropriate to encourage ontime repayment of the loan. Such reductions may be offered only if the Secretary determines the reductions are cost neutral and in the best financial interest of the United States.

“(6) COLLECTION OF REPAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall collect repayments made under the program and exercise due diligence in such collection, including maintenance of all necessary records to ensure that maximum repayments are made. Collection and servicing of repayments under the program shall be pursued to the full extent of the law, including wage garnishment if necessary. The Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall provide the Secretary of Transportation with any information regarding a mariner that may aid in the collection of repayments under this section.

“(7) REPAYMENT SCHEDULE.—A student borrower who receives a loan under the program shall repay the loan quarterly, bimonthly, or monthly, at the option of the student borrower, over a period beginning 9 months from the date the student borrower completes study or discontinues attendance at the maritime program for which the loan proceeds are used and ending not more than 10 years after the date repayment begins. Provisions for deferral of repayment shall be determined by the Secretary.

“(8) CONTRACTS FOR SERVICING AND COLLECTION OF LOANS.—The Secretary may—

“(A) enter into a contract or other arrangement with State or nonprofit agencies and, on a competitive basis, with collection agencies for servicing and collection of loans under this section; and

“(B) conduct litigation necessary to carry out this section.

“(j) REVOLVING LOAN FUND.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a revolving loan fund consisting of amounts deposited in the fund under paragraph (2).

“(2) DEPOSITS.—The Secretary shall deposit in the fund—

“(A) receipts from the payment of principal and interest on loans made under the program; and

“(B) any other monies paid to the Secretary by or on behalf of individuals under the program.

“(3) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts in the fund shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation—

“(A) to cover the administrative costs of the program, including the maintenance of records and making collections under this section; and

“(B) to the extent that amounts remain available after paying such administrative costs, to make loans under the program.

“(4) MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS.—The Secretary shall maintain accurate records of the administrative costs referred to in paragraph (3)(A).

“(k) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary, on an annual basis, shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the program, including—

“(1) the total amount of loans made under the program in the preceding year;

“(2) the number of students receiving loans under the program in the preceding year; and

“(3) the total amount of loans made under program that are in default as of the date of the report.

“(l) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2015—

“(1) \$10,000,000 for making loans under the program; and

“(2) \$1,000,000 for administrative expenses of the Secretary in carrying out the program.

“§ 51706. Maritime recruitment, training, and retention grant program

“(a) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this section, and at least once every 3 years thereafter, the Secretary of Transportation, acting through the Administrator of the Maritime Administration, shall publish in the Federal Register a plan that describes the demonstration, research, and multistate project priorities of the Department of Transportation concerning merchant mariner recruitment, training, and retention for the 3-year period following the date of publication of the plan.

“(2) CONTENTS.—A plan published under paragraph (1) shall contain strategies and identify potential projects to address merchant mariner recruitment, training, and retention issues in the United States.

“(3) FACTORS.—In developing a plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall take into account, at a minimum—

“(A) the availability of existing research (as of the date of publication of the plan);

“(B) the need to ensure results that have broad applicability;

“(C) the benefits of economies of scale and the efficiency of potential projects; and

“(D) the likelihood that the results of potential projects will be useful to policy-

makers and stakeholders in addressing merchant mariner recruitment, training, and retention issues.

“(4) CONSULTATION.—In developing a plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with representatives of the maritime industry, labor organizations, and other governmental entities and parties with an interest in the maritime industry.

“(5) TRANSMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall transmit copies of a plan published under paragraph (1) to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

“(b) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants to a maritime training institution to carry out demonstration projects that implement the priorities identified in the plan prepared under subsection (a)(1), for the purpose of developing and implementing methods to address merchant mariner recruitment, training, and retention issues.

“(2) GRANT AWARDS.—Grants shall be awarded under this subsection on a competitive basis under guidelines and requirements to be established by the Secretary.

“(3) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant for a project under this subsection, a maritime training institution shall submit to the Secretary a grant proposal that includes, at a minimum—

“(A) information demonstrating the estimated effectiveness of the project; and

“(B) a method for evaluating the effectiveness of the project.

“(4) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—Projects eligible for grants under this subsection may include—

“(A) the establishment of maritime technology skill centers developed through local partnerships of industry, labor, education, community-based organizations, economic development organizations, or Federal, State, and local government agencies to meet unmet skills needs of the maritime industry;

“(B) projects that provide training to upgrade the skills of workers who are employed in the maritime industry;

“(C) projects that promote the use of distance learning, enabling students to take courses through the use of media technology, such as videos, teleconferencing, and the Internet;

“(D) projects that assist in providing services to address maritime recruitment and training of youth residing in targeted high poverty areas within empowerment zones and enterprise communities;

“(E) the establishment of partnerships with national and regional organizations with special expertise in developing, organizing, and administering merchant mariner recruitment and training services; and

“(F) the establishment of maritime training programs that foster technical skills and operational productivity in communities in which economies are related to or dependent upon the maritime industry.

“(c) PROJECTS AUTHORIZED.—

“(1) PROJECTS.—The Secretary may award grants to carry out projects identified in a plan published under subsection (a)(1) under which the project sponsor will—

“(A) design, develop, and test an array of approaches to providing recruitment, training, or retention services to one or more targeted populations;

“(B) in conjunction with employers, organized labor, other groups (such as community coalitions), and Federal, State, or local agencies, design, develop, and test various training approaches in order to determine effective practices; or

“(C) assist in the development and replication of effective service delivery strategies for the national maritime industry as a whole.

“(2) RESEARCH PROJECTS.—The Secretary may award grants to carry out research projects identified in a plan published under subsection (a)(1) that will contribute to the solution of maritime industry recruitment, training, and retention issues in the United States.

“(3) MULTISTATE OR REGIONAL PROJECTS.—The Secretary may award grants to carry out multistate or regional projects identified in a plan published under subsection (a)(1) to effectively disseminate best practices and models for implementing maritime recruitment, training, and retention services designed to address industry-wide skill shortages.

“(4) GRANT AWARDS.—Grants shall be awarded under this subsection on a competitive basis under guidelines and requirements to be established by the Secretary.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2015—

“(1) \$10,000,000 for making grants under this section; and

“(2) \$1,000,000 for administrative expenses of the Secretary in carrying out this section.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

“51705. Maritime career training loan program.

“51706. Maritime recruitment, training, and retention grant program.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2651.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Subcommittee on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, I rise today in strong support of the Maritime Work Force Development Act, H.R. 2651, legislation which I authored to address the education and training needs of our Nation's merchant mariners. I thank Congressman OBERSTAR, the chairman of the full committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Congressman MICA, the ranking member on the full committee, and Congressman LOBIONDO, the ranking member of the Coast Guard Subcommittee, for working with me to support our maritime work force.

H.R. 2651 would amend title 46 of the United States Codes to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a student loan program to attract the next generation of workers to the good paying jobs available in the maritime industry.

□ 1415

The loan program will also help those already in the industry obtain the certifications and the training they need to move ahead in their careers.

In October of 2007, I convened a hearing in the Coast Guard Subcommittee to examine trends in the maritime workforce. According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, in 2006, there were more than 38,000 on-the-water jobs in sea, coastal, and Great Lakes transportation, and nearly 23,000 jobs in the inland water transportation industry. Many of those who currently work in the industry are nearing retirement age. Thus, the Maritime Administration has indicated that at the time of our hearing, the average age of a mariner with a master's license was 51, while the average age of a chief engineer was 50.

Additionally, significant new standards for training and continuing education have been applied to mariners through the 1995 amendments to the Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping. These standards have rightly been set to improve safety in the maritime industry by reducing human factors as the causes of maritime accidents, but they have also imposed expensive and very time-consuming training requirements on mariners, particularly on those who are looking to upgrade a document or license to move up the career ladder.

While there are many facilities in the United States that provide outstanding training programs for those seeking to enter or advance in the maritime field, tuition can be extremely expensive. Further, the types of training programs in which mariners enroll are unique and are not easily served by existing loan programs. Mariners who have already begun their careers rarely enroll in 2- or 4-year educational programs. Instead, typically, they enroll in multiweek courses to obtain a specific new certification, and they enroll in such courses several times a year.

I drafted H.R. 2651 in an effort to provide to individuals in the maritime industry a loan program that is tailored to their specific needs and to the types of training programs that serve them. Using the model of existing student loan programs, H.R. 2651 creates a maritime-focused student loan program through which individuals can receive up to \$60,000 in loans over the course of a lifetime. H.R. 2651 also authorizes the appropriation of \$10 million in each of fiscal years 2010 through 2015 to support these loans.

Additionally, H.R. 2651 authorizes the appropriation of \$10 million in each of fiscal years 2010 through 2015 to enable the Department of Transportation to award grants to maritime training institutions to support their efforts to develop and implement programs to address mariner recruitment, training, and retention issues.

In my district in Baltimore, I have been working closely with the Maritime Industries Academy, a public high

school with a maritime theme. I have assembled a board of maritime and education professionals who have worked in an advisory capacity with the school for 2 years and who are now creating a formal foundation to support the school, which opened this current 2009–2010 school year in a new location and with an enrollment level that has tripled in the last 2 years.

The grant program that is authorized by H.R. 2651 would support the growing number of maritime-themed educational institutions, including high schools, throughout the country as they work to expand maritime education opportunities and attract new individuals to a field critical to the success of our national economy.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank Chairman OBERSTAR, Ranking Member MICA, Ranking Member LOBIONDO, and all of our subcommittee for their hard work on H.R. 2651 and urge the adoption of this legislation by the House today.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 2651, the Maritime Workforce Development Act. The bill will provide needed training and educational opportunities for merchant mariners and those interested in working in the maritime trades. The U.S. Merchant Marine is an important component to our national and economic security, and I support this effort to strengthen this important sector of our workforce.

The bill directs the Maritime Administration to establish a program to support continuing education at approved maritime training institutes and undergraduate training at the five State maritime academies. Loan recipients would be required to commit at least 18 months of service at sea as a condition of participation in the program. This program will improve the opportunities available to those currently serving as merchant mariners and attract new entrants to the maritime workforce.

The bill also directs the Maritime Administration to develop a strategic plan to enhance merchant mariner recruitment, training, and retention, and to fund demonstration projects to further the goals outlined in the plan.

This measure is an important component of the House's ongoing work to support the U.S. Merchant Marine. I strongly support the bill and ask all Members to do the same.

At this point, I would yield 5 minutes to our colleague from North Carolina, VIRGINIA FOXX.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Mr. PETRI, for yielding me some time.

When I was going over the bills for this week, this bill sort of flew out at me. It seems like a very innocuous bill, like motherhood and apple pie, the kind of thing that we should be doing here. We know that there are a lot of people needed in the maritime industry.

I visited the Merchant Marine Academy last year. I had a wonderful visit there and was told by the administrators there that there is a huge demand for their graduates, that they have about 10 job offers for every graduate and that we need more people who have excellent education and training in the maritime skills.

However, this bill I think is not doing what we would like for it to do, and it raises more questions, I think, than it answers. I have asked some of the questions of the staff, and I don't get the kind of answers that I think we need to be getting.

I'm very keen on our having accountability for any way that we authorize or spend money, and there is really no accountability in this bill at all. There is no statement of the demand. It says that there were 162,000 jobs in the U.S. water transportation sector in 2006, up from nearly 148,000 jobs reported in 2002, and it says, in the summary, there's a perceived future shortage of workers, not an actual one. So we are going to authorize a program for a perceived need.

The headlines out this week are that our military has gone way beyond its goals in recruiting people, and I suspect that with unemployment as high as it is right now, many, many people are going into skilled trades programs trying to get the kind of licensure they need to get jobs. But again, this bill doesn't present that information. It doesn't say that there are people being turned away from these State programs that are helping these people get the skills they need. It doesn't tell how many people are being turned away from the Merchant Marine Academy.

I am very much concerned that this program is going to be a lot like the program that was funded in 2004 with an earmark requested by DAVID PRICE which gave \$10 million in the Federal budget to a program at UNC Chapel Hill for a new effort to help deployed soldiers of the National Guard and Army Reserves.

An article has said, 5 years later, the citizen-soldiers support program has spent \$7.3 million, but the money has accomplished little for the people it was supposed to help. And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD the complete article that I'm referencing. Mr. Speaker, it goes on to say that an internal review found that the program produced reams of paperwork but few concrete results.

Because there's no accountability in this bill, we are giving huge discretion to the Secretary to handle this money. We are not outlining the kinds of things that we, as a Congress, should be outlining. We are not demanding any kind of results from the money that is being spent. And it's a lot of money. It's \$110 million over 2010 to 2014, \$22 million in 2014.

There's a program to give \$10 million for grants to maritime training institutions to establish demonstration projects and other programs to increase mariner recruitment, training,

and retention. There is no evidence that such programs need to be out there. Again, we don't know how many people are already applying for such programs.

This money also is going to be available to unions and to community action groups such as ACORN. It's going to very nebulous groups of people.

I have a great concern, again, about how we are going to have any accountability from this program. We, in Congress, have an obligation to make sure that any money that we are spending is being spent as well as it could be spent. We have an almost 10 percent unemployment rate in the country. We are taxing people who are working for a living, and we are taxing them to give the money to programs like this for which, again, there is no accountability and no idea that we are going to get our money's worth out of it. I just think it's very unfair to the American public.

We may need to do this kind of program. I know that the Merchant Marine people told me that we need better educated, better trained people, but I don't think this is the right program.

[From the Raleigh News and Observer, Sept. 25, 2009]

PROGRAM PROVIDES LITTLE HELP FOR
SOLDIERS
CORRECTION

A Sept. 25 front-page article on the Citizen Soldier Support Program stated four of the program's eight employees earned more than \$100,000. Only three employees do: One employee reduced her work schedule to three-quarter time and earns \$77,250. October 6, 2009.

In 2004, U.S. Rep. David Price inserted a \$10 million program into the federal budget, sending the money to UNC—Chapel Hill for a new effort to help deployed soldiers of the National Guard and Army Reserves.

Five years later, the Citizen Soldier Support Program has spent \$7.3 million, but the money has accomplished little for the people it was supposed to help. One-quarter of the money has gone to the university for overhead, and a large part of the rest has been spent on well-paid consultants, six-figure salaries and travel.

Half of the eight full-time employees are paid more than \$100,000 a year, including a deputy director who has been reimbursed \$76,000 for food, travel and lodging when she commutes from her home in northern Virginia to North Carolina.

An internal review found that the program produced reams of paperwork but few concrete results.

"The program has produced volumes of documentation, but the vast majority of this documentation is devoted to conceptual verbiage about how the program will function," the review said. "The CSSP is vulnerable to the accusation that it spends too much money on administrative overhead and low-priority, 'nice-to-do' activities and not enough time on activities directly relevant to its mission."

The head of the N.C. National Guard, Major Gen. William Ingram, has worked with the program since its inception. He said he has experienced many meetings, lots of discussion and stacks of paperwork.

"We're feeding you ideas, we're working with you, but we're not seeing any results," Ingram said in an interview. "We're not seeing a whole lot of action; there's a lot of discussion, but . . . no results."

Ingram said that after four years, the National Guard recently received the first tangible service from the program: a database of North Carolina mental health providers experienced with the military and problems such as post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury.

On Thursday, UNC—Chapel Hill Chancellor Holden Thorp told the UNC Board of Trustees that he has ordered the program to shape up.

"The program has serious flaws," Thorp said. "We need the program to show drastic improvement in a short period of time."

16,000 WARRIORS

In 2004, as the U.S. military ramped up operations in Iraq and continued the war in Afghanistan, more and more members of the National Guard and Army Reserves were being mobilized. In all, 16,000 members of the N.C. Guard have been deployed, some of them two or three times.

Price, a Chapel Hill Democrat, saw a need, and he used a controversial method to address it. He inserted an "earmark," an appropriation for a specific project that a member of Congress can include in the budget.

The program was to help soldiers in the North Carolina National Guard and Army Reserves, with the idea that it could serve as a model and eventually be expanded to other states.

Citizen soldiers are scattered around the state in civilian communities. They and their families lack the institutional support and military community available to soldiers stationed at bases such as Camp Lejeune or Fort Bragg.

"The new program aims to better address challenges Guard and Reserve members and their families face both when they are deployed into duty and when they return home," according to an UNC news release from August 2004.

Price said that the program is worthy of federal funding and that he still supports its goals.

"The check isn't just sent out and forgotten about," Price said. "If these funds haven't been utilized in the most effective way, we need to correct it."

ANONYMOUS COMPLAINT

The program started in March 2005; the current end date is December 2009, though UNC has asked for a one-year extension but no more money.

In June 2008, Rep. Sue Myrick received an anonymous fax complaining that the program spent millions with nothing to show for it. Myrick forwarded it to Erskine Bowles, president of the UNC system.

One month later, Peter Leousis, who oversees the program, assured Myrick in a letter that the program had accomplished much.

"We have been and will continue to be good stewards of the taxpayers' dollars in accomplishing CSSP's mission," Leousis wrote.

Reached by telephone recently, Leousis said he would like to discuss the program, but he and his staff have been told by his superiors not to talk to reporters.

SCATHING REVIEW

On Feb. 17, seven months after Leousis assured Myrick all was well, Tony Waldrop, vice chancellor for research and economic development, ordered a committee to review the organization.

The university redacted substantial parts of that review and a related internal audit before release, citing personnel laws. Thorp said the removed sections discuss the actions and job performance of specific employees.

The report listed a host of problems with the program: overpaid employees; employees performing below expectations; an excessive

reliance on outside consultants; an unclear chain of command that creates confusion inside and outside the program; few practical results; little or no evaluation; and disproportionate administrative costs.

The review committee said it could neither confirm nor refute the suspicion that "the CSSP may have squandered a substantial portion of its funding on overpaid, under-supervised staffers who spent too much of the time attending to the organization and its shifting priorities and too little time providing real value to groups serving soldiers and their families."

The deputy director for military relations, Susann Kerner-Hoeg, earns a salary of \$129,600. Kerner-Hoeg works from her home in northern Virginia, and the program pays for her travel, lodging and meals when she comes to Chapel Hill. The program has spent \$76,558 over the past three years for Kerner-Hoeg's flights, rental cars, hotel rooms and meals.

During the same period, the program paid \$313,600 to Kent Peterson & Associates of Kansas City, KA. Peterson, a consultant, served as the director of community relations.

It is routine for the university to get a cut of grant money. Academic institutions, which provide administrative support and office space, routinely receive portions of grants for administrative overhead. The figure often runs as high as 46 percent.

TURNING IT AROUND?

Waldrop, the vice chancellor in charge of the program, said the review and audit have put it on the right footing.

Waldrop said the program can list some accomplishments: the database of mental health providers; one-day training for 2,000 mental health providers on military culture and the after-effects of war-related injuries; and consulting with the Army Reserve's Yellow Ribbon program.

Neil Caudle, an associate vice chancellor who headed the review committee, said the program is still committed to helping soldiers.

"In six months to a year, we'll be in the right place," Caudle said.

[From the Carolina Journal, Oct. 9, 2009]

DELEGATION DENOUNCES EXCESSES IN CITIZEN-SOLDIER PROGRAM

(By David N. Bass)

RALEIGH.—An embattled university program meant to assist soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan must shape up or lose its taxpayer funding, say many of the same North Carolina congressional lawmakers who supported the program's initial federal commitment five years ago.

The Citizen-Soldier Support Program, housed at the Odum Institute for Research in Social Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is meant to connect veterans and their families with support systems in local communities. But the program has drawn criticism in recent weeks after an internal UNC-CH review flagged a series of management, personnel, and financial problems.

As Carolina Journal and the News & Observer of Raleigh reported, CSSP has burned through most of its \$10 million in federal funding with little to show for it. Over half of Kits employees earn six-figure salaries, and some have racked up extensive traveling expenses, laying the groundwork for rumors that CSSP "may have squandered a substantial portion of its funding on overpaid, under-supervised staffers," according to the internal review.

The program has also faced criticism for agreeing to pay a Kansas-based consultant

up to \$340,000 and for reimbursing its deputy director, who lives in northern Virginia, for travel between her home and CSSP's offices in Carrboro.

Those expenses, mixed with other problems identified by the university review, have raised objections among North Carolina's congressional delegation.

"This program appears to have produced almost no results—other than nice salaries for consultants and bureaucrats," said Rep. Virginia Foxx, R-5th District.

"Many of our guardsmen have been deployed two or three times to Iraq and Afghanistan, and that takes a heavy toll on their families back home," said Rep. Brad Miller, a Democrat from the 13th District. "But worthy goals do not excuse poor performance. I won't support the program again unless the program fixes the problems that the university's internal review found."

Miller's colleague in the House, 4th District Democrat David Price, was responsible for securing the largest chunk of federal funding—\$5 million in 2005. In a statement e-mailed to CJ in late August, Price acknowledged problems in the program but said that UNC—Chapel Hill "has taken concrete steps to address these issues."

The \$5-million earmark had unanimous support from the state's congressional delegation, according to a UNC-CH press release from June 2005. A number of lawmakers are now having second thoughts, however.

"I will not continue to support federally funded programs that do not reach the goals originally intended for the recipients. The American taxpayers deserve better," said Rep. Walter Jones, R-3rd.

"The program has failed to put the needs of our Reserve Component members and their families first, and I do not think that the program should be allowed to continue as it currently is administered," said 9th District GOP Rep. Sue Myrick.

Myrick said she received an anonymous complaint in 2008 about abuses in the CSSP and subsequently contacted UNC system President Erskine Bowles.

"In his response he gave me assurance that each of the allegations would be reviewed," Myrick said. "Now, I'm again receiving anonymous faxes about the program, and with the results of the latest audit now public—it's not good."

Foxx said excesses in the program are an example of why she took a no-earmark pledge in 2007. "Too much taxpayer money gets frittered away like this with little to no oversight," she said.

Calls and e-mails to spokesmen for Reps. G.K. Butterfield, D-1st; Mike McIntyre, D-7th; Larry Kissell, D-8th; and Patrick McHenry, R-10th, were not returned by press time.

Reached by phone, Doug Abrahms, spokesman for 11th District Democratic Congressman Heath Shuler, noted that Shuler was not in Congress when funding for CSSP was first authorized. Asked if Shuler would support continued funding, Abrahms said, "It's not something that's on his agenda right now."

DEADLINE SET

Since reports on the internal review first surfaced in late August, university officials have said that improvements need to be made or else CSSP should be terminated.

"We need this program to show dramatic improvement in a short period of time to remain viable" said UNC-CH Chancellor Holden Thorp at a Board of Trustees meeting Sept. 24.

Kimrey Rhinehardt, vice president for federal relations at UNC General Administration, sent an e-mail dated Aug. 17 to Bowles recommending that CSSP's behavioral health initiative be terminated.

As for the entire program, Rhinehardt wrote, "I think that the CSSP leadership should be permitted a supervised opportunity to dramatically improve the Program subject to review by their National Advisory Committee and Review Committee. If momentum does not tend toward progress by October 23, 2009, then remaining federal funds should be returned and the program should be terminated."

The review committee that authored the internal report is continuing to monitor the program, said UNC-CH spokesman Mike McFarland.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I'm sitting here and I'm amazed what I just heard. We spend phenomenal amounts of money on so many things, and we are talking about many young people simply trying to have an opportunity to be all that God meant for them to be.

We've got a situation where we have an industry that is growing, and the question that has arisen many times is whether we are, as a country, being innovative. Are we preparing our people for the opportunities that come forth or are we sitting back and allowing them to get to a certain point, and then when they try to enter the doors that will allow them to rise up to go into the fields that they want to go into, then we say, "Sorry. Too bad. All the money is gone"?

There's something absolutely incredibly wrong with that picture. It's very easy to come down and say, oh, the mariners don't need this money, when, in fact, the costs of the mariner's education has gone up tremendously. It is very easy to say that we don't need this when the age of our folks who are in the industry is at 50 and we need to begin to bring in new people, and we are constantly talking about jobs in America and making sure that our people have the opportunities that they deserve. Something is wrong with the picture when their opportunity comes up and, the next thing you know, we take a hike on them.

One of the things I will say is that this industry is growing. We've had a little bit of a slowdown here recently because of the economic situation, but anybody who knows anything about the maritime industry knows that after this economic situation is over, we will be increasing at a very rapid pace and to a very large extent.

And so while I respect the gentle lady for her comments, what I will say is that this is money that is needed, and it is money that—as I have often said, our children are the living messages that we send to a future we will never see. The question is what kind of message do we send to the future if our children are unprepared, if they are unprepared to take on the responsibilities that lie in front of them? Must we always go overseas to get people to come to do these jobs? We are trying to educate our own, and that is what this is all about.

Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I would assume that the gen-

tleman would have a closing statement.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. I have no further requests for time and yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee I rise to lend my strong support to H.R. 2651, The Maritime Workforce Development Act which will help strengthen our maritime industry by providing loans to students who are pursuing a maritime education. I want to thank my colleague Representative CUMMINGS for bringing this bill to the floor and bringing attention to this important issue.

Having the port of Long Beach in my district, I know the importance of a well educated maritime industry. I also know how few Americans now pursue careers in the maritime industry and we should do what we can to make maritime education possible and affordable to all.

This bill goes a long way towards rectifying problems in our maritime training and I want to thank Mr. CUMMINGS for his work rectifying this important issue. I ask that my colleagues today support this bill, and continue to support our maritime industry.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2651, the "Maritime Workforce Development Act". H.R. 2651 directs the Secretary of Transportation to establish a maritime career training and loan program. I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for working on this important piece of legislation.

The maritime industry anticipates a continuing shortage of qualified merchant mariners. Due to projected increases in commercial maritime traffic and a maritime workforce that is approaching retirement age, a maritime training program is needed to help ensure that our nation will continue to have skilled and experienced U.S. citizen merchant mariners. Such a program can begin in high schools by creating maritime training curriculum for students to obtain the basic knowledge of the maritime industry and skills to gain an entry-level job.

H.R. 2651 also creates a maritime loan program that meets the needs and training requirements of mariners, which they may not get through a traditional two- or four-year educational institution.

Mariners have certification courses that can last from two weeks to several months and their courses are typically taken between voyages. When mariners seek to enhance their credentials, they need a loan program that helps them with expenses while they are taking the time off to pursue certifications or licenses. H.R. 2651 creates a loan program to help mariners pay for their books, tuition, fees, room and board, and travel to and from their training facilities.

In these tough economic times with high unemployment rates, it is critical for there to be a mechanism to aid people interested in a maritime career, whether they are recent high school graduates or if they graduated from high school 10 or 20 years ago. There is a shortage of maritime workers and a high percentage of mariners are approaching retirement age. Something must be done now to fill the gap and help sustain an adequate number of qualified mariners. To that end, H.R. 2651

authorizes \$10 million for each of fiscal years 2010 to 2015 to fund the education of mariners, and sustain our vital maritime industry.

H.R. 2651 also requires the Secretary of Transportation to establish a maritime recruitment, training, and retention grant program. The Secretary is directed to consult with representatives of the maritime industry, labor organizations, other governmental entities and maritime industry interests. This program will be imperative to the maritime industry in recruiting new mariners, keeping current mariners, and assisting them with training and upgrading their licenses. H.R. 2651 authorizes \$10 million for each of fiscal years 2010 to 2015 to fund grants to support this program.

The nation's maritime cargo volumes are expected to double by 2020. As waterborne commerce expands in the United States, there is a great need to meet the labor demands that the continued growth in the maritime industry is expected to create. H.R. 2651 creates mechanisms to ensure that our nation will be well equipped to handle the welcomed maritime growth.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2651.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2651, 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.

GEORGE P. KAZEN FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2423) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse", and to designate the jury room in that Federal building and United States courthouse as the "Marcel C. Notzon II Jury Room", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2423

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

SECTION 1. BUILDING DESIGNATION.

(a) DESIGNATION.—*The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse".*

(b) REFERENCES.—*Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse".*

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the first day on which George P. Kazen is no longer serving as a Federal judge.

□ 1430

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2423.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2423, as amended, is a bill to designate the federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria St. in Laredo, Texas as the George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

Congressman CUELLAR introduced this bill, which has bipartisan support. Judge Kazen has served the people of the southern judicial district of Texas with great distinction and dedication since 1979. He is a graduate of the University of Texas, and the University of Texas Law School. After serving in private practice in Laredo, Texas he was nominated to the federal bench by President Jimmy Carter in 1979. He served in the southern district of Texas and served as Chief Judge in that district from 1996 until 2003.

Judge Kazen was also very active in his community, serving as a member in the U.S. Air Force, founding the Laredo Legal Aid Society, and serving in numerous capacities in civic organizations in South Texas. Judge Kazen served as President of the Laredo Civic Music Association, the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Laredo, the St. Augustine-Ursuline School Board, and as a member of the Laredo Community College Board of Trustees.

It is both fitting and proper to honor Judge Kazen's distinguished public career with this designation. I support H.R. 2423 as amended and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of the bill, Mr. CUELLAR of Texas.

Mr. CUELLAR. Thank you very much for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of a fine public servant in Laredo, Texas, Judge George P. Kazen. This is an individual that has dedicated the majority of his life to upholding the justice system in south Texas.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter appointed Judge George P. Kazen to be a United States district judge. For four decades, he served south Texas as a tireless advocate for fairness under the law. From 1996 to 2003, he was the chief judge of the United States Southern District, which includes the areas of Houston, Galveston, Victoria, Laredo, Corpus Christi, McAllen and Brownsville in Texas. Judge Kazen is also a

JAG officer for the United States Air Force, and in 1965 he received the United States Air Force Commendation Medal.

Judge Kazen is married to Barbara Ann and they have four children. He is, without a doubt, a selfless public servant who has been a tremendous credit to the city of Laredo and the State of Texas and our great Nation.

I also want to recognize Judge Kazen's Federal magistrate, the Honorable Marcel Notzen. Since 1967, Marcel Notzen, the magistrate, served for four decades in front and behind the bench, as an attorney, as a law partner, and most recently as a U.S. magistrate for the Southern District. Judge Notzen is married to Nora Lee, and they have six children.

It is with great pride that I authored this legislation, H.R. 2423, to name the United States Courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the George B. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse in honor of George Kazen. It is also my legislative intent, Mr. Speaker, to name the jury room in the United States courthouse as the Marcel C. Notzen, II Jury Room. I think this is a way to thank these two individuals who have worked so hard for their Nation as judges.

I want to thank all of my Texas colleagues for helping me recognize these exceptional individuals. By recognizing these individuals, their contributions will be remembered and they will continue to inspire those individuals who follow their lead in preserving the American justice system.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, after hearing the eloquent explanation from the sponsor of the legislation, I thank him for his leadership on this bill and many others.

This bill would designate a Federal building and courthouse in Laredo, Texas as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

Judge Kazen has served on the District Court for the Southern District of Texas since 1979.

From 1996 to 2003, Judge Kazen served as chief judge and, earlier this year he assumed senior status.

Prior to his appointment to the federal bench, Judge Kazen was in the private practice of law.

Earlier in his career he served in the JAG Corp as a U.S. Air Force Captain and worked as a briefing attorney for the Texas Supreme Court.

He received both his bachelor's degree and law degree from the University of Texas.

His career demonstrates his dedication to public service and the law.

I have no objections to the passage of this legislation.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2423, as amended, a bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The Federal building and U.S. Courthouse designation will become effective when Judge George P. Kazen retires and is no longer serving as a federal judge. The bill was introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) and has bipartisan support.

George P. Kazen was born in Laredo, Texas, in 1940. In 1960, he earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Texas. He later earned his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law in 1961. Kazen began his professional career as a Briefing Attorney for the Texas Supreme Court in 1961 and 1962. From 1962 to 1965, he was a U.S. Air Force Captain in the JAG Corps. Following his military service, Kazen worked in a private practice in Laredo until 1979.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter nominated George P. Kazen as a U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of Texas. Judge Kazen has served on the bench for more than 30 years, including as Chief Judge from 1996 to 2003. On May 31, 2009, he assumed senior status on the court.

During his tenure on the bench, Judge Kazen considered a wide variety of cases. In *Luna v. Van Zandt*, a 1982 case, he invalidated a Texas statute that allowed for the detaining of individuals perceived as mentally ill for up to 14 days without a commitment hearing. In addition, Judge Kazen has testified before Congress and written several articles on issues of Federalism and the courts. Outside of the courtroom, Judge Kazen is a stalwart of his community, serving on numerous civic organizations in South Texas.

Given Judge George P. Kazen's exemplary public service, it is fitting to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2423.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2423, 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.

Ms. HIRONO. 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.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM ACT OF 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1700) to authorize the Administrator of General Services to convey a parcel of real property in the District of Columbia to provide for the estab-

lishment of a National Women's History Museum, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1700

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 "National Women's History Museum Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of General Services.

(2) **CERCLA.**—The term "CERCLA" means the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.).

(3) **COMMITTEES.**—The term "Committees" means the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate.

(4) **MUSEUM.**—The term "Museum" means the National Women's History Museum, Inc., a District of Columbia nonprofit corporation exempt from taxation pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(5) **PROPERTY.**—The term "property" means the property located in the District of Columbia, subject to survey and as determined by the Administrator, generally consisting of Squares 325 and 326. The property is generally bounded by 12th Street, Independence Avenue, C Street, and the James Forrestal Building, all in Southwest Washington, District of Columbia, and shall include all associated air rights, improvements thereon, and appurtenances thereto.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO CONVEY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the requirements of this Act, the Administrator shall convey the property to the Museum on such terms and conditions as the Administrator considers reasonable and appropriate to protect the interests of the United States and further the purposes of this Act.

(2) **AGREEMENT.**—As soon as practicable, but not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall enter into an agreement with the Museum for the conveyance.

(3) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—The terms and conditions of the agreement shall address, among other things, mitigation of developmental impacts to existing Federal buildings and structures, security concerns, and operational protocols for development and use of the property.

(b) **PURCHASE PRICE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The purchase price for the property shall be its fair market value based on its highest and best use as determined by an independent appraisal commissioned by the Administrator and paid for by the Museum.

(2) **SELECTION OF APPRAISER.**—The appraisal shall be performed by an appraiser mutually acceptable to the Administrator and the Museum.

(3) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR APPRAISAL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided by subparagraph (B), the assumptions, scope of work, and other terms and conditions related to the appraisal assignment shall be mutually acceptable to the Administrator and the Museum.

(B) **REQUIRED TERMS.**—The appraisal shall assume that the property does not contain hazardous substances (as defined in section 101 of CERCLA (42 U.S.C. 9601)) which require response action (as defined in such section).

(c) **APPLICATION OF PROCEEDS.**—The purchase price shall be paid into the Federal Buildings Fund established under section 592 of title 40, United States Code. Upon deposit, the Administrator may expend, in amounts specified in appropriations Acts, the proceeds from the convey-

ance for any lawful purpose consistent with existing authorities granted to the Administrator, except that the Administrator shall provide the Committees with 30 days advance written notice of any expenditure of the proceeds.

(d) **QUIT CLAIM DEED.**—The property shall be conveyed pursuant to a quit claim deed.

(e) **USE RESTRICTION.**—The property shall be dedicated for use as a site for a national women's history museum for the 99-year period beginning on the date of conveyance to the Museum.

(f) **REVERSION.**—

(1) **BASES FOR REVERSION.**—The property shall revert to the United States, at the option of the United States, without any obligation for repayment by the United States of any amount of the purchase price for the property, if—

(A) the property is not used as a site for a national women's history museum at any time during the 99-year period referred to in subsection (e); or

(B) the Museum has not commenced construction of a museum facility on the property in the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, other than for reasons beyond the control of the Museum as reasonably determined by the Administrator.

(2) **ENFORCEMENT.**—The Administrator may perform any acts necessary to enforce the reversionary rights provided in this section.

(3) **CUSTODY OF PROPERTY UPON REVERSION.**—If the property reverts to the United States pursuant to this section, such property shall be under the custody and control of the Administrator.

(g) **CLOSING DEADLINE.**—The conveyance pursuant to this Act shall occur not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act. The Administrator may extend that period for such time as is reasonably necessary for the Museum to perform its obligations under section 4(a).

SEC. 4. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE ACTIONS.**—The Administrator is authorized to contract, in an amount not to exceed the purchase price for the property, with the Museum or an affiliate thereof for the performance (on behalf of the Administrator) of response actions (if any) required on the property pursuant to CERCLA.

(b) **CREDITING OF RESPONSE COSTS.**—Any costs incurred by the Museum or an affiliate thereof pursuant to subsection (a) shall be credited to the purchase price for the property.

(c) **RELATIONSHIP TO CERCLA.**—Nothing in this Act may be construed to affect or limit the application of or obligation to comply with any environmental law, including section 120(b) of CERCLA (42 U.S.C. 9620(b)).

SEC. 5. INCIDENTAL COSTS.

Subject to section 4, the Museum shall bear any and all costs associated with complying with the provisions of this Act, including studies and reports, surveys, relocating tenants, and mitigating impacts to existing Federal buildings and structures resulting directly from the development of the property by the Museum.

SEC. 6. LAND USE APPROVALS.

(a) **EXISTING AUTHORITIES.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed as limiting or affecting the authority or responsibilities of the National Capital Planning Commission or the Commission of Fine Arts.

(b) **COOPERATION.**—

(1) **ZONING AND LAND USE.**—Subject to paragraph (2), the Administrator shall reasonably cooperate with the Museum with respect to any zoning or other land use matter relating to development of the property in accordance with this Act. Such cooperation shall include consenting to applications by the Museum for applicable zoning and permitting with respect to the property.

(2) *LIMITATIONS.*—The Administrator shall not be required to incur any costs with respect to cooperation under this subsection and any consent provided under this subsection shall be premised on the property being developed and operated in accordance with this Act.

SEC. 7. REPORTS.

Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the end of the 5-year period following conveyance of the property or until substantial completion of the museum facility (whichever is later), the Museum shall submit annual reports to the Administrator and the Committees detailing the development and construction activities of the Museum with respect to this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H.R. 1700.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 1700, as amended, as bill which directs the Administrator of General Services to sell at fair market value property in Southwest Washington, DC to the National Women's History Museum, Inc., a District of Columbia non-profit corporation for the purpose of establishing a museum dedicated to women's history.

This bill was introduced by Mrs. MALONEY and co-sponsored by many members including Subcommittee Chair NORTON, Ranking Member Mr. DIAZ-BALART and myself.

The National Women's History Museum was founded in 1996, and has been seeking a permanent physical location in the Nation's capital since its inception. According to museum officials, the museum intends to build a "green" building that will cost between \$250 and \$350 million. The costs will include designs, plans, construction, and two years of operation. The permanent museum is expected to be a focal point that will have permanent and temporary exhibits, special events, and education materials that highlight women's social, political, and intellectual contributions to history. According to the museum, this facility will house the first permanent and comprehensive record of women's history.

The National Women's History Museum will have five years to raise funds to construct the museum. If, after five years, the fundraising has not been successful, the property will revert back to the Federal government, thus the government's interests are protected.

In general the museum will bear the costs of the sale, including the appraisal.

This bill has bipartisan support and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1700 as amended.

I yield such time as she may consume to the author of this legislation, Mrs. MALONEY.

Mrs. MALONEY. Thank you so much for yielding.

This is a very important day for women's history. Today, we are recognizing the immense contributions women have made to our Nation by voting to help create the National Women's History Museum.

I am grateful to Chairman OBERSTAR for his support in moving this bill through committee. And of course I thank my partner in this, Chairwoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, whose dedication and commitment in creating a museum about women has been persistent and strong. And I thank her staff, Susan Brita, and mine, Orly Isaacson, for their hard work.

We have been working on this effort for well over 10 years to provide women, comprising 53 percent of our population, recognition of their many contributions that are the very fabric of our country. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bipartisan bill and bring the Women's History Museum to the National Mall.

There are 211 statues in the Capitol Building, each honoring a leader from our Nation's history, but only 11 of these statues are of female leaders. Of America's 2,004 historic landmarks, fewer than five chronicle the achievements of women. Even more troubling, a recent study revealed that only one of every 10 people identified in the 18 most commonly used U.S. history textbooks is female.

The museums and memorials in Washington are one measure of what our society values. We already have museums for stamps and for spies, but not one dedicated to women. This bill would honor our Nation's foremothers and inspire future generations of women leaders by providing a space on the National Mall to honor women's contributions to American history.

From Susan B. Anthony to Sojourner Truth to Oprah Winfrey, from Hattie Caraway, the first woman elected to the United States Senate, to Sonia Sotomayor, our Nation's first Latina woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, the story of what women have contributed to the American way of life is a very long, overdue story.

The bill directs the General Services Administration to sell property located across from the National Mall at 12th and Independence to the museum at a fair market price. Reasonable time frames are included for the transfer of the property and the beginning of construction. The museum will be built and maintained with private funds.

I urge my colleagues to support the National Women's History Museum, and in so doing, honor our mothers, sisters, wives, and daughters.

I am really thrilled that it is here before us on the floor today. For too long, women's history has been missing from textbooks, memorials, museums, exhibits, and many other venues. With this bill designating a permanent building site, this museum will bring to life and tell all the stories of American history, male and female alike.

I would also like to recognize and thank the National Women's History

Museum, and especially Joan Wages, their president. The museum played a leading role in moving the suffragist's statue out of the basement into the living room of the Capitol, Statuary Hall. They have been working with me and ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON on this project well over 10 years. I look forward to continuing our work together as we see the museum built right across from our National Mall, and that we have, for the first time, a national museum dedicated to the many contributions of women.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit educational institution dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and celebrating the diverse and important historic contributions of women and integrating this rich heritage fully into our Nation's history in a place where everyone will be able to see, everyone will be able to visit right here in the heart of the Nation's Capital.

Again, H.R. 1700 is intended to help pave the way for a women's museum in the Nation's Capital dedicated to recognizing the significant contributions of women throughout our wonderful and rich history. And despite the significant contributions of women throughout the history of our country, frankly, women continue to be underrepresented in exhibits featured in our museums.

The stories and contributions of women are critical to understanding our history as a Nation. And this is one way, just one way, that we can ensure that this history is passed along to our sons and to our daughters.

I think it is very befitting that this legislation would provide a prominent site for the National Women's History Museum near the National Mall, again, right here in our Nation's Capital.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this bill, along with approximately 50 other of my colleagues. I also want to recognize the work of not only Representative MALONEY and Chairwoman NORTON, who chairs our subcommittee with great distinction, but also Senator SUSAN COLLINS, who has worked tirelessly over the previous Congresses on legislation to secure a site for the National Women's History Museum.

I support the passage of this legislation, Mr. Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to do so same.

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the Honorable ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON of Washington, D.C.

Ms. NORTON. I thank you for yielding. And I thank the ranking member of the subcommittee for working with me to make sure that this bill came to the floor today. I especially thank my good friend, the original sponsor of this bill, the gentlewoman from New York, who has worked tirelessly to make sure this bill got done. And I want to take note of the women who for 10 years have never given up on this idea.

I had to overcome a presumption against transferring Federal property, so I encountered many difficulties in trying to get this bill through. But women never say no, and that is very important to achieving what is long overdue, this bill.

And note what the mission of the National Women's Museum is: to research, collect and showcase the contributions of women in professional fields as well as honor women's roles in nurturing their families and communicates. Women are absent from the Mall. Women are absent from prominent government sites. Part of it has to do with inequality of women in our society, that they haven't as often done what comes to light, but even when what comes to light comes, they are not recognized. That's why we need a women's museum. We note that this year there are women winning Nobel Prizes in science and economics, which shows you that you are going to have a lot to honor in this museum very quickly.

We went through regular order. The Women's museum has to buy the parcel at market value. They have 5 years to raise the money or it reverts back to the government. That is regular order; that's the way it always is when we transfer a property. But the women are geared up and ready to go, and I thank all concerned for making this bill possible today, especially my partner in this enterprise, the gentlelady from New York, and most of all the women themselves who refused to give up and now have what they deserve.

□ 1445

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia, the Honorable JIM MORAN.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, in a perfect world, this legislation would not be necessary, but gosh sakes, only 5 percent of our national historic landmarks are in recognition of the accomplishments of more than half of our population. This is long overdue.

I want to particularly recognize the sponsor, Chairwoman CAROLYN MALONEY; Joan Wages, who was head of the National Women's History Museum idea for a number of years; MAZIE HIRONO; and of course, her very able assistant for our public buildings, Susan Brita. All of these folks, who happen to be women, have brought this about.

I want to underscore the fact that it simply authorizes the General Services Administration to convey a parcel of real property near the National Mall for the establishment of the National Women's History Museum. Fair market rates prevail, and the museum will be funded with private contributions. Since it is for women, about women and by women, they're going to achieve that contrary to some of the other things we've attempted. This is going to be a museum that all of the Nation's

population is going to be very proud of. It's long overdue. Let's get it done.

Thanks to all who were involved in making it happen.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California, the Honorable LYNN WOOLSEY.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Thank you, Madam Hirono, and thank you to the gentlewoman from New York for all you do for women day in and day out.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1700, the National Women's History Museum Act of 2009. It is important because Congress and our Nation, as a whole, must find ways to honor the important roles of women, roles that women have played in shaping our very country.

Unfortunately, before the 1970s, the subject of women's history was largely missing from our schools, and it was absent completely in media coverage and in cultural celebrations. That's why, when I chaired the Sonoma County Commission on the status of women in 1978, the commission's education task force initiated a Women's History Week celebration, centered around international women's history day. That celebration, that very celebration, started a national movement.

In 1981, Congress responded to the growing popularity of Women's History Week, which was led by the women from my community in Sonoma County, by making it a national observance, and it eventually expanded the week to a month in 1987. During National Women's History Month, many cities and towns celebrate women's contributions through parades and other activities.

By building a National Women's History Museum, we will ensure that our Nation celebrates women not just during 1 month but throughout the year, every year, and it will ensure that young families, young girls and young boys come to Washington, D.C., to visit the women's museum and to remember what women have contributed and are contributing.

Again, I would like to thank my colleague from New York, Representative MALONEY, for her leadership.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, the Honorable CHAKA FATTAH.

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

Mr. FATTAH. Let me thank the gentlewoman, and let me thank the sponsor of this bill, the gentlewoman from New York.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in one of my proudest moments in the House to support this legislation. As the father of three daughters, I am looking forward to the day I can bring them to the mu-

seum here in Washington to learn about the great achievements that continue until this day of women throughout the United States of America in all fields and endeavors.

So I congratulate the sponsor, and I hope for its favorable consideration.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of the speakers who supported this resolution. As a woman, of course, it has special meaning to me as well as to all of the other women in the House.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1700, as amended, a bill to direct the Administrator of the General Services Administration to sell, at fair market value, real property in southwest Washington, DC, commonly known as the "Cotton Annex" site, to the National Women's History Museum, Inc., NWHM, a District of Columbia nonprofit corporation, for the purpose of establishing a museum dedicated to women's history. The site is bounded by 12th Street SW., Independence Ave., the James Forrestal Building, and C Street SW. The NWHM is a nonpartisan, educational institution with a mission of highlighting and celebrating the historic contributions of women in the United States. The bill was introduced by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) and has bipartisan support.

H.R. 1700 requires that fair market value of the property be determined by highest and best use, as determined by an independent appraisal commissioned by the Administrator of the General Services Administration, GSA, and paid for by the museum.

The National Women's History Museum will have 5 years to raise funds to construct the museum. If, after 5 years, the fundraising effort has not been successful, the property will revert back to the Federal Government. The Federal Government is further protected by limiting use of the parcel as a site for the National Women's History Museum for 99 years.

It is with great pleasure and satisfaction that I support H.R. 1700, as amended. The committee has worked with staff from the Women's Museum for almost 10 years to find a suitable site, determine an appropriate disposal method, and identify terms and conditions that were acceptable to GSA.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1700.

Ms. HIRONO. I yield back the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1700, 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. Res. 768, by the yeas and nays;
- H.R. 1327, by the yeas and nays;
- H. Res. 816, by the yeas and nays;
- H. Res. 786, by the yeas and nays;
- H.R. 3371, 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.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL WORK AND FAMILY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 768, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 768, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 0, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 775]
YEAS—415

Abercrombie	Buyer	Dingell
Ackerman	Calvert	Doggett
Aderholt	Camp	Donnelly (IN)
Akin	Campbell	Doyle
Alexander	Cantor	Dreier
Altmire	Capito	Driehaus
Arcuri	Capps	Duncan
Austria	Capuano	Edwards (MD)
Baca	Cardoza	Edwards (TX)
Bachmann	Carnahan	Ehlers
Bachus	Carson (IN)	Ellison
Baird	Carter	Ellsworth
Baldwin	Cassidy	Emerson
Barrett (SC)	Castle	Engel
Barrow	Castor (FL)	Eshoo
Bartlett	Chaffetz	Etheridge
Barton (TX)	Chandler	Fallin
Bean	Childers	Farr
Becerra	Chu	Fattah
Berkley	Clarke	Filner
Berman	Clay	Flake
Berry	Cleaver	Fleming
Biggert	Clyburn	Forbes
Bilbray	Coble	Fortenberry
Bishop (GA)	Coffman (CO)	Foster
Bishop (NY)	Cohen	Fox
Blackburn	Conaway	Frank (MA)
Blumenauer	Connolly (VA)	Franks (AZ)
Blunt	Cooper	Frelinghuysen
Bocchieri	Costa	Fudge
Boehner	Costello	Gallely
Bonner	Courtney	Garrett (NJ)
Bono Mack	Crenshaw	Gerlach
Boozman	Crowley	Giffords
Boren	Cuellar	Gingrey (GA)
Boswell	Culberson	Gohmert
Boucher	Cummings	Gonzalez
Boustany	Dahlkemper	Goodlatte
Boyd	Davis (AL)	Gordon (TN)
Brady (PA)	Davis (CA)	Granger
Brady (TX)	Davis (IL)	Graves
Bralley (IA)	Davis (KY)	Grayson
Bright	Davis (TN)	Green, Al
Broun (GA)	Deal (GA)	Green, Gene
Brown (SC)	DeFazio	Griffith
Brown, Corrine	DeGette	Grijalva
Brown-Waite,	DeLaunt	Guthrie
Ginny	DeLauro	Gutierrez
Buchanan	Dent	Hall (NY)
Burgess	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hall (TX)
Burton (IN)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Halvorson
Butterfield	Dicks	Hare

Harman	Matsui	Ross
Harper	McCarthy (CA)	Rothman (NJ)
Hastings (FL)	McCarthy (NY)	Roybal-Allard
Hastings (WA)	McCaul	Royce
Heinrich	McClintock	Ruppersberger
Heller	McCollum	Rush
Hensarling	McCotter	Ryan (OH)
Herger	McDermott	Ryan (WI)
Herseth Sandlin	McGovern	Salazar
Higgins	McHenry	Sánchez, Linda
Hill	McIntyre	T.
Himes	McKeon	Sanchez, Loretta
Hinchey	McMahon	Sarbanes
Hinojosa	McMorris	Scalise
Hodes	Rodgers	Schakowsky
Hoekstra	McNerney	Schauer
Holden	Meeke (FL)	Schiff
Honda	Meeks (NY)	Schmidt
Hoyer	Melancon	Schrader
Hunter	Mica	Schwartz
Inglis	Michaud	Scott (GA)
Inslee	Miller (FL)	Scott (VA)
Israel	Miller (MI)	Sensenbrenner
Issa	Miller (NC)	Sessions
Jackson (IL)	Miller, Gary	Sestak
Jackson-Lee	Miller, George	Shadegg
(TX)	Minnick	Shea-Porter
Jenkins	Mitchell	Sherman
Johnson (GA)	Moore (KS)	Shimkus
Johnson (IL)	Moore (WI)	Shuler
Johnson, E. B.	Moran (KS)	Simpson
Johnson, Sam	Moran (VA)	Sires
Jones	Murphy (CT)	Skelton
Jordan (OH)	Murphy (NY)	Slaughter
Kagen	Murphy, Patrick	Smith (NE)
Kanjorski	Murphy, Tim	Smith (NJ)
Kaptur	Murtha	Smith (TX)
Kennedy	Myrick	Smith (WA)
Kildee	Nadler (NY)	Snyder
Kilpatrick (MI)	Napolitano	Souder
Kind	Neal (MA)	Space
King (IA)	Neugebauer	Speier
King (NY)	Nunes	Spratt
Kingston	Nye	Stark
Kirk	Oberstar	Stearns
Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Obey	Stupak
Kissell	Olson	Sullivan
Klein (FL)	Olver	Sutton
Kline (MN)	Ortiz	Tanner
Kosmas	Pallone	Taylor
Kratovil	Pascrell	Teague
Kucinich	Pastor (AZ)	Terry
Lamborn	Paul	Thompson (CA)
Lance	Paulsen	Thompson (MS)
Langevin	Payne	Thompson (PA)
Larsen (WA)	Pence	Thornberry
Larson (CT)	Perlmutter	Tiahrt
Latham	Perrillo	Tiberi
LaTourette	Peters	Tierney
Latta	Peterson	Titus
Lee (CA)	Petri	Tonko
Lee (NY)	Pingree (ME)	Townes
Levin	Pitts	Tsongas
Lewis (CA)	Platts	Turner
Lewis (GA)	Poe (TX)	Upton
Lindler	Polis (CO)	Van Hollen
Lipinski	Pomeroy	Velázquez
LoBiondo	Visclosky	Posey
Loeb sack	Price (GA)	Walden
Lofgren, Zoe	Price (NC)	Walz
Lowey	Putnam	Wamp
Lucas	Quigley	Waters
Luetkemeyer	Radanovich	Watson
Lujan	Rahall	Watt
Lummis	Rangel	Waxman
Lungren, Daniel	Rehberg	Weiner
E.	Reichert	Welch
Lynch	Reyes	Westmoreland
Mack	Richardson	Whitfield
Maffei	Rodriguez	Wilson (OH)
Maloney	Roe (TN)	Wilson (SC)
Manzullo	Rogers (AL)	Wittman
Marchant	Rogers (KY)	Wolf
Markey (CO)	Rogers (MI)	Woolsey
Markey (MA)	Rohrabacher	Wu
Marshall	Rooney	Yarmuth
Massa	Ros-Lehtinen	Young (AK)
Matheson	Roskam	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—17

Adler (NJ)	Cole	Schock
Andrews	Conyers	Serrano
Bilirakis	Hirono	Shuster
Bishop (UT)	Holt	Wasserman
Cao	Kilroy	Schultz
Carney	Mollohan	Wexler

□ 1515

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, October 14, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and I missed the first vote in a series of five votes. I missed rollcall vote No. 775.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall vote No. 775: "yea" (on agreeing to H. Res. 768).

IRAN SANCTIONS ENABLING ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1327, 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 Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1327, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 6, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 776]
YEAS—414

Abercrombie	Brown-Waite,	Davis (TN)
Ackerman	Ginny	Deal (GA)
Aderholt	Buchanan	DeFazio
Adler (NJ)	Burgess	DeGette
Akin	Burton (IN)	DeLauro
Alexander	Butterfield	Dent
Altmire	Buyer	Diaz-Balart, L.
Andrews	Calvert	Diaz-Balart, M.
Arcuri	Camp	Dicks
Austria	Campbell	Dingell
Baca	Cantor	Doggett
Bachmann	Capito	Donnelly (IN)
Bachus	Capps	Doyle
Baird	Capuano	Dreier
Baldwin	Cardoza	Driehaus
Barrett (SC)	Carnahan	Duncan
Barrow	Carson (IN)	Edwards (MD)
Bartlett	Carter	Edwards (TX)
Barton (TX)	Cassidy	Ehlers
Bean	Castle	Ellison
Becerra	Castor (FL)	Ellsworth
Berkley	Chaffetz	Emerson
Berman	Chandler	Engel
Berry	Childers	Eshoo
Biggert	Chu	Etheridge
Bilbray	Clarke	Fallin
Bilirakis	Clay	Farr
Bishop (GA)	Cleaver	Fattah
Bishop (NY)	Clyburn	Filner
Bishop (UT)	Coble	Fleming
Blackburn	Coffman (CO)	Forbes
Blumenauer	Cohen	Fortenberry
Blunt	Cole	Foster
Bocchieri	Conaway	Fox
Boehner	Connolly (VA)	Frank (MA)
Bonner	Cooper	Franks (AZ)
Bono Mack	Costa	Frelinghuysen
Boozman	Costello	Fudge
Boswell	Courtney	Gallely
Boucher	Crenshaw	Garrett (NJ)
Boustany	Crowley	Gerlach
Boyd	Cuellar	Giffords
Brady (PA)	Culberson	Gingrey (GA)
Brady (TX)	Cummings	Gohmert
Bralley (IA)	Dahlkemper	Gonzalez
Bright	Davis (AL)	Goodlatte
Broun (GA)	Davis (CA)	Gordon (TN)
Brown (SC)	Davis (IL)	Granger
Brown, Corrine	Davis (KY)	

Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeback
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo

Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perrillo
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen

NAYS—6

Flake
Hinchey

Boren
Cao

NOT VOTING—12

Carney
Conyers
Herseth Sandlin
Hirono

Honda
Mollohan
Shuster

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1527
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.
Stated for:
Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I missed rollcall vote No. 776 on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1327, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009 as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”
Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives today.
The vote was on H.R. 1327 as amended, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on that question.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF LIFE ON AMERICAN SAMOA AND SAMOA AFTER THE EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2009
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 816, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.
The Clerk read the title of the resolution.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 816, as amended.
This will be a 5-minute vote.
The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 422, nays 0, not voting 10, as follows:
[Roll No. 777]
YEAS—422
Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry

Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Wexler
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins

Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeback
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris
Rodgers
Heller
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica

Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perrillo
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeback
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris
Rodgers
Heller
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica

Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perrillo
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeback
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris
Rodgers
Heller
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica

Shuler Taylor
Simpson Teague
Sires Terry
Skelton Thompson (CA)
Slaughter Thompson (MS)
Smith (NE) Thompson (PA)
Smith (NJ) Thornberry
Smith (TX) Tiahrt
Smith (WA) Tiberi
Snyder Tierney
Souder Titus
Space Tonko
Speier Towns
Spratt Tsongas
Stark Turner
Stearns Upton
Stupak Van Hollen
Sullivan Velázquez
Sutton Visclosky
Tanner Walden

Walz
Wamp
Waters
Watson
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Paulsen
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Grassley
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)

Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hersteth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchee
Hinojosa
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hoyer
Hunter
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Loftgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry

McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paylen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano

Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton

Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wamp
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—10

Cao Honda
Carney Mollohan
Conyers Shuster
Hirono Wexler

Wasserman
Schultz
Watt
Wexler

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). One minute remains in this vote.

□ 1534

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "Mourning the loss of life caused by the earthquakes and tsunamis that occurred on September 29, 2009, in American Samoa, Samoa, and Tonga."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AIRLINE SAFETY AND PILOT TRAINING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3371, 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 Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3371, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 11, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 778]

YEAS—409

Abercrombie Barton (TX)
Ackerman Bean
Aderholt Becerra
Adler (NJ) Berkley
Akin Berman
Alexander Berry
Altmire Biggart
Andrews Bilbray
Arcuri Bilirakis
Austria Bishop (GA)
Baca Bishop (NY)
Bachmann Blumenauer
Bachus Blunt
Baird Boccieri
Baldwin Boehner
Barrett (SC) Bonner
Barrow Bono Mack
Bartlett Boozman

Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer

NAYS—11

Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Broun (GA)
Flake

Graves
Inglis
Paul
Price (GA)

Sensenbrenner
Westmoreland
Whitfield

NOT VOTING—12

Cao
Carney
Conyers
Hall (TX)
Hirono

Honda
Johnson, E. B.
Mollohan
Schrader
Shuster

Wasserman
Schultz
Wexler

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes remain in this vote.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). After the pending vote on H.R. 3371, the unfinished business will be on House Resolution 786, which originally had been slated as an earlier vote.

□ 1544

Messrs. WESTMORELAND, BROUN of Georgia and INGLIS changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

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.

COMMEMORATING THE CANONIZATION OF FATHER DAMIEN DE VEUSTER TO SAINTHOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 786, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 786, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 418, nays 0, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 779]

YEAS—418

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt

Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander

Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri

Austria Doyle
 Baca Dreier
 Bachmann Driehaus
 Bachus Duncan
 Baird Edwards (MD)
 Baldwin Edwards (TX)
 Barrett (SC) Ehlers
 Barrow Ellison
 Bartlett Ellsworth
 Barton (TX) Emerson
 Bean Engel
 Becerra Eshoo
 Berkley Etheridge
 Berman Fallin
 Berry Farr
 Biggert Fattah
 Bilbray Filner
 Bilirakis Flake
 Bishop (GA) Fleming
 Bishop (NY) Forbes
 Bishop (UT) Fortenberry
 Blackburn Foster
 Blumenauer Foxx
 Blunt Frank (MA)
 Boccieri Franks (AZ)
 Boehner Frelinghuysen
 Bonner Fudge
 Bono Mack Gallegly
 Boozman Garrett (NJ)
 Boren Gerlach
 Boucher Giffords
 Boustany Marchant
 Boyd Gohmert
 Brady (PA) Gonzalez
 Brady (TX) Goodlatte
 Braley (IA) Gordon (TN)
 Bright Granger
 Broun (GA) Graves
 Brown (SC) Grayson
 Brown, Corrine Green, Al
 Buchanan Green, Gene
 Burgess Griffith
 Burton (IN) Grijalva
 Butterfield Guthrie
 Buyer Gutierrez
 Calvert Hall (NY)
 Camp Halvorson
 Campbell Hare
 Cantor Harman
 Capito Harper
 Capuano Hastings (FL)
 Cardoza Hastings (WA)
 Carnahan Heinrich
 Carson (IN) Heller
 Carter Hensarling
 Cassidy Herger
 Castle Herseth Sandlin
 Castor (FL) Higgins
 Chaffetz Hill
 Chandler Himes
 Childers Hinchey
 Chu Hinojosa
 Clarke Hoekstra
 Clay Holden
 Cleaver Holt
 Clyburn Hoyer
 Coble Hunter
 Coffman (CO) Inglis
 Cohen Inslee
 Cole Israel
 Conaway Issa
 Connolly (VA) Jackson (IL)
 Cooper Jackson-Lee
 Costa (TX)
 Costello Jenkins
 Courtney Johnson (GA)
 Crenshaw Johnson (IL)
 Crowley Johnson, E. B.
 Cuellar Johnson, Sam
 Culberson Jones
 Cummings Jordan (OH)
 Dahlkemper Kagen
 Davis (AL) Kanjorski
 Davis (CA) Kaptur
 Davis (IL) Kennedy
 Davis (KY) Kildee
 Davis (TN) Kilpatrick (MI)
 Deal (GA) Kilroy
 DeFazio Kind
 DeGette King (IA)
 Delahunt King (NY)
 DeLauro Kingston
 Dent Kirk
 Diaz-Balart, L. Kirkpatrick (AZ)
 Diaz-Balart, M. Kissell
 Dicks Klein (FL)
 Dingell Kline (MN)
 Doggett Kosmas
 Donnelly (IN) Kratovil

Kucinich
 Lamborn
 Lance
 Langevin
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latham
 LaTourette
 Latta
 Lee (CA)
 Lee (NY)
 Levin
 Lewis (CA)
 Lewis (GA)
 Linder
 Lipinski
 LoBiondo
 Loebsack
 Lofgren, Zoe
 Lowey
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Lujan
 Lummis
 Lungren, Daniel
 E.
 Lynch
 Mack
 Maffei
 Maloney
 Manzullo
 Marchant
 Markey (CO)
 Markey (MA)
 Marshall
 Massa
 Matheson
 Matsui
 McCarthy (CA)
 McCarthy (NY)
 McCaul
 McClintock
 McCollum
 McCotter
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McHenry
 McIntyre
 McKeon
 McMahan
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 McNerney
 Meek (FL)
 Meeks (NY)
 Melancon
 Mica
 Michaud
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller (NC)
 Miller, Gary
 Miller, George
 Minnick
 Mitchell
 Moore (KS)
 Moore (WI)
 Moran (KS)
 Moran (VA)
 Murphy (CT)
 Murphy (NY)
 Murphy, Patrick
 Murphy, Tim
 Murtha
 Myrick
 Nadler (NY)
 Napolitano
 Neal (MA)
 Neugebauer
 Nunes
 Nye
 Oberstar
 Obey
 Olson
 Olver
 Ortiz
 Pallone
 Pascrell
 Pastor (AZ)
 Paul
 Paulsen
 Payne
 Pence
 Perlmutter
 Perriello
 Peters
 Peterson
 Petri
 Pingree (ME)

Pitts
 Platts
 Poe (TX)
 Polis (CO)
 Pomeroy
 Posey
 Price (GA)
 Price (NC)
 Putnam
 Quigley
 Radanovich
 Rahall
 Rangel
 Rehberg
 Reichert
 Reyes
 Richardson
 Rodriguez
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Rohrabacher
 Rooney
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothman (NJ)
 Roybal-Allard
 Royce
 Ruppberger
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Ryan (WI)
 Salazar
 Sanchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sarbanes

Scalise
 Schakowsky
 Schauer
 Schiff
 Schmidt
 Schock
 Schrader
 Schwartz
 Scott (GA)
 Scott (VA)
 Sensenbrenner
 Serrano
 Sessions
 Sestak
 Shadegg
 Shea-Porter
 Sherman
 Shimkus
 Shuler
 Simpson
 Sires
 Skelton
 Slaughte
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Smith (WA)
 Snyder
 Souder
 Space
 Speier
 Spratt
 Stark
 Stearns
 Stupak
 Sullivan
 Sutton
 Tanner
 Taylor

Teague
 Terry
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tiahrt
 Tiberi
 Tierney
 Titus
 Tonko
 Towns
 Tsongas
 Turner
 Upton
 Van Hollen
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Walden
 Walz
 Wamp
 Waters
 Watson
 Watt
 Waxman
 Weiner
 Welch
 Westmoreland
 Whitfield
 Wilson (OH)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Wolf
 Woolsey
 Wu
 Yarmuth
 Young (AK)
 Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—14

Boswell
 Brown-Waite,
 Ginny
 Cao
 Capps
 Carney

Conyers
 Hall (TX)
 Hirono
 Hodes
 Honda
 Mollohan

Shuster
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Wexler

□ 1602

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETERS). 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 incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

RECOGNIZING 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATLANTIC INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY ASSOCIATION

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 465) recognizing the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association on the occasion of its 10th anniversary, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 465

Whereas the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1937 to provide a safe inside navigation channel for commercial shipping, support for and encouragement of interstate commerce, and safe harbor and protection for shipping from inclement weather and wartime enemy attack;

Whereas the AIWW, completed in 1940, runs along the southeast coast of the United States from Norfolk, Virginia, to Key West, Florida, and measures 1,088 miles long;

Whereas segments of the intracoastal waterway on the Atlantic Coast received their initial congressional authorization through Rivers and Harbors Acts beginning in 1880;

Whereas the AIWW is a vital transportation system providing safe, reliable, and efficient navigation for commercial, recreational, and military vessels;

Whereas the Corps of Engineers is currently engaged in flood control, hydropower production, environmental restoration, maintenance dredging, lock maintenance, recreation, and navigation projects along the AIWW;

Whereas, according to the Corps of Engineers, in 2007 the AIWW supported the transportation of 2,543,000 tons of freight traffic, including commodities such as wheat, corn, soybeans, electrical machinery, iron, coal, gasoline, fabricated metal products, and electrical machinery;

Whereas, according to the Corps of Engineers, in 2007 the AIWW supported a total of 34,184 trips made by recreational, commercial, and military vessels;

Whereas the AIWW is an integral transportation network supporting the Armed Forces through the shipment of military equipment, fuel, and generators between Norfolk, Virginia, and Kings Bay, Georgia;

Whereas the Dismal Swamp Canal, on the AIWW, is the oldest operating artificial waterway in the United States and has been placed on the National Register of Historical Places, was registered as an engineering landmark in 1988, and was included in the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program in 2004;

Whereas the AIWW has enhanced the lives of the residents of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, as well as the greater southeastern United States, for more than 6 decades;

Whereas the wildlife, flora, and fauna along the AIWW provide ample recreational opportunities for birdwatchers, photographers, and boaters;

Whereas the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association was organized in 1999 to address the navigation challenges of the AIWW and to encourage the continuation and further development of waterborne commerce and recreation on the AIWW;

Whereas the Association has voiced the interests of commercial and recreational users of the AIWW, earning the title of "Voice of the Waterway";

Whereas the Association has been an advocate for maintenance of the AIWW to promote safe, cost-effective navigation; and

Whereas the Association promotes the AIWW as a vital marine highway along the Atlantic coast, providing safe navigation for commercial and recreational vessels: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—
 (1) recognizes the importance of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway to recreational, commercial, and military vessels and to the history and quality of life of the citizens of the United States; and

(2) acknowledges the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association on the occasion of its 10th anniversary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous remarks on H. Res. 465.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 465 offered by Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. This resolution recognizes the importance of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and acknowledges the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association on the occasion of its 10th anniversary.

The waterway was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1937 for the purpose of supporting and encouraging interstate commerce. Today, the waterway allows for the safe and efficient transportation of goods along the Atlantic coast from Norfolk, Virginia, to Key West, Florida.

The waterway is comprised of numerous channels and rivers that were once separate and distinct. For example, the Dismal Swamp Canal was once a 22-mile-long waterway that supported commercial vessels traveling between Virginia and North Carolina. In 1929, however, it was purchased by the Federal Government for half a million dollars and incorporated into a larger transportation network. Today, the Dismal Swamp Canal is an integral part of the waterway and is recognized as the oldest operating artificial waterway in the United States. Additionally, it is also on the National Park Service's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program.

The waterway holds great significance to those who live in the southeastern United States. It enables waterborne transportation to move smoothly and efficiently and provides numerous recreational opportunities for anglers and boating and enthusiasts.

It is appropriate to recognize the importance of the waterway to the quality of life of our citizens and to the thousands of commercial, recreational, and military vessels that utilize the system each year.

This resolution also acknowledges the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. This association has worked over the last decade as an advocate for keeping the waterway open and safe for navigation. It is appropriate to recognize its numerous contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution and urge my colleagues to support it as well.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

According to the Chesapeake Convention and Tourism Bureau, Edgar Allen Poe reportedly wrote parts of his famous poem "The Raven" while traveling the Dismal Swamp Canal, which was later to become part of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.

The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, AIWW, was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1937 to provide a safe inside navigation channel for commercial shipping. Completed in 1940, the AIWW runs along the southeast coast of the United States from Norfolk, Virginia, to Miami, Florida, measuring 1,088 miles long.

The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway is also used extensively by recreational boaters. Studies have shown that recreational boaters bring millions of dollars to State budgets. The waterway is also used by vessels not equipped for ocean travel or for when weather conditions make the ocean too rough to travel.

The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway has a good deal of commercial activity. Products shipped include fuel oil, gasoline, asphalt, fertilizers, chemicals, wood chips, wood, limestone, sand, gravel, iron, steel, slag, lime, fabricated metal products, soybeans, vegetables, produce, and electrical machinery, all of which are shipped along the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.

The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association was organized in 1999 to address the navigation challenges of the waterway and to encourage the continuation and further development of waterborne commerce and recreation on the AIWW of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. The association has been an outspoken advocate for regular dredging and adequate maintenance to promote safe, cost-effective navigation along the AIWW and is known as the "Voice of the Waterway."

Today, we recognize the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association on the occasion of its 10th anniversary.

And with that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he might desire to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Mr. Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) for yielding and the gentlelady from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for her support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, while only 10 years old, the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association, AIWWA, has become a strong voice representing the interests of commercial and recreational users of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway by promoting the waterway as a vital marine highway along the Atlantic

coast, providing safe navigation for commercial and recreational vessels.

The association was organized in 1999 to address the navigational challenges of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and to encourage the continuation and further development of commerce and recreation on the AIWW. At present, the association has more than 200 members consisting of tug and barge companies, shippers, port facilities, marinas, dredging companies, and others with an interest in the waterway.

The AIWW was completed in 1940 and runs along the southeast coast of the United States from Norfolk, Virginia, to Key West, Florida, and measures 1,088 miles long. It has historically served as an important shelter for mariners from the stormy seas of the Atlantic. Since it runs parallel to Interstate 95, the waterway has the potential to become a major marine highway, serving as a safe, fuel-efficient, and economical alternative to congested highways and rail lines.

Every ton of traffic that runs through a marine highway like AIWW is a ton of traffic that isn't on our congested highway system. I have heard from multiple shippers visiting my office that would love to have a non-highway shipping option. AIWW connects all of the east coast ports. The potential for coastal traffic between these ports is significant and has the ability to have a major impact on smaller ports like Georgetown in my district. In fact, if the AIWW could be developed as a marine highway, the South Carolina State Ports Authority has estimated business growth at the Port of Georgetown could be more than 2.5 million tons of cargo a year. However, the waterway faces significant funding challenges.

In South Carolina alone, the Army Corps estimates that the need of the waterway will total some \$14.5 million in fiscal year 2010, yet the administration has requested less than \$800,000 for maintenance. Indeed, to bring the entire waterway up to standards and to keep it there will require over \$100 million in investment; yet administration after administration continues to shortchange the AIWW in their budget, barely requesting enough money to control the mosquitos.

This is no way to treat such a valuable potential resource, and I want to tip my hat to the AIWWA for their efforts to showcase the potential for the waterway not just to the communities it touches, but to the entire Nation. I'm proud to support the waterway and will continue to fight to ensure that it is not only maintained but improved to improve freight movement and open new economic doors for communities along its banks.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, having no more speakers on the subject, we do support the adoption of H. Res. 465 recognizing the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association, the good work that they have done over the last 10 years, and with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, along with the gentleman from Arkansas and the gentleman from South Carolina who is the author of this resolution, we are pleased to support this resolution.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 465, recognizing the 10th anniversary of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association.

The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (Waterway) runs from Norfolk, Virginia, to Key West, Florida, and has been in existence for more than seventy years. The once distinct channels and rivers that now make up the Waterway were brought together to create a continuous waterborne transportation network along the southeastern coast of the Atlantic.

The Waterway has enriched the lives of those in the southeast and served the greater United States by allowing for the safe and efficient transportation of commercial goods along the coast.

This resolution recognizes the importance of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway to the quality of life of the citizens in the United States, and to the thousands of recreational, commercial, and military vessels that use the system annually.

The resolution also acknowledges the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. This association has worked tirelessly over the last decade to keep the Waterway open and safe for navigation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 465.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 465 and to thank the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. BROWN, for introducing this important bill. I have had the good fortune of working with the distinguished gentleman on other legislation, and I can say that on this and other issues, he serves his constituents well.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 465 acknowledges the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association on the occasion of its 10th anniversary, and it recognizes the importance of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway to recreational, commercial, and military vessels and to the history and quality of life of the citizens of the United States.

Having a congressional district with over 75 miles along the Intracoastal Waterway, I know firsthand its importance to South Florida. It serves as a crucial thoroughfare for the two ports in my district, the Port of Palm Beach and Port Everglades. In fact, the Army Corps of Engineers reported that over 2.5 million tons of freight traffic was shipped along the Intracoastal Waterway in 2007 alone, including commodities such as wheat, corn, and soybeans.

But the Intracoastal Waterway provides Americans with more than just economic activity. Just go out on the water any day of the week in my congressional district and you'll see recreational boaters traveling on the Intracoastal Waterway. Boating is an iconic symbol for South Florida, and the Intracoastal Waterway serves as an important part of that. Simply put: South Florida would not be the boating capital of the world without it.

I also want to take a moment and commend the work of the Florida Inland Navigation District, or FIND. They maintain our state's portion of the Intracoastal Waterway, from Jacksonville to Miami. Created in 1927 by the Flor-

ida State Legislature, FIND is a special taxing district charged with helping to maintain the Intracoastal Waterway with the Army Corps of Engineers. They are an important entity and perform an often unheralded job, so I wanted to take this moment to commend the men and women employed by FIND for helping to maintain one of Florida's most important natural resources.

In closing, I want to again thank the gentleman from South Carolina for introducing House Resolution 465, urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Ms. NORTON. At this time, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 465, 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.

□ 1615

DALE WILSON—NATIONAL DISABLED AMERICAN VETERAN OF THE YEAR

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to praise Dale Wilson, a remarkable veteran from Troutman, North Carolina, who was named the 2009 National Disabled American Veteran of the Year by the Disabled American Veterans.

Dale Wilson lost both of his legs and his right arm while serving in the Marine Corps in Vietnam; but for a Silver Star recipient who paid such a heavy price for his country, Wilson demonstrates remarkable humility, good will, and an astonishingly positive attitude. He is well known for his strident belief that his life is rich and full despite what many could call a severe disability. His days are full of service to his community and his fellow veterans. He counts his family, his community, and his service to his country as dear blessings. And you won't catch him complaining about the hand that was dealt him.

Dale Wilson is the sort of marine that gives the Marine Corps such a proud reputation, and his recognition by the DAV is well deserved. I know that his example serves to inspire those who know and love him to remember their many blessings and to love the country that Wilson sacrificed so much for.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

U.N.'S REPORT ON ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this week at the United Nations another assault is being launched on the democratic Jewish State of Israel, an assault that the United States must unequivocally oppose and defeat.

Predictably, this assault has its roots in the U.N.'s so-called "Human Rights Council," an institution that has been hijacked by dictatorships and gross human rights violators.

This past winter, in Operation Cast Lead, Israel defended its citizens—and its existence—against the actions of Hamas and other violent extremist groups in Gaza. The Human Rights Council responded by passing a resolution authorizing a so-called "fact finding mission" to investigate Operation Cast Lead. This mission's mandate had nothing to do with fact finding and everything to do with persecuting Israel for defending herself.

The mandate prejudged Israel's guilt, authorizing the mission to investigate only assumed human rights violations by Israel. The mandate did not include or even mention the thousands of rocket attacks and mortar attacks spanning 8 years by Hamas and other violent extremist groups in Gaza against civilian targets in southern Israel.

Then, last month this so-called "fact finding mission" released its report. It's a 575-page collection of distortions and double standards. The report made baseless accusations that Israel's military had deliberately attacked civilians. The report disregarded extensive evidence that violent extremist groups in Gaza used civilians as human shields, operating from schools, from mosques, from hospitals. It ignored the Israeli military's extraordinary efforts to target its operations in order to minimize civilian casualties. It gave a free pass to the Iranian and the Syrian regimes, which provide material and financial assistance to Hamas and other murderous groups in Gaza.

Finally, this report recommended further persecution of Israel through follow-up action by the U.N. Security Council, the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, and the International Criminal Court, among others. In fact, today, the Security Council met at the request of the Libyan regime and considered this very biased report.

Later this week, with the blessing of the U.N. Secretary General, the Human Rights Council is expected to hold a special session on this report. What will they do? They will pass yet another resolution condemning Israel, and only Israel.

And what has the U.S. done in response to this anti-freedom onslaught? While acknowledging that the report and its mandate were biased, administration officials still claim that the report raised serious issues and should be

considered seriously by that rogues gallery known as the Human Rights Council. Is this how the United States supports Israel and counters the anti-Semitic and anti-Israel bias that is present every day at the U.N.?

We must recognize what is at stake here. If the democratic political and military leaders of Israel can be hauled before an unaccountable court for defending their nation against violent extremists in Gaza, then how long before U.S. officials and those of other NATO countries will face the same for defending our Nation against al Qaeda and other such threats? Ultimately, this report is an effort by the enemies of freedom to deprive democracies of the right of self-defense, making it open season for global jihadists to come after Israel or the U.S. and other free nations.

As the leadership of the Simon Wiesenthal Center stated in a recent letter to our ambassador, Susan Rice, consideration of this report is a prescription for disaster not only for Israel, but for the United States and every country that fights violent extremism.

Mr. Speaker, we must oppose any effort to grant consideration or legitimacy in any forum to this irredeemably biased U.N. report. We must support the right of Israel, the right of the U.S., the right of all democracies to defend ourselves and our citizens.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, it is time for the U.S. to lead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the time.

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.)

COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR SENIORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Next month, the government is going to go to the expense of sending out a letter to well over 40 million Social Security recipients telling them they are not going to get a cost-of-living adjustment, but they didn't experience inflation this year. Now, the only problem with that is the way we measure inflation is heavily oriented toward nonessential consumer goods of which seniors do not buy a lot.

Seniors have to buy certain essentials; pharmaceuticals, up double digits in the last year. Seniors buy health insurance, Medigap policies up high single digits in the last year. Seniors have rent, utilities, probably also up depending upon where they live. But they are not entitled to a COLA because of a defect in the way we calculate COLAs.

I have tried to fix this for years by having a special calculation for seniors

and not one for younger consumers, which is essentially what the CPI is oriented towards. It isn't even very reflective of the cost of average American families. It is very skewed. It was skewed beginning in the Reagan years, and it has never been fixed to try and understate real inflation to real Americans.

In this case, we have an opportunity. We could fix this injustice to our seniors and help those most in need, many of whom are either principally or totally dependent upon a Social Security income. We could give them a one-time \$250 payment, which would equate to almost a 2 percent cost-of-living adjustment. That would cover the increase in their Medicare part B premium, maybe some of their Medigap insurance, maybe a little bit of what they're having to pay in higher pharmaceutical costs. For many seniors it could avert a disaster in terms of their personal budgets.

So I have introduced legislation, along with 14 of my colleagues—today, I reintroduced it—which would give a one-time \$250 payment to 48.9 million people who are on OASDI, that is Social Security and disability, 5.1 on SSI, 1.4 million veterans, and 200,000 railroad retirees.

Now, I want to be fiscally responsible; I don't want to take it out of the Social Security trust fund which is looking toward problems some 37 years down the road or so, or starting in 2037. So I would pay for this, and it's quite simple: in order to give this benefit to over 50 million people, something for them to make ends meet and scratch by, all we have to do is ask that that select group of Americans—many of whom work on Wall Street—who will earn over \$1.4 million this year, that for their earnings over \$1.4 million they pay the same Social Security tax as every working American who earns less than \$106,000. The tax now is only applied to income up to \$106,000. After that, you don't pay it. That means if you earn \$1.4 million, your tax rate is about 7 percent of someone who earns \$40,000 a year.

Let's make it fair. I hear a lot about flat taxes and fairness. Let's make it fair; let's make it flat. Let's ask those people who are earning over \$1.4 million to pay the same percentage of that income in Social Security tax as people who earn less than \$106,000. And if they did that just for 1 year, we could give those 50 million seniors and disabled and veterans and railroad retirees a small, \$250 one-time cost-of-living adjustment. I think it's only fair in this tough economy that those at the absolute tiptop just do a little bit more to help those most in need.

I recommend this legislation to my colleagues.

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 addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE RULE OF LAW IS BEING IGNORED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the open borders crowd is at it again, pushing for amnesty for people that are illegally in the United States.

It is bad public policy to give a wink and a nod to people who continue to advocate the exploitation of American border laws for their own personal agenda. A nation cannot survive in freedom without just following the law. The very future of any civilization rests upon the rule of law.

Now, we are a self-governing people. That means we are a Nation of laws. We don't get to choose what laws we follow and what ones we don't. That would mean complete chaos. If people want to come to the United States legally, by all means let them come legally. Sign the guest book at the port of entry so we know who you are, so we know the purpose of your visit and whether or not you mean harm to American citizens. That means everybody who comes here, not just a select few.

The push to reward illegal behavior today by granting amnesty only encourages more of the same illegal behavior. A new Zogby-Washington Times poll in Mexico found that 56 percent of Mexican nationals surveyed said that if we pardon illegal immigrants here, it will encourage more of them to come across the border illegally.

The poll also showed that most folks in Mexico think their countrymen who come here still owe their loyalty to Mexico, not America. Now, these are things the open borders crowd won't tell you. Many people come here and don't want to become Americans; they just want the personal benefits of being in the United States without any obligation to the country. And amnesty will only encourage more illegal entry.

□ 1630

Anyone who comes to this country permanently owes this Nation the respect of learning what it means to be an American—embracing the melting pot concept. They should honor the sacrifices of the men and women who have made our history great in these 200-plus years. This mighty Nation is the beacon of liberty, and it did not happen by chance. It came through hard work and sacrifice in the name of freedom. It came from following a set of principles and ideals, and it came from following the rule of law—laws passed by our representative form of government with the consent of the governed.

The American dream is not about money; it's about liberty, and those

who come here owe this Nation an obligation to understand that. They need to learn what freedom is and how we go about keeping it, and a big part of that is following the law.

Solving the problems of illegals and the crisis they have created will not be an easy task before us. There are those who want amnesty and who support policies that promote more illegal entry and lawlessness. These are unacceptable in a post-9/11 world. We can start by enforcing the law and showing we are serious about it. We also need to eliminate policies in this country that encourage and ignore illegal entry.

Such policies include easy access to jobs with little enforcement on employers who knowingly hire illegals; free health care and free education, policies that don't promote assimilation; and the inability of local law enforcement to assist Federal immigration authorities.

We need to upgrade interior enforcement of immigration laws. Many people come here legally, then they never go home, because this Nation doesn't do much about visa overstays. Border security is a national security issue. We just witnessed recently a Jordanian national who came here legally, who overstayed his visa and then tried to blow up a Dallas skyscraper. Thanks to the work of law enforcement, this bombing plot was averted.

We owe an obligation to the future of this Nation to guard and secure our borders, to permit entry of only people who will benefit our Nation and to keep up with those who enter as guests of our country. It is not too much to require that people legally enter the United States or don't come at all.

And that's just the way it is.

A TALE OF TWO COUNTRIES

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, the announcement today that JPMorgan Chase, the largest bank in our country, turned a \$3.6 billion profit in the most recent quarter brings to mind Charles Dickens' 19th-century English masterpiece, "A Tale of Two Cities," except this is the United States, and it's the 21st century, and it's a tale not of two cities but of two countries.

There is one country where giant banks are making so much money that they are setting aside enough to pay each worker in their investment banking divisions \$353,834. That country is Wall Street. The other country is where I come from—Toledo, Ohio—and places like it across the Nation where the majority of the American people live. Toledo, Ohio, where the median household annual income is not even one-tenth of that amount—it's \$35,216. It's not even one-tenth as much as JPMorgan Chase is setting aside for bonuses for its investment banking employees.

In one country, banks that are too big to fail privatize their profits. They're taking more, but they socialize their losses, putting their trillion-dollar mistakes on the backs of the American taxpayers. In the other country, which I represent, families that are too small to matter lose their jobs to globalization, and they lose their homes to foreclosure. These same banks finance the outsourcing of their jobs, and they restrict credit to Main Street businesses across our country.

In one country, financial commentators cheer as the Dow Jones Industrial Average goes over 10,000. In the other country, where I live, the unemployment rate is rising, exceeding 13 percent. While housing values fall more than 10 percent in a single year and foreclosures are going up 94 percent, JPMorgan Chase is the top forecloser in the Ninth Congressional District of Ohio, and they don't even show up for meetings with the people being affected. There is something wrong with this picture. There is something really wrong with our country, and there is something really wrong with our economy.

Even one of the Wall Street analysts picked it up today in his comments to the Associated Press, saying, "Wall Street is picking up quite smartly, while Main Street continues to suffer."

How can that be? How can the stock market be so oblivious to the pain that American families are feeling? Granted, a rising stock market might help 401(k)s and pension plans and individual portfolios, but not everybody is celebrating. In fact, the majority isn't. Furthermore, how can this stock market rally last when national unemployment is close to 10 percent and, in some regions, far above that? How can the bullish sentiment override the reality in the other America where unemployment and foreclosures have turned the American dream into a nightmare for so many people—for so many millions and millions of our fellow citizens?

Perhaps congratulations are in order to JPMorgan on its quarterly report. I would only ask Chase and the other banks to remember who came to their rescue, because the people who bailed them out, the people in the other America—beyond Wall Street, those people—are still really hurting. The communities that they live in are really hurting. Our food banks are up 53 percent in requests, and donations are down 13 percent. This economic depression is widening across this country, but there are some folks in that other country who don't seem to care at all.

EXTEND THE FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER TAX CREDIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, like many parts of the country, the

Kansas housing market has struggled along with our Nation's economy. One important tool that has strengthened the housing market and has limited the economic decline has been the \$8,000 first-time homebuyer tax credit. However, unless Congress takes immediate action, this valuable credit will expire on November 30.

I come here with a message for my colleagues and the leaders of the House of Representatives: Congress must act quickly to renew the first-time homebuyer tax credit.

A Realtor from Manhattan, Kansas, wrote me about the importance of the homebuyer tax credit. She noted that the credit had been extremely helpful to the Kansas economy. She says: During these challenging economic times, the first-time homebuyer tax credit has injected new life into the housing market and has helped stimulate many local economies through the stabilization of housing prices.

However, our housing market remains fragile, and more progress is needed to further stabilize our communities. The homebuyer tax credit works. Since its enactment in February, the IRS has reported more than 1.4 million taxpayers have claimed the homebuyer credit. This incentive will lead 400,000 prospective first-time homebuyers to purchase homes who probably would not have without the help of the tax credit.

Moreover, it's estimated that each sale generates \$63,000 in additional goods and services that benefit the economy. There are tax savings for taxpayers which generate more revenue than the aggregate amount of the original tax cut. Along with falling home prices, the homebuyer credit has helped put the housing market on the track to recovery.

While market conditions have improved, as the Realtor says, the market remains fragile. The housing tax credit needs to be extended to make sure that the economic gains that have been made are not lost.

In order to build on that economic progress, the tax credit should be expanded. I've introduced H.R. 2905, the Homebuyer Tax Credit Expansion Act of 2009, which would extend the \$8,000 tax credit beyond its November 30 expiration. In addition, this legislation would expand the tax credit to all homebuyers, not just to first-time buyers.

I've asked the Speaker of the House and the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee to bring this bill or similar legislation to the floor for a vote. At the very least, Congress should pass a 1-year extension of the credit before it expires. It can take several months to go from contract to closing, and the tax credit will soon become unavailable for many buyers well before the November 30 expiration date. An extension must be passed soon if homebuyers are going to continue to take advantage of the tax credit.

Homeownership and the knowledge that one has equity in one's home can

significantly improve our economy. We should not allow this important tax credit to expire. Congress must act quickly now to renew the first-time homebuyer tax credit.

**WE ARE OUR BROTHERS' AND
SISTERS' KEEPER**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your kindness and generosity.

I rise today for a number of thank yous and acknowledgments.

First of all, I think it is very important to acknowledge, when tragedy occurs, how important it is that this country, as it has often done, rallies around those around the world to help them in their time of need.

I want to pay tribute to one of our colleagues—to the delegate from American Samoa, Congressman FALEOMAVAEGA—who has in the last couple of weeks been subjected to terrible tragedies at home, for on September 29, 2009, American Samoa and other areas in the surrounding areas were impacted by an 8.3 earthquake, 8.3 on the Richter scale, which was recognized as the world's largest earthquake of 2009. Out of that earthquake came a terrible tsunami, one that struck American Samoa, Samoa and neighboring Tonga, sweeping people and cars out to sea as survivors fled to high ground.

We remember the tsunami of some years ago that impacted Sri Lanka, Indonesia and India in parts. I traveled to Sri Lanka, and realized that the devastation was enormous. So, when there was a tsunami with waves that reached up to 20 feet in height and that penetrated 1 mile inland, we knew how devastating that had to be. It caused death and destruction of a nearly unprecedented amount. The death toll as of October 7 is estimated at 32 in American Samoa and 135 in the independent state of Samoa.

Many individuals and families have suffered and are impacted, now lacking basic survival necessities, and they remain at risk of additional death due to the shortage of clean water and of adequate shelter and food. My colleague who represents the area has been working without ceasing, but the deep human disaster is evident.

So I rise today to thank the 300 responders from FEMA; the American Red Cross; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the Department of Health and Human Services; and from other Federal agencies which rushed forward to help our fellow world citizens: The United States Navy; the United States Coast Guard; the Hawaii Air and National Guard; the U.S. Army Reserve; American Samoa under the leadership of Admiral Timothy J. Keating, commander of the U.S. Pacific Command; many, many others; and the foreign governments who came to their aid.

So it is important that we recognize that we are, in fact, our brothers' and sisters' keeper, and we thank those who have already come forward, but we look forward in this Congress to continue to work, as we have worked before, to ensure that they are re-stabilized. We must recognize the humanitarian response that is currently underway. We are, in essence, commending them, but it is important that we continue to encourage donors and other relief agencies to work with these vulnerable organizations in stricken areas because we know, having experience in the United States with the fires in California, with the floods in the Midwest, and with the terrible hurricanes in Florida, Louisiana and Texas, and we understand disaster. We are grateful for those who have helped, but we want and we need continued help.

We commend the over 100,000 Samoan residents in the United States from American Samoa and Samoa for coming to the aid of their fellow brothers and sisters. It is important for this Congress to not only pay tribute but to recognize that people are still hurting.

Let me end this by again thanking our American Representative—our delegate from American Samoa—and by thanking him for his strength.

Just for a moment, Mr. Speaker, I turn very briefly to join with my colleague who spoke earlier, Congresswoman KAPTUR, to say this point: Americans are still suffering. Foreclosures are still happening. Small businesses are still not getting access to capital. I beseech those who have received the larger part of the bailout because it was necessary to restore capital markets in a capitalistic system. None of us adhere to socialism, but we do adhere to helping ourselves and helping our brothers and sisters across America.

It is crucial for the banks of America to lend to Americans—to taxpayers, to homeowners, to business owners. Let them expand. Let them add new employees. Let them keep their homes. The tight credit market is choking us. It is killing hardworking Americans who, as I said, are the beneficiaries but yet the benefactors of those who are in need around the world, and it is important for our banks to listen. They were bailed out. They'd better listen to the American people.

□ 1645

**IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM MUST
BE STOPPED**

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. I appreciated what my colleague just said about the banks, and one of the things that I think we ought to focus on in addition to that is that we are not energy independent and we're not allowed the

drill off the Continental Shelf or in the ANWR in Alaska or do other exploration for a number of reasons, not the least of which is, quote-unquote, environmental.

But at the same time we won't allow offshore drilling here, we just gave Brazil \$2 billion so they can drill off their shores. It just doesn't make any sense to me. We ought to be spending that money here at home exploring for oil so we can move towards energy independence. We have a 400- or 500-year supply of natural gas and we have plenty of oil if we just could go get it, and we can do it in an environmentally safe way.

Now the reason I bring that up is because one of the big problems we face is we get 35 to 40 percent of our oil from the Middle East, and one of the big problems facing the United States and the world right now is Iran. Iran has been developing a nuclear program, a nuclear weapons program for some time, and our position in the United States now, under the new administration, is to try to work with them, to talk with them to stop them with their nuclear development program. And if they don't, we're going to try to get a sanctions bill passed.

Now, we have a bill sponsored by the chairman of the International Relations Committee, Mr. BERMAN, that has over 300 cosponsors—I happen to be one of them—and we believe we ought to bring that bill to the floor as quickly as possible to try to put pressure on Iran to stop the development of the nuclear weapons program.

But the administration, I think, has suggested we should wait. They were trying to bring China and Russia on board, and China and Russia are not going to be on board. So we should do it by ourselves and we should do it expeditiously.

Let me tell you why I think it's so important. If Iran continues down this path, Israel—whom Iran has said they want to destroy—will have no choice but to defend itself. They cannot let Iran develop a nuclear bomb and a delivery system. If they do that, they will be able to destroy Israel and millions of Jews in Israel in a very short period of time. It will be another Holocaust.

So what will happen? If they get too far down the path, if we don't put pressure on them to stop—and they don't stop—I believe Israel will have no choice but to attack Iran. And if they attack Iran, that could end up in being a major conflagration in the entire Persian Gulf area.

Now, why is that important to us? We get 35 to 40 percent of our energy from the Persian Gulf area. If that goes up in smoke, we will lose 35 to 40 percent of the energy that we have in this country because we're not energy independent.

The lights that we have, the gasoline in our cars, the fuel we use to heat our houses, everything that needs energy will suffer, and we will have severe economic problems if this problem isn't

dealt with before a tragedy occurs over there.

This really bothers me. We tried to work with North Korea some time ago during the Clinton administration. We even had an agreement with them that they would stop their nuclear development program if we gave them some things, and we did. And what did they do? They lied and they went ahead with their program, and they are a nuclear power. They're using missiles that would be intercontinental in scope, testing them over the sea of Japan right now. And they've done that a number of times.

So we have to worry about them. We have to worry about North Korea and what they're going to do next. Can you imagine what it will be like once Iran develops a nuclear weapons program? They are committed to destroying Israel. They are committed to forcing their view of religion and religious beliefs on much of the rest of the world, and it could be a real problem for us. They don't like America very much either. And so we have a myriad of problems facing us if we don't get on with putting as much pressure as possible on Iran and doing it right now.

As we speak, they're developing their nuclear weapons program. They said they're going to let U.N. nuclear experts come in and police the area and see what they're doing. I don't believe that. I believe they will let us see one or two spots, but they're going to go on with their nuclear development program.

We must put pressure on them now. We must put pressure on them immediately, because if we don't, we're toying with a major problem, a major economic problem for America as well as a possible holocaust in that part of the world in the very near future.

IMPORTANCE OF INDUSTRY CLUSTERS TO A NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to make a number of comments here that will be in the RECORD tomorrow. We'll also have the things I refer to—because I'm going to make a number of points—on our Web site in the next hour.

President Obama made his first visit after the stimulus package passed to Elkhart, Indiana, to Concord High School for a town hall meeting that straddles Congressman DONNELLY's and my district. Unemployment was 15.3 percent when he visited. It went higher, up to close to 20 percent. It's now at 16.5, I believe. In other words, we've gone backwards.

What he said that day—referring to a previous campaign visit there—"I promised you back then that, if elected, I'd do everything I could to help this community recover and that's why I come back today because I intend to keep my promise."

Now, some interesting things have been happening. We've heard about blaming the banks. You know, business, to invest, has to have an idea that a recovery is coming. It has to request the money. And part of the challenge here if they're uncertain whether they're going to get taxed in a small business tax, if they're uncertain whether they are going to be taxed in health care, if they're uncertain of what the energy costs are going to be in Indiana—because ours are projected to get hit harder than any other congressional district in America, and I have the number one manufacturing district—they aren't asking to borrow and the banks don't know how to value the assets.

We have to have a recovery, not taxes and pressures on industry. There's a classic book, "Competitive Advantage of Nations" by Michael Porter. He's written a lot of books since then, including one on health care I don't particularly agree with. But he's a very reflective man, and these are the basic principles of how you develop clusters.

He says, "Creating competitive advantage in sophisticated industries demands improvement and innovation—finding better ways to complete and exploiting them globally, and relentlessly upgrading the firm's products and processes."

In another section of the book he says, We "must create new advantages at least as fast as competitors can replicate old ones."

He also points out the United Kingdom, in their R&D, is among the highest compared to GDP of any nations, but top heavy government R&D. They don't have the private sector R&D, so they don't have the growth, and the growth they have is in the wrong areas.

Now, why do I bring this up? In a newsletter of "ORTHOKNOW, Strategic Insights Into the Orthopedic Industry," John Engelhardt reports the 10 to 30 percent tax in the Senate Finance Committee's bill that was passed yesterday would lead to roughly a tax of 50 percent of the R&D that the orthopedics industry does. For example, Zimmer—based in my district—in the orthopedics cluster, Zimmer would be taxed \$94.7 million and their R&D is \$194 million. They're the biggest orthopedic company.

Biomet—which I believe is the fourth or fifth biggest orthopedic company—would be taxed \$60.9 million. R&D estimate for 2008 was 82.2, and they had a loss.

Now, Michael Porter points out when you lose one or two, you lose that competitive pressure, that you cannot sustain R&D with the new taxes, especially if at the margins the cost of the tax is greater than the profits of the firm, let alone the R&D.

I also refer to a USA Today article of this morning that says, "Orthopedic Industry Has Enjoyed Fine Health." And it goes to Warsaw, Indiana in my district where three of the five biggest

of the orthopedic companies, plus Medtronic, plus Orthopediatric, plus 6,000 direct feeding, plus as you move to South Bend and over to Fort Wayne and down to Indianapolis—and in fact throughout the Midwest—and then if you look at the whole industry of the United States, it's a cluster.

We had this theory in America that we were going to move up the ladder. And as other countries beat us on labor, we would do things like pharmaceuticals, like orthopedics, like biotechnology. We'd be the cutting edge, except now we're going to tax them to death.

So guess what this article says? They're looking at going overseas. I've already heard this. Why won't they go offshore if they can get cheaper labor? They can get engineering research, they can get government subsidies to some degree, but most importantly, they're going to go where they can do R&D and the combination cheaper than they can do it in the United States. A tax won't bring in revenue, a tax will drive our clusters away. To put the taxes on the most innovative clusters is unbelievable. I just don't understand, particularly in a State where the President said not 30 miles away from the center of the orthopedic industry where many of these parts people are, "I promise you it will improve."

The maverick CEO, Dane Miller, and the story of Biomet illustrates another myth that these are some sort of rich billionaires. It talks how he put a titanium hip in his own body because initially they wouldn't believe it, then it worked, and that's partly how we got the innovation today.

I encourage people to read this bio of Dane Miller.

[From Orthoknow, Oct. 2009]

SUCCESS FEES FOR ORTHOPAEDICS?

(By John A. Engelhardt)

In the Senate Finance Committee's healthcare reform bill, partial financing will come from "fees" imposed on the manufacturers of medical devices. As I review what is being proposed, I am (nearly) at a loss for words. The total cost to medical device companies will be \$40 billion over ten years. That's \$4 billion a year. Here is how it shakes down.

The U.S. medical device industry in 2009 is projected to be valued at \$91.3 billion. Orthopaedic revenues generated in the U.S. in 2008 reached \$21.7 billion. Assuming flat growth from 2008 to 2009, orthopaedics would then comprise 23.7% of the total medical device industry in the U.S. in 2009.

America's Healthy Future Act of 2009, "Annual Fee on Manufacturers and Importers of Medical Devices," would impose an aggregate fee of \$4 billion on the medical device industry, payable annually, beginning in 2010. Each company's fee would be calculated based on its relative market share of U.S. sales for the prior year with covered domestic sales taken into account as follows:

- 0% of sales up to \$5 million
- 50% of sales over \$5 million and up to \$25 million
- 100% of sales over \$25 million

According to our calculations, if orthopaedics represents 23.7% of the total medical device industry, then its portion of

the \$4 billion would be \$949 million. Exhibit 1 summarizes the fees assessed for several companies.

You will note that this is not being called a tax. Thus, it is NOT deductible by these companies as a legitimate business expense. Let me just repeat that for effect. It is NOT deductible by these companies as a legitimate business expense!

The "fee" adds up to about four percent of orthopaedic product sales for the companies. Since it is not deductible, that automatically comes OFF the bottom line. The loss drops right through the P&L. Here are some highlights.

In the case of Exactech, it wipes out nearly 40% of its earnings. The value of the company will decrease a pro rata amount, losing \$60 million in shareholder value.

In 2008, Osteotech made a small profit of \$2.2 million. Under the Senate proposal, the company would pay \$3MM in fees! This is a company struggling back to health. How long would they be able to remain a viable entity?

Biomet, in the midst of a rebuilding and restructuring, lost \$749MM in 2008. Under the new plan, it would pay almost \$61MM. I am not making this up.

Alphatec would have to pay about \$3MM for the pleasure of having lost about \$25MM! Study Exhibit 1 carefully. You'll find yourselves asking many questions. What planet are we on? Where did these Senators go to school?

Did they even go to school? Maybe they didn't have math in their school.

It is very hard to argue with the economics of orthopaedic care. It has been positively documented for a half century.

Many people describe joint replacement as among mankind's most significant achievements, not only for the suffering it relieves but for its economic value to society. Recently, others have published the more compelling metrics of orthopaedic treatment in response to the reform debates. (See the ORTHOWORLD Position Paper on Healthcare Reform, www.orthoworld.com/site/index.php/main/healthcare, and Connections, the blog of Biomet CEO, Jeffrey R. Binder, www.biomet.com/corporate/ceo/Blog/.)

It's as if, in their infinite wisdom, our representatives have identified the achievers and propose to levy a cost on them to help support the underachievers.

These companies have done too well, helped too many people, created too many good quality jobs. Shouldn't we be holding them up as an example to others, in order to encourage efficiency and reward performance?

I can think of no other term for this than a penalty for success. In essence, these companies will have to pay for the right to do business in their own country.

Forgive me if I am having trouble grasping the idea that if you fail, the government gives you taxpayer's money to bail you out. If you succeed, that same government fines you?

I hope not to insult any of you reading this when I suggest exactly what this will cause, because it is so obvious to us thinking folks.

1. Jobs will be lost. These companies are massive providers of extremely high quality jobs. They will be forced to pare down their workforces.

2. Jobs will be moved overseas. In order to make up the margin deficits, good corporate stewards will examine all opportunities to drive costs down.

3. R&D budgets will be reduced and innovation will slow.

4. U.S. companies will focus on the markets outside the States where the penalties don't apply. They'll get four more cents on a dollar of sales if the sale is ex-U.S.

5. The cost of healthcare will not budge.

6. When the plan fails, the government will just come back for more.

What's next? Bonus points for product recalls?

And so it goes. We take from the most successful, and give to the least, until such time as a steady state of mediocrity is reached. This goes way beyond everyone getting an award in the T-Ball tournament.

I will hereby propose a new Mediocrity Czar, whose job it will be to ensure that all aspects of society are put on an even playing field. Here are some suggestions.

SPORTS

LeBron James will be required to give every point over 20 per game to the other team.

Michael Phelps will have to swim with a cinderblock tied to his leg to allow all those who have never won a gold medal to do so.

Tiger Woods will be required to carry his own bag, and will not be allowed to set it down during play.

BUSINESS

Bill Gates and Steve Jobs will have a portion of their brains removed until such time as those pesky competitors of theirs catch up.

POLITICS

No action needed.

Perhaps there is more that orthopaedics can do to contribute.

All sales reps and distributors will have their commission structures modified such that the more they sell, the less they make. Those who sell more than \$5MM per year will give a portion of their commissions to those who didn't sell squat.

Surgeon reimbursement will be inversely proportional to surgical volume.

If a surgeon is too talented and popular with patients, he/she will be required to strike that patient soundly with a stick at the end of each office visit.

This should help just about everyone rise to the middle.

A generation ago, some of the people reading this article and their forebears were called upon by mankind to help eliminate the suffering of millions of people crippled by arthritis, debilitated by back pain and hobbled by injuries.

You responded with joint replacement, spinal fusion and arthroplasty, arthroscopy and soft tissue repair and trauma technologies, and the result was that these lost souls were able to return to active lives as healthy contributors to society.

You are called upon again today, as we seek to find a way to treat the millions of new orthopaedic patients stressing the system. Only this time we're broke.

So it looks as if we are being asked to pay for the right to contribute further.

Surely there is a better solution that will not undo a century of progress in healing.

[From Kaiser Health News]

ORTHOPAEDIC INDUSTRY HAS ENJOYED FINE HEALTH

(By Julie Appleby)

WARSAW, IND.—Travis Funk, laid off a year ago from his job finishing boat interiors, hopes to land a job in a field he thinks has more promise: making artificial hips and knees for an aging population.

"I figured the best thing to do was get into the orthopaedic industry," says Funk, 29, who is taking algebra, blueprint reading and computer programming classes at Ivy Tech Community College here several nights a week. He hopes knowledge gained in the 12-month program will earn him a job in Warsaw, a small town in a lake-dotted part of rural In-

diana known as the "orthopaedic manufacturing capital of the world."

Zimmer Holdings, Biomet and DePuy Orthopaedics are based here, along with several smaller companies and suppliers. Together, they generate nearly a third of the estimated \$32 billion in global orthopaedic device sales.

For much of the past decade, times have been good for the industry, with hefty profits from steadily rising sales of its artificial hips and knees, bone screws and other devices worldwide. More than 700,000 hip and knee replacements are performed in the U.S. each year. That number could double by 2016, driven partly by osteoarthritis and other ailments, researchers told the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons' annual meeting last February.

Yet, the industry, succeeding even as some other U.S. manufacturing sectors are slumping, does face challenges:

The recession has curbed demand for orthopaedic devices worldwide as patients delay treatment, forcing layoffs at some companies.

A proposal that passed the Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday would place up to \$40 billion in new taxes on the medical device industry in the next decade.

Device makers say such a tax would stifle job growth and innovation, adding to unemployment in regions such as Warsaw. But the health overhaul proposals could also bring benefits to the area, such as helping provide subsidies so unemployed workers such as Funk could purchase health insurance.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman, Max Baucus, D-Mont, who proposed the tax, sees the levy as the device industry's fair share in helping pay legislation that could bring it millions of new insured customers.

Orthopaedic device industry profits are healthy: Zimmer Holdings and Stryker Corp. show five-year average gross profit margins of 76.5% and 68.3%, respectively, according to Thomson Reuters. Medical equipment and suppliers as a whole showed five-year gross margins of 59% compared with 45.8% for the S&P 500.

Drugmakers and hospitals have agreed to help finance part of the legislation, expected to cost more than \$800 billion over a decade, according to a Congressional Budget Office estimate.

Drugmakers, for example, agreed to what they say is an \$80 billion deal that includes cutting by half the prices they charge patients who hit a coverage gap in the Medicare drug program. Hospitals agreed to a \$155 billion cut in Medicare reimbursements over a decade.

Jeffrey Binder, president and CEO of Biomet, says the device industry faces a double whammy.

"This particular fee is completely out of proportion with what any other sector has agreed to do," he says. "It would cost our company alone \$45 million to \$50 million a year. That's equivalent of approximately 800 jobs."

In addition, device makers, who sell directly to hospitals, will be under pressure to lower their prices as hospitals attempt to absorb their own cuts related to the health care overhaul, Binder says.

NO GUARANTEES

The fate of the tax is uncertain. A number of Democrats and Republicans oppose it.

So, too, does the industry's trade group, the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed), which says the tax would be passed on to consumers in higher prices—or result in job cuts.

The \$4 billion-a-year tax on the \$130 billion medical device industry "is a devastating prospect," particularly for smaller companies, AdvaMed President and CEO Stephen

Ubl said at a news briefing in Washington on Tuesday. The industry is lobbying hard against the tax, but Ubl says it supports other elements of the legislation, such as finding new ways to compare which drugs, devices and treatments work best.

Senate Finance Committee staff, speaking to reporters Monday, said the device tax is a flat amount based on each company's market share, not product prices, a provision meant to discourage passing the fee to consumers.

The controversy about the device tax illustrates how difficult it is for lawmakers to find ways to pay for their ambitious health care ideas. For months, proposals have come and gone—and come back again—from fees on soft drinks to levies on the wealthy. A windfall-profits tax on health insurers and an excise tax on expensive individual health policies are under consideration. Device makers are just taking their turn in the hot seat.

"Congress has a not-in-my-backyard problem in health reform," says Robert Laszewski, an Alexandria, Va.-based health policy consultant. "Everyone wants it, but someone else has to pay for it."

PLUSES AND MINUSES

The health care debate in Washington might seem a long way from this community 2½ hours north of Indianapolis. But the topic is top-of-mind for the executives who run the device companies, the physicians who use the products produced in the plants, and people seeking jobs in the industry.

Funk is among the growing number of uninsured in Warsaw and its surrounding area. About 19% of people here have no health insurance, compared with 15.4% nationally, according to the most recent census data.

For Funk, the proposed tax is "a toss-up." If health reform is approved, he would likely qualify for subsidies to help him buy insurance. But the tax might make it more difficult for him to find work in the industry.

Today, device makers employ about 6,000 people in Kosciusko County, accounting for nearly 19% of the county's private-sector jobs, according to a September report from BioCrossroads, a group formed by venture capitalists and philanthropic organizations to boost the life sciences industry in Indiana.

"It's the only thing that provides a ray of sunshine in that part of the state," says Robert Guell, professor economics at Indiana State University.

Jobs run the gamut, from Ph.D. chemists to machinists. Workers at Biomet and the other plants use high-tech computerized lathes to craft hips and knees from titanium. At Zimmer, which has its own foundry workers in heat-protective suits pull molten-hot molds of joints from giant furnaces. Upstairs, scientists in nearly soundless offices research the next advance in device technology.

Medical device jobs in Kosciusko County pay well, averaging more than \$81,000 annually, according to BioCrossroads.

For a time, experienced workers were often lured from one company to another.

There was so much movement, "you almost had to keep a scorecard to know where your neighbor was working," says Thomas Krizmanich, an orthopedic surgeon who lives and works in Warsaw. He says he has to be careful not to offend patients who work for one of the three big device makers by implanting them with competitors' products.

"Every company would like you to use 100% of their product," Krizmanich says. "It can be difficult to make three companies happy."

The sagging economy has slowed job hopping—and hiring—in the past year. In August, unemployment in Kosciusko County,

which includes Warsaw, was 11.6%, vs. the national average of 9.7%, says database service Proximity. But that was far below that of neighboring Elkhart, where the jobless rate is 16%, in part due to a sharp downturn in the recreational-vehicle-building industry.

LEAVING THE AREA?

The proposed tax on device makers is not the only issue dampening future employment prospects here.

Other countries are offering huge incentives lure device makers overseas, where labor costs and other expenses may be lower.

Zimmer Holdings and Biomet already have manufacturing plants in Europe and China. And while Biomet's Binder says those plants mainly serve emerging markets, he acknowledges that some lower-skill production jobs have moved overseas.

It's unlikely that orthopedic device manufacturing will leave the USA entirely because the high-tech skills are hard to transfer, says Larry Davidson, director of the Center for the Business of Life Sciences at Indiana University.

"What has been helpful for that industry and will continue to provide jobs in the U.S. and Indiana is that it's harder for that industry to separate the technology and product development from the manufacturing," Davidson says.

Others are not so sanguine.

"It's conceivable that (device makers) could move everything eventually," says Nick Deeter, president and CEO of OrthoPediatrics, a Warsaw-based firm that develops orthopedic devices designed for children. He buys components from manufacturers based in the USA and abroad. "Machines do all the work now. Someone starts them and stops them. Even though it's a high-tech product, it doesn't take a skill." Other states and countries have tried to get Deeter to move his headquarters.

"I have a pile of business cards from companies in Ireland," he says. "Akron, Ohio, recently offered us a \$3 million grant to move." But he stayed, with the help of \$4.4 million in grants and other incentives from Indiana.

The ongoing recession means job openings in the device industry are fewer and attract many more applicants, says Melissa Denton, workforce and economic development director at Ivy Tech in Warsaw.

Enrollment in Ivy Tech's advanced orthopedic manufacturing skills training program has grown so fast, now at 400 students, that the school has had to move into larger quarters twice since last year.

Funk expects to complete his training soon, although he might pursue a two-year degree: "I just hope someone hires me."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOHMERT 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 North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY 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 Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona 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 Georgia (Mr. WESTMORELAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WESTMORELAND 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 North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. FOXX addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POSEY 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 Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) is recognized for 5 minutes. (Mrs. BACHMANN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, this evening we're going to be continuing on a familiar theme for many, probably the single issue that rivets the attention of Americans perhaps more than any single debate and discussion and, that is the change to American health care. This is not, of course, a small debate. It is a debate that involves a question of, to a large degree, whether the government is going to take over 18 percent of our economy. That's not a small section of our economy, 18 percent, nor is it a small question.

Not only economically is it a big question, every one of us has to live inside our own bodies. So it is a very personal question. We have to live inside our bodies, and we're dependent on health care, and we hope that we can continue to enjoy the high quality of health care that we have had in America.

But people recognize that there are problems with American health care. Those problems largely are not so much in the delivery of the health care but rather in how the health care is being paid for. So there are stresses in the system as to who's going to pick up the tab on it.

We've seen a lot of examples of different departments of the Federal Government. It does amaze me just in a commonsense point of view why people would really want to trust their own personal health care with any department in the Federal Government when I think of the profound inefficiencies within many departments of government.

We don't think of the post office as being a model of efficiency, the IRS as being any particular model of compassion or precision. If you think about the Energy Department, the Energy Department was founded on the idea that we had to make sure that America never had to rely on foreign sources of energy. Since that time, the Energy Department has grown in employees, and we have also grown on our dependence on foreign oil.

Then you've got, of course, the Education Department. That is a model of something that I wouldn't put my trust in. In fact, there was a study done on the Education Department some years ago that concluded that if a foreign nation had done to America what the Education Department had done, it would be viewed as an act of war.

Yet there are people in spite of this—and we've seen the Federal emergency management in response to Katrina and other departments of the Federal Government. In spite of that, people want to turn over 18 percent of our economy to the government.

Well, when the government does too much, there are some things that we tend to see as becoming problematic. One of them is that you get some inefficiencies. You could get excessive expenses, degraded quality, or bureaucratic rationing.

□ 1700

Is this something we need to worry about when we are talking about health care? Somebody quipped that if you think health care is too expensive now, just wait until it's free. We will take a look.

Here is what was proposed in the House plan, right here. It's a 1,000 page bill, but you can summarize it in this nifty flowchart. All of the colored boxes are new parts, new moving pieces.

You could see that it certainly doesn't meet the test of simplicity, that's for sure. People who have looked at this and studied it long enough say, I want to be the health care czar. He's the guy who makes all the decisions and determines who gets care and who doesn't.

Tonight, we are going to be talking on the subject of health care. A lot of new information is breaking, new estimates from the Senate as to how much their plan is going to cost and how much is going to be taken out of Medicare on that plan.

I am joined by some good friends of mine here, and I am thinking my friend GT is here. I am just going to recognize and yield to you, my friend, a Con-

gressman who has not been here that many years and yet who has already earned a reputation far in proportion to the amount of time he has served, and long on the common sense department, which I think we need a whole lot more of that common sense.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Well, I thank my good friend and, actually, 10 months, just about 10 months is what I have been here. The world I came from, actually, was the health care world. I mean, I had spent 28 years working in health care services as a therapist, health care manager in rural hospitals, licensed nursing home administrator.

I came here knowing with a commitment that we could do better with the health care system we had, that we can improve all four principles of health care: access, affordability, quality, and choice.

Mr. AKIN. Slow down just a minute now. The four basic principles of health care, do that again.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Access, affordability, quality, and choice.

By choice, I mean strengthening that vital decisionmaking relationship between the physician and the patient, and not having the government or a bureaucrat being wedged between those two.

Mr. AKIN. Doctor-patient, yes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Doctor-patient relationship, yes. I happen to think we have a pretty good system. Not that we couldn't improve on it. I came with ideas on how to do that. Unfortunately, the ideas I brought with my almost 30 years of experience have been largely ignored by the majority side, by the Democratic Party.

I find that the proposals put out there, specifically House Resolution 3200, in many ways I can find where that proposal, that the Democratic health care proposal, would make all four of those principles worse.

Mr. AKIN. That doesn't sound like a very good idea. Just probing a little bit, though, you made a comment. You said that you came here with 20-plus years of health care experience. You came here with ideas that could improve the system, and we have been accused for months, both by the President and others, as saying the Republicans don't have any ideas, yet you had quite a few ideas.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Absolutely. I am proud that, as Republicans, we have over 30 bills that we have introduced that would specifically address the different issues and the concerns that I came with, and many others, the visions of my colleagues, that I think would be good to address the health—

Mr. AKIN. Let me ask you this. Did any of your proposals—because we have been accused of this as well, did any of your proposals raid money out of Medicare?

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Absolutely not.

Mr. AKIN. Yet the Democrat proposal we were talking about 2 weeks

ago was raiding \$500 billion out of Medicare. Now, that has been scored in the Senate. It's about 400-and-something billion being taken out of Medicare to try and pay for this thing. That wasn't something you were proposing?

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. No. Especially when you are looking at proposals to raid Medicare specifically, the hospice services, people that are preparing their lives to die with dignity, to die in their own homes and places surrounded by their family and can be comforted in a way that provides that dignity to those final days. And to cut Medicare in that area is just wrong.

I think that what I find most interesting about that proposal to cut Medicare to fund this new large government-run program, sweeping government-run program, is that it's, in my experience, as I look at the issues surrounding—and this is some of the things I came with—the issues surrounding a wide commercial health insurance is so expensive, and it is in many places.

The average health insurance pays, nationwide, 140 percent of cost to hospitals and to physicians. The reason for that is—there are many reasons, and we will talk about them this evening, like tort reform, but the other reason is Medicare. It's medical assistance.

Medicare pays, on the average, 90 percent of the costs. For every dollar of costs a hospital has or a physician has, Medicare pays 90 cents. For every dollar of cost that a hospital or a physician has, medical assistance pays, varies State by State, but 40 to 60 cents. Within our health care system, because the government set up these entitlements and soon found that it couldn't sustain them, couldn't afford them and begins to systematically underpay them, we look to commercial insurance to make up the difference.

It's interesting that Medicare is the reason, I think, one of the primary reasons why commercial insurance is as expensive as it is, yet the proposal is to make more Medicare cuts.

Mr. AKIN. Here, this is a chart of these three big entitlements. People talk sometimes about earmarks and other stuff about Federal spending. But the real story about the Federal budget being broken is really within these three big entitlements. All of them, you can see, are growing out of control over time: Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security.

Now, as these things grow, what you are saying is, in spite of the fact it's costing a ton, there is still not enough money in those programs to really pay for what the medical costs are. We are now taking money out of the private sector or from other sources to help subsidize these things that don't work.

Now, you are a commonsense guy. It seems to me that if we have Medicare and Medicaid that are financially broken, the solution to say, well, we are going have the government take over all of that and a lot more, that almost defies common sense.

You know, we are joined by a gentleman whose sagacity and also years of service on the floor are about legendary. Congressman SOUDER, I would appreciate you joining. I think of these as kind of a dinner conversation. Let's just talk about what we have got going on. This is something that Americans care about all across our country, and I think we need to have enough time to talk about it, take a look at it, and to say just say rationally what's the right thing for us to be doing.

Mr. SOUDER. Right, and you have taken the lead here on the floor. Trying to make sure we present this, I have got a couple of specific points, but one, which you are doing through this, is at a minimum, the public needs to know what's in the bill, and the thought that something may come here without 72 hours to read it, which is not a long time, is just abhorrent.

Mr. AKIN. This is not really a particularly subtle point, yet the American public understands this. They would like us to read the bill. It's really hard to read the bill when the bill we are debating and voting on is still being collated up here, like the cap-and-tax bill that we had with 300 amendments passed at 3 o'clock in the morning.

Your point is well taken. First of all, it would be a good idea to see what the bill is before we vote on it. It seems like a straightforward point.

Mr. SOUDER. The other body passed a Senate Finance bill, which has correctly been called a conceptual bill, that we heard the budget estimates of that bill. But as they said in the notes, in their report, you can't hold us accountable for these estimates because the bill doesn't specify how they are going to achieve certain savings, doesn't specify how certain things are going to be paid for, doesn't specify exactly what they are covering. It doesn't give enough specifics.

Even when you are taking over this big a sector of the economy, 1,000 pages is like a sneeze at this problem. There has to be not only 72 hours to read it, but we need to actually see a real bill, not a conceptual bill.

Now, there are a couple of things. Our friend from Pennsylvania alluded to this one. We have had this huge controversy about the so-called death counselors that are clearly in the bill to do counseling in the last 5 years of life and if your condition deteriorates. Many of us are strong supporters of hospice care. I think a lot of people thought this was for hospice care, but they are getting cut 18 percent. I just read a letter from someone in my district that says we don't know how our hospice care can survive with these cuts. What is the point of these counselors if you are wiping out the hospice care?

No wonder some people are a tad paranoid. I don't know what it means. How can we know what it means? What we know is it looks like they are rationing because they are cutting off services to Medicare.

Mr. AKIN. This is death care?

Mr. SOUDER. Well, it says they will present all the alternatives. But I assume that the real intent around that was to promote hospice care. But if they are cutting hospice care, and the hospice centers don't know what they are doing and you are rationing certain life supports, and if they are talking about how much is spent in the last years of life, this is really disturbing stuff.

That's why we have to read the bill. We have to know precisely what's in it. What do you mean when you put that kind of stuff in?

Where that section was on our House bill referred back to the Social Security act. It didn't even fit. The counseling part didn't even fit. Nothing else in there was counseling. It was things like liver and all this kind of stuff. It was incredibly sloppily written. It will be forever litigated.

It seems to set up a pattern where you are going to be counseled and given a different alternative from hospice to euthanasia. You are going to be told you are going to get things reduced, or at least they should disclose that. But if there is no hospice that can survive, particularly in the smaller markets—which brings up another critical point. The cardiologists were here on the Hill just a couple of weeks ago.

Mr. AKIN. As you talk, what comes to my mind, as I am hearing you talk, is basically a form of rationing that's really diabolical, a sort of rationing that says, well, you can take a bottle of aspirin or what. I am getting to be an old codger at 62, but if I were older, I would be even more paranoid, I think, from what I am hearing you say was in the bill.

Mr. SOUDER. The challenge here is that people are confused. You hear the President or others say it's not in the bill, then you hear the Republicans make an allegation.

Here is the thing. It doesn't specify, A, if we could read the bill, but what we see doesn't specify. What it does say is there will be counseling. In another section it says there's going to be savings, which implies rationing, and in another section—or implementing and procedures, a cut for hospice care.

In another part of it it says, the first part says 5 years. Nobody knows exactly what that means, every 5, once in 5, not explained. Then later it says if you have a condition change. When you put those together, you come to a logical conclusion.

But then the other side goes, well, it's not in the bill. Well, not precisely, but it's in there in five different places, and there is no other way to resolve it. There has to be some kind of unit that has to put this together to make these kinds of decisions.

In this waste and abuse, one of the questions is what does waste and abuse mean.

The cardiologists were in the other week, and the oncologists the week before that, because they were concerned

because they have started to implement some of these procedures. What we hear is that, well, if there is waste and abuse, why aren't we checking it right now.

Well, they are defining waste and abuse as underutilization of equipment. What does underutilization of a heart machine mean? What does underutilization of a heart center mean? What does nonefficient usage of oncology machines mean?

In Indiana, what it means is everybody goes to Indianapolis. You are going to close your heart centers in Fort Wayne because you have a utilization of 44 percent, not the 80 they are mandating. It means South Bend, Evansville, northwest. In Missouri, maybe you get Kansas City and St. Louis.

We had a number of Russian health care administrators in my district as well as people from the Duma a number of years ago. We took them to some of our hospital systems. They said we have seen most of this stuff in Moscow. What's unusual even in the United States is that even in towns of 15,000 you have hospitals like we have in our big cities.

When we hear about lines in Canada and England, it's partly because, to be efficient, they have people drive 200 miles to a heart center, and they get to pay the mileage. They get to pay for the motel. They get to go back for repeat visits and the cost to them. That's not savings of waste and abuse; that's transferring the fees to individuals.

What we have right now is a dispersed health care system that brings it closer to home with what we call RediMeds in our area. You have blended regional hospitals feeding up to bigger hospitals. They seem to think that these savings are going to become like they were trying to do in the veterans hospital system in Indiana and make everybody go to the biggest city in the State.

Mr. AKIN. What strikes me, gentleman, and your points are very, very, well taken, currently full of waste and abuse. It's almost like you have a line item on a budget that says waste and abuse and so many million dollars. I mean, if you had that, you take that line item off the budget. Well, what exactly does waste and abuse mean?

We were just talking to cardiologists today that came in. They explained the kinds of equipment they have in their office. From a practical point of view, if you are a cardiologist, it's like what used to be a stethoscope. A doctor hung it around his neck. He might not have used it all the time, but he needed it on a fairly regular basis.

Their stethoscopes now are far more sophisticated, but they use them all the time. Not all time, but they have to have them immediately available to do their job. As you say, that allows them to provide service reasonably close where people live, and it allows them to do it right in the office. Particularly, it provides the fact you don't

have to wait weeks and weeks to get some particular checkup.

That is the weak underbelly of the socialized medical systems in England and Canada, because you take a look at things like cancer, you don't want to wait weeks and weeks. If you have got melanoma, you want to get it and you want to get it now. If you have got heart disease, you want to get it now.

□ 1715

I just went through this with my father. He got a new heart doctor. His old heart doctor wasn't paying too much attention. His new heart doctor took a look at him, took a look at his meds and said you need to get a chemical stress test. When he got that, he said you need to get an angioplasty thing. So they go in and look around with that. They said when you get that, you need to get a heart bypass, which turned out was a seven-way heart bypass. When he got done with that, 4 days later he is home. Total period of time, less than 3 weeks from the time he went in to see the doctor until he had a seven-way heart bypass and was home from the hospital.

That is the American medical system, because it can react quickly and rapidly to something that if you let it go is going to be life threatening. That is what you are talking about.

So this waste and abuse, we have seen where some of this supposed waste and abuse is coming from; \$500 billion out of Medicare. I know Republicans have been accused for years of being people who want to cut Medicare. Here we have got the Obama plan, we are going to get the money out of Medicare.

In fact, you made the point, gentleman, that we hear these conflicting claims and people say, Well, what's the truth?

Here's what you need to know: "First, I'll not sign a plan that adds one dime to our deficits, either now or in the future." This is our President. He says he is not going to add a dime to our deficits. Guaranteed, first thing. Well, let's take a look at the track record since the beginning of the year.

Deficits. We are talking trillions of dollars worth of deficits here. Here is the Wall Street bailout, the second half of that. Economic stimulus. If you don't vote for this, you might have over 8 percent unemployment. So all these liberals voted for this thing, \$787 billion, mostly in handouts and welfare types of things; and now we have got, whatever it is, 9 percent unemployment.

Mr. SOUDER. Maybe he meant that he wasn't going to add one dime, that he was going to add a couple of trillion.

Mr. AKIN. Maybe that's what he meant, it wasn't a dime, it would be trillions of dollars. But this doesn't give us any record to be comfortable with. This assertion doesn't square with what our history is.

Now, there have been a number of other assertions. This is what makes people confused.

First, if you are among the hundreds of millions of Americans who already have health insurance through your job, Medicare or Medicaid or the VA, nothing in this plan will require you or your employer to change the coverage or the doctor you have. The President is saying this. You get to keep what you have got. If you like what you've got, you can keep it.

Yet here you have an MIT health economist, with or without reform, that won't be true. His point is that the government is not going to force you to give up what you have, but that is not to say that other circumstances won't make that happen. Essentially, what happens is the government gets into the insurance business, the other privates all close down, and you only have one choice: you have got to go to the government.

So one thing you are hearing, you can keep what you have. In fact, here is a guy from outside that doesn't have a dog in the fight, he says that is not how it's going to work.

Here, this is a section, the doctor-patient relationship. If there is anything important in medicine, it is the doctor-patient relationship. This is an amendment that was offered by Dr. GINGREY from Georgia, one of our friends and colleagues. Here is his amendment:

"Nothing in this section shall be construed to allow any Federal employee or political appointee," that is bureaucrat or whatever, "to dictate how a medical provider practices medicine."

In other words, we are going to enshrine the doctor-patient relationship. We are going to make it clear that when a doctor and patient decide on a particular procedure, we are going to proceed. Nobody is going to get in the way. Not only do we not want the insurance company getting in the way; we don't want any bureaucrats.

So he puts this amendment up and it goes to a vote in committee. Most people don't know this amendment went to a vote in committee and here is the result: 23 Republicans say, yeah, we want to leave that doctor-patient relationship sacred. And where were the Democrats? Thirty-two of them voted against this, only one voting for it. So what confidence does that give you that we're not going to get a rationed health care system? And yet we're saying whatever you have, you can keep it. We've had these claims and counter-claims, and I think it's important for us to let the American public shed some light on this. This is what people are saying.

I've got some other charts, but I want to go to my good friend from Pennsylvania. I yield.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I appreciate that, and I thank my good friend.

I want to come back to the waste and abuse claim, that in addition to obviously significant taxes, that there's all these savings under waste and abuse. It's being presented and proposed by the Democratic Party like this is something new that we're looking at.

I have to tell you that I was working in health care in 1983 when diagnostic-related groups and the first prospective payment system came into health care. Soon after that, we began to hear about and work on eliminating fraud and abuse. Professionally and ethically, that's a responsibility that health care professionals have to do. The fact is that is something that has been ongoing. So now this claim that we're going to find these massive amounts of money as a result of waste and abuse that we can use and save and help to fund this government-run health care program is just false, absolutely false.

Now I do think there's waste in health care, and I can point to annually \$26 billion. We can take \$26 billion annually, and we can find that like this if we had the courage of my colleagues on that side of the aisle to address medical malpractice.

Mr. AKIN. Gentleman, you've got all of our curiosity up. How can we get \$26 billion? You say there is a line item of \$26 billion that you could work on.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. There are line items in physician budgets, in hospital budgets; and we could eliminate that cost to health care today by passing medical malpractice tort reform.

Mr. AKIN. Oh, tort reform.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Tort reform. Premiums annually in this country are paid in the amount of \$26 billion. The average award under malpractice is \$4.1 million in this country. And so there's a line item that actually is in health care budgets and all the providers across this Nation that we could take that money—and we've got great proposals. The Republicans have H.R. 3400 that's out there that would address tort reform, that would do it in a way that would limit punitive damages. It would set up panels to be able to deal with those situations using judges that have health care experience.

So we have bills out there that if we could get our colleagues' support tomorrow or today, we could actually eliminate what I consider \$26 billion of waste from health care.

Mr. AKIN. I think my friend from Indiana had a comment on that. I yield.

Mr. SOUDER. I beg to differ just slightly. While that's the amount that people pay, what I hear from doctors in my district—and we have MedPro, which is one of the biggest insurers of doctors—that that's just part of the cost of defensive medicine. After the doctors are told to keep your insurance down, make sure they get an MRI if they're questioning at all rather than extra x rays so they can't sue you, make sure you do this extra test, that doesn't count all the things that they do to try to avoid their rates from going up. We don't know what the cap is.

The problem with the studies that claim you don't save as much from tort reform by those who are proponents of

it literally do not take into account what doctors are saying in their daily practice of things that they wouldn't do at the margins if they didn't think there was a potential of being sued that would drive up the rates.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Will the gentleman yield for one quick point?

Mr. AKIN. Yes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. There was a recent study done just in Pennsylvania that showed that 93 percent of physicians in Pennsylvania practice some form of defensive medicine. Ninety-three percent, for that very reason. You invest \$200,000 to a half a million dollars in a medical education career and then because of these lawsuits and because of medical malpractice and the lack of tort reform, you're at risk of losing not just your practice but your family's home. I understand why defensive medicine occurs. We've got the solution. H.R. 3400 would address that.

Mr. AKIN. We've been talking about how do you deal with some of the different questions in health care. What has just been illustrated here is the fact that Republicans do have a number of ideas. One of those is tort reform. You're not talking about the fact that if a doctor makes a mistake that the patient shouldn't be made whole; but what you're talking about is this wild, punitive damage kind of thing which just introduces such a wild card for the insurance companies that they run the cost of insurance up and then the doctors practice all this defensive medicine, which my friend from Indiana is pointing out as well; and any doctor you talk to will explain that that's just standard. We don't necessarily like it, but politically the Democrat Party doesn't want to allow dealing with that tort reform.

Now, the President did make a comment about it, and it is kind of the elephant in the room, but it's a big cost to health care that could be dealt with.

We're joined also by my good friend from Louisiana, Congressman SCALISE. Please join us.

Mr. SCALISE. I want to thank my friend from Missouri for hosting this and for helping to continue this debate to really get the facts out about some of the dangers of the proposal being brought by President Obama, Speaker PELOSI and others to really have a government takeover of health care. I agree with most Americans in this country who recognize that there are problems in the system but also recognize that with those problems we still have some of the best medical care in the world and we surely don't want to see the government come in and take over health care and destroy the things that work all in the name of fixing the very specific things that are broke.

If you talk about medical liability reform, doctors will tell you that many of the tests, maybe a third of all of the tests and procedures that are run on people, are just purely in defense of

trying to avoid a frivolous lawsuit. Experts will tell you you could save about a hundred billion dollars—billion with a B—a year in medical savings just by doing something to eliminate the frivolous lawsuits and address medical liability reform which, as my friend from Pennsylvania points out, we do in the bill that I'm a cosponsor, many of us are cosponsors of, H.R. 3400.

Not only that, for Americans who have to go through these tests and procedures that they know they don't have to go through and they wonder, why do I have to go through these CAT scans and these other tests that my doctor really doesn't think I need but because he's afraid of a lawsuit, I've got to spend the extra time and the extra money.

Outside groups have now come and just earlier this week, Pricewaterhouse said that the bill being brought by President Obama and others in Congress would add another \$1,700 a year to the average American family's health insurance cost.

Mr. AKIN. Wait a minute now. You got my attention. The average American family, the proposal that's being offered is it's going to add \$1,700 more a year for the cost of their medical insurance?

Mr. SCALISE. That's exactly what the Pricewaterhouse study says.

Mr. AKIN. Isn't that the new study on the Democrat Senate plan? Isn't that where that was done?

Mr. SCALISE. Right. Because as we're getting more information on this bill that just passed out of the Senate, they still won't put the legislative text out there, and I think we should have at least 72 hours where the bill is available online so that not only Members of Congress but all Americans can read it, but also as they're starting to research and look at all of these taxes.

The Democrat bill in the Senate has \$400 billion in new taxes that would be passed on to American families. The House bill has \$800 billion in new taxes. All of that will raise the cost of health care.

Mr. AKIN. Let's talk about cost. You've got \$400 billion in new taxes, and you're going to take another 400 or \$500 billion out of Medicare. So right off the bat when you say, Here's this new piece of legislation, what do I get for it, well, first of all, \$400 billion in taxes, 400 or \$500 billion out of Medicare. That's something, just as we started talking. It raises this kind of commonsense question: You've got over a hundred million Americans that have insurance and doctors and health care that they like pretty well, and they don't really want to change; they're content with what they've got, and in order to try to fix what problem, you've got somewhere between 10 and 20 or 10 and 30 million who don't have health care, maybe could afford it but don't. And so in order to do the 10 or 20, you're going to basically take apart the system for a hundred, which also raises kind of a commonsense question, too. I just don't quite see that.

There are a lot of claims going on. Here's one:

"There are also those who claim that our reform effort will insure illegal immigrants. This is false. The reforms I'm proposing would not apply to those who are here illegally." This is the President. This is his claim. But let's take a look and see, well, what does the fine print say.

This is the Congressional Research Service. This is a nonpartisan group. They've studied the bill that the President was talking about. They say:

Health insurance exchange would begin operation in 2013 and would offer private plans alongside public option. H.R. 3200—that's Speaker PELOSI's bill—does not contain any restriction on noncitizens. It does not contain any restrictions on noncitizens, whether legally or illegally present or in the United States temporarily or permanently participating in this exchange.

Mr. SOUDER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. AKIN. Yes, I do yield.

Mr. SOUDER. Can you imagine the outrage in America if liquor stores posted on their door, No IDs checked here? If you went to a gas station where we assume that tobacco cannot be sold to minors but you had a sign that said no IDs checked here, would you believe that the liquor store or the place selling the tobacco isn't going to sell to minors? On what basis? In effect, what we're telling them in this bill, no IDs checked here, so how do you know?

Mr. AKIN. Isn't that amazing? This is why Americans to some degree are upset. They're upset about the points you made. They would like us to have 72 hours to at least look at a bill and read it.

□ 1730

And then, they're not too fond of the idea they're going to get cracked for \$400 billion or \$500 billion taken out of Medicare. Certainly senior citizens aren't too fond of that. Some people don't like the idea of having to pay for illegal immigrants' health care services. This is very clear from the Congressional Research Service that what the President said just flat isn't true.

And if that were not enough for you, here's an amendment by one of our colleagues, Congressman HELLER. This is another one of these amendments that takes place in committees where people don't see it so much. This is going to clarify this statement that the President made. In order to utilize the public health insurance option, an individual must have had his or her eligibility determined and approved under the Income Eligibility Verification System, IEVS, and the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlement, SAVE programs under section 1137 of the Social Security Act.

So, in other words, what we're saying is, we're going to make sure, we're going to card you at the liquor store. When you buy those cigarettes, we're

going to card you. That's what this amendment says. You notice it says "failed" down here at the bottom. It failed why? Well, because here's the Republicans. They all voted for it. Here's the Democrats. They all voted against it. There are more Democrats so this amendment is history.

So the President says, we're not going to have any illegal immigrants, but, in fact, the Congressional Research Service and this amendment and the vote on this amendment bears testimony that that just isn't true.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. AKIN. I do yield to my good friend from Pennsylvania.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I'm not sure which committee this is representative of, but I serve on the Education and Labor Committee. And in that approximate period of time of around July 16th, the next to the last week in July, we were also presented with H.R. 3200, and we were presented with it and went into within 48 hours of when we were given the first copy, which was 500 pages of the bill, and then that was on a Wednesday. The very next day, on Thursday, we started bill markup, which is an important event around this place. It's where we make substantive changes to bills. And at that point, the bill had grown, with a manager's amendment, to over 1,000 pages. And we started a marathon markup that started at 10 a.m. on a Thursday and was driven by the leadership of the Democratic party until 5 a.m. on Friday, 20 hours. I can't tell you the—

Mr. AKIN. Till 5 'o clock in the morning?

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. 5 'o clock in the morning. I can't tell you—you can imagine what the quality of work was after about 11 p.m. But some time during those wee hours of the early morning, probably between 1 and 3 a.m. I specifically remember that amendment coming up and being debated, and debated passionately, that we have a responsibility to the American citizens to be able to be good stewards of the resources that are here that we have as a country, and that we have the responsibility of overseeing. And I remember that amendment, and specifically how it was defeated, along a party line, with all the Republicans voting for that amendment and the Democrats opposing it.

Mr. AKIN. This is the illegal immigrants getting access to the money of Americans that are paying money for health care.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. That is correct.

Mr. AKIN. I do yield to my friend from Indiana.

Mr. SOUDER. Also as a member of the Labor Committee, my friend from Pennsylvania and myself and probably three others, I thought, were actually very articulate in arguing some of these amendments at 3 in the morning. Our audience wasn't very big. You

know, when people say, oh, what happened, why didn't you guys—I mean, the only place we can offer amendments usually is committee. We don't get to offer them here on the floor.

Mr. AKIN. Just for some people that might not be familiar with the way the House works, when this bill, this medical bill, whatever it is that the Democrats come up with, it comes to the floor, they're not going to let us offer any of the amendments that are going to be in any way embarrassing or debate them or discuss them. It's going to be a take-it-or-leave-it. The train is leaving; either get on or stand on the platform with your hat in your hand.

Mr. SOUDER. Putting aside that that may be why they don't bother to let us read the bill, because we can't amend it anyway, that you would think that there would at least be some public responsibility to give us 72-hour notice. In committee, we didn't get 72 hours. As my friend from Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON, has pointed out, it was just, I mean, we got it basically when we sat down, the final bill. Then we're debating it in the middle of the night, which the other party said was shameful when the Republicans held a vote because of the debate which was actually on the floor. We don't do debates in the middle of the night anymore because we don't do debates, we don't offer amendments.

But in the amendments in committee, the amendments on pro life, the amendments on trying to check ID, the amendments on a lot of these controversial provisions, nobody got to see the very eloquent debate. I thought we were pretty eloquent at 3 in the morning. You know, I took a little offense. I thought we were fairly good but nobody will witness it.

Mr. AKIN. Well, let's just review a few of those amendments. The first thing is, you don't want illegal immigrants to be tapping into the money for the health care. Another one was saying we weren't going to use health care to pay for abortions. So that was one that, I mean, a lot of Americans are thinking, I don't really want my—whether you're for or against abortions, I'm not sure I want my money being used to give people free abortions. And then there was a question about the doctor-patient relationship. Are we going to ration health care with bureaucrats, some calculator, some computer that says, well, at your age and at this and such, you don't get any?

And so you've got an amendment that says that you're going to have a doctor-patient relationship that is going to be sacred, and that you're going to allow the doctor and patient to make medical decisions. All those amendments offered in committee go down on a straight party-line vote.

Mr. SOUDER. Another one for a second that you referred to earlier. That, you know, people can say things. We can stand up and say whatever we want. But when you vote it's your action. And in the action—

Mr. AKIN. A vote isn't an opinion. It's a hard and historic fact, yes.

Mr. SOUDER. Keep your own insurance, keep insurance the way it is? No. It was defeated. We had one that said catastrophic plus an HSA. That means that you could get flexibility to get catastrophic coverage that could be provided by the firm; they give you money so you get an HSA, and then if you want pregnancy coverage you could cover pregnancy. If you were older—like, we're probably not going to have any more babies; it would be a big shock if we did, since I am 59, about to turn 60, and my wife's similar. Much younger of course, but similar. I'm going to get killed when I get home. The bottom line is that we may not want pregnancy coverage, so why can't we get a health policy that's customized? Defeated.

You know, this idea that the Senate bill in their talking points today says they're going to allow you to keep your own insurance. And then further down it says all these new things will be added. Mandatory. By the way, that wouldn't be your insurance. If your insurance doesn't have it, that's not your insurance. Your company would have to either raise the prices or drop your policy. If they're dictating, that's not your own insurance.

Mr. AKIN. And that's one of the talking points as we talked to one of the Senators this morning about the new—because we're getting information about what the Senate is doing, and that was one of their things—it reduces health choices. I think the whole point of the policy is Americans don't all necessarily want the same policy. You know, if you've got a medical savings account, which is something that we have supported, so you can put money aside to cover different things, and you've got a lot of money in that medical savings account, the insurance you may want would be what we used to call a major medical policy. It covers the great big things, but the smaller stuff, you can say, hey, I can afford to take a thousand or \$2,000 hit because I've got enough money in my medical savings account that I don't need to pay for a policy that covers everything.

Somebody else who's just starting, and maybe they're a little bit worried about they just can't take anything, they're going to want a policy that covers a lower deductible. And depending—as you made eloquently clear, one size doesn't fit all. It's not the, You can have any car you want as long as it's black. We've got choices in America. And what this Democrat Senate plan, and it is Democrat, does—there's only, huge news, one Republican, just one, that ventured to vote for this thing; everybody else is against it—it reduces health choices. That's not the way you save money, and it's not the way you provide good health care. Very good points, gentleman. I yield to my friend from Pennsylvania.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Well, what you're talking about is actually an amendment that I offered in

the Education and Labor Committee to bar the exchange, the health insurance exchange, which essentially allows this new health insurance commissioner to dictate the terms for your private insurance policies. Exactly what my good friend from Indiana was talking about. Specifically, what would be required, as opposed to a consumer in a free market, where I choose what's best for me and my family, a government bureaucrat would dictate if my insurance policy qualifies or not within this exchange. And again, that's an amendment we offered up to eliminate the exchange from H.R. 3200 within the Education and Labor Committee. And that was defeated along party lines.

Mr. AKIN. Another party-line vote. Just amazing, isn't it? Well, you know, if you take a look at what the Senate is talking about doing, you can understand why there's this amazing gap, because the public opinion polls are showing that people are not very comfortable with what we're talking about jumping into, and for the sake of whatever it is, 10 or 20 million people, destroying the health care of 100 million.

And this, these are some of the costs: It raises premiums, and it reduces the health choices which we've been talking about. Those health choices are very important. It delays or denies care. This thing here, delaying and denying care, as a cancer survivor, I understand the importance of this because if you don't get it and get it quick, you're a goner. And so this idea of rationing and postponing and having to wait in queues, which is endemic in England and Canada, that's something that we don't—that's a high cost.

We've got some other costs here. We've been joined by my good friend from Iowa, Congressman KING, and I imagine you might have a few thoughts on these subjects as well.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Well, I thank the gentleman from Missouri for holding this special order. And as I hear the word Iowa, I look across that list and I see \$500 billion in Medicare cuts. And we know that nationwide, Medicare reimbursement rates, the services provided under Medicare, are only compensated under the schedule we have today at about 80 percent of the cost of delivering that care.

And if you look around the country where you have concentrations of seniors, we know that's where the Medicare dollars go. And my district of Iowa, as a State, has the highest percentage of its population that's over the age of 85. And we're in the top six or seven over the age of 65. So we actually do pretty good on the longevity side. And in 99 counties in Iowa, 10 of the 12 most senior counties in Iowa are in my district, so I may well represent the most senior congressional district in America.

And I'm standing here looking at this data that's been out here now for probably 2 months, a half a trillion dollars in Medicare cuts, Medicare cuts. And the administration takes the position

that they're going to find waste, fraud, and abuse. But it's odd that if they know where the waste, fraud and abuse is, why do you have to bargain to get a socialized medicine program in order to go after the waste, fraud and abuse? If you find waste, fraud and abuse in government, don't keep it secret, Mr. President. Tell me where it is. We'll find it here in Congress.

And that's one of my concerns is that you can't bargain that. If it's good policy, eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse is always good policy. You don't hold it out and say, I've got a secret. It's in the envelope—karnak predicts that if you pass my national health care plan, I can find you billions of dollars worth of savings. But taking it out of our senior citizens' pockets. And it's so interesting to me that I remember my junior Senator, TOM HARKIN, had a political campaign that resolved around a statement that he made, he referenced \$6 billion, and he said, Well that's just pencil dust. And so his opponent walked around with a man-sized pencil the whole campaign showing \$6 billion is not pencil dust.

But I recall the spokesperson for the AARP sitting on a national cable news program, referring to the half a trillion dollars in Medicare cuts, now it does sound like more when it's \$500 billion in Medicare cuts, referring to it as a small percentage of the overall outlays. Half a trillion dollars, a small percentage of the overall outlays. That's one of the pieces of the bullets that you have there.

Mr. AKIN. I'd just like to cut in a little bit on you, gentleman. When you've raised this point that Medicare pays for whatever it is, 80 or 90 percent of the actual cost of a procedure. So what that's saying is, whenever a doctor treats a Medicare patient, what's really happening is there's more cost than actually is being paid by Medicare. So what that means is at a certain point, if you were to reduce what Medicare is paying, there's going to come a point where a doctor says, enough already. I just can't afford to cover any more Medicare patients because, guess what, I'm going to have to cover some other patients, and I'm going to have to charge them 120 percent to make up for the 80 percent over here because we're cost shifting.

So, in other words, what's happening is somebody is having to pay more. So now what we're going to do is take \$500 billion out of this. And what's that mean? Somebody else is going to have to pay more.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I think that you are just going down a line, a road that is so important in this debate. It really comes back to where we started talking about rationing. And the ultimate form of rationing, to me, is where you have to close hospitals, especially in a congressional district like mine, and probably a number of my colleagues here are very rural; to get to another hospital when one closes is a commute that makes a

difference between life and death. Hospitals, rural hospitals, and I'm sure underserved urban hospitals in particular, they have a banner year when they make a margin of 1 to 3 percent—1 to 3 percent.

Mr. AKIN. That's not a lot of fat.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. No. Because out of that 1 to 3 percent, hopefully they're able to give some type of cost-of-living adjustments to keep the best and the brightest in terms of physicians and therapists and nurses and health care professionals.

□ 1745

They also need to be investing in new lifesaving technology that is being developed all the time. And so we see these Medicare cuts in particular.

I also put out there the public option, because the public option will pay by statute, what I saw in the Education and Labor Committee, pays Medicare rates 80 to 90 cents on the dollar of costs, essentially what you will do is bankrupt hospitals and physicians. And I project that that will hit first in rural America and underserved urban areas.

That's rationing. When you close facilities, when physicians no longer are in practice because they can't balance their books, that is the purest form of rationing services.

Mr. AKIN. Rationing is something we need to give some thought to.

My good friend from Indiana.

Mr. SOUDER. There's one point I wanted to make sure I got in here tonight, because part of my district is stunned today. The Senate Finance bill yesterday is proposing a tax that ranges from 10 to 30 percent on the medical device industry. Now, when we talk about Medicare, what we're really talking about is they cover not quite variable costs, but cover no mixed costs, and no fixed costs for hospitals or for reimbursement of other things. Private pay pays for the rest of it. And what this bill is in danger of is squeezing or taxing out private pay.

Now what I hear often is why can't we just all go to the Medicare system? The Medicare system, people who are alive today wouldn't be alive if it were based on Medicare reimbursements because the pharmaceuticals wouldn't have been made. The hip replacements that they have, the shoulder replacements, the knees wouldn't have been invented, because the key is R&D. Lilly in Indianapolis, at one point, 60 percent of their profits were from Prozac. Every other drug that was invented was funded with R&D from that. But if they attach an R&D fixed amount to a particular drug, there will be no excess profits with which to experiment.

The orthopedics industry, according to OrthoKnow, an article by John Engelhardt that was just released shows that the tax on the orthopedic, a little town of Warsaw, 15,000 people in that county, is one-third of the orthopedics industry in the world in my district. Three of the five biggest, they

own the biggest companies in Europe, they are looking if this tax goes through and how they move out. This is one when we move up the ladder, we say we're not going to just flip hamburgers, we're going to go up, we're not going to do commodities, we're going to go higher, and then we get up to the higher areas, and we tax them.

Here is Zimmer, the biggest, based in Warsaw. Their R&D budget was \$194 million. The tax under the Senate bill is 94.7. Stryker—

Mr. AKIN. Wait. Wait. You're going too fast for me. This is absolutely incredible. What you're saying is one of the most brilliant parts of American health care has been the innovation, has been all the new drugs, the new devices, the new procedures. As I mentioned, I'm 62 now. I have gotten to be an old geezer, and my left hip has been giving me trouble. You see me limping around, and I'm going to be looking at a hip replacement. Those weren't available 25, 30 years ago.

Mr. SOUDER. Commodities. The head and founder of Biomet, Dane Miller, talks about in here, they didn't think titanium was going to work. He had somebody serendipitously put into his arm titanium. He walked around with it for 12 years and proved it worked. And they said, wow, this doesn't disintegrate. They used to use basic pieces of wood as your hip. Now we customize it. We try to make it so that when soldiers get hurt on the battlefield and they are 18 years old, they're not going to die in 5 years. Is this going to be flexible enough? How is the skin and bone going to go around it? Michael Porter points out, innovation comes when you have a cluster and there's competition. You destroy that, you take away the R&D. Medicare doesn't pay for that. Private pay pays for that.

Furthermore, Zimmer is proposed to be taxed half. Stryker is proposed to be taxed half. Smith & Nephew is proposed to be taxed half of their R&D budget. Biomet, \$82.2 million in research; \$60.9 million is their tax. Because they were doing readjustments last year, they didn't even make any money.

Now, how do you think we are going to have a single innovation in orthopedics if you tax half of the R&D? And furthermore, they don't call it a "tax," they call it a "fee," so it is not even tax deductible.

Mr. AKIN. So what I'm hearing you say, gentleman, then, is this. Let's just assume if you're a company, for every dollar you put into R&D, you get the same benefit out. You're saying you're going to slash the R&D budget of some of the big innovators in medicine; you're going to slash it by half because you're going to tax them?

Mr. SOUDER. The little ones get hit harder.

Mr. AKIN. Now England and Canada have had this socialized medicine for years. Are they known for the innovation that those countries have added to health care?

Mr. SOUDER. They come here.

Mr. AKIN. They come here?

Mr. SOUDER. When they need a new hip, the inventions are coming out of Warsaw, Indiana. The parts groups that work at some little companies like OrthoPediatrics, they're working on specialized hips for kids who are 4 years old and 6 years old. Are they going to go to Wal-Mart and pick one up off the shelf? Let's get real here.

Innovation requires competition. It requires investment. The way you keep a cluster, according to Michael Porter in "The Competitive Advantage of Nations," when you have a cluster, you need competition. There has to be innovation every week, how can I get better? And that's driven by profit and by competition.

R&D in England is one of the highest in the world, yet they don't produce new products because the government is most of the R&D. It's not driven for what the consumer wants where the consumer basically rewards the market. And we are going to tax these little ones totally out and the big ones half, and we simply aren't going to get the products. So we don't have the option of going to Canada and England to get it.

Mr. AKIN. So what you're saying, gentleman, is you're going to kill R&D. You're going to kill the development. There are all kinds of people that have cancer that is ticking away slowly. They want some innovation. They are hoping some new drugs or some new procedures are going to come along. We're going to kill that. We're going to get rid of that, and we're going to go to a system that has never worked historically.

Here is a chart. This kind of got my attention, because as I mentioned, I was diagnosed with cancer, but take a look at the cancer survivor rates when you go to the U.K. compared to the U.S., and what you see is that big waiting time and that lack of innovation. You don't live as long when you are over in the U.K. In fact, I was told that when you add up all the cancer times, U.K.'s is a 50 percent survival rate if you're diagnosed with cancer. In the States, it's supposedly considerably higher. So why do we want to destroy a system that is producing this level of innovation?

What you are talking about is free enterprise. And free enterprise needs, first of all, to have people have enough money to be able to invest; and second of all, have that competition and that hub of technology that you're starting to drive and one guy is thinking. Hey, I see what they did. That was a cool device. But I think I could up it one. I could do it even better. And that American process is what has allowed us to enjoy the best health care in the world. If you're a rich sheikh from Bahrain and you're sick, guess where you're going to go? The good old U.S.A.

My good friend from Iowa.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Missouri, and I look at

this data that is there. You didn't read the text below that, the success story here in America in proportion, but U.S. companies have developed half of all new major medicines introduced worldwide over the past 20 years. It happens to also be true that in the United States slightly more than half of the research dollars in the entire world are invested here. Those things are not coincidences. Those things come together. It's almost directly proportional to the research dollars. I'd like to think we are a little better than that. I'd like to think that we have innovative skills and there's something within our culture and our mindset that lets us push even a little harder than that. But what we're hearing from the gentleman from Indiana is that this policy punishes the very most successful among us in this country, and it's likely to drive them overseas.

I had a long conversation with a representative from one of the large well-known medical industries in the country, and they've developed a technology, and I'm not going to define it any more than that it would be transformative from a cure standpoint. And they are looking at deploying that in other countries where they can actually get it deployed more quickly. If that happens, if they can introduce new cures in other countries, the research dollars will follow too, and they will set up shop in those countries. It won't be just customers; it will be our businesses that go, just as we heard from the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. AKIN. The thing that concerns me is that it's possible for us jumping in haste to some kind of a solution like this because of all the political hubbub that's going on, to jump into something which is going to permanently damage American health care. It's going to irreparably move us in a direction where it's going to be almost politically impossible to recover from. It's a little bit like when you get on the gunwale of a canoe, you put enough weight on it, and you're going to dump it over.

We have a very good health care system, but can it take this kind of a hit? \$400 billion in new taxes. Guess who is going to pay those? Do you think those are rich guys that are going to pay those? That's going to be every plain old working person in this country that is going to be part of that \$400 billion. \$500 billion out of Medicare. Guess who's going to pay that? That's going to be the seniors. And the delays and denied care. Who's going to pay that? That's the people with heart problems, people with cancer problems. People will be waiting in line. People will have some bureaucrat controlling their health care.

One of the things that really scares me about this, and maybe I'm thinking of it a little too personally, but we are Congressmen, and one of the things that we do in our office is we try to help our constituents that have a problem with the Federal Government. And

so if somebody needs to get a passport, we go hurry up and try and help them get their passport quicker. If somebody has a problem with a permit or something, WE go call the bureaucrats up and say, Can you help out? What form have we not done? How can we help this? And we try to help our constituents out. Now, I'm picturing I'm on the phone and we've got this kind of system, and I'm getting the phone call that says, You've got some government bureaucrat that just told my dad he can't get a heart bypass. What am I supposed to do?

I yield.

Mr. SOUDER. The chancellor of one of my universities, yesterday, when I was at Turnstone, this fellow that works with kids who have physical disabilities and gets them recreational activities, he said, My dad is a veteran and my mom is now in the hospital, and we tried to check with the Federal Government to get the eligibility benefits. We kept getting taped messages saying the person is there on Thursdays for 2 hours.

That's what you'll get with government health care.

Mr. AKIN. Thursdays on 2 hours. So get in line. That's incredible.

We are about at the end of our hour. I would very much like to thank my good friends representing a host of different States, people with a great deal of common sense, and particularly Pennsylvania, with 25-plus years of being in the medical business. You see this thing, it's like a train wreck that you're seeing in slow motion.

What we're trying to say is Americans, pay attention. We cannot afford to go this deal about taking 18 percent of our economy and giving it to the Federal Government to run. It doesn't make sense. It's going to be expensive. It's going to destroy health care. And in every other regard, this is just a bad deal for everybody.

Thank you so much for joining me, gentlemen.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2892, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-300) on the resolution (H. Res. 829) providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2892) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2442, BAY AREA REGIONAL WATER RECYCLING PROGRAM EXPANSION ACT OF 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-301) on the resolution (H. Res. 830) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2442) to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to expand the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS HOUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KISSELL). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus, the CBC, is proud to present this hour on issues that concern America's senior citizens. The CBC is chaired by the Honorable BARBARA LEE from the Ninth Congressional District of California. I am Representative MARCIA L. FUDGE from the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, and I am the anchor of the CBC hour.

The vision of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus, to promote the public welfare through legislation designed to meet the needs of millions of neglected citizens, continues to be a focal point for the legislative work and political activities of the Congressional Black Caucus today.

Tonight, the CBC will focus its attention on the issues currently confronting our seniors. In his last speech, Hubert Humphrey said, The moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped.

The fact that some Americans work their entire life, regularly paying into Social Security and are confronted by poverty in their golden years is indeed a problem, Mr. Speaker.

□ 1800

The social insecurity facing our Nation's seniors is not a Democratic problem or a Republican problem; it is an American problem, Mr. Speaker. This year's news headlines tell the story: "Seniors Struggle With High Cost of

Housing and Food, Barely Getting By"; "Seniors Struggle to Survive"; "Single Seniors Can't Make Ends Meet"; "Subsidized Lunches in Greater Demand Among Senior Citizens"; "Forty Percent of Senior Citizens Not Taking Prescribed Medicines Due to Budget"; "Senior Citizens See Largest Gain in Credit Card Debt As Recession, Medical Costs Take a Toll."

Mr. Speaker, our country will recover from this recession, but we cannot forget the seniors who struggled before the recession began. Many live on fixed incomes and find it difficult to live under the pressure of high medical bills and the rising cost of essentials like medication, food, and housing.

One of the most disheartening news headlines of 2009 had the title, "U.S. Is Losing Ground on Preventable Deaths." In this story, AARP reported that Americans are dying too soon, although the United States spends \$2.4 trillion a year on medical care, vastly more per capita than comparable countries. Our Nation ranks last when compared to 19 other industrialized nations on premature deaths caused by illnesses such as diabetes, epilepsy, stroke, influenza, ulcers and pneumonia, all medical issues that disproportionately attack and weaken American seniors.

In my district, senior citizens call my office daily. Some call looking for reassurance that Medicare will be strengthened through the health care reform, and others asking questions about the future of Social Security.

One senior called just this past week. He is an 85-year-old man living in public housing. He has an artificial leg which he has had since the age of 11. He is worried that his Social Security check will not cover the cost of the medications he uses for complications caused by his artificial limb if the cost of his medications continues to climb.

I am confident, Mr. Speaker, this Congress will answer the calls and the concerns of these seniors, and I will not rest until all seniors have their answers.

Reports have been looming for years about the long-term financial problems of Social Security. The retirement program is projected to start paying out more than it receives in the year 2016. According to the Social Security trustee, without changes, the retirement fund will be depleted by 2037.

Demographic factors are accelerating Social Security problems. Life expectancy is increasing faster than anticipated. In 1940, a 65-year-old man could expect to live maybe another 12 years. Today it's 15 years, and by 2040, it will be 17 years. The fertility rate is falling faster than expected, from 3.6 children for a typical woman of childbearing age in 1960 to just two today, and a projected 1.9 by 2020.

The elderly portion of the population will likely rise from 12 percent today to 20 percent by 2050, increasing the number of retirees from 34 million to 80 million. The smaller working age population and larger elderly population

means that where there were more than five workers for each retiree in 1960 and 3.3 workers per retiree today, by 2030 there will be just two workers to pay the taxes for the benefits of each retiree.

Social Security is a pay-as-you-go system, as you know, with each generation of workers paying the benefits of current retirees. This works fine as long as the working population grows faster than the retired population; but now that the trend has reversed, the system is simply unsustainable.

Congress and the Social Security Administration are seeking solutions to this long-term problem; but at the same time, we have to work on the existing problems confronting our seniors on Social Security. Recently, the Congressional Budget Office reported that for the first time in 35 years older Americans will not receive a cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, increase in their Social Security checks in 2010. This is bad news for many retirees living on a fixed income because although the cost of necessary goods like food will continue to rise, seniors who rely on Social Security checks will not see their budgets increase.

To compound this problem, millions of the same seniors whose budgets may be tighter than ever will also face much higher Medicare part B and Medicare part D premiums next year. Medicare part B insurance covers doctors visits, lab work, physical therapy, and other types of outpatient services. Medicare part D is the Medicare prescription drug program.

A Federal law, known as the "hold harmless" rule, prevents the annual cost of part B premiums from rising higher than that year's Social Security COLA. For example, if your annual Social Security income increases by 5 percent, the yearly part of part B premiums cannot increase by more than 5 percent. The problem is that, while this hold harmless rule covers some Medicare part D patients, it does not cover any of the 28 million seniors insured by Medicare part D prescription drug coverage, and it does not cover about 11 million Medicare part B seniors.

Mr. Speaker, I have been joined today by my colleague and friend, the Congressman from Minnesota. I would like to yield as much time as he may consume.

Mr. ELLISON. I want to thank the gentlelady from the great State of Ohio for doing such a wonderful job talking about health care, our seniors, talking about all these critically important issues facing our Nation right now.

As the gentlelady is very well aware, we are at the very edge, at the very moment where we can have real health care reform for all, or maybe not. The reality is that we are optimistic. We are closer than we have been in 60 years, closer than we were in 1994, closer than we were when Roosevelt first said all Americans should have health care and have health and wellness,

closer than we were when Truman said we need universal health care coverage.

We are close. We have five bills reported out, three bills through the House, two bills through the Senate. And right now, Americans all around the country are saying, will the Congress finally do it?

Do you know that upwards of 77 percent of Americans want real health care reform? They want health care reform with a public option. They want real change, and it's time that they get it.

But I wanted to mention to my friend from Ohio, the great Congresswoman FUDGE, we all need health care reform. The fact is that when health care reform arrives, it will benefit communities of color more than it will other communities. It will benefit everybody. Everybody who will never be turned down for a preexisting condition will benefit. Everybody who has seen their premiums double over the last 10 years and will probably see them double in the next 10 years will benefit. But when you look at the startling disparities people of color are facing every day, I think that they will benefit more.

Just to let everybody know, the fact is that, yes, it's true, life expectancy for the average American has gone up. But for average African Americans, it still lags behind about 5 to 6 years. For African American men, it's not even 70 years old yet. African American men, on average, can expect to live to be about 69. Their counterparts can expect to live to be about 75. Now, imagine a child being born at the age when their grandpa is 69 years old. That means that if that child is African American and their grandfather is, they may never know grandpa.

But if we really address health care disparities, maybe we can get African American men up to 75 years old. That means that they will get a chance to bounce on his knee, get to know him, get to talk to him, get to learn something from him, maybe learn how to go fishing. It's a quality of life issue, more years. Addressing that cervical cancer earlier means grandma will be around longer.

Most of us, if you grew up like I did, know that mom and dad had to be tough on you because they had to raise you right. But there is one person who you knew thought you were absolutely terrific no matter what you did, and that's grandma, right?

Ms. FUDGE. That's absolutely right. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ELLISON. I will yield to the gentlelady.

Ms. FUDGE. I just wanted to say that, as you talk, it just really gives me some encouragement that we have put in place legislation that is going to allow us to deal with preventive care and wellness. Certainly that is an issue in our neighborhoods and all neighborhoods, especially neighborhoods of poor people and middle class people. It has become a major issue just finding the resources and the time and ability to

go to the doctor and say, I have a small problem, let's take care of it before it becomes a big problem.

And I think that just what you're talking about is preserving the longevity of grandma and your uncles and your aunts based upon the fact that they are going to be healthier longer is very, very important. And I yield back.

Mr. ELLISON. Well, I accept the gentlelady's yielding because it's important that when we talk about health care—you know, Mr. Speaker, we talk about statistics. And we drop stats, and we're talking about statistics and numbers and all of this stuff that we talk about. But we can never forget we are talking about human beings' lives. We're talking about human beings having more time with each other. We're talking about, as we said, your grandmother being there; and yet because of health disparities, inequality in the area of health, she is not being there. And how enriched a human being is by having that generational exchange.

These are just little examples of what we're talking about. And that's why Democrats are pushing forward on health care. That's why the Black Caucus is pushing forward on health care. That's why we need all Americans who care about a better quality of life to be pushing forward on health care. We can't survive with the status quo. Literally, we cannot survive with the status quo.

I yield to the gentlelady.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you. You are absolutely right; we cannot survive with the status quo.

And the other thing that this bill does is it allows us to say to those who have for so long not been able to really live a healthy lifestyle—not because they don't want to, but because they don't have the ability to—to now say, look, we are going to put resources in your neighborhood community clinic so that you can go and make sure that your children have the proper exams and the proper things before they go to school.

We are going to be in a position where we say to them, we are going to make this health care accessible to you, not just on Monday through Friday from 8 to 4, when working parents have to work; but because of the resources we're providing, we are now opening these clinics on Saturday. We are now saying to them we are going to make this more convenient for you because we want you to be healthy. We want to set the example, set the standard; and it's time we do those kinds of things for the people we serve because that is our job is to take care of the people we serve.

I yield back.

Mr. ELLISON. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I mean, the point is that part of this bill says, if it's enacted into law, that, you know what? You will not have to pay a copayment for preventative services. We want you to engage in preventative medicine.

Get your sugar checked. Get your blood pressure checked. Come on in here and let's make sure that you get a prostate or a mammogram. The fact is these are the things that are going to keep you around here longer and will save the system money in the long run. These things are so important.

And I just want to give folks an example. In the year 2004, just a few years ago, African Americans had the highest age-adjusted causes of death rates for all races and ethnicities. In addition, African Americans have the highest age-adjusted death rate for heart disease, cancer, diabetes, HIV and AIDS. All of these things would be addressed if we can pass this bill and keep those things in the bill that address health disparities. That's why we need people to step forward and do the right thing and support this bill.

You know, the American people have called for change, but I just want to let folks know that the change that we're calling for will help all Americans. And while it might not help some executive insurance companies, it will everybody else. And when everybody else gets helped, this rising tide will lift people at the bottom higher, and it will help extend their lives and improve the quality of their life.

At this point, I am going to have to turn it back over to the gentlelady. She has been doing such an excellent job, but I just want to say thank you for doing what you can do to raise the consciousness of the American people because the American people want change, they want optimism, they want people who will fight for change. They don't want folks who are going to give us the same old thing, because we can't survive with the status quo; but with change, we can.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you very, very much. I am so pleased to have you join me this evening, Mr. ELLISON. I thank you for your work. You do outstanding work on behalf of people in the most need, and I am happy you could join me.

It seems as though now we have been joined by our Chair, the Honorable BARBARA LEE, the gentlelady from California. I will now yield to our chairwoman. Thank you so much for being here.

□ 1815

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you very much. Let me thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Let me also, once again, thank you for your leadership in making sure that all of the issues that are so important to our country and to the Congressional Black Caucus, to all of us, are really brought forward on this floor.

I rise tonight on behalf of—and I just have to say—our nearly 70,000 senior citizens whom I have the privilege to represent in the Ninth Congressional District of California, but also the seniors across this country. As our Nation's economic uncertainty continues, it is these individuals who are strug-

gling at a disproportionate rate to overcome the grip of poverty and to maintain their quality of life, so it is important that tonight we talk about what is going on with our senior citizens and how important this moment is for them.

During the present turmoil, these hardships are especially acute amongst people of color, minorities, with more than 22 percent of African American and 19 percent of Latino seniors living below the poverty line. These poverty levels are more than double the national average for all individuals over 65 years of age.

Now, I firmly believe, like Congresswoman FUDGE and like all of us here believe in the Congressional Black Caucus, that we have a moral responsibility, a duty and an obligation to reverse this disturbing trend by utilizing the full constitutional power, statutory authority and resources of our government to provide opportunities for all and to develop these pathways out of poverty for our seniors. Some of these pathways include critical programs such as Social Security, continued support of Medicare and reforming our Nation's health care system, which you heard about earlier and which we are in the midst of reforming as we speak.

Social Security benefits constitute 90 percent of the income of one-third of Americans over 65. Many of the 75,000 residents in my district who receive Social Security are dependent on their guaranteed benefits. Without these vital benefits, nearly 50 percent—mind you, 50 percent—of seniors nationwide would be forced to live in poverty, which is a five-fold increase over the present rate. This makes it very critical for all of us to fight against any efforts that would threaten the benefits on which so many senior citizens rely.

I hear this from my mother, Mildred Massey, each and every day. So, on her behalf, I want to reiterate that once again.

We must also understand that, as the costs of medical care continue to rise, ensuring individuals' economic stability is inextricably linked to reforming our broken health care system. Today, as a Nation, we spend approximately \$2.2 trillion per year on health care, or \$7,400 per person, which is nearly twice the average of other developed nations and more than what we currently spend on either housing or food.

Members of Congress, especially members of the Congressional Black Caucus here, really do disproportionately represent the men, women, children, and especially seniors who are underinsured and uninsured and whose health and wellness have suffered because of the numerous gaps.

Some of us are calling these, really, moral gaps in our Nation's health care system. We support efforts to reform and to modernize America's health care system through comprehensive health care reform, and members of the

Congressional Black Caucus support health care reform that includes a strong, robust public option like Medicare, which is a component of health care reform for which we are unwavering in our support. We want to continue to strengthen and to protect Medicare for our seniors, and we are determined to do that in this health care reform effort—that is, strengthen and protect Medicare for our seniors. We agree that Medicare services should not be reduced as a means of paying for this health care reform bill.

While the proposed provisions for our robust public option will not be implemented until 2013, we also recognize that, as early as 2010, many positive reforms will be enacted, such as prohibiting the abusive health insurance practice of rescinding existing coverage in order to avoid future costs, improving preventative care and coverage, making prescription drugs more affordable by eliminating the gaps in coverage, and increasing funding for community health centers. So this is essential in our health care reform package, but as I said earlier, we want to strengthen and we want to protect Medicare for our seniors.

Finally, let me just say, as a member of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education of the Appropriations Committee, I would like to highlight the initiatives in the 2009 omnibus appropriations bill which strive to close the huge gaps in coverage and access for America's seniors by providing \$22 million for a new initiative to reduce hospital and clinic infections that cause nearly 100,000 deaths each year. That's staggering. Hospital and clinic infections cause nearly 100,000 deaths each year. What we did is we put in \$22 million so we can begin to combat these avoidable infections and reduce hospital readmission rates.

In addition, \$45 million has been set aside for health insurance counseling for seniors so that millions of Medicare beneficiaries can get the help that they need to understand and to utilize their complex benefits. I understand how complex some of this can be, and this counseling is so important. For those of us who have mothers and fathers and grandparents and aunts and uncles who are senior citizens, we know very clearly how difficult it is to weed through some of these forms and through some of these benefit regulations and rules, and we need to make it less complicated. So, hopefully, this \$45 million will help our senior citizens.

From the members of the Greatest Generation to the aging baby boomers, our seniors have given much over the years, so it must be our charge to support them and to remain focused on tackling the many challenges facing our Nation. We look forward to working with our leadership on both sides—Democrats and Republicans—in the following weeks to do everything that we can to continue to guarantee continuing care—Medicare and health

services—for this great group of Americans.

Thank you, Congresswoman FUDGE.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you so much, Madam Chair. It's always a pleasure to have you join me. Even though we generally do this on Monday nights, this is a special Wednesday night for us, so I appreciate your taking the time to stop by. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, I believe this Congress is willing to take a stand for seniors. I am proud to be a cosponsor of several pieces of legislation and to be a signatory on a number of letters to congressional leadership and Federal agencies which were authored to help seniors who are facing mounting financial and medical concerns.

One important bill, the Social Security COLA Fix for 2010 Act, ensures that seniors receive their COLAs for 2010. This legislation will help offset rising costs by providing seniors with a one-time \$150 payment in lieu of the Social Security COLA. The offset is fully paid for, and the legislation would not affect other Federal programs. For example, the one-time \$150 payment would not count as income, and as a result, it would not push seniors who are too young to qualify for Medicare out of the eligibility for Medicaid.

I want to talk just a bit about end-stage renal disease, Mr. Speaker, which is a disease that affects many seniors in my district and around the country. They are those who experience kidney failure. Last year, Congress passed legislation to provide up to six sessions of pre-end-stage renal disease education to Medicare beneficiaries experiencing kidney failure.

I joined a number of other Members of Congress and sent a letter to the directors of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, urging them to reconsider the proposed physician fee schedule, which would reimburse a 60-minute kidney education service, provided by a licensed physician, at the same rate as a 15-minute session provided by a nutritionist. The letter also requests that CMS reconsider the restriction on who can administer pre-end-stage renal disease education. Currently, only physicians can provide this service, although, licensed practitioners, such as nurses and nutritionists, are available and are trained to provide this education as well.

Adjusting the reimbursement rate and allowing multiple types of licensed practitioners to educate seniors with kidney failure will ensure that seniors facing end-stage renal disease will get the care and education they need.

For many seniors, their major concern about aging is the fear of losing their mental capabilities. That is why I am a cosponsor of the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act of 2009, which is a bipartisan piece of legislation that includes an authorization of \$2 billion for Alzheimer's funding at the National Institutes of Health, for support for caregiver programs and for a national summit on Alzheimer's.

Another piece of legislation which is essential to the welfare of America's seniors is the America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009. While some seniors have received misinformation and have voiced suspicions that health care reform would cut Medicare benefits, many know the truth about this bill. Medicare will be absolutely strengthened under the proposal.

As we all know, the health care reform bill is not yet complete, and many more changes will be made before it becomes law. While I cannot predict how the bill will be structured once it is finalized, I can tell you that I am fighting to ensure health care for seniors will not be diminished in any way.

Under the House proposal, seniors should notice a number of improvements in services. To be more specific, the House proposal will protect Medicare by shoring up funding for the program across the board so that all Americans will have this benefit as they grow older.

The bill will lower drug costs by eliminating the Medicare part D doughnut hole for prescription-drug coverage. The doughnut hole refers to a costly gap in the Medicare part D prescription drug plan. The plan currently covers up to \$2,700 per year in prescription-drug benefits. Then it stops. Coverage does not begin again until a recipient's drug cost exceeds \$6,100 annually, thus, leaving the recipient responsible for paying all drug costs between \$2,700 and \$6,100.

Under the proposed legislation, seniors could receive a 50 percent discount on brand name drugs in the doughnut hole immediately after the bill passes. This is a measure that would provide immediate relief for seniors who must choose to either purchase medication or food—a choice no American should be forced to make.

The legislation provides free preventative care. Seniors would pay nothing on preventative screenings and services designed to keep them healthier longer.

The bill improves primary care by ensuring that seniors are able to spend more time with their primary care doctors.

There are provisions to enhance safety by developing national standards that measure medical care quality by investing in patient safety and by rewarding doctors and nurses who administer high-quality care.

The legislation increases oversight by cracking down on waste, fraud, abuse and medical overpayments.

There are provisions that encourage hospitals with high readmission rates to provide transitional and coordinated care services.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the bill has new initiatives to improve nursing home quality and transparency.

Seniors should not be fearful. Change, we know, is difficult, but as Henry Ford said: Don't find fault; find a remedy.

Experts who have studied the House health care reform legislation found that the proposed changes actually strengthen Medicare and improve beneficiaries' care and access to physicians. Passing legislation that improves the lives of seniors is the number one priority in this Congress. Seniors should not have to fear or wait any longer. I say to all of the seniors: We are fighting for you. Every day, we are fighting for you, and we will not let you down.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the Speaker for the recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor tonight to talk a little bit more about health care. It is, it seems, the number one topic of the day here in Washington, D.C. It's interesting because probably 50 percent of Americans care more about what we are doing as far as job creation, and 14 percent are concerned about health care. You would think that we would adopt the Bill Clinton phrase of "focusing like a laser beam" on the economy and "focusing like a laser beam" on job creation. But health care is important, and it is appropriate that we spend some time discussing it because, likely as not, before the end of this month, certainly before the end of this year, it is possible that some type of bill will pass this House, although it may not be to the liking of a great number of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my comments must be directed to you and not to others, but I would say, Mr. Speaker, that if I were able to talk to people about what they could do, a plan for action, I will be discussing that toward the end of this hour.

□ 1830

So I do encourage people to stay tuned to this debate—not necessarily to this discussion this hour—but stay tuned to this debate because it is important. It is going to affect the lives and livelihoods of Americans from this day forward for a long, long time. It is extremely appropriate that we take our time, that we get this right, that we do not hurry through the process, that we do not cut corners.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you look at where we are 10 months into this year. Do we have the trust of the American people in this body? The answer to that question is, it doesn't seem so. What people have seen this year—and even going back into last year in the term of the previous President, President Bush, they saw a couple of bailouts last year, they've seen more of the same this year, they've seen stimulus, they've seen automobile takeovers, financial sector takeovers, cap-and-trade that passed the floor of this House that

many Americans felt was inadvisable in a time of economic downturn; and Washington yet still has the nerve to say, Trust us because we can take care of you and we will make your lives better. But the current polling numbers don't really suggest that that is something that's believed by the American people.

Now true enough, the President started this year with extremely high approval ratings, somewhere likely in excess of 80 percent approval ratings at the time of the inauguration—an extremely popular individual—and has retained a great deal of that popularity, depending upon the poll that you select. Now it is down to about 50 percent, 49 percent this morning in Rasmussen, 52 percent in the RealClearPolitics daily average poll. But, still, one out of every two Americans still has a favorable impression of the President.

What about the United States Congress? Is it one out of two? Is it one out of three? It's one out of every five people holds the United States Congress in high regard.

So with our current approval ratings hovering around 20 percent, why do we think the American people would believe that we, in fact, do know best and that they should trust us on an undertaking of this mammoth scale? And you can see how big the undertaking is.

We heard previous speakers in the last hour talk about how difficult it is. We have had three health care bills that passed the various committees in the House last summer. You had one health care bill that passed the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee in June of this year; and then most recently you had the talking points memo that passed out of the Senate Finance Committee yesterday with a single Republican vote on that. I do not believe there were any Republican votes on any of the House products in the three committees that considered this bill under their various jurisdictions.

The Congress doesn't have a lot of credibility right now on this or, quite frankly, many other issues. It would be a great thing, in my opinion, if Congress spent some time in trying to rebuild that credibility; but unfortunately, it's the old adage: Don't check the weather; we're going to fly anyway.

And off we go with a big cap-and-trade bill in June that upset a lot of people; we did the three health care bills on the House side in the various committees in July. We ran into the town hall meetings during the month of August when people told us what they thought of our efforts, and now we're back here in the fall taking up the big bill on health care reform.

As we've watched this debate, you think back to a year ago, we were in the middle of a presidential campaign. Both presidential candidates had ideas about what should happen as far as health care and the possibilities for health care reform. Remember now—

President Obama's position last fall was significantly tilted towards getting coverage for the uninsured. It was a moral imperative. It was something that we had to do. Then we worked through some of the more difficult parts of the economic downturn, a lot of job losses were incurred during that time; and at the beginning of the year, many more people were concerned about the cost of health care and would they be able to continue to afford their insurance, would they be able to continue to afford health care. So affordability became perhaps a higher priority for Members of Congress who were considering these reforms during the spring.

In June when the first congressional committee in the Senate, the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee passed their bill out of the Senate committee, the focus was all on cost and coverage. The cost numbers turned out to be significantly higher than anyone thought they would be; somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1.5 trillion over 10 years' time. The coverage numbers were disappointing at only a third of the uninsured actually being picked up. And there's no question that that delayed the second Senate committee, the Senate Finance Committee, in introducing a bill and marking up a bill which they just completed this week because they were trying to fine-tune those numbers.

Now on the House side, we did, in fact, get a Congressional Budget Office score that came in around a trillion dollars for a 10-year bill. A little disingenuous because the Congressional Budget Office—in the hearings we had on Energy and Commerce from the Congressional Budget Office, the score was administered not on legislative language but on conversations, telephone calls, that the members of the Congressional Budget Office had with members of the Democratic majority who were writing the bill. So, yes, it was a cost number but there was some question as to the accuracy of that.

And then here was a really big problem and one that really hasn't been addressed yet. These are enormous programs to undertake. They are not going to start overnight. So even if we pass a bill before the end of the year, it is going to be some time before these programs—whether it be a public option, whether it be exchanges within the States—it is going to be some time before the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in the Department of Health and Human Services—which is likely to be charged with writing the rules and regulations under which these new products are formed—it's going to be some time before those things happen.

The benefits are actually not scheduled to begin to kick in until the year 2012, 2014. It will be some time before those benefits occur. The taxes, of course, will begin the minute the ink is dry on the President's signature on the bill. So if we have a tax on high-end in-

surance plans, if we have a tax on medical devices, if we have a tax on any number of things, these taxes will begin to accrue January 1 of that year, but the benefits don't actually begin to kick in for some time.

And once again, the United States Congress, when it's questioned by the American people, the United States Congress says, Don't worry. Trust us. We know best how to plan for you. We know best how to take care of you. We know that you don't know how to do this for yourself. And Congress, with its 20 percent approval rating, is just the man for the job to get this done for you.

During the presidential campaign last year, President Obama promised to bring all parties together and not negotiate behind closed doors and to be broadcasting those negotiations on C-SPAN. Now we had kind of an unusual situation occur in May and June of this year when stakeholders in the health care community met at the White House and offered up things that they could do, things that they could do to hold down the cost of health care—you had to wonder where were these individuals for the 15 years before—but you had groups. The American Medical Association, of which I am a member, was in those meetings; the American Hospital Association was in those meetings and offered up a number of things that they could do for substantial cost savings.

A little bit of controversy then last week as the Senate was working through its product, will those things that the American Hospital Association offered, are those going to be taxed or not? And there was some back-and-forth with the Congressional Budget Office as to what those numbers actually meant.

Medical devices. Again, similar situation. PhRMA came to the table with—I forget the number now, but it seems like it was about \$80 billion in cuts that they were going to be offering.

Well, none of these things that were agreed to behind closed doors last May, none of these deals are available to us as Members of Congress so that we can know what did America's health insurance plan group, when they came to the table and said, We can save you billions of dollars, Mr. President, and he said, What took you so long? But as members of the committee that were charged with working through this bill last July, why did we not have that information available to us? Why was it a surprise at the Senate Finance Committee when, hey, we thought these breaks we were giving the hospitals were going to still be subject to a corporate income tax, not an off-tax item? Why was there even that discrepancy or that discussion? Why not share with us those deals that were struck down at the White House?

And indeed, last month I sent a letter to the White House and asked for the

release of those discussions, the transcripts of those discussions, the minutes or notes of those discussions, pertinent e-mails that may have occurred during those discussions.

Just quoting from my letter to the White House: It has been now over 4 months since the White House announced numerous deals with major stakeholders in the health care debate to save upwards of \$2 trillion in the health care system. Little to no details regarding the negotiations have been released. And recent actions and press reports have reminded me of the importance of openness and transparency throughout the legislative process—the very openness and transparency that we were promised by this President during the campaign.

So the letter has gone to the White House. I eagerly await a response to that. I am in fact somewhat surprised, my committee, the Committee on Energy and Commerce that has a fairly robust oversight and investigation subcommittee, I am somewhat surprised that they have not been curious about the deals that were made down at the White House early in the spring; why they have not been curious about some of the e-mails that may have occurred during the back-and-forth working through these negotiations. Again, the letter went to the White House on September 30, and I await a reply.

I will ask later to include this letter as part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this evening so that people will have the opportunity to read through that letter themselves.

But again, the American people just simply do not trust the American Congress, the United States Congress, to make these kinds of decisions for them.

When you look at some recent polling data when the question was asked if Congress works through this process and comes up with a major health care reform piece of legislation, is health care going to get better or is it going to get worse? Well, a quarter of folks think it's going to get better. About 26 percent say, Yeah, we think Congress will make the kinds of improvements that are necessary and health care will, in fact, improve. Fifty percent say it will get worse. Not great numbers with which we're working.

You know, it was startling for many of us, the interest that was out there over the summer during the August recess on the health care bill, on cap-and-trade. Town hall activity was widely reported in news media outlets across this country. My district back in Texas was no exception. Town halls where I might typically have 30, 40, 50 people show up on a Saturday morning, 1 or 2,000 people would show up. In fact, one venue we had to change from inside to outside and just held the bulk of the meeting out in the parking lot because of the number of people that showed up.

I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, August in Texas in the parking lot is—you're asking a lot of people to stay

with you through an hour or so discussion of a health care bill. But they did, and they asked questions, and they were respectful.

I don't think that this August was an anomaly. I don't think that the American people had some sort of fugue state during August where they reacted to the health care legislation and the cap-and-trade legislation and reacted in no uncertain terms as to how angry, how anxious they were about these bills that we were passing.

But when we get back to Congress in September, it's like August never happened. It was unimportant. "Don't pay any attention to those people back home because we're Congress. Trust us. We know best. We know best how to take care of you. We know best how to give you what we think you need."

We got back in September and I think I thought after seeing the August town halls, I thought this Congress would hit the pause button, hit the reset button, hopefully the rewind button on this health care legislation, but no such luck.

We went at it full force. We, in fact, even had a little bit of an extended markup in the Energy and Commerce Committee where it was suggested to the chairman of my committee, you know, that August was a rough month for a lot of people, a lot of people on both sides of the dais—Republicans and Democrats both, even Republicans who voted against the bill—people were angry that the bill was even being considered and would likely pass.

□ 1845

On the Democratic side, there were a number of town halls that were quite contentious. We thought, I thought Members would welcome the opportunity to, well, let's sit down and revisit this. Let's reorganize. Maybe there were some good ideas on the other side of the dais. Maybe Republican members should have been brought into this process and take some ownership of this bill, if nothing else. Don't leave us being the only ones out there to defend it; but, no, that wasn't the case.

The chairman of the committee said August, in so many words, August didn't matter. The people that spoke up were few and far between, and these large crowds that showed up at the town halls were somehow manufactured and didn't count. Not only did they not count, we were not reconsidering any part of the bill. We had some additional amendments that Members on the Democratic side wanted to offer. I offered a couple on our side as did other Members on the Republican side. But for the most part those amendments were struck down on a party-line vote.

Both sides of the aisle genuinely see a problem and genuinely want to work toward improvement of the process. You have heard me say it before. You have heard other Members of Congress say it before. Some people dispute it as

a fact, but I will say it: America has the best health care system in the world. There are distributional problems, and there are inequities in the insurance system that need to be fixed, and they are within our purview. They are within our capability of fixing, but we do not need to turn the entire system on its head to effect those ends.

How could we best go about improving what we call health care in America? Well, we can ensure that patients continue to have, continue to get, care, have access to care, and continue to get the best care. That would be a good thing for us to work on together.

Instead of being an obstacle, instead of threatening cuts every time you turn around, we could help doctors, nurses and hospitals continue to provide that excellent care. We, as Members of Congress, and sometimes it's do as I say, not as I do, but perhaps we could set a better example about living healthy lifestyles, staying within our—staying within our ideal weight. Maybe that's something we should look at.

Again, an amendment to that effect was turned back in my committee on Energy and Commerce. You know, really, one of the keys is going to be, if we are going to hold down medical costs, we really do have to involve the patient in the process. We have to have patient involvement in the doctor's office. We have to have patient involvement in making those healthy lifestyle choices. If we do not have the patient involvement and increase the patient knowledge base, the health literacy, if you will, about things like preventive care, about things like the importance of eating right and staying fit and the importance of regular health checkups and medical screenings, if we don't do that, the cost for health care is going to continue to increase and increase at a rate at which it's going to be very, very difficult, regardless of the number of new taxes, regardless of the cuts to doctors and hospitals and nurses. Regardless of all of those things it's going to be very, very difficult for Congress to keep up.

We do put the system at risk when we do that. There could be a day when the generation or two coming behind us will say we can no longer afford the type of tax rate that you have left for us. We will have to do something drastically different, and we don't want to do that. We don't need to do that.

Now, you have heard a lot of discussion about how Republicans have been obstructing the process. Let me clarify that just for a moment. There are 177 or 178 Republicans in this body, 256 Democrats in this body. It takes 218 votes to pass a bill, to send it on to the Senate. The Democrats in this body could pass whatever bill they wanted. They do not need Republican support. They have, in fact, told us that on more than one occasion. The famous phrase that came out in January or February, well, after all, we won. There hasn't been a lot of reaching across the aisle, because it was just simply not necessary.

Now, you think back to February. Again, the President had an approval rating of, I don't know, 70, 75, 80 percent. The President could have passed whatever health care bill he wanted in February of this year. There would have been nothing anyone could have done to stop it. In fact, there likely would have been very few people with the courage to try to stop it because the President was seen as so popular and so powerful, evidenced by the fact that the President did get a \$787 billion stimulus bill passed through this House, a bill that many thought was ill advised, a bill that many thought was duplicative, unnecessary and wasteful.

But they got it passed, no Republican input into that bill as it was being written and no Republican support on the floor; but they didn't need it. It passed overwhelmingly with only Democratic votes, went down to the Senate for a similar fate, went down to the White House and was promptly signed into law by the President.

It was followed a week later by an omnibus bill that spent a lot of the same dollars on the same things. Again, not much in the way of Republican support was solicited or required for that. It passed because, after all, 218 votes are all that are required to pass a bill on the floor of this House. The Democrats with their 256 majority have more than enough votes to pass almost anything they want.

Now, the Republicans even tried—and I don't know the answer to that for everyone, but I will tell you that I did. I met with the transition team in November of last year.

I met with the chairman of my committee in January of this year and said, look, I didn't give up a 25-year medical career to come here to sit on the sidelines. I want to be involved in this debate. I may not be able to be with you on some issues. There are some things that I think are just the wrong approach to reforming health care, but let's sit down and have the discussion and see what can be worked out.

I was thanked for my interest and never received a call back. Oh, I did get called down to the White House in March for a photo op, but that was about it. There wasn't much more to it than that.

Then as the bill was being written behind closed doors for the various committees where we worked on the bill on the House side, certainly at no point was I ever offered any input.

Now, I did, as did many members in my committee, offer a number of amendments, and we did amend the bill in committee. It would be interesting to see now whether or not those amendments stay in the bill.

But I don't think anyone is fooling themselves. There was not—there was no way to amend that bill, H.R. 3200. There was literally no amendment you could offer except striking the language in the bill and offering the new bill. There really was not. It was not salvageable, in my opinion.

Now it's interesting because all three committees have passed the bill. They all amended it and some of those amendments will be completely—the incentives will be aligned. Some of them actually will be at a 90-degree intersection.

Someone is going to have to redo that bill. That is happening now, and you can expect that there is probably a heavy hand from the White House in aligning all three of those House bills into one product. We will likely get to see it a few hours before we vote on it. It may come as early as the end of this month, and we are promised that it will, in any case, be something that we see before Thanksgiving. I expect that that is true.

I don't know whether any Members on my side will vote for it. There don't seem to be a large number of Republicans who are supporting H.R. 3200. I don't know if any Democrats will vote against it. We certainly saw that in all three committees that there were some Democrats who simply could not support the things in the bill and did vote against it.

The public option continues to be a political football kicked from one side of the rotunda to the other. The House wants a robust public option, the Senate not so much. How will it pass on the Senate side if they have a public option, or will a public option be ignored by the Senate but added back in the middle of the night when the two bills come together in the House-Senate conference before we vote on the final product?

It's anybody's guess and, Mr. Speaker, again, you know, just speaking to you, I would say if I were able to speak to the American people, I would say stay tuned to this because it is going to be a very important process. You will have a House unified bill coming up the next couple of weeks. How long we have to evaluate that before we vote, I think, is going to be very telling. If it's a very short period of time, there is probably some bad stuff in the bill that they don't want you to know about before we actually vote.

Now, we are arguing for 72 hours. I will just tell you, for what's likely to be at least a 1,000-page bill, more likely a 1,500-page bill, 72 hours is a very short interval of time to work on a bill of that magnitude. Bill language is inherently very difficult to read. There is a lot of referral back to the Social Security Act. There is a lot of referral back to the Medicare or the Medicaid provisions in the United States Code.

It takes some doing to get through that bill language and really understand what the implications of what you are reading. But it doesn't mean we shouldn't do it. It just means that we need have the time to do it. I certainly encourage the Democratic leadership to give us the time necessary and make the facilities available to us so that we can have the opportunity to read through that bill and read through it with experts and come to

understand what's being contained within the bill.

You know, the President has said repeatedly that if you have good ideas, I will listen. In fact, here in the House, in the joint session that was held on September 9, the President said, right from the podium behind me, and I am quoting now, "I will continue to seek common ground in the weeks ahead. If you come to me with a serious set of proposals, I'll be there to listen to you."

Well, that's kind of interesting, too. During the campaign, the President said that he would sit down with people who might be regarded as folks that don't like us very much, folks like Ahmadinejad and Hugo Chavez. The President said, I will sit down with leaders of other countries and meet with them without preconditions.

Well, when it comes to congressional Republicans, he does set some preconditions. We have to come with a serious set of proposals. We can't just show up with ideas. I prepared a serious set of proposals and sent it to the White House on September 16 of this year, about a week after we had the joint session of Congress. I prepared a number of things within the letter.

Attached to it were a number of bills that I had introduced that I thought should be parts of whatever type of health care reform is passed. I am still waiting for a response to that. Things like addressing the problems of the physician workforce, things like addressing the liability, the problems that doctors face with the liability insurance, fixing the sustainable growth rate formula, some price transparency, a lot of good ideas contained within here.

Again, I will, at the end of this, I will submit this for the RECORD. But, again, no response from the White House.

The list talked in some detail about those things that the Republicans agree should be a part of the meaningful reform. You know, we hear it said all the time that there is agreement on, like, 80 percent of the things contained within health care reform. I think that number is a little bit high. But, nevertheless, we hear it said all the time.

But what is the primary thing? What is the number one thing I heard about over and over and over again in the town halls in August?

The thing that is really grating on the American people is those individuals who want insurance but can't get it. They can't get it because they have had a tough medical diagnosis. They have a preexisting condition. They had insurance on their job and they lost their job and they couldn't keep up with the COBRA payments, so they lost their insurance. Now they are stuck without insurance, but have a preexisting condition. It wasn't that they wanted to drop their insurance; but the conditions were such, the rules were set, that they didn't have any choice but to let that insurance coverage go, even though they knew it

might be difficult to get back into a state of coverage in the future.

Another thing that just really bothers people is the fact that Americans can do the right thing and have health insurance and pay that premium religiously, get a tough medical diagnosis, and the insurance company looks back and says, you know what, we really never meant to offer that policy to you in the first place, or we think there was something you obscured in your history. Now, by a process of what are called "insurance company rescissions," they are going to take that insurance policy away.

The President even referenced that in his speech on September 29, and that's wrong. People acknowledged that it's wrong, both sides of the aisle.

Now, in cases of fraud, correct. The insurance company has to have a right of action. They have to have a way to protect other people that have insurance. You don't want people coming and buying insurance under fraudulent terms.

But for people who have an omission from a medical history that makes no difference as to their subsequent care and diagnosis, these are things that are generally recognized by the American people as being egregious overstepping by the insurance companies, and that needs to be fixed. Here is the sad part, Mr. Speaker, that could have been fixed. That could have been fixed before we went home for the August recess. We just simply chose not to do it.

So, if we provide a way for someone who has a preexisting condition, perhaps through a reinsurance, perhaps through high-risk pools, perhaps through high-risk pools with additional State and Federal subsidies, there can be ways to bring individuals who have a preexisting condition into a state of coverage.

□ 1900

It's a shame. It's a shame we never had a hearing on that in our health subcommittee. We had hearings on almost every other issue under the sun, but we never had a hearing on, is there a way, short of an unconstitutional individual mandate, is there a way to get people insurance coverage who have had a bad medical diagnosis and lost their insurance? We never had a hearing on that. We could. I think we should. I think bright minds on both sides of the aisle could get together and work out ways that this problem could be solved.

Rescissions. Again, with a history that's now newly disclosed, has nothing to do with the medical diagnosis, and it was in no way fraudulently withheld from the insurer, rescissions need to stop. States that have high-risk pools, there are 34 of them. States that have the opportunity for reinsurance. These are States that are working, trying to offer their citizens a method of dealing with this problem. We could encourage more States to pick up high-risk pools. We've got some States

where they're working well, some States where they're working less well. I always felt that in my home State of Texas, it wasn't working so well. It turns out it's really not a bad program, it's just not funded to the level that it need be.

Well, if we could encourage a contribution from the Federal Government, the State government and perhaps even the private sector, the insurance companies themselves, perhaps we could get that figure down to a point where people can actually utilize the program. Because people that then are subsequently covered by those high-risk pools in Texas love the program. I had someone come up to me after a town hall in the district in August that said, Please, whatever you do, don't do anything that's going to mess up my high-risk pool because that's the best insurance I've ever had. The problem is it's limited to the number of people who can access that.

We have people losing their jobs. It's an unfortunate, disastrous occurrence that happens in a recession. Some people are laid off. And if you have employer-sponsored insurance, there's trouble brewing. Yes, because of rules and laws that Congress passed many, many years ago, COBRA coverage that is extended for 18 months is available to an individual who loses his job, but that insurance has to be the same insurance that that person had while they were employed.

So the individual can pick up the premium for that employer-sponsored insurance, but most of the time the employer is not continuing to pay their part so the individual has to pay the entire freight; in fact, it's actually 102 percent because there's an administrative cost tacked onto that. Well, that is an expensive issue for someone who's just lost their job.

Could we offer people another choice? If someone loses their job, they've got good employer-sponsored health insurance, they are protected. As long as they keep their insurance, they're protected against falling into that preexisting condition trap. But right now it's either pay that large premium—and again you just lost your job so it may be hard to do that—or become uninsured.

We offer people two choices right now. What if we made something else available to people? What if we allowed people to transition into the individual market and not have to go through the COBRA system to do that, but still protect their ability to have the coverage for a preexisting condition should one have developed or develop during the time that that individual is transitioning to insurance on the individual market. Why does it always have to trigger the COBRA insurance? Why is there not an intermediary step that is less expensive, but still provides the protection?

Other things we could do. What if someone has COBRA, has that coverage, but they move to another State

and they may not be allowed to take that coverage with them? Why not allow that transition from State to State without ratering that individual, without causing that individual to be ratered by a new insurance company where now their preexisting condition that they've acquired along the way prevents them from getting or obtaining that insurance in the individual market in a new State?

I liken that to the National Football League, and you have a player in the National Football League who gets traded from one city to another, their insurance goes with them. No problem. If they had a knee injury in one city, it's going to be taken care of in the new city. But if their fan who wants to follow their favorite football player moves from city A to city B, they've got to start all over again, if they're in the individual market, and during the time that they do that, they may find that they are ratered by their insurance company, reunderwritten by their insurance company, and if they had even a modest diagnosis like high blood pressure, depression or adult onset diabetes, it can be a very expensive adventure for them buying insurance in that new State.

So why don't we allow that type of transition so that someone doesn't have to be ratered? We talk a lot about being able to buy insurance across State lines. I think that's important, too. That's a little bit heavier lift. It's a little bit more difficult for Congress to come to that understanding, but this ability to allow someone to buy in the individual market without being ratered when they change States, that's easy and we should be able to do that. Again, I frankly don't understand why we don't take that up.

Again, remember if we pass this big, comprehensive, robust public option health care bill, when do you get the benefit? Four years. We're going to have people losing jobs next year. We're going to have people losing jobs the year after that. What are we going to do for those individuals in the short term?

And, again, I'll reference back to the President's own speech that he gave here on September 9. When he was at the podium giving the speech, JOHN MCCAIN was in the audience. He acknowledged that JOHN MCCAIN had a good idea for covering people with high-risk pools and that perhaps that would be a way to provide some immediate relief for people who couldn't wait for the 4 years before the Federal Government starts this new robust public option plan.

You hear me talk about medical liability. Medical liability is a big deal. The fact that it's been left out of the House and Senate bills, I think, is a big deal. Look, we're asking our doctors to be our partners. Whatever the brave new world of health care reform looks like, whatever we go to, we're going to ask our doctors to be there and be at our sides and help us, or be the ones to

take care of the patients and answer those emergency calls in the wee hours of the morning.

We're asking our doctors to stand with us on this. And yet we won't do the one thing that would simplify the lives of doctors across the country, keep doctors from dropping out of the practice of medicine, and, that is, bring some sense, some stability, to the medical justice system that we have in this country.

Now, Texas has done what I consider to be a very good thing, with putting caps on noneconomic damages. They did that in 2003. They had to do it with a constitutional amendment so that it would become immediately effective and didn't have to go through all sorts of court challenges; and, boy, it was like turning a switch and things have improved in Texas since that bill was passed. But you will also hear people say, Oh, medical liability, it doesn't save that much money. You can do whatever you want, but it's like a 1 percent savings.

But that's based on a very old study that really only looked at the cost of the premiums themselves, from back in the early 1990s, the American Medical Association, a very famous study called the Tonn study, frequently still quoted here 15, 20 years later. The Tonn study did say that you weren't going to save much money with medical liability. But, of course, the Tonn study discounted what would happen as far as the practice of defensive medicine.

Let me ask you this: medical liability premiums have gone up year over year over year. Medical liability has continued to be a problem year over year over year these last 20 years. Do you think the practice of defensive medicine is more widespread now than it was 20 years ago? Well, you bet it is. You bet it is. Twenty years ago we didn't have PET scans. We barely had MRIs. The more new things, new technology that becomes available, doctors are continually trying to see what is the maximum I can do so that I won't look bad if things go wrong and I'm called into court and have to defend my medical judgments. So it's no small wonder that the cost of defensive medicine has gone up and up and up.

Now the Congressional Budget Office has put out a new report. In a letter to Senator HATCH, they talk about their new estimate for what medical liability reform would save the Federal Government. This is just in the Medicare and Medicaid system, and it's estimated to be \$54 billion over 10 years. That's getting to be a significant amount of money.

But wait a minute. Remember that the Federal Government is now responsible for about 50 cents out of every health care dollar that's spent in this country. Fifty cents out of every health care dollar that's spent in this country actually originates right here on the floor of this House. So that \$54 billion over 10 years only represents about half of the medical expenditures

in this country. It doesn't count those that are paid for by private insurance, those that are paid for out of just individuals paying their bills or that is gifted to people through charity.

So double that number. It's over \$100 billion over the 10-year life of the health care bill that is a potential savings with modest medical liability reform. Again, that's not going to pay for the whole health care bill, but it would pay for 10 percent of it. Don't you think if we could pay for 10 percent of what's being proposed that we ought to at least consider it in our committees, that we should at least consider it in the legislative language that's being proposed?

I will just tell you what's happened in Texas since 2003 when we did pass a cap on noneconomic damages. Since 2003, Texas has licensed 15,000 new physicians. Over a similar time span preceding that, that number was about a third. We've gained 192 new obstetricians; 26 rural counties have added an obstetrician, including 10 where previously there was no OB doctor.

Texas is a big State. We've got 242 counties, so there's a lot of counties in Texas. But, still, 10 counties without an obstetrician before that now have one. That's prenatal care that's available to patients that wasn't available before unless you drove multiple miles to a medical center. That's doctors who are there when patients need them, frequently when time is of the essence, in the process of having a baby. So that is a good thing.

Thirty-three rural counties have gained ER doctors, including 26 counties that previously did not have an emergency room doctor now have one since the passage of commonsense medical liability reform in 2003. Doctors have contributed \$594 million in charity care since the bill was passed.

I introduced similar language at the Federal level, H.R. 1468 for those keeping score at home; and I had offered that as an amendment to our committee bill last July. I was at first struck down on a technicality. Then I was struck down on a party-line vote. It doesn't seem that the Democratic majority has really had any interest in trying to reform the medical justice system in this country.

Yet now the Congressional Budget Office in a letter to Senator HATCH, where he requested a new analysis of the cost of defensive medicine, has said that it would be a savings of \$54 billion over 10 years, and they do cite several studies in there where they've gained that information.

Again, at the end of this hour I will ask to make the Congressional Budget Office report, the letter to Senator HATCH, a part of the RECORD.

Portability, being able to take your insurance with you. There was a time when I was a youngster when you went to high school, perhaps went to college, but whether you graduated from college or just started after high school, you took a job and you probably con-

tinued that job until you got your gold watch in retirement.

It doesn't work that way anymore. I don't know exactly what the figure is, but the estimate from the Census Bureau is that people will have perhaps 10 or 11 jobs during the course of their productive years. So it only makes sense that if we continue, and we likely will continue, to have employer-sponsored health insurance, that we allow more portability than is within the system now. Some people have talked about things like defined contributions from employers, rather than just the employer providing the insurance, providing a designated sum of money for the purchase of that insurance.

There is a lot of discrepancy for what insurance costs. In the State of New Jersey, the average health insurance premium for a family of four recently quoted at \$10,000. You go across the State line to Pennsylvania and it drops \$4,000, to \$6,000. Well, there's not a lot of difference right there on the State line between one segment of the population and those that are north of the line in New Jersey. Why not? Why not allow people to perhaps look into the purchase of insurance in other markets that may fit their needs and may be more affordable?

And then, of course, again we get into the issue of someone who moves across the State line, why not allow that portability? Just in the interest of completeness, the State of Texas, a family of four, the average insurance premium is \$5,000 a year. The State lines concept is one, and we heard the President talk about it in his speech of September 9. He talked about a part of rural Alabama where if someone was going to the individual market, they only had one insurance company from which to choose.

□ 1915

And that's not terribly surprising. Insurance companies tend to be natural monopolies. They tend to want to form monopolies and capture market share. But the President's quite correct; you don't get much competition if you've only got one insurance company. So the President's solution to this problem is, well, let's create a public option and we'll have two insurance companies for that family in Alabama to choose from. But there's over 1,300 insurance companies in the United States of America. Why not open the market up so that more of those 1,300 insurance companies that already exist in the country—we don't have to create a new one, we don't have to pay all that start-up capital for creating a new program—why not just allow them to compete across state lines?

And you know, interestingly enough, Democrats that reflexively opposed this idea year in and year out now seem to be warming to the concept. At the very least, if you have a public option that is available in Alabama, it's going to be the same public option that's available in Tennessee, and the

same public option that's available in Texas. Guess what? That public option is going to be sold across state lines because it is a Federal program. So why don't we, before we go to all the trouble and expense and anxiety of creating an entirely new Federal entitlement and type of insurance, why not just simply allow some open competition across state lines?

Now, cooperatives are something that we hear, that word gets a lot of traction, co-ops. You know a purchasing co-op that could go across state lines, I could be okay with that. A co-op that was just a dressed-up public option, I'm not so much in favor of that. But certainly, allowing people to band together, people that may belong to the same alumni association, the same church, you name whatever association, realtors, dentists, physicians offices, that want to get the purchasing power of a much larger group in that individual market, we should allow them the freedom, the freedom to be able to make those associations and to purchase.

You know, tax credits—and I will admit there are people on my side that get nervous when you talk about tax credits. But tax credits to help with the purchase of insurance I think is certainly something that was talked about during the last presidential campaign. I think it is a way to provide immediate help, not help 4 years from now, but immediate help to people who don't have employer-sponsored insurance, where otherwise the cost of insurance is an obstruction to them getting that coverage. Maybe if we take away some of the issues with pre-existing condition rescissions, we take away some of the issues with portability, still it may be an affordability issue, and if we could help that with the tax credit or even a pre-fundable tax credit, I think that is something that is, it's at least worth having the discussion.

And again, through all the hearings that we've had on this, we never once visited that issue. We never once invited the Congressional Budget Office in to kind of give us some views and estimates on what this might cost or what this might look like. Instead, we just simply said, we're Congress, we know best, we're going to build an entirely new insurance company that's administered by the Federal Government and that will be your competition. Take it and like it because we, after all, know best.

Again, the ability for people to associate, whether it be a church group, an alumni association, maybe it's time that we gave people the option of not having insurance that's tied to a single employer, because, again, many people will change jobs over time. Allow the cross-state purchasing.

We've talked about things like association health plans. Various bills have been introduced that would deal with this. H.R. 3218 introduced by Representative SHADEGG from Arizona is

one such plan. And certainly, that is one that should be included in any compendium of plans that are offered as conservative or Republican alternatives to what is being proposed in health care.

Medicare payment reform. We're going to pay for half of this trillion-dollar bill with cuts in Medicare. Well, I've got to tell you, I get more letters, more mail from individuals who are doctors who are concerned about what we, what Congress is doing to them in physician reimbursement. It's easy to say, oh, man, doctors they make so much money, so you cut them a little bit—who cares? December 31st of this year, under the current formula, sustainable growth rate formula, physicians will undergo a 20 percent reduction in reimbursement.

Now, true enough, Senator BAUCUS' bill does delay that by 1 year. That's our typical response. We'll do something to kick the can down the road. If we do that, then next year they face a 25 percent reduction in reimbursement. In some specialties, cardiologists, in particular, where there's been some re-basing of what are called relative value units for the work that they do, are facing cuts in excess of 30 percent at the end of the year. Well, I'm here to tell you that you don't have that much excess capacity in the average doctor's office where you can squeeze 30 cents out of every dollar in savings and expect those offices to stay open.

Well, wait a minute. We've got an unemployment rate that's approaching 10 percent. Cardiology offices are small business across the country, and they are facing a 30 percent reduction in Medicare reimbursement, when oftentimes Medicare is 50, 60 or 70 percent of the business that they do. How do we expect them to keep their doors open after January 1st? How do we expect them to make employment decisions for their employees in their offices over these next couple of months while they're living with this kind of limbo?

I mean, they're sitting here watching Congress and wondering if we're just going to run out the clock on December 31st. When these huge cuts go into effect, what are they going to tell their employees? If they wanted to hire someone new earlier this year they're certainly not thinking about doing that now. And we've got a 9.6 percent unemployment rate.

Cardiology offices are small businesses. Echo techs, phlebotomists that draw blood in the lab, people that put the patient back in the room. All of these jobs are now at risk because of what Congress is doing, or not doing, with fixing the sustainable growth rate formula and the cuts in Medicare. If we pass a bill like the Baucus bill, the cuts only become deeper and more Draconian. Again, you don't save \$500 billion out of the Medicare program over 10 years by not making some pretty harsh decisions.

And you know, if you think it's bad now with the sustainable growth rate

formula, what's it going to look like if we enact some of these things that have been discussed over on the Senate side and indeed on the House side? What if we create this body that's going to come to us every year and say, in order for the books to balance, Mr. or Mrs. Congressman, we are going to have to cut fees that are paid to hospitals, doctors, nurses, nursing homes by whatever percentage amount they say.

Congress, if we pass this law, simply votes that up or down. They don't take any responsibility for it. There's no accountability. We just simply pass those cuts on. That's a terrible way to do business. Wouldn't it be better if we found a way to deliver care more economically so we didn't have to come to our provider community, to our doctors, to our hospitals, to our nurses and nursing homes, and say, We're going to have to keep a little bit more of your money this year in order to make our books balance?

Now, ensuring the future physician work force, I think, is extremely important. H.R. 914, the Physician Workforce Investment Act that I introduced last Congress and this Congress as well, I've provided that to the White House. You know, here's the deal. We can sit here and talk all night long about health insurance, and that may be an important discussion to have, but I've got to tell you, if you don't have any doctors there at the end of the day, all the insurance in the world isn't going to do you a bit of good. In fact, I'd far rather have a doctor and no insurance than I would have insurance and no doctor, because if I'm in trouble, if I'm needing someone to take care of me, the insurance company typically hasn't been all that great at that endeavor. But physicians always respond.

Preventive care and wellness programs. Clearly, these are going to be necessary in the world going forward. The model that was brought to us by Safeway Stores, the model that we were not allowed to consider in our markup in committee, but realistically, we have to do that. H.R. 3148, which is the Burgess-Christian CBO scoring bill, would allow for the Congressional Budget Office to score those savings that could be achieved with healthy lifestyles.

Price transparency. We did include some language in the bill that was passed. H.R. 2249 was the Health Care Transparency bill that I introduced two Congresses ago and have continued to introduce every Congress. A lot of that language was inserted into H.R. 3200, for which I was grateful. But at the same time, transparency has got to be there. So if we're going to ask people to make more and more decisions for themselves, we have to give them the information with which to do that. Mandates have no place in a free society.

And when I hear the Senate talk, and I hear the House talk about we're going to have an individual mandate and an

employer mandate, wait a minute. I'm not even sure that's constitutional. Mandates just create laziness, create laziness on the part of the insurers, create laziness on the part of the insured, and certainly create laziness on the part of your Congressman. Wouldn't it be better if we required people to actually build programs that people wanted, rather than just force people to take what we think they ought to want? Mandates are an anathema to free society.

And there are ways to do this. Prescription-drug benefit in part D, for all its faults, Dr. McClellan, when he was constructing that program, had six protected classes of drugs and said there had to be at least two drugs offered within those six protected classes, and people flocked to those programs. It has been a success in the number of seniors that now have credible drug coverage and seniors that are satisfied or very satisfied with the drug coverage that they have.

Normally, if you have a mandate you're going to get about 85 or 95 percent compliance. We've got about 85 percent compliance with the voluntary system right now. You're not going to get that much more with the mandate. Even without mandates in the prescription-drug benefit, by creating programs that brought value to people's lives, 93 percent uptake on a credible drug program.

So, you know, I've got to tell you. I will never sit down here and advocate for private insurers. But I will tell you that most Americans do have coverage under a private insurance, and they like it. They don't want to lose it. That has been one of the big obstacles to getting sweeping health care reform. The President always says if you like what you have you can keep it. I think that's right. Sixty percent of the American people like what they have, and they don't want it to change, so that makes it difficult to do reform that is on this scale and this sweeping.

I'll tell you another little secret. The Federal Government, the public option that we already have, doesn't pay its full share of the freight of the cost of delivering the care. It's subsidized by the private sector. If you shrink the private sector and grow the public sector, how are you going to make that up? Where's that money actually going to come from? And that's something that I never hear discussed.

Yeah, insurance companies do bad things. And we'll hear stories, we're going to hear stories in my committee tomorrow about how bad insurance companies are. But if we didn't have that cross-subsidization of the private sector, we could not afford the public sector. Now, people will tell you that it's the cost of the uninsured that we're leaning on the private sector to provide for us. No, that's a small amount. That cross-subsidization that's coming to the public sector is the lion's share of that. That 9 percent figure, about 2 percent is people who have no insur-

ance; 7 percent goes to paying the freight that Medicare and Medicaid are not carrying themselves.

We have a good system. Let's build on what we have. Let's not tear it down and then create something out of whole cloth to go in its place. You know, the government can referee some of these things, but the government doesn't need to be the man in charge of all of these things. Again, remember, the United States Congress, we've got about a 20 percent approval rating. I think reforms can and should go forward. I think there are good ideas on both sides of the aisle here. I'll take the President at his word. I'm anxiously awaiting their response to my letters.

I look forward to this debate we're going to have over the next several weeks, and I would encourage people that, every morning when they get up, remember, you've got one Member of Congress and two Senators. They need to hear from you on this issue. Whether you agree with me or not, I promise you they need to hear from you on this issue before we have this vote.

For more information on H.R. 914, the Physician Workforce Enhancement Act of 2009; H.R. 1468, the Medical Justice Act of 2009; and H.R. 2249, the Health Care Price Transparency Promotion Act of 2009, log on to <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 16, 2009.

President BARACK OBAMA,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, I am once again compelled to write to you to accept your offer to meet with you at the White House to discuss the health care reform proposals currently before us.

I listened intently as you addressed the Joint Session of Congress on September 9, 2009, and you once again extended an olive branch to members of the minority. I want to reiterate that I am completely committed to working in a bipartisan fashion to deliver reforms that all Americans can be comfortable with, increase access to care, lower health care costs for America's families and businesses, and deliver changes to the health system that improve quality.

I thank you for your public commitment to accept innovative ideas from Republicans and hope that you will follow through with your public pledge by reviewing this letter thoroughly. As you stated last week: "I will continue to seek common ground in the weeks ahead. If you come to me with a serious set of proposals, I will be there to listen. My door is always open."

I accept your gracious offer and want you to know that it is not my intention to "kill" health reform. In fact, I stand proudly by my bipartisan work in the U.S. House of Representatives on health care issues. Several of my amendments in the Energy & Commerce Committee were accepted unanimously while others are currently under negotiation with Chairman Waxman for inclusion in a final House product.

That said, I have read the America's Affordable Health Choices Act (H.R. 3200) and I do concede I have many concerns with the approach the bill takes. Many of the items you outlined in your speech do have wide bipartisan support. While we may have disagreements on the policy approaches to ad-

dress those problems we will never know if we can find common ground if we do not try.

To assist you in identifying measures that could gain wide bipartisan support I am enclosing four pieces of legislation that will make incremental but important reforms to our health system. I believe that, with your leadership, these measures could be passed and signed into law before Thanksgiving. These efforts would show that we can work together to make important reforms that improve access to care and protect the doctor/patient relationship.

Physician Workforce: H.R. 914, the Physician Workforce Enhancement Act, would establish an interest-free loan program for eligible hospitals to establish residency training programs in certain high-need specialties. Under the program, eligible hospitals could receive up to \$1,000,000 that must be repaid within 3 and a half years. H.R. 914 will provide needed resources to smaller and emerging communities so they can attract and retain the medical professionals their communities will rely on in the future. If we do nothing to assist the training of physicians, waiting lines will grow longer, lapses in treatment will occur, and many of our small and rural communities will be at risk of not having physicians to meet their growing needs.

Medical Liability Reform: As you alluded to in your speech, too many doctors are forced to practice defensive medicine and face the constant threat of lawsuits and unsustainable medical liability insurance rates. This results in millions of dollars in unnecessary tests and procedures. Seasoned medical professionals are retiring early because staying in practice is no longer financially feasible, further contributing to our nation's doctor shortage. This is a growing crisis that is pushing affordable health care beyond the grasp of millions of Americans. H.R. 1468, the Medical Justice Act, is based on medical liability reform implemented in Texas. The reforms have created a magnet for doctors and provided the funding mechanism to improve access to care and enhance patient safety. To prove the success of Texas' reforms, I'd like to share a few of the statistics, from the Texas Medical Association:

Since the 2003 reforms, Texas has licensed 14,496 new physicians. This is a 36 percent increase from pre-reform.

Thirty-three rural counties have seen a net gain in ER doctors, including 26 counties that previously had none.

After years of decline, the ranks of medical specialists are growing in Texas. In my field of obstetrics, Texas saw a net loss of 14 obstetricians in the two years preceding reform. Since then the state has experienced a net gain of 192 obstetricians, and 26 rural counties have added an obstetrician, including ten counties that previously had none.

Charity care rendered by Texas hospitals has increased by 24 percent, resulting in \$594 million in free care to Texas' patients.

Texas physicians have saved \$574 million in liability insurance premiums, a significant savings that has allowed more doctors to stay in their practice.

Medicare Reform: Many new Medicare beneficiaries find it difficult to locate a doctor who will accept Medicare. This is because physicians around the country realize that Medicare is an unstable payer, subject to the whims of political will and influence, and are doing what they must to protect their small businesses. Physicians are scheduled to receive a significant reduction in Medicare payments on January 1, 2010. The Ensuring the Future Physician Workforce Act, a bill I plan on introducing shortly, will give doctors what they really need a stable and reasonable predictor of an inflationary reimbursement under Medicare. This will allow

seniors to maintain access to their doctor. The legislation also rewards quality reporting of data, further incentivizes the adoption of Health Information Technology, and brings increased transparency on utilization, billing, and funding to the Medicare program.

Health Care Price Transparency: A patient should be able to know what they are paying for and how much they will pay out-of-pocket. H.R. 2249, the Health Care Price Transparency Promotion Act, directs states to establish and maintain laws requiring disclosure of information on hospital charges. The legislation requires hospitals and health plans to make this information available to the public, and to provide individuals with information about estimated out-of-pocket costs for health care services. H.R. 2249 aims to make health care more affordable by promoting greater transparency about the cost of health care services for patients seeking care. The legislation sets a national floor for transparency. As someone who has committed his Administration to transparency, this is an important step in helping make health care, and specifically health care costs, more transparent, which empowers the consumer.

As a practicing physician for over 25 years, I believe I bring a unique perspective to the current health care reform debate. I am committed to finding areas of collaboration between the political parties that can deliver meaningful system reforms that will benefit all Americans. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to review both the efforts outlined above and also my areas of concern with H.R. 3200 so that we may mutually work to bring quality, affordable health care to all Americans.

I look forward to the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience. Should your staff have any questions about any of the attached proposals or would like to arrange a meeting, please contact me or my Legislative Director J.P. Paluskiewicz at my Washington, D.C. office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL C. BURGESS, M.D.,
Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC September 30, 2009.

President BARACK OBAMA,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, I write you once again on the topic of health care reform. As you know, Democrat leaders in the House of Representatives are currently working to merge the three committee bills. Meanwhile, the two Senate products are waiting to be merged pending completion of the Senate Finance Committee's mark-up.

I have closely followed the health care debate for months, making note of actions by all parties involved, including the House, Senate, White House, advocate groups, and the health care industry. These reforms have wide-reaching implications, and you have stressed the importance of conducting business in public so that the American people are aware and involved in the process.

In fact, during a Democratic Presidential primary debate on January 31, 2008, you said: "That's what I will do in bringing all parties together, not negotiating behind closed doors, but bringing all parties together, and broadcasting those negotiations on C-SPAN so that the American people can see what the choices are, because part of what we have to do is enlist the American people in this process."

It has now been over four months since the White House announced numerous deals with major stakeholders in the health care debate to save upwards of \$2 trillion in the health

care system. Little to no details regarding the negotiations have been released, and recent actions and press reports have reminded me of the importance of openness and transparency throughout the legislative process.

Roll Call reports today that negotiators working in the House to merge the three committee bills plan to trim the cost of the legislation by roughly \$200 billion. I wonder what programs or services are being cut, who will be affected, and how these cuts are being decided.

In the Senate Finance Committee's mark-up, Senator Bill Nelson (D-Fl) introduced an amendment regarding drug prices in Medicare and Medicaid. During the debate on the amendment, Senator Torn Carper (D-Del), while arguing against the amendment, said "Whether you like PhRMA or not, we have a deal," referring to the deal PhRMA cut with the White House earlier this year.

In addition, within the Senate Finance Committee plan is a commission to slow the growth of Medicare spending, most likely through changes to reimbursement policy. However, hospitals would be exempt from this commission because, according to CongressDaily, "they already negotiated a cost cutting agreement" with the White House.

Despite your promise to make all health care reform negotiations in public, we still have very few details on what exactly was agreed to during these highly publicized negotiations. In fact, even the stakeholders involved have, at times, seemed at odds with what was actually agreed to. But the one thing we all know is that, through press statements, many deals were made. Unfortunately, even where brief descriptions of policy goals are available, details on achieving these goals are absent, a point made by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

I am compelled to ask—how could Congress have done its' due diligence in creating the policy before us without crucial details surrounding these deals? Were the votes we have seen in the Senate Finance Committee as of late a direct result of these backroom negotiations? Will CBO be able to actually score any of these deals to apply those cost savings to legislation? Were these negotiations in the best interests of patients?

Having little to no information, I cannot judge. However, this begs even more questions. Is Congress enacting the best policy reforms for Americans, or are certain changes being made or not made because of the negotiations orchestrated by the White House? Will smaller stakeholders suffer more from our policy choices because of what larger groups may have negotiated behind closed doors?

Mr. President, I do not write this letter to chide you for engaging in what I consider the most pressing debate before Congress. I applaud you for your leadership in compelling Congress to act. In order to fully understand the policy choices before us, though, we need to know what took place earlier this year during these meetings at the White House. You have made it very clear that you value transparency and have sought to make your Administration stand out in this regard. As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, so do I. The last thing I would want to see is a formal investigation of these meetings.

Thus, I formally request full disclosure by the White House in the following areas regarding all meetings with health care stakeholders occurring earlier this year on the topic of securing an agreement on health reform legislation, efforts to pay for any such legislation, and undertakings to bend the out year cost curve:

1. A list of all agreements entered into, in writing or in principle, between any and all

individuals associated with the White House and any and all individuals, groups, associations, companies or entities who are stakeholders in health care reform, as well as the nature, sum and substance of the agreements; and,

2. The name of any and all individuals associated with the White House who participated in the decision-making process during these negotiations, and the names, dates and titles of meetings they participated in regarding negotiations with the aforementioned entities in question one; and,

3. The names of any and all individuals, groups, associations, companies or entities who requested a meeting with the White House regarding health care reform who were denied a meeting.

In our efforts to improve access to health care services, the American people expect us to act in their best interests, rather than protecting business interests of those who are interested in carrying favor in Washington, DC. If these health related stakeholders have made concessions to Washington politicians without asking anything in exchange for the patients they serve, Congress and, more importantly, the American public deserve to know. Conversely, if they sought out protections for industry-specific policies, we need to know that as well.

We must learn what these negotiations mean for the millions of concerned Americans. How they will be better served, including having affordable health coverage and access to the providers they need? These negotiations may have produced consensus on policy changes that are proper and needed, but Congress will never know for sure that we are acting in our constituents' best interests until all the facts are known.

I look forward to the opportunity to speak with you at your earliest convenience on this matter. Should your staff have any questions about this request please contact me or my Legislative Director J.P. Paluskiewicz at my Washington, D.C. office at 202-225-7772.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL C. BURGESS, M.D.,
Member of Congress.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ABERCROMBIE (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and October 15 until 3:30 p.m.

Mr. CARNEY (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and October 15 on account of active military duty.

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. DEFAZIO) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, October 21.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, October 21.
Mr. KING of New York, for 5 minutes, October 20.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, October 15, 20 and 21.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia, for 5 minutes, October 15.

Mr. WESTMORELAND, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POSEY, for 5 minutes, today and October 15.

Mrs. BACHMANN, for 5 minutes, today and October 15.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 846. An act to award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, in recognition of his contributions to the fight against global poverty, the Committee on Financial Services.

S. 1510. An act to transfer statutory entitlements to pay and hours of work authorized by the District of Columbia Code for current members of the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division from the District of Columbia Code to the United States Code, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1016. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide advance appropriations authority for certain accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2997. An act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, 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. 1717. To authorize major medical facility leases for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, October 15, 2009, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of Rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4095. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting Inventory Lists for the Department of Defense Agency and Activities pursuant to section 2330a Title 10 of the U.S. Code as amended by section 807 of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2008; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4096. A letter from the Chair, Congressional Oversight Panel, transmitting the Panel's monthly report pursuant to Section 125(b)(1) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, Pub. L. 110-343; to the Committee on Financial Services.

4097. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(b); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4098. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Pursuant to section 527(f) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for FY 1994 and 1995 (Pub. L. 103-236), a report listing outstanding expropriation cases; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4099. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's report entitled "Managing for Engagement — Communication, Connection, and Courage", pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1204(a)(3); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4100. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting copy of the Annual Report to Congress on the Refugee Resettlement Program for the period October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007 as required by section 413(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, pursuant to 8 U.S.C. 1523(a); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

4101. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Events; Patapsco River, Northwest Harbor, Baltimore, MD [Docket No.: USCG-2009-0251] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received September 25, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4102. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone: F/V Patriot, Massachusetts Bay, MA [Docket No.: USCG-2009-0707] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received September 25, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4103. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; SOCAT Model TBM 700 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2006-26234; Directorate Identifier 2006-CE-064-AD; Amendment 39-15983; AD 2007-03-17 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4104. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited (Jetstream) Model 4101 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0463; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-065-AD; Amendment 39-15984; AD 2009-16-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4105. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness

Directives; Fokker Model F.27 Mark 050 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0691; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-061-AD; Amendment 39-15988; AD 2009-16-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4106. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-100, -200, -300, -400, and -500 Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1213; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-092-AD; Amendment 39-15987; AD 2009-16-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4107. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 767 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2007-29173; Directorate Identifier 2006-NM-283-AD; Amendment 39-15989; AD 2009-16-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4108. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Regional Aircraft Model HP.137 Jetstream Mk.1, Jetstream Series 200 and 3101, and Jetstream Model 3201 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0570; Directorate Identifier 2009-CE-033-AD; Amendment 39-15949; AD 2009-13-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 21, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4109. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Regional Aircraft Model HP.137 Jetstream Mk.1, Jetstream Series 200 and 3101, and Jetstream Model 3201 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0817; Directorate Identifier 2009-CE-046-AD; Amendment 39-16020; AD 2009-19-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received September 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4110. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30683 Amdt. No 3336] received September 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4111. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airspace Designations; Incorporation By Reference [Docket No.: 29334; Amendment No. 71-41] received September 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4112. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the 2008 Annual Report of the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training of the Department of Labor, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 2009(b); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

4113. A letter from the Chairman, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting a report entitled, "Risk Assessment Methodologies at Defense Nuclear Facilities"; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Energy and Commerce.

4114. A letter from the Secretary and Attorney General, Departments of Health and Human Services and Justice, transmitting

the eleventh Annual Report on the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control (HCFAC) Program for Fiscal Year 2008; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

4115. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Annual Report of the Railroad Retirement Board for Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2008, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231f(b)(6); jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Ways and Means.

4116. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's budget request for fiscal year 2011, in accordance with Section 7(f) of the Railroad Retirement Act, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231f(f); jointly to the Committees on Appropriations, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means.

4117. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "The Department of Labor's List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor"; jointly to the Committees on Education and Labor, Oversight and Government Reform, and Ways and Means.

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. WAXMAN: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3200. A bill to provide affordable, quality health care for all Americans and reduce the growth in health care spending, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111-299 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. RANGEL: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3200. A bill to provide affordable, quality health care for all Americans and reduce the growth in health care spending, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111-299 Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California: Committee on Education and Labor. H.R. 3200. A bill to provide affordable, quality health care for all Americans and reduce the growth in health care spending, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 111-299 Pt. 3). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 829. Resolution providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2892) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes (Rept. 111-300). Referred to the House Calendar.

Ms. MATSUI: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 830. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2442) to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to expand the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program, and for other purposes (Rept. 111-301). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and the Budget discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3200 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MORAN of Kansas:

H.R. 3806. A bill to amend the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 to extend and expand the Medicare rural community hospital demonstration program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee:

H.R. 3807. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an incentive for expanding employment in rural areas by allowing employers the work opportunity credit for hiring residents of rural areas; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ADERHOLT (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. CASTLE):

H.R. 3808. A bill to require any Federal or State court to recognize any notarization made by a notary public licensed by a State other than the State where the court is located when such notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROUN of Georgia:

H.R. 3809. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for unreimbursed funeral expenses with respect to a deceased indigent individual; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. HINCHAY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. KAPUR, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. FILER, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. GUTIERREZ):

H.R. 3810. A bill to extend certain economic recovery payments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KOSMAS:

H.R. 3811. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to authorize the Secretary, for a period of 2 years, to allocate a new markets tax credit limitation to entities that serve or provide investment capital for distressed communities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KOSMAS:

H.R. 3812. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage businesses to purchase commercial and residential property in distressed communities by providing an exclusion from tax on certain gains; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SESTAK:

H.R. 3813. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the approval of certain programs of education for purposes of the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. FLEMING (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. CAO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MELANCON, and Mr. SCALISE):

H. Res. 827. A resolution honoring the life and service of Dewey Lee Fletcher, Jr; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. CAO (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. SCALISE, and Mr. FLEMING):

H. Res. 828. A resolution to recognize October 24, 2009, the 20th chartered flight of World War II veterans through Louisiana HonorAir, as "Louisiana HonorAir Day," and to honor the invaluable service and dedication of the World War II veterans to our Nation; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida (for herself, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. PLATTS, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, and Mr. LINDER):

H. Res. 831. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Adoption Day and National Adoption Month by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children in foster care awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, recognizing current programs and efforts designed to promote adoption, and encouraging people in the United States to seek improved safety, permanency, and well-being for all children; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LOEBSACK (for himself, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa):

H. Res. 832. A resolution recognizing and congratulating ACT, Inc. on 50 years of service to the Nation; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H. Res. 833. A resolution honoring the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the 10th anniversary of the accession to the throne of His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona introduced a bill (H.R. 3814) for the relief of Martha Quintana Bonilla; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 32: Ms. MARKEY of Colorado and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 211: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 272: Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 391: Mr. MANZULLO.

H.R. 406: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 525: Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 610: Mr. HARE.

H.R. 615: Mr. MCMAHON.

H.R. 761: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN.

H.R. 868: Mr. HODES and Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 986: Mr. REYES.

H.R. 1024: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 1103: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.

H.R. 1177: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 1182: Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 1191: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 1193: Mr. SCHAUER.

H.R. 1194: Mr. SIREN, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LEE of New York, Mr. NYE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 1215: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 1283: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 1310: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

H.R. 1326: Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr.

RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. CAS-
TLE.

H.R. 1392: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 1478: Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 1521: Mr. BOUCHER and Mr. WEINER.
H.R. 1545: Mr. TURNER and Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 1549: Mr. MEEK of Florida.
H.R. 1570: Mr. BLUNT.
H.R. 1583: Mr. VISCLOSKEY and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 1588: Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee.
H.R. 1596: Mr. EHLERS.
H.R. 1623: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 1708: Ms. BERKLEY and Mrs. MCCARTHY
of New York.
H.R. 1770: Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 1826: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. KILDEE,
Ms. NORTON, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 1831: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. MARIO
DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, and
Mr. SPRATT.
H.R. 1835: Mr. WU.
H.R. 1944: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 1964: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 1977: Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.
H.R. 1987: Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr.
CARNAHAN, and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1993: Ms. SUTTON and Mr. SCHAUER.
H.R. 2024: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
H.R. 2031: Mr. CHAFFETZ and Mr. YOUNG of
Alaska.
H.R. 2138: Mr. PETERSON, Ms. CORRINE
BROWN of Florida, and Mr. SCHAUER.
H.R. 2156: Mr. SHUSTER.
H.R. 2160: Mr. OLVER.
H.R. 2161: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 2177: Mr. GUTIERREZ.
H.R. 2214: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 2227: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN and Mr.
TURNER.
H.R. 2279: Mr. CONYERS and Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 2299: Ms. WATSON.
H.R. 2305: Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 2408: Mr. SESTAK, Mr. LUETKEMEYER,
and Mr. REYES.
H.R. 2452: Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Ms.
FOXX, and Mr. MITCHELL.
H.R. 2480: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr.
HOLT, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MASSA,
Mr. GERLACH, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr.
PASTOR of Arizona, Ms. CHU, Mr. SPRATT, Mr.
WEINER, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. MEEK of Florida,
Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. SHULER,
Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, and Mr.
RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 2493: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 2502: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr.
WALDEN, Mr. UPTON, Mr. PETERS, Mr.
MINNICK, Mr. SHULER, Mr. JOHNSON of Geor-
gia, and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.
H.R. 2547: Mr. PAUL and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 2556: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas and
Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 2560: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 2563: Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 2567: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr.
KILDEE.
H.R. 2608: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina,
Mr. MCKEON, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, and
Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 2617: Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 2628: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.
H.R. 2743: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. MINNICK, and
Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 2746: Mr. MASSA and Mr. HARE.
H.R. 2807: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 2817: Mr. MCDERMOTT and Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 2866: Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. INSLEE, Ms.
TSONGAS, and Mr. ELLSWORTH.
H.R. 2941: Ms. KOSMAS.
H.R. 2954: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 3006: Mr. POLIS of Colorado.
H.R. 3017: Mr. BECERRA.
H.R. 3048: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 3077: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ OF CALI-
FORNIA.

H.R. 3092: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 3185: Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 3206: Ms. RICHARDSON.
H.R. 3225: Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 3238: Mr. POLIS of Colorado.
H.R. 3263: Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 3350: Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 3355: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania,
Mr. BONNER, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 3356: Mr. OLSON, Mr. BISHOP of Utah,
Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. COFFMAN
of Colorado, Mrs. LUMMIS, and Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 3375: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 3380: Mr. FILNER, Mr. BACA, Ms. WA-
TERS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 3400: Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr.
SMITH of Texas, and Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 3426: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr.
FILNER, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. DELAHUNT.
H.R. 3454: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 3495: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 3524: Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. OLSON, and Mr.
BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 3553: Mr. HARE.
H.R. 3554: Mr. ARCURI and Mr. BRIGHT.
H.R. 3577: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. NYE, and Mr.
RAHALL.
H.R. 3586: Mr. OBERSTAR.
H.R. 3608: Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 3612: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. KING
of Iowa, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr.
POSEY, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. BISHOP of
Utah, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr.
FLEMING, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. AKIN, Mr. SAM
JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BARTLETT, and Mr.
GINGREY of Georgia.
H.R. 3633: Mr. RUSH, Ms. SUTTON, and Mr.
TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3636: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CARSON of Indi-
ana, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 3644: Mr. SABLAN and Ms. LEE of Cali-
fornia.
H.R. 3664: Mr. WELCH, Mr. SARBANES, and
Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 3670: Mr. BARROW, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr.
SCHAUER.
H.R. 3679: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 3691: Mr. BUCHANAN and Mr. ROONEY.
H.R. 3712: Mr. HALL of New York, Mr.
MICHAUD, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. WELCH, Mr.
CAO, Mr. HOLT, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and
Mr. MASSA.
H.R. 3721: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 3728: Ms. LEE of California and Mr.
RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 3731: Ms. CHU, Mr. MASSA, Ms.
SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHAUER, Mr. PASCRELL,
Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Ms. EDDIE BER-
NICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. LINDA T.
SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. PASTOR of Ari-
zona, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms.
VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. DINGELL, Mr.
CARDOZA, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr.
RODRIGUEZ, and Mr. INSLEE.
H.R. 3742: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. COLE, Ms. RICH-
ARDSON, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr.
FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, and
Mr. POMEROY.
H.R. 3749: Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr.
PUTNAM, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr.
MCHENRY, and Mr. COBLE.
H.R. 3772: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 3778: Mr. MEEK of Florida.
H.R. 3789: Mr. ROSS and Mr. GARY G. MIL-
LER of California.
H.R. 3791: Mr. SPRATT, Mr. LEVIN, Mr.
DEFazio, Mr. MURPHY of New York, Mrs.
BIGGERT, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of
Texas, Mr. WEINER, and Mr. HALL of New
York.
H.R. 3797: Mr. JONES, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr.
COLE, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. BROWN of

Georgia, Mr. HARPER, Mr. DAVIS of Ken-
tucky, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. GINGREY of Geor-
gia, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr.
LAMBORN, and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

H.R. 3802: Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. BONNER, Mr.
POSEY, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr.
BISHOP of Utah, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. ISSA, Mr.
AKIN, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. FALLIN, Mrs.
BACHMANN, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr.
BARTLETT, Mr. MARCHANT, Mrs. BLACKBURN,
Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr.
KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. BROWN of Georgia,
Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, and Mr. COLE.

H. Con. Res. 42: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H. Con. Res. 43: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H. Con. Res. 58: Mr. HONDA and Mr.
FORTENBERRY.

H. Con. Res. 108: Mr. MICHAUD.

H. Con. Res. 139: Mr. INGLIS, Mr. SHULER,
and Mr. STEARNS.

H. Con. Res. 158: Mr. MILLER of North Caro-
lina.

H. Con. Res. 185: Mr. LATOURETTE.

H. Res. 266: Mr. DUNCAN.

H. Res. 523: Mr. PENCE.

H. Res. 561: Mrs. MALONEY.

H. Res. 563: Mrs. MALONEY.

H. Res. 613: Mr. GERLACH, Mr. HASTINGS of
Washington, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. EHLERS, and
Mr. HINCHEY.

H. Res. 630: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of Cali-
fornia.

H. Res. 660: Mr. FATTAH.

H. Res. 708: Mr. HARE, Mr. KLEIN of Flor-
ida, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. SOUDER,
and Ms. MATSUI.

H. Res. 709: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H. Res. 736: Mr. HALL of New York, Mr.
JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. CAO,
and Mr. PITTS.

H. Res. 747: Mr. WALZ, Mr. BACA, Mr.
SALAZAR, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr.
INSLEE, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH,
Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BONNER, Mr.
REICHERT, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms.
GRANGER, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr.
KIND, Mr. DRIEHAUS, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. SAR-
BANES, Mr. DICKS, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. DON-
NELLY of Indiana, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr.
MICHAUD.

H. Res. 749: Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H. Res. 759: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.

H. Res. 783: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr.
FARR, Mr. OLSON, Mr. CANTOR, and Mr. RUSH.

H. Res. 786: Mr. ALTMIRE and Mr. SABLAN.

H. Res. 796: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia and
Mr. SOUDER.

H. Res. 798: Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. CON-
YERS, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr.
SCHIFF, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Ms.
BERKLEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. FILNER, Mr.
SHULER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of
Texas, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. CAR-
SON of Indiana.

H. Res. 800: Mr. AUSTRIA.

H. Res. 801: Ms. WATERS, Ms. RICHARDSON,
Ms. CLARKE, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr.
SNYDER, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. WEXLER.

H. Res. 816: Mr. BACA, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr.
HASTINGS of Florida.

H. Res. 824: Mr. MANZULLO, Ms. SLAUGHTER,
Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. DAVIS of Cali-
fornia, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado,
Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr.
FOSTER, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TSON-
GAS, Mrs. HALVORSON, Ms. PINGREE of Maine,
Mr. KISSELL, Ms. SUTTON, Ms. KILROY, Ms.
CASTOR of Florida, Ms. BEAN, Mrs. BIGGERT,
Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr.
HARE, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON
of Illinois, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. LIPIN-
SKI, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. SCHOCK.