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House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 27, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DONNA F. EDWARDS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

SBA EXTENSIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation to extend the important programs of the Small Business Administration.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, having created 65 percent of all new jobs in the last decade. However, over the course of the last 18 months, small business owners have had trouble accessing the capital they need to grow their business and to create jobs. The SBA's lending programs are a critical piece of helping small businesses access this credit and create jobs, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Now, according to the Northwest Business Development Agency in Washington State, for every $1 lent under the SBA 504 program, $94 is generated in tax revenue for our communities. Congress has made important steps to encourage increased lending for small businesses, including allowing SBA 504 loans to be used for debt relief, reducing fees in the SBA's 7(a) and 504 loan guaranty programs, and increasing the maximum percentage of the loan guaranty for 7(a) loans to 90 percent.

And credit is starting to move. In my district alone, between October 2009 and the end of February 2010, 58 SBA 7(a) loans worth nearly $18 million and 15 504 loans worth nearly $6 million were provided to small businesses in the Second Congressional District of Washington State, allowing them to expand and to modernize. However, at the end of this month, authorization for these important SBA programs will expire.

As Congress stays laser-focused on creating jobs, extending these important programs and ensuring small businesses can access credit is critical. So I strongly urge a ''yes'' vote on this bill.

FREE TRADE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, we are all encouraged by the positive news that we have been receiving about the economic recovery which appears to be underway. I think it's very clear that with the report that came from the CMS at the end of last week, the dramatic increase in spending and the regulatory vision that is proposed, that the economic recovery that we're going through at this moment is in spite of, not because of, policies emanating from here in Washington, D.C.

Madam Speaker, when we were privileged to have the President of the United States stand in this Chamber and deliver his State of the Union message, one of the things that he talked about was the goal of job creation. We of course have seen signs of economic recovery, but the unemployment rate is still just below 10 percent nationwide. In my State of California, it is in excess of 12 percent, and there are people who are hurting.

When the President stood here right behind where I am now, Madam Speaker, ÷just in front of you and delivered his State of the Union message, he talked about the importance of opening up new markets around the world. He talked about the fact that 95 percent of the world's consumers are outside of our borders, and we could create good jobs for American workers if we were to proceed with the plan for free trade agreements that have been pending.

Well, Madam Speaker, 1,253 days ago, an agreement was signed between the United States of America and the Government of Colombia to open up the market so that we could see jobs created for workers at Caterpillar, John Deere, Whirlpool, and other very important industries right here in the United States. It is 1,253 days since that measure has been signed, and in that same period of time we have seen $2.7 billion in tariffs imposed on products made by U.S. workers going to Colombia.

Madam Speaker, if we want to create good private sector jobs, we need to unleash the potential, reducing the constraints that have been imposed on U.S. workers.

Two hundred and eleven years ago this month, the author of the U.S. Constitution became a Member of Congress, James Madison. Representative Madison, on April 9 of 1789 stood

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in the House of Representatives and said the following. He said, I own myself to be a friend of a free system of commerce and hold it as truth that commercial shackles are generally unjust, oppressive, and impolitic. Madison went on to say, Madam Speaker, that this is more true than the wisdom of the most enlightened legislature.

Now, as it comes to job creation and economic growth in 2010, it seems to me that looking back to what was said 211 years ago by Representative James Madison about unleashing the shackles that exist to the free flow of commerce could create great opportunities for U.S. workers.

And so, Madam Speaker, while I congratulate the President for the words that he provided to us in his State of the Union message about the benefits of opening up new markets around the world, after 1,253 days since it has been signed, I urge the President to send to the United States Congress that measure because I believe that, in this election year especially, people want to focus on job creation and economic growth, and I am convinced that we would have a strong bipartisan vote in support of that very important measure.

HONORING THE AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the AIDS Foundation of Chicago for 25 years of service to the people of Chicago, Cook County, and the State of Illinois.

The foundation has served as the center of AIDS and HIV services in the Chicago metropolitan area and has been a leading advocate of sound policies and legislation in Illinois and Washington. The foundation has raised and disseminated millions of dollars in grants for prevention, care, and advocacy in underserved communities.

Praised as a national model of coordinated case management and supportive housing services, many look to the foundation as a way to do business. The AIDS Foundation is the kind of community-based, people-oriented organization that makes America great. Thanks to CEO Mark Ishaug and to all the staff, volunteers, and board for being a beacon of hope in the fight against AIDS and HIV.

FIX THE HEALTH CARE BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, last week, the chief actuary for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, issued a troubling report, but it is not at all surprising to many of us who debated the health care bill. The report said that the Obamacare health care bill will increase national health expenditures by $311 billion. That is a deficit.

During the debate, many of us said on the House floor that this bill will increase the deficit and expand Federal powers. I would like to take a few minutes to outline some of the problems with the bill by government officials pointing out these problems.

First of all, it obviously increases the deficit. CBO projected the cost of the health care bill to be $940 billion and it would reduce the deficit by $138 billion. However, that has been proven to be wrong. There are budget gimmicks in place and it is unlikely that Congress will keep those gimmicks in place. For example, the bill assumes that a 21 percent cut to Medicare's physician reimbursement rate will stay in place. This won't happen.

New taxes and mandates will create economic hardship. Businesses will be forced to buy health insurance for their employees or pay a tax for every employee. This will place businesses into a very difficult position, cutting workers, reducing wages, or preventing companies from growing larger if they wish to avoid these costly penalties. With 10 percent unemployment nationwide, is this the right time to create a disincentive for a company to hire more workers?

Expanding a broken entitlement creates more problems, not real solutions. For example, in 2014, Medicaid will be expanded to all individuals making less than 133 percent of the Federal poverty level. Half the people covered under the health care bill will be covered because of Medicaid. Unfortunately, most doctors do not participate in Medicaid because the reimbursement rate is far less than the private sector and less than Medicare. So where are these 16 million people going to go to get health care?

It bankrupts State budgets through Medicaid expansion. With 16 million new individuals enrolled in Medicaid, States will be on the hook for more Medicaid spending. In the short term, the Federal Government will pay for the expansion of Medicaid, but after 2017, States will have to pick up about 10 percent of the cost. Many States do not have the ability to do this; it will make it more difficult for them.

Medicare cuts jeopardize the care of our seniors. Medicare's costs continue to grow and the Medicare Trust Fund continues to be insolvent. So, to fix this problem, the majority cut over $500 billion from Medicare, but rather than using the savings to extend the program, they immediately spent it on expanding Medicaid and creating subsidies for the health insurance exchange. CMS reports 15 percent of hospitals will be unprofitable within 10 years just because of these cuts.

It creates an inequity against low-income workers. The employer mandate requires businesses to offer a health plan that meets with the approval of HHS. This will drive up the cost of health plans, and small businesses may not be able to afford a robust insurance plan. CMS' report further points out how many small businesses may cancel their plans because it is cheaper to pay the tax than to provide health insurance.

New regulations increase government control over health care. HHS gains an incredible amount of power under this bill. They will now have the power to dictate insurance policies, insurance prices, regulate the insurance market, and control benefits offered in your health care plan.

This bill obviously violates the Constitution in the fact that the Federal Government now is mandating that all U.S. citizens purchase a health care plan from a private company as a requirement for lawful residency in this country. This is an unprecedented extension of Federal power, and this is only the beginning. The health care bill was so big and so complex that now we are only learning about the problems and flaws in the law, such as its treatment of veteran health plans or weakening the Medicaid program for new lawsuits from trial lawyers.

We need to fix this bill and rein in all the controls and power that have been provided through this bill here in Washington.

IT'S TIME TO CUT WALL STREET DOWN TO SIZE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, as I speak here on the floor of the House, the Republicans on the Senate side of the Hill are still blocking meaningful financial reform, protecting their patrons on Wall Street as they always do, and the lords of Goldman Sachs are before a committee protesting their innocence.

Now, we all know that Goldman and these other firms on Wall Street were too big to fail, or at least some think they were—I think we should have let a few more of them fail, personally, and I opposed the bailout of Wall Street. But let's just say they were too big to fail or at least they were deemed too big to fail and they were bailed out by the United States Government and the taxpayers of the United States, but something else was going on at the same time.

Not only were they too big to fail, they had created wonderful, new financial products that were enriching them in unbelievable ways, making millions of dollars a day for the lords of Goldman and elsewhere on Wall Street. They had designed products that were designed to fail. Then they sold them after they went to the all-too-willing ratings firms, so-called ''impartial'' ratings firms.

Goldman would pay Moody's to rate garbage as caviar, AAA. Then they would go out and sell it to sophisticated investors who should have known

better. I mean, come on, they should have looked at it more carefully. I mean, well, yes, they did kind of mess around with it and they did get the people at Moody's by threatening to take away their business, to rate the garbage as caviar, but those other people should have smelled it and known really it was garbage. And, I mean, what's wrong with that?

And then of course, Goldman just did happen to place some bets of its own against the garbage—which they had created and knew was garbage, and they bet it was garbage—and they won, making billions of dollars for themselves and others who were in on the know here. This is a pretty rotten system.

Now, you could say, well, gee, but aren't they doing things like investing in capital? Aren't they building a great America? No. The financial services industry has gone from 19 percent of the profits in this country to 41 percent, and for the most part—outside of community banks and some people who still actually do banking, unlike most of those companies on Wall Street—they produced no value. They created a heck of a lot of wealth for themselves and others, and occasionally they caused the economy to explode and cost us millions of jobs.

But they're still doing very well for themselves and now they're back to business as usual. And the Republicans in the Senate are defending ''business as usual'' under the guise of wanting to have a better bill that won't encourage bailouts. I mean, this is all such a laughable farce. It would be funny except for the unbelievable pain it has caused to the real economy of this country who have been suffering for years.

It's time to cut these people down to size, cut them down to size by prosecuting them. I have been joined by 59 of my colleagues, and ELIJAH CUMMINGS and I have sent a letter to the SEC saying, look, you've uncovered one case of alleged fraud by the Securities and Exchange Commission where they knowingly sold a bad product to investors and then they bet against it themselves. There were a number of others that went through something called AIG, which the Federal Government also bailed out at the cost of $180 billion to taxpayers. We want every transaction between Goldman and AIG scrutinized to see whether or not any of those were similarly fraudulent transactions, in which case we could get a few billion dollars back from the lords of finance to the taxpayers on Main Street, USA.

It is long past time to begin these kinds of investigations and hopefully, ultimately—like with Enron, because this is worse than Enron—prosecutions. And we will let some of them enjoy some Federal hospitality for a few years.

This is absolutely outrageous. They're creating products designed to fail, that have no useful product, in fact robbing capital from companies who want to invest, who actually want to make things, who actually would employ Americans and who would enhance our economy, all for them to gamble on Wall Street. It's time for the gambling to stop.

You know, in a regular casino, if the casino goes broke, it's only the gamblers and the casino that have a problem. In the casino of Wall Street, when they mess up, they destroy the real economy of the United States and people's livelihoods. It's time to cut them down to size.

RESTORING JOB GROWTH IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, the United States is on an unsustainable path right now, an unsustainable course with massive debt, trillion dollar deficits going into the out-years, unemployment approaching 10 percent, and this administration, since January of 2009, has enacted $670 billion in gross tax increases with more tax increases planned by this administration and the Democratic leadership of Congress. It's no wonder we have high unemployment and uncertainty all throughout this country with regard to the business climate.

So what can we do? How can we correct this course? How can we restore American competitiveness for the 21st century? Well, I think there are three things we can do. First, let's cut wasteful, massive government spending. Let's give the American public confidence that we can get our fiscal house in order. Let's send a signal to the bond markets and to our foreign allies and competitors that we can act responsibly. Let's lay out a path for entitlement reform, which is causing severe strain on the Federal budget and leading to this deficit spending. Just laying out a corrective path will send a positive signal.

Secondly, we can lower the corporate tax rate to make U.S. companies more competitive globally with regard to our trading competitors. Let's unleash American innovation. Let's get the American companies out there creating jobs again by lowering the tax rate for our corporations. Right now we have the second highest corporate tax rate in the world among industrialized countries. This makes us less competitive. This also means that companies that want to come to the United States and invest to create jobs here also have a high tax burden. So, therefore, if we want to create jobs, let's make this country competitive for investment coming in and for our companies going out to do investment. That's how we will restore job growth in this country.

Also, one of the things we need to do with regard to tax policy is to make sure that we don't doubly tax our companies who are trying to compete against foreign competitors abroad because our companies competing all over the globe also create American jobs. If we doubly tax ours on top of having the second highest corporate tax rate in the world, well, it's no wonder we're not seeing the kind of job growth that is necessary. We're not going to see U.S. companies and the U.S. be competitive in this global market.

And finally, the third thing: let's promote exports. Exports create jobs, good high-paying jobs. Now, the President has announced that his goal, his stated goal during the State of the Union, was to double exports by the U.S. over the next 5 years. Well, let's look at a little bit of history here for a moment. It took us 10 years previously to double exports. It required the completion of a round of negotiations at the WTO. It took implementation of NAFTA and 10 free trade agreements to be implemented to double exports. This administration has offered none of that so far.

We have, currently, three free trade agreements pending that have been negotiated in good faith, and yet this administration and this Democratic Congress has failed to implement these free trade agreements. These are a win for the United States because those countries are already bringing goods into our country; we just have barriers in exporting to theirs. Why not lift those barriers? Implementing these free trade agreements will create good high-paying U.S. jobs.

These three countries—Colombia, Panama, and South Korea—are markets that are ready for U.S. goods and services. So all we have to do is implement these agreements which have been negotiated in good faith. By failure to do this, what we're doing is sending a signal to our competitors and to other countries that the United States does not negotiate in good faith. That's a poor signal to send if we want to be competitive in this global market.

Meanwhile, those three countries I just mentioned, Colombia, Panama—let's just take Colombia, for instance. The European Union and Canada are both in the stages of implementing free trade agreements with Colombia. And what's happened? We've seen U.S. exports of agriculture products plummet just over the past year. At the same time, the European Union and Canada have also increased their exports to fill that gap. We are losing out. We are losing out on being able to export to Colombia simply because we won't keep our good faith negotiation and implement this agreement.

The President has announced a national export initiative, but yet there have been no substantive steps to move this forward. Why not implement a small business initiative to help our small businesses export to Colombia? That's an immediate way to create jobs.

IT'S TIME FOR MAIN STREET VALUES TO COME TO WASHINGTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. PERRIELLO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, the time for backroom deals is over. The time for the Washington-Wall Street collusion that has put Main Street at risk and risked the pension funds and hard-earned retirement accounts of so many Americans, it is time for this to end.

How many loopholes is enough for the Republican Caucus in the Senate? We've had the entire Republican Senate Caucus join with the king of the Corn Husker Kickback to say, no, not enough loopholes, we need to water it down more, we need less accountability for Wall Street. That's not what the American people are saying. The American people are saying it's time to bring Main Street values of accountability, decency, and transparency to Washington and to Wall Street.

People want the banks to bank and let those who want to use risky, speculative gambling schemes to keep their hands off of the hard-earned retirement of those who have worked their entire lives to be able to settle in their later years. People have worked hard to do this, and yet we now see from the e-mail streams and the memos from Wall Street that they were all too giddy to risk all that people had earned to make a few more bucks on these schemes.

It's time to get back to an economic system built on building things and growing things that create jobs back on Main Street, living wage jobs that help people move from the working class up to the middle class at the core of the American dream. Yet standing in the way is a set of rules that seem to encourage the riskiest of behavior by the richest among us at the expense of those who are just trying to make it.

People aren't asking for punitive damages—except where people broke the law, in which case we need more, not less, of the kind of investigations that we've seen from the SEC. People are just saying, Why shouldn't Wall Street and Washington have to play by the same rules that all of us do back on Main Street? Yet that basic principle seems to be too much to ask of those on the other side of this building who will stop at nothing, stop at no mechanism to ensure that they continue to protect the backroom deals and the carve-outs and the loopholes for Wall Street.

We have a system that is based on the idea that if you work hard and play by the rules, you will be able to make it in this country. Well, people who worked hard and played by the rules had everything that they had saved for put at risk by tactics that never should have been allowed, but in the tight relationship between this town and Wall Street, we see too often that those basic principles, those Main Street values of decency, accountability, and fairness, are apparently too much to ask of too many in this town.

But we have a chance this week, we have a chance in the weeks ahead to finally draw a line in the sand and say, no, we've had too much of that erosion of values, we've had too much of that culture of instant gratification—I want it for me right now, regardless of the consequences to my country or the economy. It's time for that to end.

We have basic rules being offered that simply say decency, fairness, accountability say that you shouldn't be able to sell a product to people based on one thing and then bet against it so that you're taking their money through the back door, that the most powerful among us are able to exploit and take advantage of the everyday folks who have just worked hard and played by the rules to try to secure retirement.

How many loopholes is enough for Republicans and the king of the Corn Husker Kickback at the other side of this building? How many loopholes do they need before they're ready to proceed with debate? It is far past time to end the Wall Street-Washington collusion. It is far past time to bring those Main Street values back to the way we do business in this country because we can still build things and grow things in this country. We can build and grow our energy future. We can build and grow the great universities of broadband technology, the electric grid of the future. We can still out-innovate any country in the world.

But we need a system that rewards innovation and rewards following the rules instead of bailing out failure and collusion. That's the line in the sand we're trying to draw now. Those days are over of rewarding failure, of rewarding the backroom deals. It is time to reward innovation. It's time to reward that hard work of the farmer and the small business owner, where two out of every three new jobs in America will come from that small business owner.

So, instead of a system that's tilted entirely towards the biggest players, what about giving everyday Americans a chance, working class, middle class Americans, small business owners who have great ideas and understand the principle of following the rules? We have for too long had a system that has rewarded all the worst behaviors in Washington and Wall Street together. Now we have a chance. We have a moment to say rules of decency, accountability, and fairness.

But there are those in this building who say they will stop at nothing and use all means necessary to make sure that that debate never happens because they know that the more the American people understand about the derivative schemes and mortgage-backed securities and exotic mechanisms they came up with, the more they realize that it was just simply rich and powerful people gambling with their money and their retirement security.

That time is done. It is time for Main Street values to come to Washington.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 1 minute a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

Lord God, by Your almighty power uphold our commitment to live according to Your revealed truths and the constitutional law of this great country. Let freedom flourish in the lives of Your people who seek justice and prove themselves trustworthy. Shape virtuous leadership in government of the people. Remove fear from their minds and depression from their spirits. May this body prove creative in facing our problems, be decisive in seeking the whole truth; as it leads Your people to greater security and peace both now and forever. 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 California (Mr. MCNERNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCNERNEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

> I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HONORING WESLEY RAYMOND STUART

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Wesley Raymond Stuart, a true American patriot who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great Nation.

In 1943, Wesley joined the United States Navy as an aviation ordnanceman second class, and was trained on Avenger bombers. On September 13, 1944, an Avenger took off from the USS Enterprise with a three-

man crew aboard, including Petty Officer Stuart. The crew was bound for battle over the Japanese-occupied South Pacific island of Peleliu. Shortly after takeoff, the aircraft was shot down by enemy fire, leaving no survivors. Although the wreckage of Petty Officer Stuart's aircraft was later recovered, he is still considered missing in action.

After 60 years, the family of Petty Officer Stuart continues its commitment to keeping his memory alive. I join their efforts by recognizing the bravery and sacrifice of this American hero.

CREDIBILITY GAP

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, we are seeing a growing credibility gap here in Washington. Democrats are saying one thing and doing something else. It started with the trillion dollar stimulus plan that was rushed through with promises that it would create jobs immediately and keep unemployment below 8 percent. Today unemployment is near 10 percent, and Americans are still asking, ''Where are the jobs?'' Americans were also promised a war on deficits, but all that's happened is we have piled more debt on the backs of our kids and grandkids.

Then we have the trillion dollar government takeover of health care that was forced through with promises that it would lower costs. But it turns out the new law will actually increase costs for taxpayers and patients. This comes from an analysis by the Obama administration's Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. CMS determined that the new law will increase what the Nation spends on health care over the next 10 years by $311 billion. The President claimed that this government takeover of health care was the single most important thing that we can do to address our deficits. But now it turns out it is just going to make matters worse.

Just think about that credibility gap when you see the majority insist on rushing through a job-killing regulatory bill with promises that it will end Wall Street bailouts. The bill doesn't end Wall Street bailouts; it makes them permanent and institutionalizes ''too big to fail.'' This bill doesn't get the government out of the private sector; it creates a Politburo-style council of regulators who can seize any business and do almost anything they want to do with it. And the bill doesn't address the real reasons for the financial meltdown. It gives a free ride to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the government mortgage companies that started this crisis.

Americans were promised a new Washington. Instead, it's just more of the same: more spending, more government, and more empty promises. I think it's time we start listening to the American people. Let's work together on commonsense solutions to end the bailouts, reform Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and hold Wall Street accountable. Let's work together to repeal this government takeover of health care and replace it with commonsense reforms that will lower the cost of health care. Let's work to ban earmarks and stop out-of-control spending. And most importantly, let's work on commonsense solutions that will help small businesses create the kind of jobs that Americans are looking for.

SUPPORT THE SUMMITVILLE PROCUREMENT PROTECTION ACT OF 2010

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

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this week I introduced the Summitville Procurement Protection Act of 2010. This legislation will improve the Federal subcontracting process.

Here is the problem: Federal Acquisition Regulation holds the government to transparent reporting standards as it hires prime contractors, but it does not hold those prime contractors to the same standards when they hire subs. This is a complete lack of oversight.

A company in my district, Summitville Tiles, was denied the opportunity to present a formal bid precisely because of this problem. My legislation would level the playing field and require that prime contractors meet five sections of the Federal Acquisition Regulation as they hire subs. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

CMS REPORT

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

Mr. CANTOR. At the start of the health care debate last year, President Obama made two critical promises. He assured the American people that his bill would, number one, lower costs, and that if they liked the coverage they had they could keep it. On the first count, an independent CMS report released last week states that health care costs will skyrocket under this bill by an astounding $311 billion over the next 10 years. That's more than the previous estimate for each individual bill passed in the House and Senate.

And if you like what you have, you truly may not be able to keep it. Even care for our seniors is jeopardized. The CMS report warns that Medicare cuts may trigger a flight of hospitals and other health care providers from participation in Medicare. It also states that 50 percent of the seniors participating in Medicare Advantage are set to lose their coverage.

The American people deserve better, Mr. Speaker, and that's why we need to repeal the $1 trillion government overhaul of health care and replace it with a bill that makes lowering costs the first priority.

FEDERAL ACTION NEEDED ON IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an important issue facing our country, and that's the issue of immigration. The lack of Federal action and the failure of the Federal Government to establish the rule of law has completely and utterly failed so severely that States are trying to take Federal law into their own hands.

On the right you have States like Arizona, which has passed a law that allows for racial and ethnic profiling. On the left you have States contending with whether they issue driver's licenses or in-state tuition to our growing undocumented population.

This is a Federal failure. It is our failure. Congress needs to act now. We should not have 10 million, 15 million, 20 million undocumented immigrants in our country. It strains law enforcement, undermines wages for our working families, and is a very real security threat.

I am a proud cosponsor of comprehensive immigration reform in the House. Bipartisan efforts are also underway in the Senate. I urge my colleagues to join me in demanding comprehensive immigration reform now.

REPEAL OBAMACARE

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

Mr. PENCE. Well, after months of debate and assurances that their government takeover of health care would actually result in lowering the cost of health care for Americans, the truth landed with a thud last Thursday. A new report from the Obama administration's own Medicare agency confirms what we have known all along: the President and congressional Democrats passed a health care law without any idea how to pay for it.

They promised to lower the cost of health care, but instead ObamaCare will send those costs soaring by $311 billion. Again, this is from their own analysts within the administration. The same report says some of the ways Democrats set out to pay for the bill are unsustainable, and some of the methods they used to control costs are, quote, ''negligible''.

The reality is that we need to repeal ObamaCare and replace it with the kind of health care reform that will lower the cost of health care without growing the size of government. And House Republicans are determined to be on the side of the American people until we do just that.

UNIVERSAL ACCREDITATION

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

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month we witnessed the tragedy of an inter-country adoption gone wrong when a 7-year-old boy was forced back, alone, to Russia. Last year over 12,000 children from around the world were adopted by American families, yet only a fraction of these adoptions were processed by accredited adoption agencies. The others occurred under an unregulated process that may not have the best interests of the families or the child in mind.

Just over 2 years ago, the United States became a full member of the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption. Under the Convention, the United States requires that inter-country adoption service providers be accredited to improve transparency and accountability. Unfortunately, these rules only apply to adoptions from countries that have signed the Convention. Adoption agencies who work for non-Convention countries do not need to meet the accreditation requirements, and these agencies continue to conduct unregulated adoptions, creating a double standard for the treatment of children and families.

We must strengthen the adoption practices by requiring accreditation for all countries' adoption service providers. Universal accreditation will create an adoption process that is lawful, safe for the child, and respectful to the families involved.

CMS CHIEF ACTUARY'S ANALYSIS ON EFFECTS OF THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, the Speaker of the House told the National Association of Counties a while back that Congress needed to pass the health care bill so we could find out what's in it. Well, we are finding out now.

The Chief Actuary for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is the independent scorekeeper of legislation like this. Their report that they just issued said half of all seniors in America who are on Medicare Advantage plans, half, are going to lose that coverage under the bill that was signed into law.

Well, that's a big problem for seniors in Oregon. Oregon has had one of the highest penetration rates in the United States of seniors who wanted Medicare Advantage and signed up for it. I was out in Ontario, Oregon, not long ago, and the seniors there raised their hands and said, ''Why are they taking away the Medicare Advantage I have?'' We now know under this independent evaluation half of them will lose that care, 38,000 seniors in my district alone.

We need to repeal and replace this law that was jammed through this Congress, Mr. Speaker.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. BACA. Yesterday I urged all Americans to boycott the State of Arizona until this law is appealed. This law is unjust. It will only lead to the increase of racial profiling and hate crimes in the State, especially towards Hispanics.

This is a violation of the fourth and 14th amendment in the United States Constitution. It does not require local police officers to have a warrant. This new law will create a divide between people who are asked for legal documents and those who are not. This law will create distrust between police and the communities they protect. This law is backwards, and sets us back in time.

I urge Americans show their support of the boycott and wear a red, yellow, and blue wristband. This is an unjust law and must be overturned, and an example of why we need comprehensive immigration reform.

□ 1215

THE DEBATE OVER HEALTH CARE REFORM IS ALIVE AND WELL

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, while some may believe that the debate over health care is behind us, the report that we received last week, which stated very clearly that this administration had determined that we would see a $311 billion increase—increase—in health care costs over the next decade, was completely counter to what we and the American people were promised. We were promised that there would, in fact, be savings. So I think that, with this report, it is very clear that the debate continues to be alive and well.

Mr. Speaker, we need to take a step-by-step approach, ensuring that people can have access to insurance products across State lines and ensuring that meaningful lawsuit abuse reform takes place. Small businesses should be able to come together to buy at lower rates. We should have pooling to deal with preexisting conditions, and we should expand medical savings accounts.

Those five things, Mr. Speaker, will go a long way towards decreasing costs to ensure that every American will have access to quality, affordable health insurance.

SUPPORT WALL STREET REFORM

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

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, we need Wall Street reform. The collapse in the value of securities as a result of Wall Street's conduct caused our Nation's economic crisis. While Americans struggle to find work and to pay their mortgages, Wall Street continues to pay huge bonuses and to focus only on their profits.

Janet Orcutt of Kailua, Oahu, shared her story with me recently. Last August, Janet's son-in-law lost his job in this bad economy. This led to her daughter and son-in-law losing their home. Now her daughter, son-in-law, and 5-year-old grandson live with Janet and her two teenage children. With everyone living with them, Janet and her husband have had additional costs, which they charge to their credit cards. Each month, they fall farther behind.

Janet said, ''We middle-income Americans are suffering while powerful Wall Street financial companies lobby against financial reform.''

I share Janet's anger. Without reform, the current system will continue to harm the well-being of families like Janet's. The House has passed Wall Street reform. It is high time that the Senate does likewise.

THE NEW HEALTH CARE LAW FAILS ON ALL COUNTS

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, remember when we were told the whole point of the new health care bill was to lower health care costs and to insure all Americans? Well, the CMS, under the control of the Obama administration, estimates that the law fails on all counts.

Twenty million Americans who currently can't afford health care will be forced under duress to buy a product or will face fines in IRS action. Four million Americans still will not be able to buy health insurance, and they will pay $33 billion in fines. Fourteen million will lose their employer-sponsored health care insurance. Twenty-three million Americans will still have no health care coverage in 2019. Twenty-one percent of the gross domestic product will be spent on health care after this law is implemented, which is much higher than if the Congress had done nothing.

You have to wonder: When did we know all of this, and why didn't we know about it before the vote was taken?

THE CONE OF SILENCE

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, after the collapse on Wall Street and after the multiple abuses, the American people are very disappointed that one party in the Senate is filibustering so that we can't move forward to have a bipartisan Wall Street reform bill.

The Republicans' filibuster kind of reminds me of the old ''Get Smart'' show where they had the Cone of Silence. When they wanted to keep a secret so that nobody knew about the secret, they brought down the Cone of Silence. That's what the Republicans want to do about Wall Street reform. They want a Cone of Silence over the Senate so that nobody knows whose side everybody is on.

We are on the side of the American people to have aggressive Wall Street reform. The people who are over there who are filibustering are on the side of Wall Street. They want the Cone of Silence so that people won't know that they're standing up for their friends on Wall Street. That is wrong.

You know, maybe the answer ''no'' is the right answer to some things, but it isn't the right answer to Wall Street reform. End the filibuster. Get a vote. Let's tame Wall Street the way it ought to be regulated.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, we are being told today by our friends, the Democrats, to trust Washington and to trust them. Yet the Obama-Pelosi legislation which passed this House earlier last year promised that, if Congress passed the $787 billion stimulus package, national unemployment would never rise above 8 percent. Today, the national unemployment is 9.7 percent and is hovering near a 25-year high.

I think it is time for the American people to recognize that the answers do not all reside here in Washington, D.C., but that we need to take care of our business. Our business should not be about trying to do a lot of things to a lot of other people but to focus on jobs for this country. Jobs are the number one issue. Jobs are the things which will spur the American entrepreneurship and the creativity that will allow us to be competitive with the world.

Where are the jobs?

SUPPORT WALL STREET REFORM

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Wall Street reform.

Wall Street shenanigans led us to this recession, and if not for having the taxpayers bail them out, these shenanigans would have melted down our entire financial system, all while Wall Street made hundreds of billions of dollars for themselves.

Last December, the House of Representatives responded by passing commonsense Wall Street reform. It would protect families and small businesses from predatory loans, from indecipherable fine print, and from other industry gimmicks. It would end taxpayer-funded bailouts and too-big-to-fail banks. It would impose tough new laws on the riskiest Wall Street practices that got us into this mess in the first place.

House Democrats voted ''yes'' on Wall Street reform, but unfortunately, Republicans all voted ''no.'' Yesterday, their Senate colleagues again voted ''no,'' this time even to start an open and honest debate.

It is time to stop the obstructionism and to let the debate begin. If Senate Republicans have problems with the bill, make them known in public. Offer amendments. Take votes. Show us where you stand—with Main Street or with Wall Street.

HEALTH CARE TAKEOVER INCREASES COSTS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week, the administration's own report released by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services confirmed that the government health care takeover will increase costs, will hurt seniors, and will put employers in a position to drop employee coverage. This is not what the American people wanted when it came to health care reform.

According to the CMS report, national health care costs will increase by $311 billion over the next 10 years, and this increase will force millions of seniors off of their current Medicare coverage. This information was released over a month after the health care takeover was rushed through Congress. Clearly, Congress needed to wait to vote on this legislation after the report was released.

It is time for us to come together to repeal the government health care takeover and to swap it for patient-centered, affordable health insurance reform that expands access and that continues to cover preexisting conditions.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, everyone in Wisconsin wants to know the answer to the question: Whose side are you on?

Yesterday, the partisans in the United States Senate voted to return to the good old days—to the good old days of unregulated financial markets, of voodoo economics on Wall Street, and of the continuing deregulation of big banks on Wall Street.

We cannot afford to go back to the losing policies of the Bush administration when Wall Street was allowed to consume the wealth of an entire generation. People in Wisconsin believe if you're too big to fail, then you should not exist. People in Wisconsin know that we are on their side and that, when Wall Street innovates, Main Street pays the price.

We have got to work hard together to catch all of the crooks and to follow their trails wherever they may lead. We have to make certain that we balance our budgets, that we live within our means, and that we rewrite our financial regulations to make things fair for people on Main Street. That's what we have to do together.

ARIZONA ACTS BECAUSE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO ACT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, because the Federal Government refuses to secure the border, States like Arizona have become desperate to solve the crisis. Arizona has a new illegal immigration law that is causing some heartburn for the open borders crowd. The new law makes being in Arizona without proof of legal status a crime. The consequences range from a misdemeanor to a felony depending on whether one is a repeat offender, is trafficking drugs, or is smuggling human beings.

The open borders lobby doesn't want the laws they don't like enforced, so they protested outside the Arizona State capitol building when the Governor signed the bill into law. They were caught on video pelting police with rocks and bottles. One even assaulted a cameraman. The inconsistent national media calls the peaceful TEA Party people fringe terrorists, but the violent pro-illegal immigration rock throwers get a pass.

No matter how the open borders media crowd spins these rowdy demonstrations, entering this country illegally is still against the law. The Federal Government should do its job and secure the border. That is what they are supposed to do.

And that's just the way it is.

THE CMS REPORT IS GOOD NEWS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy that our Republican colleagues have brought up the CMS report because, while they try to proclaim that this is some kind of revelation, what it actually verifies is what we've been saying all along, which is that we will expand the coverage in this country, not by the 30 million people, which was originally projected, but now by 34 million people. For a 1 percent increase in our total health care costs, which is something that we always said we were going to do, we are going to insure 11 percent more of the population. That's a pretty good deal.

Yet there was another big surprise in that CMS report, not just that we are going to insure more people than we thought, but that we will extend the life of Medicare's trust fund, not just by 9 years as we thought, but now by 12 years—all the way to 2029.

Yes, there was some news in the CMS report. It is good news for the American people; it is good news for Medicare, and it is good news for the Democratic Congress, which did this great service for the American people.

A NEW REPORT SHEDS LIGHT ON EFFECTS OF HEALTH CARE TAKEOVER

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we got some interesting news from the Obama administration's own number crunchers last week. Though it comes as no surprise to those who opposed the government takeover of health care, which became law last month, we learned that this takeover increases national health care spending by $311 billion. Plus, the Federal actuaries reported that 18 million taxpayers will be socked with $33 billion in fines for not purchasing government-approved health care.

In direct contradiction to President Obama's promise of, if you like your plan, you can keep it, the report stated that half of the 14.8 million seniors who enjoy Medicare Advantage will be forced to leave the program due to lower benefits. That means about 20,000 in my district alone will likely lose their plans.

Too bad we didn't have this detailed report before the government takeover became law, but as the saying goes: Better late than never.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL VA RESEARCH WEEK

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, this week is National VA Research Week, recognizing 85 years of VA medical research. Since 1925, the VA has led the way in cutting-edge medical research, turning ideas into discoveries and into innovations which have improved the quality of life for generations of our military veterans.

Many Americans may not realize that some of medical science's greatest achievements have been as the result of research conducted at the VA. The CAT scan and the cardiac pacemaker are but two of the trailblazing innovations made possible through VA-funded research.

Today, the VA is the worldwide leader in important medical research, such as in the diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injuries and of neuroprosthetic technologies related to amputations and to spinal cord injuries of our brave wounded warriors.

So, this week, as we celebrate the pioneers of the past 85 years, let us also recognize today's VA researchers, who are leading the way to finding the medical breakthroughs of tomorrow.

□ 1230

DAY OF PRAYER

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

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, Governor Haley Barbour has proclaimed today as a Day of Prayer in my home State of Mississippi to remember Mississippians who suffered devastating losses of life and property in Saturday's horrific tornadoes and for those families who lost loved ones in last week's oil rig explosion.

One of the tornadoes was an EF4 that left a path of destruction across Mississippi. Communities have come together to comfort families, clear debris, and accumulate what personal possessions could be found.

Equally, Mississippians are experiencing grief in reaction to the drilling incident in the Gulf of Mexico. As neighbors and families mourn, we are reminded of the character of Mississippians in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Today I join folks from across Mississippi in praying for those families affected. I commend Governor Haley Barbour for his leadership and for appropriately designating today as the Day of Prayer.

Though tragic, neither of these events will break the spirit of Mississippi and her people. Our people will persevere.

IN SUPPORT OF ELIMINATION OF PAY RAISE FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DURING FISCAL YEAR 2011

(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, later today the House will consider legislation to stop the automatic pay raise for Members of Congress during this fiscal year. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill because I believe strongly that Members of Congress should not receive a pay raise when so many families in Nevada are struggling with job loss, homes that are under water, and uncertainty about their economic future.

Unemployment in my district has reached record levels, the highest in 25 years. Families are tightening their belts and too many hardworking Nevadans are desperate to find a job. It would be unconscionable during this time of economic hardship for Members of Congress to receive an automatic pay raise. Our action today will send a message to the American people that we are changing the way that business is done in Washington and we are serious about putting our economy on the path to recovery and restoring economic security for all Americans.

THE DEMOCRATS' HEALTH CARE BILL

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

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, in case there's any doubt about the new report released by CMS this week, the report says it all. The Democrats' health care bill fails to provide the reform taxpayers deserve and expected. In fact, the report clearly states that the health care spending will go up by $310 billion over the next 10 years and that the new long-term care CLASS Program poses serious risk of being unsustainable.

This is just another example of the Federal Government's creating yet another unsustainable program and failing to empower the American people. We have set ourselves up for more spending, more burdens that we simply cannot afford, while taking away benefits from seniors and disabled Americans who need them most.

While Republicans offered positive solutions to tackle the spending, Democrats created a massive new government-run health care plan that hurts the economy, interferes with patient choices, and does nothing to bring down the cost of health care.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better than that.

PASS FINANCIAL REGULATORY REFORM

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, it's not even 3 years since Bear Stearns landed flat on its back, that Lehman Brothers landed flat on its back, that AIG contributed to a destruction of our economy which resulted in the destruction of $17 trillion of the household wealth of the American people.

We have spent the last year assembling a commonsense, market-oriented

package of reforms, bringing derivatives onto exchanges, creating an agency which prevents mortgage brokers from selling mortgages to American families that that broker knows can't possibly be repaid.

Yet the other side is saying ''no,'' saying ''no'' to the kind of commonsense reform that will restore Americans' faith in their system, make them comfortable investing in America. Yesterday in the other body, a big step back was taken.

The time is now if we are to be serious about addressing the crisis that this country is only now emerging from for this House to set aside partisanship and pass financial regulatory reform.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my deep concern over the rising tide of unemployment across America and particularly in my home State of West Virginia. In my State, the unemployment rate has risen now to over 10 percent with some counties reaching well over 12 percent.

Beyond these staggering figures, we must take a moment to pause and ask ourselves, are the policies we're pushing through this Congress creating real job growth? Absolutely not.

Sadly, we all know a family member, a friend, a colleague who has lost their job and is struggling to get back on their feet. The so-called stimulus bill, along with numerous so-called jobs bills, has failed to produce the jobs that the administration and the Democrats in this Congress promised. And worse yet, the policies of this administration are actually causing job loss in my State.

Instead we should be enacting policies that get Americans back to work and awaken Main Street across our country.

Mr. Speaker, at a time of increasing unemployment for American families, we must keep repeating, where are the jobs?

WE NEED TO PASS FINANCIAL REFORM

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

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, we need to pass financial reform, and it's time for Republicans to stop standing in the way.

When I'm home in Connecticut and talk to my neighbors and constituents, I never hear anybody disagree with me about the need to reform Wall Street. Their retirement account statements are all the proof that they need that Wall Street played a hand that was too dangerous for their own good.

We need to make sure that our financial system does what it does best: help get money from investors to businesses so that they can innovate and expand. When Wall Street sticks to this mission, we all win.

But over the last decade, much of Wall Street became a Las Vegas casino, with our money—our mortgages, our investments, and pensions—being used as casino chips in trading schemes that added no value to our economy.

Wall Street needs to get back to what it's good at, and it's time for Republicans to stop standing in the way and join us so that we can lock the door together.

RECOGNIZING AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

(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, April is Autism Awareness Month, and I call for increased research into and treatment for this leading developmental disorder.

Autism impacts more of our children every day, and it is becoming exceptionally prevalent in our American society. The number of American families who must learn to cope with autism is growing every day. An estimated one out of every 110 children born in the United States are now diagnosed with autism.

We have got to invest in the research that will allow us to better understand and to treat this serious disorder. For individuals already living with autism and those children who will be diagnosed this year, we must make this a priority. Autism's hold on our families, our children, and our country must be broken.

I look forward to the day when children diagnosed with this developmental disorder can live full and healthy lives. Let's pass this bill before us today.

CONGRATULATING NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGIATE ACADEMY

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

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations to the Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy of Erie, Pennsylvania, on their second straight victory at the United States Academic Decathlon.

On Saturday, Collegiate Academy's nine-member Academic Decathlon team won the Division II small school title and placed sixth out of 40 schools overall at the competition in Omaha.

The students showcased their knowledge in 10 subjects: music, art, language and literature, science, history, economics, essay, interview, speech, and math.

Coach Colleen Holmes led these bright students to victory and helped four team members—Rachel Vandevert, Bronte Seath, Stan Tuznik, and Reeve Hunsaker—earn individual medals at the competition. Sean Carney, Ben Engel, John Luke Galla, Cullen Skinner, and Rose Heid rounded out this champion team.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, congratulations to Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy's Academic Decathlon team on this great victory and on your future successes.

HEALTH CARE BILL'S COSTS

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, each day I am more convinced that I was right to oppose the health care reform bill that was pushed through this Congress last month.

All along Republicans questioned how it's possible to increase Medicaid enrollees and cut costs at the same time. And lo and behold, we were right. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, or CMS, recently concluded that implementing this bill means health care will be 21 percent of our GDP in 2019, up from 16 percent today. Taxpayers will be forced to spend $410 billion to expand Medicaid to 20 million new beneficiaries, and that's only at the Federal level. That doesn't count the State level spending, in which my home State of Texas has been estimated to incur a $24 billion unfunded mandate over 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, there's a better way to provide access to quality, affordable health care for all Americans. We should repeal and replace the bloated government plan with one that makes sense. The American people deserve no less.

THE CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, last week I met with a small business owner from Concord, Massachusetts, who showed me several months of his credit card statements. Due to a 1-day late payment after years of on-time payments, his credit card company increased his interest rate by 15 percent, informing him that because of the increase, he will pay off his balance in 2,820 years.

Thanks to the Credit CARD Act, such abuses are now illegal but only after more than a decade of trying to move these bipartisan and commonsense reforms through Congress.

In response to the law, credit card companies are already devising new ways to exploit their customers, trusting in Congress' inability to respond quickly.

The Consumer Financial Protection Agency will give small business owners like my constituent an advocate that can respond to shady practices as they evolve. Groups like the AARP have endorsed the idea of a strong Consumer Financial Protection Agency because it will be able to stand up for the little guy against the giants who have been able to set their own rules.

''SNITCH TAX''

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, the biggest issue on the minds of the American people is jobs. So imagine my surprise when I took another look at the so-called health care reform bill and found a provision which is just another job-killer provision.

Beginning in 2012 under section 9006 of the Obama care bill, any company, large or small, that purchases more than $600 worth of goods or services from any corporation during the previous year will be required now to file a 1099 with the government and with that company. That means you have to keep track of all the food that you buy, the paint that you buy, the secretarial supplies that you buy, and then you have to give this information to the government. Not because of any obligation on your part to pay something but on the part of the other individual.

The assumption is that everybody else cheats, and so what this is, is nothing more than a universal snitch tax. It requires all Americans to give up information on somebody else.

Repeal this nonsense. Get rid of this burden. Save small business, and cosponsor H.R. 5141.

WE MUST PASS FINANCIAL REFORM

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, a little over 2 years ago, our Nation walked to the precipice. Many Americans are perhaps unaware of the fact that we were very, very close not to a major recession but a depression. And for this body to pass financial reform was, I think, one of the better things we have done.

For financial reform to remain on the table over in the Senate is just abominable. Many people were out trying to survive during this crisis and still losing money, still losing homes.

We saw Wall Street playing around with derivatives that many of them didn't even understand. They hired physicists to actually describe what would happen with the derivatives. So if we don't do financial reform, we're going to leave the American public vulnerable.

We have got to do it. We have got to establish a Financial Consumer Protection Agency and we need to do it now.

DEFENDING ISRAEL

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, as a Nation, one of our strongest allies in the Middle East is Israel. For decades we have stood with this free and democratic state as it has been assaulted. We have always respected the right of Israel to defend itself and to build for itself a stronger nation.

But now our President is causing problems for our ally. The President takes offense at the bureaucratic approval of settlements. But these are not settlements deep in the heart of the West Bank. They are in their capital, Jerusalem. East Jerusalem is an area where half the Jewish population of the capital city currently resides. Prime Minister Netanyahu has made clear: This is an area that will be part of Israel in any peace settlement considered.

In just a few weeks, Israel will celebrate its 62nd year as an independent nation. The United States was the first to stand and recognize Israel on the day of their independence, and since that time we have remained close allies. Let's not let this close relationship move apart. The President should stop giving the cold shoulder to our friends in Israel.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, April 24 marked the 95th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Last Saturday I participated with the Armenian community in Fresno to commemorate this horrific tragedy.

I, once again, call upon this body to pass the Armenian genocide resolution. In my remarks before the Foreign Affairs Committee markup of House Resolution 252, I indicated that historians have clearly documented this event. Back home, as I grew up, my Armenian friends told me of the stories of the systematic approach to eliminate the Armenian communities from their farms, their homes, and their lives. It was the first genocide of the 20th Century. They believe it and so do I.

Theodore Roosevelt once wrote: ''The Armenian massacre was the greatest crime of World War I, and the failure to act against Turkey is to condone it.''

No one holds modern-day Turkey responsible for the past sins of the Ottoman Empire, but they should recognize their history, apologize, and move on to establish diplomatic relationships with Armenia.

There is never a right time to recognize the genocide. We cannot wait around for a convenient time. I urge we pass this resolution.

□ 1245

JOBS ACT

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it's another 3-day work week for Congress, and there is still nothing on the agenda to spur the economy and to incentivize growth. Job creation remains the top concern of the American people. Shouldn't it be a priority of Congress as well? With 15 million unemployed Americans, it is negligent not to prioritize job creation in the private sector today. Through my JOBS Act, H.R. 4100, we can empower small businesses by reducing their tax burden and provide relief to the lowest two individual income brackets.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to seriously consider my legislation or any other bills that put people back to work and provide lasting solutions to the problems facing our economy.

IN MEMORY OF AUTRY LAMONT BATTLES

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a life well lived—the life of Autry Lamont Battles, who passed away on April 15 of this year. Mr. Battles was born in Los Angeles, where he was known for his sense of humor, caring for others, his faith in God, and his talent for cooking. This led him to a fulfilling career in the restaurant and catering business, a job that allowed him to share his love for food and for meeting new people. He came into my life when he was caregiving for a lifelong friend of mine. He said, I just love your mother. She just turned 100 years old, and he was going to prepare the meal for 300 guests. However, his illness did not allow him to do it.

So I want to honor Mr. Battles today for living among us—a good and decent American, who will certainly be missed because he reached out to others and was more caring about others than he was of himself. So we lost him, but I just want to pay tribute to him for a life well lived.

PASSAGE OF PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, here in Washington, in these hallowed Halls, we have the power to do many things. At times, it might appear as if there is no riddle so complex that the careful arrangement of words on a paper cannot overcome it. Indeed, the very rationale behind the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act was to

solve forever the Gordian knot of equality in our citizens' access to health care. Yet, for all its words, commands, prescriptions, and boards in the bill, Richard Foster, the chief actuary of CMS, has laid bare an essential truth about these mandates. Mr. Speaker, they have consequences. On page 10 of his recent report, Mr. FOSTER states unequivocally that this bill will make hospitals, long-term care facilities, and other part A providers unprofitable.

It's clear to me, Mr. Speaker, that while we in Washington can pass words on paper that guarantee all Americans health care, that the doctors and hospitals throughout America may not be around long enough to provide them care. More jobs, Mr. Speaker, lost to wrong-headed policies being forced upon the American people by this majority.

MOVE AHEAD ON HEALTH CARE BILL

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

Mr. WELCH. We have a debate on health care, but the fundamental question that we face is whether we were going to stick with the status quo or we were going to put a stake in the ground to have a health care system where all are covered and all help pay. We did this, unfortunately, without bipartisan support. The question we now have is making this work. The status quo was broken. We're spending two, three times the rate of inflation, the rate of wage growth. Our businesses can't afford it. We spend more and get less, with 45 million Americans uninsured. Now, folks want to repeal it. That includes provisions where your child can be on your health care policy until age 26; where the doughnut hole is going to finally be closed so seniors can get the prescription drugs they need; where folks who need preventive care and long-term care are going to have access to the care that they need; where there won't be a lifetime cap on coverage, so that if you get really sick and need that, you're going to be able to get access to it.

So now the debate is: Are we going to improve this health care system and this health care bill, and do it together, or are we going to repeal it? I say: move ahead.

WHAT'S IN THE HEALTH CARE BILL

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, during the recent health debate, the Speaker ominously said, We have to pass the bill so you can find out what is in it. Well, they passed the bill, and now we're finding out what's in it.

They told us it would keep costs down. Well, now they admit health costs will soar $311 billion, increasing to 21 percent of GDP by 2019.

They told us, If you like your plan, you can keep it. Well, now they admit that seniors on Medicare Advantage could lose their plans. Companies that offer health plans to their employees and retirees are now considering dropping them.

They told us it would be good for the economy. Now they admit employers were correct to downgrade their earnings by billions of dollars that ultimately will come out of employees' wages and benefits.

This issue is not going away. It will continue to plague those responsible until they replace it or until they themselves are replaced.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. The Republicans always want to dwell on distractions, but I believe that the American people are waiting for the health care reform bill to be implemented—and that it will. And it will save lives. But why are the Republicans standing on the side of big business and big companies too big to fail? Now we need the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to be able to respond to America's cry for honesty and integrity on Wall Street.

Right now, one of the biggest Wall Street casinos, Goldman Sachs, is testifying. And I don't know whether they can find the facts to be able to defend atrocious acts causing millions of Americans to lose money. I personally know of a small business that they literally destroyed because they were unwilling to look at ways of allowing that business to survive. And so the $14 million of net worth loss, $22 million decline in net worth, and 2.2 million in homes lost is because of the lack of integrity on Wall Street.

Pass the legislation that will end bailouts; protect families' retirement funds; college savings; homes and businesses; protect consumers; and, yes, inject transparency. Goldman Sachs, what is your answer to the question?

WITH AMERICA AT A CROSSROADS, IT IS TIME TO LISTEN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, time and again during health care debate, the American people were told that the health care bill would lower costs, and Republicans continually argued that the big government takeover of our health care would actually increase the cost to taxpayers. Well, who was right? The nonpartisan Office of the Actuary at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has released its analysis of the new health care law, and the results are very telling, Mr. Speaker.

The actuaries are reporting that the new law will increase health care costs over the next 10 years by $311 billion, which was much more than the original estimates to both the House and the Senate bills. Published reports have indicated that this report, incredibly, was submitted to the Secretary of Health and Human Services more than a week before the final vote in the House. But that information, of course, was not shared with—at least on the Republican side—Members of Congress or the American people. So much for most open and transparent administration in history and so much for providing the American people with real health care reform that would help lower costs.

America is at a crossroads, Mr. Speaker, in this difficult economy. While the American people spoke out very loudly that they did not want a government health care takeover, Democrats refused to listen.

BUILDING A RECOVERY RIGHT FOR AMERICA

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

Ms. SUTTON. Congressional Republicans threaten to take us back to the failed policies that created the economic crisis, siding with special interest, Wall Street banks, credit card companies, Big Oil, and insurance companies. These Bush economic and fiscal policies created the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, with job losses of nearly 800,000 a month, and nearly doubled our national debt. Democrats in Congress are working to create American jobs and a strong new foundation for our economy, protecting Main Street and the middle class, not siding with the insurance companies and Wall Street.

This week's news provides evidence that American families are beginning to feel some effects of an economy headed in a better direction. USA Today headlines read: ''Economists say recovery looks stronger than expected.'' Bloomberg says: ''Companies in U.S. plan to increase employment, survey shows.'' The New York Times says: ''From the mall to the docks, signs of rebound.''

No matter how much they try to side with Wall Street, Democrats will side with the American people and build a recovery and an economy that will work for them.

RAIDING MEDICARE HURTS OUR SENIORS

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

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, last week, the nonpartisan Centers for

Medicare & Medicaid Services released an actuarial report that shows that the President's new health care law will increase health care costs over and above what was expected; premiums for families and small businesses will rise beyond what was expected; and access to a physician will suffer for many, many Americans. They also showed that the $500 billion in indiscriminate cuts to Medicare to pay for a new entitlement is a very deep cut that will hurt access to care for many of our seniors. Half of all seniors in the Medicare Advantage program will lose their current coverage. I have 140,000 seniors in my State of Louisiana who depend on Medicare Advantage in rural areas for access to a doctor. They're going to lose that kind of coverage that gives them that valued access to the physician of their choice.

This bill, this law, fails to lower costs. It creates red tape and bureaucracy, and it really does nothing to enhance quality for most Americans.

FROM HEALTH CARE REFORM TO WALL STREET REFORM

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, you've got to give it to my friends on the Republican side of the aisle. They are incredibly consistent. They have sided with the big pharmaceutical industry and the insurance industry. Sadly, they lost that debate, but they want to revisit it with the changes we made in health care and some of the outrageous health insurance practices we outlawed, like preexisting condition exclusions, rescissions of your policy when you get sick, and nonrenewal when you get sick.

But they're also fighting to change the subject here, because they're also trying to stop the reform on Wall Street. Their biggest patrons are the pharmaceutical industry, the insurance industry, and Wall Street. And they just want to protect the status quo for those folks.

Over on the other side of the Hill, the Republicans in the Senate are blocking financial reform—reform of Wall Street, doing away with the abuses that crashed our economy and put millions out of work. And every single House Republican voted against reforming Wall Street here on the floor of the House. Well, two were absent but all those who voted, voted against it. Now they want to change the subject back to health care, except they lost that debate, too.

AS PREDICTED, HEALTH CARE COSTS WILL RISE

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I have been here for about 30 minutes listening to both sides talk past each other. Mr. Speaker, the American people, they get it. They get it that in fact cap-and-trade will increase the cost of doing business; that health care, which is already too big a piece of the family budget, is going up, not down; that government is increasing spending at a time in which the revenue is far less than what we're spending. In fact, 40 percent of the budget is being borrowed. And now we're having the hubris to call financial reform of something that in fact is a financial bailout guarantee.

Under President Clinton and a Republican Congress, Glass-Steagall was eliminated. Why in the world wouldn't we be talking about simply recreating the separation between real banks that the FDIC does have a fund for, created by the banks, and investment banks, which you recognize if they fail, they fail, and you are only guaranteed on the underlying stock.

Mr. Speaker, I call for real reform.

□ 1300

THE REPEAL REPUBLICANS SIDE WITH THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY TO REPEAL POPULAR BENEFITS OF HEALTH REFORM

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, the Repeal Republicans have sided with the insurance industry from day one, ignoring the need for reform when they controlled Congress and opposing reform at every step as Democrats fought for reforms that serve the needs of the American people. The Repeal Republicans really haven't changed. They now want to repeal the reforms, and they will use every deceit, every piece of misinformation, and even outright lies to oppose reform and, in the process, try to protect the industry's profit margin.

When Democrats fought to close the doughnut hole and strengthen Medicare by extending its solvency, the Repeal Republicans sided with the insurance industry and opposed it. Now they want to repeal it. When Democrats fought to allow children up to the age of 26 stay under their parents' coverage, the Repeal Republicans sided with the insurance industry and opposed it. Now they want to repeal it. And when Democrats fought to ban caps on coverage, the Repeal Republicans sided with the insurance industry and opposed it. Now they want to repeal it.

We really shouldn't be surprised. The Repeal Republicans are the same ones who want to dismantle Medicare as we know it and who want to privatize Social Security.

THE GULF OF MEXICO OIL SPILL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, there has been an unfortunate and devastating accident in the Gulf of Mexico that caused the death of 11 workers. Now we must deal with the attendant oil spill estimated at 42,000 gallons a day. To provide a bit of perspective, the gallon capacity of an Olympic-size swimming pool is 648,000. At the current spill rate, it will take 15½ days to spill the equivalent of an Olympic-sized pool.

Historic production of oil from the Gulf is 1.7 million barrels per day. The U.S. consumes about 19.5 million barrels a day. There will be those who will say this spill is reason enough to cut off future offshore oil production. That would be disingenuous.

Until this accident, the industry has had an impeccable record in the Gulf. According to Amy Myers Jaffe, an energy expert at Rice University, in the last 15 years, there was not a single spill of more than 1,000 barrels among the 4,000 active platforms offshore. She said offshore drilling was considerably safer for the environment than the tankers used for importing oil.

We need to clean up the spill, not use it as a political football.

STOP WALL STREET FROM GAMBLING WITH OUR ECONOMIC SECURITY

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for far too long, the executives on Wall Street reaped rewards by bending the rules and dodging financial regulation. Then they turned to the American taxpayer to dig them out. With Wall Street reform, average Americans will never again be on the hook for Wall Street's mistakes. We, quite simply, put an end to the taxpayer-funded bailouts.

Our legislation will make big banks accountable for their own failures and give regulators the tools they need to put the interest of working- and middle-class Americans first. Wall Street reform stands up for working- and middle-class families by putting a stop to the unregulated greed of Wall Street executives who took big bonuses while gambling with our homes, our jobs, and our economy.

Additionally, Democrats are continuing to make investments in small businesses and rebuilding America's infrastructure. Small businesses are the engine of job creation in this country and will be the birthplace of our economic recovery. That's why we are working to partner with small businesses to help them grow and to expand so they can hire more workers.

I encourage the American people to stand strong with Democrats to stop Wall Street from gambling with our economic security.

OUR FUNDAMENTAL HEALTH CARE PROBLEM: RISING COSTS

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, when the health care bill was moving through Congress, I repeatedly made the arguments that the legislation was flawed because it failed to fundamentally address the problem with our current health care system—rising costs. Well, now guess what? A new analysis just put out by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services confirms that disturbing fact. According to CMS, the new health care law will actually increase our Nation's health care costs rather than decrease them.

Here are some of the staggering numbers: Health care spending is projected to increase by $311 billion, and health care will now increase to 21 percent of our gross domestic product by 2019. So costs are going up, not down.

These numbers are alarming, and they're further proof that the health care bill missed the mark. Real reform would have lowered health care costs for individuals, for families, and for small businesses. Unfortunately, the partisan bill that was signed into law has failed to address this great need for our constituents.

HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICANS

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

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Congress should have passed something on health care reform 40 years ago. We can't change what didn't happen for 40 years. But this year we had an opportunity to do something, and Congress finally did it.

When people in our country get sick and they don't have health insurance, they stay home, they stay home, they stay home until they're deathly ill. Then they go to the emergency room where they get the most expensive kind of health care there is in our country, and we all end up paying for it. We can and should do better.

We did better this year by passing health care reform for our people and our country. The Congressional Budget Office, CBO, says this will end up saving money on health care for people in our country. They are a nonpartisan entity that provides reliable information to both sides, Republicans and Democrats, and they're saying we can save money by this. We will do that.

We did the right thing for our people and our country by passing health care reform.

WE JUST BROKE HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, President Obama stated on February 7, 2010, ''If we can start bending the cost curve on health care, that's the most important thing we can do to deal with the deficits long term.'' Well, we always agreed that he was bending the cost curve. But our position was that it wasn't being bent down; it was being bent up.

The chief actuary of CMS, Mr. Foster's, report supports this and states that health care costs will accelerate by over $300 billion because of this bill. The health reform law will not extend the life of our entitlement programs, because severe cuts to the programs are used not to strengthen Medicare but, rather, to finance other outlays. And Medicare cuts could lead to providers ending their participation in the program.

This is not Republicans. This is the chief actuary of CMS who is saying this bill is a dog, and we'd better redo it because it's going to raise costs and decrease benefits.

There is an old saying, If you broke it, you have to keep it. We just broke health care in America.

MEDICAL CARE FOR WOMEN

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, sometimes it takes a woman speaking up for other women to make unfair and inappropriate health care practices a thing of the past.

Last June, I introduced the Women's Obstetrician and Gynecologist Medical Access Now Act, the WOMAN Act, to ensure that every woman has direct access to her OB/GYN. As a State assembly member, I offered the law allowing women direct access to their OB/GYN in California. Unfortunately, many women have not had that access. But I'm happy to say that similar provisions were included in the final health care package.

Patients, employees, primary care physicians, and health plan providers all save money and time if women are allowed direct access to their OB/GYNs. Across the Nation, women will no longer have to contend with the gatekeeper system that can prevent or delay lifesaving care.

Women should not need a permission slip to receive OB/GYN care, no questions asked.

HEALTH CARE FOR MEDICAID RECIPIENTS

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, it's always fun to listen to the debate because clearly both sides are saying the same thing but disagreeing to it. I am actually referencing some of the things we're speaking of.

We are told that the health care bill is going to create jobs in addition to its primary goal of increasing access to quality care at an affordable price. Now, a component of this is Medicaid, insuring 21 million people across the Nation, a combined Federal-State program where the State pays part, the Feds pay part. The problem is that Medicaid is not providing access to quality care at an affordable price.

There were two articles from the New York Times recently. One speaks of how people with Medicaid cannot get in to see a physician. They have to go to the emergency room because physicians don't see Medicaid patients because it pays so little and it has so much hassle. The other is about how a woman with cancer in Michigan cannot find a physician—she also has Medicaid—because the problem is it pays so little, has so much hassle, all the other things we expect in a bureaucracy. And lastly, regarding cost, despite paying less so it doesn't give access to quality care, according to articles in Politico, it's going to increase the deficit by $1 billion for States like California.

GOOD NEWS ABOUT MEDICARE AND HEALTH CARE

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I have some excellent news to share. Just last week, the CMS' independent actuary released an analysis of the health care reform legislation that we passed last month here in this Chamber. Their report shows that we are strengthening Medicare.

Indeed, according to the Office of the Actuary, the Affordable Care Act will help extend the life of the Medicare Trust Fund by an additional 12 years to 2029, compared to 2017 today. It closes the prescription drug doughnut hole by 2020, with an immediate rebate this year of $250 and a 50-percent discount on brand-name drugs next year. It lowers annual premiums by nearly $200 per beneficiary. It lowers annual average coinsurance by over $200 per beneficiary, and it provides preventive wellness care visits for free.

When we passed health care reform, Democrats stood up for seniors by strengthening Medicare and closing the prescription drug doughnut hole that was wide open and would be left wide open under the Republicans' plan. Under their radical plan to repeal health care, we will move in the wrong direction.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, last week the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services confirmed what we

already knew—that health care spending will increase. It violates the pledge made by the President last year, and it leaves the hardworking American taxpayers to pick up the bill. The report estimates a $311 billion increase in total health care spending. And while this may be chump change for this administration, it's a lot of money for the American taxpayer.

There is one area of interest for me, and that is the high-risk pools for the uninsured. Back home in Georgia, we have been talking about the Democrats' approach to the high-risk pools. It is clear that their approach is not the best, and this report confirmed that.

The Democrats want to set aside $5 billion for high-risk pools, but this report says that is not enough and that it will run out within 1 to 2 years. Plus, their plan only covers 375,000 Americans. What happens when the funds run out? Premiums will go up, services will be cut, there will be waiting lines formed, or States like Georgia will be forced to pick up the cost.

This is unacceptable for all Americans, and taxpayers especially.

MEDICARE SOLVENCY

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

Mr. ANDREWS. In the CMS report the minority references, the ''M'' stands for Medicare. CMS is in the business of counting and accounting for the Medicare program. Here's what they said:

Under the law before the health care bill passed, Medicare was going to run out of money in 2017. We have extended the life now to 2029 and can build on that to save Medicare.

The report also says that they made estimates, subject to interpretation, about health care costs in the rest of the system, but here's what they assumed:

They assumed that medical records sharing and technology won't save any money. Most people think it will. They assumed that wellness programs that stop people from smoking and start exercising won't save any money. Most people think it will. They assumed that insurance companies having to compete with each other will not save any money. Most people think that it will.

The fact of the matter is the health care law extends the life of Medicare by 12 years, something the erstwhile majority never did when it was in the majority.

THE SIDE EFFECTS OF HEALTH CARE REFORM ON BUSINESS

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, American business owners, large and small, have been telling the majority in this body for months that these health care bills were flawed and there is going to be a cost. There's going to be a cost in money—a lot of it—and a cost in jobs. AT&T had to restate earnings, lowering their earnings projections to $1 billion for the first quarter; John Deere & Co. $150 million, and it goes on and on.

The National Federation of Independent Business have said that the complicated and restrictive tax credits included in the bill actually help no one. And paperwork and increases in Medicare costs will cost small businesses millions of dollars and, in fact, cost the country millions of jobs.

Democrats claim that because of this new law, small businesses will no longer have to choose between hiring new employees and offering health insurance. Well, that's fantasy, and we all recognize that. Right now, small businesses across the country are making the decision that right now is not the time to hire. There is simply too much uncertainty that is created by this bill.

It should be no surprise that this bill will cost American companies millions of dollars. It will cost Americans millions of jobs. But Democrats express shock and disbelief when businesses, large and small, say the bill will cost them millions. That is just simply an inconvenient truth.

□ 1315

BENEFITS OF HEALTH REFORM

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I think we just heard something that is only a half truth. I was meeting with the realtors in my district a week or 2 weeks ago, and they had read all of this propaganda from the Republican Party. They said, ''Well, we cannot afford to buy insurance.''

I asked, ''Are you buying it now?''

''Yes, we are.''

I said, ''Are you aware there is up to a 50 percent tax credit for every insurance policy that you buy?''

''No, we didn't know that.''

''Are you also aware that if you have a child who is 23 who would drop off your insurance, they will be able to stay on your insurance until they are 26?''

''No, we didn't know that.''

''How about the cap on the yearly expenditures and the lifetime cap, do you realize that there will be no cap, whatever you need, you will be able to have it paid for by insurance?''

''We didn't know that.''

''And you're a senior; did you know that there is a $250 immediate tax rebate if you are buying those drugs in that doughnut hole?''

''We didn't know that.''

''And in 3 years it disappears?''

''We didn't know that. Well, then why do Republicans want to repeal all that? We don't understand. Why do the Republicans want to get rid of all that good stuff?''

HEALTH CARE COSTS TO INCREASE

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

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, imagine this: The Democrats' health care bill will not reduce health care costs, but actually increase them. That's right. According to CMS, the costs will increase over $300 billion. It brings to mind Yogi Berra's line: this is deja vu all over again.

Of course, taxpayers and families knew this would happen. Any time you have a big government, Washington-based program, it always costs more than advertised. The CMS findings underscore what taxpayers and families across this country understand: we need to repeal this bill and replace it with the right kind of reform.

WALL STREET REFORM

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

Mr. SCHAUER. Every day that Republican Senators block Wall Street reform, another day goes by that our Nation's middle class and our Nation's economy are at risk. Heads I win, tails you lose; I'm sure you remember that game.

Well, those are the same rules that Goldman Sachs rigged up to routinely bet against its own customers. Heads they won, tails their customers and the American people lost. And AIG, who the taxpayers bailed out, was a full partner in this fraud.

My constituents are angry. They want their money back. They want commonsense protections that will end too big to fail and make sure they never get stuck with the tab again. The House has already acted to protect hardworking middle-class families from the abuses of Wall Street. It is time for the Senate to do the same.

HONORING JOEL AND RUTH SPIRA

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

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two fine American business owners, Joel and Ruth Spira, for their donation of a significant collection of materials to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. The items the Spiras are donating represent some of the most noteworthy technological advancements and energy-saving inventions in the history of electric lighting. The collection tells the story of American innovation and the 50-year history

of a country that has transformed the use of electricity.

Joel Spira is the inventor and developer of the solid-state electronic ''dimming device,'' and chairman and founder of Lutron Electronics headquartered in my Congressional district in Coopersburg, Pennsylvania.

A family-owned business, Lutron is governed by five principles: take care of the customer; take care of the company; take care of the people; innovate with high-quality products; and deliver value to the customer.

Lutron is known for its commitment to creating energy-saving products. Each year, the installed base of Lutron's products save the Nation nearly 10 billion kilowatt hours of electricity, or approximately $1 billion in utility costs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Joel and Ruth Spira for this record of accomplishment and for their many contributions.

BENEFITS OF HEALTH REFORM

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, the radical reactionary Republicans are at it again; they want to repeal everything. The radical reactionary Republicans want to repeal the fact that children can stay on their parents' health care policy up to age 26. The radical reactionary Republicans want to repeal the fact that there will be no preconditions.

The radical reactionary Republicans are the repeal Republicans. Any step forward, let's repeal them and turn them back. The radical reactionary Republicans are the new repeal Republicans; the no Republicans.

Let's keep the status quo as we move on to meet the foe. Let's move forward with progress.

HEALTH CARE JEOPARDIZED

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

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, over the past 18 months, the President repeatedly said about his health care plan, If you like your current health insurance, you can keep it. The majority of Americans knew this was nonsense, and now the Department of Health and Human Services confirms it.

A study just released by that department's chief actuary for Medicare concludes that the financial incentives in the new health care law will lead many employers to stop offering health care coverage altogether. That means about 14 million people with job-based insurance today will lose it, and instead will be required by law to obtain coverage individually.

Further, seniors in my State of Wisconsin have become big fans of Medicare Advantage plans. But the chief actuary for Medicare estimates that the President's and the majority party's Medicare cuts will reduce Medicare Advantage enrollment by 7 million people.

But there is more. The Medicare actuary reports that under the new health care law, 15 percent of all hospitals, nursing homes and other providers could be operating at a loss by 2019 which will jeopardize access to care. Doctors are threatening to drop out of Medicare because cuts in Medicare reimbursement rates mean they can't even cover their costs, much less make a living.

Sadly, these few problems are just the tip of the iceberg, as will be revealed in the months and years ahead as the health care law takes effect.

BENEFITS OF HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, how can you repeal a law that helps millions of Americans for better health care? The repeal Republicans are once again off base and not right in their assumptions.

Millions of Americans will benefit from the new health care bill. You and your doctor will determine your care and not the insurance companies. Small businesses with 50 employees or less will get tax credits to help them pay their premiums. So the millions of people who work in small businesses can now have health care.

Your children who are graduating from college and find themselves with no job will be able to stay on your health care until age 26.

These were the same rumblings they had in 1965 with Medicare, health care for over 44 million seniors. Medicare today is one of the best programs for health care for seniors, and this bill extends its lifetime almost a decade. Social Security, passed in 1934, is one of the most successful programs we have.

It is a good bill. The repeal Republicans are wrong again.

HEALTH CARE TAKEOVER

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, this radically Republican Texan rises today to highlight the CMS analysis for the government takeover of our health care system. As many have predicted, CMS concluded that the new law fails to contain cost increases in health care. CMS projects health care spending will rise to 21 percent of the GDP in the next decade. This places our country on an unacceptable path and getting less coverage for our money.

Even more alarming, CMS concluded that 50 percent of our Medicare Advantage patients will lose their coverage over the next decade when the law is fully implemented. Thousands of seniors in my district depend on Medicare Advantage. We need to repeal and replace this now. We need a new bill that will control health care costs while still allowing patients to keep the coverage that they have now and as they were promised.

BENEFITS OF HEALTH 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, in the aftermath of health care reform, one can't help but ask rhetorically why there would be forces out there that would deny progress? Why promote misinformation? Why refuse to set up exchanges for the business community? Why promote a repeal?

I think it is pretty straightforward and easy to determine that there are those who are fighting for the people's interest ahead of those insurance profit column rises over the last decade. I think it is a threat to those asking for and ensuring that the doughnut hole will be closed, and adult children up to the age of 26 will be able to stay on their parents' coverage, no more caps on coverage but really benefit people in this insurance struggle they have faced in the past.

It is pretty obvious, this is an effort by those who have wanted to dismantle Medicare as we know it, those who want to privatize Social Security, those who want to protect the insurance industry's profit margin to yet score another victory with repeal.

I think we have a solid effort going forward. I believe we should stay the course.

START OVER ON HEALTH REFORM

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

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, in June of last year, President Obama told a crowd of people, ''If you like your doctor, you will be able to keep your doctor. If you like your health care plan, you will be able to keep your health care plan. No one will take it away. No matter what.''

Mr. Speaker, it turns out there is someone who will take your health care plan away, and that person is President Obama himself. A report done by the President's own administration concludes that under Obama care, 50 percent of seniors will lose their Medicare Advantage plans, and it says that some of the Medicare cost control mechanisms may be unsustainable.

Our seniors are already struggling under the weight of the recession and they can't afford to lose the insurance that they depend on. House Republicans have better, common sense

health care reform plans that will help seniors and their families. House Republicans will work tirelessly to repeal this harmful bill and start over.

WORLD MALARIA DAY

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize World Malaria Day which was April 21.

Malaria kills almost 1 million people every year, and afflicts as many as half a billion. Just think of this startling fact, Mr. Speaker: every 30 seconds, a child in Africa dies from malaria. We owe it to the children and we owe it to mothers to do more to eradicate this preventable and treatable disease.

We must support programs that provide bed nets and safe indoor spraying. Malaria doesn't just affect the sick, it keeps kids out of school, it keeps adults out of the fields and away from the workplace, and brings down the economy. Sick parents can't care for their children.

Malaria prevention is key to preventing smart maternal health policies worldwide. I urge my colleagues to support funding for international malaria and survival programs to keep the world's children and their mothers healthy.

□ 1330

REPEAL AND REPLACE OBAMACARE

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid released a new analysis of ObamaCare that confirmed what Republicans have been saying all along: our Nation's health care costs will increase under ObamaCare, and this bill will hurt health care for seniors.

Mr. Speaker, a few simple facts:

First, under ObamaCare, our national health care expenditures will increase by $311 billion in the first 10 years. Second, health care will increase to 21 percent of GDP by 2019. Third, the government will spend $410 billion to expand Medicaid under ObamaCare. And, fourth, more than 7 million seniors will be forced off of their current Medicare coverage, including 50 percent of those who are currently on Medicare Advantage.

Speaker PELOSI, this is not the reform you promised; this is not the reform the country needs. That is why I will be fighting to repeal and replace this legislation with real reforms that lower costs and improve coverage and care without bankrupting our country.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

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

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, we just got yet another smoking gun in this latest report by the Obama administration on this government takeover of health care. And the report confirms what many of us said: the bill actually increases spending over $300 billion.

With all the new taxes on medical devices, drugs, and insurance, it's going to increase the cost of health care for American families and small businesses. Over $575 billion in cuts to Medicare, they point out, will actually lead to reduced services for Medicare recipients, and in fact 50 percent of all Medicare Advantage participants will lose that health care that they like.

The American people are asking us and continue to say, Why isn't Congress focusing on creating jobs? Well, we should be, but Speaker PELOSI and her liberal lieutenants just want more government takeovers and more Wall Street bailouts. They are now trying to push this permanent bailout fund of Wall Street, and the American people continue to ask: Where are the jobs? The tone-deaf liberals running this Congress just don't get it.

JOE WILSON WAS RIGHT

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

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, the reports are in and, sadly, not only does this health care scheme cost the American people more than it provides and increases the cost of health care, but at the same time, it exempts anyone illegally in this country from having to be taxed or to buy insurance. Everyone else who is legal in the country is required to buy the insurance or be taxed. So illegal immigrants are now exempt from the responsibility; but because the majority refused to put in the E-verification, the SERVE verification to make sure that illegals don't get into the benefit package, we have created a situation where illegals now are not required to pay, but they are guaranteed, because of a lack of verification, that they have access to the system.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, the fact is JOE WILSON was right: illegals do have access into a system that the President and Congress promised the American people would not be available.

THE NEW HEALTH CARE LAW IS A DISASTER

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, the government takeover of health care just celebrated its 1-month birthday, and we are already seeing the disastrous effect it will have on our Nation's economy.

Since the beginning of this debate, U.S. employers have warned that this bill would destroy American jobs and harm our fragile economy. Over the past few weeks, we've seen the real-life impact these job-killing tax hikes and health care costs are having on American employers. From AT&T to Caterpillar to Lockheed Martin, we have seen billions of dollars in losses to American companies which will result in further job losses, higher prices, and less choice for the American consumer. And to add insult to injury, actuaries at CMS working under Secretary Sebelius now confirm what most Americans already knew: health care costs will skyrocket as a result of this bill.

The long-term effects of this bill are still not fully fleshed out, will be devastating to this country's economy, and are not worth the time and effort that we have put into it. Let's move forward to repeal this law.

HEALTH CARE TAKEOVER

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

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, on March 20, the majority in this body passed a bill that the American public knew was going to cost too much and not really effectively address the problems with health care; but despite claims made to the contrary, this body did pass the bill.

Just recently, the President's own administration said that the massive government takeover of our health care system will actually increase health care costs, not decrease them. And yet while costs increase, this administration admits that the health care takeover will still leave 23 million people, Americans, without insurance.

The best way to increase the number of insured Americans is to decrease health care costs, something this bill did not do. The President's own administration says the Democratic health care takeover does just the opposite, increases costs and doesn't cover every American. This is not what the people want.

STOP EXCESSIVE SPENDING

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

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern with the recently released analysis done by CMS of the health care bill that confirms that our Nation's health care costs will increase rather than decrease as the President has pledged to the Nation.

The CMS analysis concluded that the national health care expenditure will actually increase by $311 billion. At a time when our employment rate is continuing to rise, how are American families supposed to pay these increased costs?

The latest figures show that the Ohio unemployment rate is 11.5 percent, and in some parts of my district it is 14 percent. My constituents are continuing

to ask, where are the jobs? In addition, the small businesses in my district are asking how they're supposed to pay the new mandates being placed on them under this bill.

The CMS analysis also shows that the recently passed health care bill will increase health care costs to 21 percent of the GDP by 2019. In addition to this increased spending in health care, the Congressional Budget Office has stated that under current spending levels, by 2020 American taxpayers will be paying $2 billion a day in interest alone on the national debt. It also estimates that the debt will be $20 trillion by that year.

Our Nation's economic future requires that this administration and Congress exercise serious fiscal constraint and stop excessive spending.

STANDING FOR HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was there when the President signed the health care bill into law. I saw him sign it in ink, but my heart was heavy because I knew that while he was signing in ink, it was written in prayers, the prayers of some 46 million people who did not have insurance. Signed in ink, written in prayers, but also written in tears, the tears of parents who have children with preexisting conditions who could not get insurance for their children. Signed in ink, written in prayers, tears, as well as blood, because in this country 45,000 people die annually because they do not have insurance. That's one person every 12 minutes.

So I do not stand for and will not stand for reinstating tears, for reinstating those prayers, and I will not have the blood of the 45,000 on my hands. I stand with the bill.

REPEAL AND REPLACE HEALTH CARE BILL

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

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my constituents' concerns and frustrations over the health care bill that unfortunately is now law.

Last night, I hosted a telephone town hall meeting; thousands of my constituents participated. I invited them to discuss any issue that they chose; every single one spoke about this new health care law. And they had concerns. One man who called in said, I'm 72 years old, I'm retired, and I get my health insurance from my company. Are they still going to provide prescription drug coverage? That's a fine question.

The wife of a family practitioner said, My husband is 62, and his patients are asking whether he will be able to stay around. And he tells them it will all depend on the government. It's sad to me that he doesn't even get to make his own choice about whether or not he retires.

Last week, the Obama administration's own experts confirmed what we've been saying for a year: this bill costs too much. Mr. Speaker, it's time to repeal this law and replace it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER). 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.

TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3253) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3253

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

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Act entitled ''An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration'', approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109–316; 120 Stat. 1742), as most recently amended by section 1 of Public Law 111–136 (124 Stat. 6), is amended by striking ''April 30, 2010'' each place it appears and inserting ''July 31, 2010''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on April 29, 2010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, our economy is showing significant signs of improvement: consumer spending is climbing, manufacturers are adding jobs, and retail sales rose substantially for the first 3 months of this year. All of these are positive signs; however, if our recovery is going to produce the jobs that the American people need and deserve, small businesses will be central to the equation.

In every previous recession, small firms have served as job-creating catalysts. Not only do small firms add jobs faster than big companies, but many dislocated workers launch their own ventures during economic downturns. Those enterprises in turn often grow and create employment opportunities for the American people. For entrepreneurs to play this role, they need the right tools. The legislation before us will extend the Small Business Administration programs that help new ventures form and existing businesses grow.

Since the start of this Congress, the House has passed 16 bills to strengthen SBA initiatives. This included legislation to modernize the SBA's capital access programs so that small businesses can weather the credit crunch. However, before the SBA programs are fully updated, they must be extended. This bill ensures these initiatives keep operating. We cannot afford any of the SBA services to lapse just as our recovery is getting off the ground.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' and reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1345

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the chairwoman's request to suspend the rules and pass S. 3253. The bill is a simple 3-month extension of all the Small Business Administration's core programs until July 31, 2010.

This bill is necessary because the temporary extension we approved in January is going to expire at the end of this week. Over the past 3 years, the House Small Business Committee has worked in a productive, bipartisan manner to author legislation reauthorizing and improving the Small Business Administration and its programs. I commend the chairwoman on her leadership and willingness to work in this fashion. By working together, we have reported and passed several bills that would modernize the SBA, allowing it to serve small business owners in the 21st century.

Unfortunately, our counterparts in the other body have not worked as diligently, and unless we pass this extension, many of the SBA programs that our small businesses rely on are going to expire on Friday.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy. It is because of them that we have seen nominal gains in our economy recently. Still, the national unemployment rate hovers around 10 percent, with some States experiencing as much as 14 percent. If we are serious

about our recovery efforts, helping our small businesses thrive has to be our first priority.

The programs run by the SBA provide a critical foundation that small businesses depend on to succeed. Whether it is designing a business plan, acquiring financing, or looking for technical assistance, the SBA is often the first place entrepreneurs turn to in helping build and growing their businesses. It's essential that we keep these programs running while we maintain our efforts to work on full reauthorization.

While we are continuing to work with our colleagues in the other body, we need more time to thoughtfully and completely reauthorize these critical programs. I am hopeful that we will be able to complete the work on full reauthorization by the end of this Congress.

Again, I support the chairwoman's request to pass S. 3253 and urge all of my colleagues to do so.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 3253, which extends the Small Business Act.

I support this legislation because it is crucial that the Small Businesses Administration programs that have helped launch and sustain so many small businesses are allowed to continue.

Small businesses employ just over half of all private sector employees, with a payroll of about $175 billion, and create many of the new jobs we need. More than half of all Americans work at or own a small business. Small businesses have been responsible for the majority of new jobs created in this country. Anyone who talks about getting our economy on track and does not talk about what we need to do for small business is missing a huge piece of the puzzle.

In my district, the 37th Congressional District of California, there are approximately 16,300 small businesses.

But in the global economy of the 21st century, small businesses, very much like the banks and the auto industry, need sound fiscal options to remain competitive, especially in difficult economic times for them and their customers.

This is where the Small Business Administration can help.

The SBA exists to aid and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation.

The SBA was established in 1953 by the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation.

The SBA's Office of Business Development assists firms owned and controlled by economically and socially disadvantaged individuals enter the economic mainstream by providing firm-specific analyses, counseling, management training, professional consulting and monitoring services, and access to business development opportunities under section 8(a) of the Small Business Act.

Much like the loan guarantee program, the Section 8(a) program is well intended. But one of its problems is that too often program participants are "graduated" before they are sufficiently prepared to compete for contracts with large and established companies in the private sector.

This has resulted in a large number of former 8(a) companies failing to remain in business shortly after leaving the development program.

I have introduced legislation that can build upon the loan guarantee program extended by H.R. 493 and which would eliminate the problem of "graduating" Section 8(a) program participants before they are sufficiently prepared to compete for contracts with large and established companies in the private sector.

My legislation, H.R. 4897, the "Not Too Small to Succeed in Business Act," reforms and modernizes the Section 8(a) program to help more small and disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE) remain in business and hire more workers by doing the following:

1. Amending the Small Business Act to increase the net worth limits (to $750,000) used by SBA in determining whether an applicant satisfies the "economically disadvantaged" requirement for admission to the program and increases to $2.25 million the net worth required for early graduation from the program.

2. Extending the Section 8(a) program period to 11 years, from the current 9 years.

3. Granting a one-time 2-year reinstatement in the Section 8(a) program for companies who were graduated from the program at the expiration of the 9-year term.

Mr. Speaker, extending the programs under the SBA Act, including the Loan Guarantee Program and amending the Section 8(a) Small and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program are a necessary part of strengthening our ability to help small businesses succeed and provide jobs for our people. I urge all members to join me in voting for S. 3253.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3253.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1240) supporting the goals and ideals of Global Youth Service Day, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1240

Whereas Global Youth Service Day is an annual campaign that celebrates and mobilizes the millions of children and youth who improve their communities each day of the year through community service and service-learning;

Whereas Global Youth Service Day will be celebrated from April 23, 2010, to April 25, 2010;

Whereas the goals of Global Youth Service Day are to mobilize and support young people to identify and address the needs of their communities, schools, and organizations, to provide opportunities for youth engagement, and the public, the media, and policymakers to recognize and raise awareness of young people as assets and resources;

Whereas Global Youth Service Day, a program of Youth Service America, is the largest service event in the world, the only day of service dedicated to youth engagement, and in 2010 is being observed for the 22nd consecutive year in the United States and for the 11th year globally in more than 100 countries;

Whereas Global Youth Service Day engages millions of young people worldwide with the support of more than 200 National and International Partners, 85 State and local Lead Agencies, and thousands of local partners;

Whereas high quality community service and service-learning programs increase young people's academic engagement and achievement, workforce readiness, 21st century skills, and civic knowledge and engagement;

Whereas community service and service-learning provide opportunities for young people to apply their knowledge, idealism, energy, creativity, and unique perspectives to improve their communities by addressing a myriad of critical issues, such as health, childhood obesity, education, illiteracy, poverty, hunger, environment, climate change, violence, and natural disasters;

Whereas Global Youth Service Day is an opportunity for citizen diplomacy, as evidenced by the growing number of projects that involve youth working collaboratively across borders to address global issues, increasing intercultural understanding, and promoting the sense that they are global citizens;

Whereas thousands of participants in schools and community-based organizations are planning Global Youth Service Day activities as part of a Semester of Service in which young people spend the semester addressing a community need connected to learning goals or academic standards over the course of at least 70 hours;

Whereas Global Youth Service Day provides an opportunity for young children, teenagers, and young adults, to gain experience as active citizens and community leaders, and assist schools, community organizations, faith-based organizations, government agencies, businesses, and families; and

Whereas the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act recognizes Global Youth Service Day as a national day of service and calls on the President to encourage people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate youth-led community improvement and service-learning activities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes and commends the significant contributions of youth of the United States and encourages the cultivation of a civic bond between young people dedicated to serving their neighbors, their communities, and the Nation;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Global Youth Service Day; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States to observe Global Youth Service Day by—

(A) encouraging youth to participate in community service and service-learning projects and joining their peers in such projects;

(B) recognizing the volunteer efforts of the young people of the United States throughout the year; and

(C) supporting the volunteer efforts of young people and engaging them in meaningful community service, service-learning, and decision-making opportunities as an investment in the future of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1240 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1240, a resolution to support the goals and ideals of Global Youth Service Day. Global Youth Service Day is an annual worldwide event that highlights and celebrates the ongoing contributions of youth to their communities through volunteer service and service learning.

Global Youth Service Day is the largest service event in the world, and over the past 21 years it has brought together more than 40 million people in thousands of communities worldwide. This past weekend it was observed for the 22nd consecutive year in the United States, and for its 11th year globally, in more than 100 countries.

Mr. Speaker, service learning extends the classroom into the community, providing young people with the opportunity to give back locally. It is also an academic tool that builds real-life applications into student curriculum, keeping students engaged in their education. High quality service learning that is integrated with academic curriculum increases students' cognitive engagement, motivation to learn, school attendance, and academic achievement. Global Youth Service Day takes that one step further by promoting projects that encourage youth to work collaboratively across national borders to address global issues, to increase intercultural understanding, and to promote the sense that we are all global citizens.

There are countless benefits associated with volunteerism and service. Evidence shows that there exists a conclusive correlation between youth service, character development, lifelong adult volunteering, philanthropy, and other forms of civic engagement.

Opportunities like Global Youth Service Day provide avenues for youth to apply their knowledge, idealism, energy, creativity, and unique perspectives to improve local communities by addressing critical issues such as poverty, hunger, illiteracy, education, natural disasters, climate change, and so very much more, Mr. Speaker.

As part of Global Youth Service Day here in the District of Columbia, Greater D.C. Cares organized 7,000 volunteers as part of its annual Servathon to restore national monuments, landscape parks and playgrounds, prepare and distribute food, and paint murals on schools in 100 locations within the metro area.

In Detroit, Michigan, more than 125 students from an inner city Detroit school educated their classmates and families about having a healthy diet and nutrition and incorporating exercise in their daily lives. In Atlanta, Georgia, Mr. Speaker, the local YMCA coordinated with over 100 community partners and 1,000 young people in feeding the homeless, in yard work for the elderly, community gardening with the Atlanta Community Food Bank, among many other things.

Both young people and their communities will benefit greatly from expanded opportunities like these which allow youth to engage in volunteer community service and service learning worldwide.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution serves to recognize and commend the significant contributions of youth of the United States and to support the goals and ideals of Global Youth Service Day 2010.

I thank Representative ROSA DELAURO from Connecticut for introducing this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1240, supporting the goals and ideals of Global Youth Service Day. Global Youth Service Day supports and encourages community service and service learning throughout these United States, and enables millions of students to make contributions to their communities. America's young people, from kindergartners to college students, have the desire, energy, and ability to make a real difference in their communities. Global Youth Service Day is an opportunity for them to convert their ideas and energy into action.

Through community service and service learning, we can inspire, empower, and celebrate young people who recognize the need to do something for their communities, believe in their ability to get it done, and then take action. Service learning engages students in the educational process, using what they learn in the classroom to solve real-life problems. Service learning and community service enables students to not only learn about democracy and citizenship, but to become actively contributing citizens and community members through the service that they perform.

There are a growing number of opportunities for youth to get involved in service activities through schools, service clubs, religious affiliations, family, or neighborhood-based volunteering. The challenge is to maintain youth interest and commitment to community service by showing them the benefits to the community that they are serving and to themselves. I stand before you today to commend the significant contributions our youth are making in our Nation's communities.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the author of H. Res. 1240.

Ms. DELAURO. I rise in support of this resolution honoring and supporting the goals and ideals of Global Youth Service Day, which took place this past weekend. I want to commend my colleague, Representative EHLERS, for taking the lead in cosponsoring this important resolution.

Global Youth Service Day is a public awareness and education campaign led by Youth Service America with the National Youth Leadership Council and the Global Youth Action Network. It emphasizes the importance of public service. It highlights the valuable contributions that young people make to their communities all year long.

In the words of Gandhi, ''The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.'' That is the simple truth that animates Global Youth Service Day. By mobilizing young people around the world to identify and address the needs of their neighbors, by supporting their community service, and by civic engagement efforts, we not only help our communities to thrive, we help the next generation find themselves through service and commitment to a greater good.

This past weekend, young people all around the world designed and carried out community service projects in areas ranging from literacy and mentoring, to the environment and energy conservation, to hunger and homelessness. This year saw 2,631 projects in 87 countries and all 50 States.

We often say that service is its own reward, but it actually has the benefit of being true. In addition to the positive results these projects have on our communities, research shows that young people who participate in community service also enjoy increased civic engagement and they do better in school. By recognizing the interdependence of their community, they become more independent, more grounded, more cognizant of the world around them. They become better citizens.

The cycle of service and citizenship is why we passed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act 1 year ago last week, to offer young people more opportunities to serve their nation. It is why we continue to encourage our young men and women to become deeply involved in the life, health, and education of our communities through such programs as AmeriCorps, Teach for America, and Summer of Service. It

is why we honor the passion and the sacrifice of those young Americans who choose to make a difference in distant lands, such as members of the Peace Corps and our Armed Forces.

All of us in this room today know firsthand the value of public service. Global Youth Service Day helps to transmit that priceless value to the next generation. All around the world it encourages boys and girls to get involved, to give of themselves, to use their enthusiasm, their energy, and their passion to help our communities.

I urge my colleagues to honor these values of civic and community service, and to support this resolution.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the lead coauthor of this legislation, our respected colleague from the State of Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

Mr. EHLERS. I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for yielding.

I am a great believer in volunteer efforts, and I believe that is what makes our Nation tick. And I think it is especially appropriate to educate children and young adults at a very early age to become involved in volunteer work.

Global Youth Service Day is a major means of implementing that, and bringing to children the awareness of and importance of volunteer work, and also developing ways to make volunteer work seem interesting and fun to the youth of our Nation.

I do have to warn them, however, as I have learned myself, volunteer service can lead to the halls of Congress. I would have never been elected to office, never even would have become politically active without my volunteer activities. But I soon learned when engaging in volunteer activities and helping people that much of the problems I was trying to solve should have been solved by the local elected officials. And with some friends we got together and got some very good people elected. Never did I suspect that I might myself someday be called upon to do the same thing and follow a path that led to Congress.

The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act is a wonderful device to give recognition to the youth of this Nation, gives an opportunity for us to recognize the service that they have rendered, and also calls on the President of the United States to encourage people of the United States to observe this day and make it clear to young people what marvelous opportunities for volunteerism they have.

□ 1400

There are many different ways in which the youth can contribute to the functioning of the Nation, but two that come to mind as being especially useful are, one, helping the elderly who often have trouble adjusting to new homes or who simply don't know how to handle the electronics of the new abodes that they've moved into. Another method is working with the young people of this Nation, with the very young people—the children who are having trouble with how to read or who are having trouble learning math. This is a wonderful opportunity for younger people who have more experience with science and mathematics and who are able to communicate their love of science and mathematics to help the young people around them.

So it is with pleasure that I rise. It is with great pleasure that I am a cosponsor of this resolution. I think it is an extremely important issue.

I thank Ms. DELAURO and Ms. WOOLSEY for their working on this as well.

This is a golden opportunity for all of us to express our gratitude to the young people of this world who continue to act as volunteers in so many different ways and in meaningful ways which will direct their careers as well as will help the Nation.

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, again, I would like to compliment Congresswoman DELAURO and Congressman EHLERS for their amazing efforts in this regard, and I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1240, a resolution to support the goals and ideals of Global Youth Service Day.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1240, 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.

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1293) expressing support for the goals and ideals of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1293

Whereas ''National Child Abuse Prevention Month'' is observed in April 2010;

Whereas in 2008, out of an estimated 6,000,000 children referred for investigations and assessments, approximately 772,000 children were determined to be victims of abuse and neglect;

Whereas in 2008, an estimated 1,740 children died as a result of abuse and neglect;

Whereas in 2008, an estimated 80 percent of the children who died due to abuse and neglect were under the age of 4;

Whereas in 2008, of the children under the age of 4 who died due to abuse and neglect, the majority were under the age of 1;

Whereas abused and neglected children have a higher risk in adulthood for developing health problems, including alcoholism, depression, drug abuse, eating disorders, obesity, suicide, and certain chronic diseases;

Whereas a National Institute of Justice study indicated that abused and neglected children are 11 times more likely to be arrested for delinquent behavior as juveniles, and are 2.7 times more likely to be arrested for violent and criminal behavior as adults;

Whereas an estimated ⅓ of abused and neglected children grow up to abuse or neglect their own children;

Whereas providing community-based services to families impacted by child abuse and neglect is less costly than the emotional and physical damage inflicted on children who have been abused and neglected, providing services to abused and neglected children (including child protective, law enforcement, court, foster care, or health care services), or providing treatment to adults recovering from child abuse; and

Whereas child abuse and neglect has long-term economic and societal costs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses support for the goals and ideals of National Child Abuse Prevention Month;

(2) recognizes and applauds the national and community organizations that work to promote awareness about child abuse and neglect, including by identifying risk factors and developing prevention strategies; and

(3) supports efforts to—

(A) increase public awareness of prevention programs relating to child abuse and neglect; and

(B) reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUMMINGS). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1293 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1293, which supports the goals and ideals of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Our children are our most precious resources, and they need our support to thrive and to grow into healthy, productive adults.

During National Child Abuse Prevention Month, we raise awareness of the critical necessity of responding to child abuse, to promoting healthy families, and to nurturing our children in safe environments free from abuse, neglect, or fear.

The effects of child abuse and neglect have enormous consequences on our Nation's children. On average, five children every day are killed as a result of child abuse or neglect, and a report of child abuse is made every 10

seconds in the United States—the wealthiest nation on Earth, I must remind us.

In 2008, an estimated 1,740 children died as a result of such abuse, and that number leaves out many more deaths which are not properly reported for their actual causes. Tragically, sexual, emotional, and physical abuse threaten too many of our Nation's children every single day.

Studies have shown that abused or neglected children have a higher risk in adulthood for developing other health problems, including alcoholism, depression, drug abuse, eating disorders, obesity, suicide, and certainly other chronic diseases.

Our entire communities—parents, guardians, relatives, neighbors, and organizations—all share the responsibility of preventing the crime of child abuse, and our government plays an important role as well. We must support families to help them stay together and to raise children into becoming happy, stable, and successful adults.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is about increasing awareness of the problem so that we can stop child abuse and neglect before it starts. Together, we can protect children. We can strengthen families. We must ensure that every child grows up in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month highlights the roles of important prevention resources, such as early childhood programs, family resource centers, parent support groups, respite and crisis care, and educator training, which can help reduce the risk factors for child abuse and promote healthy families.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution in support of National Child Abuse Prevention Month serves to remind us of our collective responsibility to protect our children from maltreatment and to ensure that all of our kids have childhoods free from abuse and free from neglect.

I thank Representative PETRI for introducing the resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution before us, H. Res. 1293, expressing support for the goals and ideals of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Child abuse is an unfortunate reality for many of the Nation's children. No child should have to experience abuse or neglect, but cases of such are reported every day. Recent data from 2008 indicate that 772,000 children were victims of child abuse and neglect and that 1,740 children died as a result of child abuse and neglect. Eighty percent of those children were under the age of 4.

Besides the immediate physical and emotional pain that abuse and neglect can inflict on a child, these experiences can have long-term effects on the victims as well. Data show abused and neglected children are at a higher risk of developing health problems, such as alcoholism, depression, drug abuse, and obesity in adulthood. A National Institute of Justice study indicates that children who are abused or who are neglected are 11 times more likely to be arrested for delinquent behavior as juveniles and are 2.7 times more likely to be arrested for violent and criminal behavior as adults.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month aims to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect and to encourage individuals and communities to support children and families, as community awareness and involvement is paramount to the prevention of child abuse and neglect, and the goals of National Child Abuse Prevention Month encourage members of every community to support the children in that community.

I would like to thank my colleague, Congresswoman JUDY BIGGERT of Illinois, for introducing this important legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to support House Resolution 1293, supporting the goals and ideals of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Ms. LORETTA SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, which raises awareness of child abuse and the services available to victims.

Child abuse is a tragic, destructive, and a largely silent epidemic that affects millions of Americans—both children and adults.

And it is never more tragic than when it is sexual in nature. Unfortunately one in six children in our country experiences this type of abuse in their lifetime.

In my district, I can think of one young woman in particular who was abused by a teacher she knew and respected over a decade ago. I am proud to say that she has recovered and is leading a happy life. She is also one of the officers in a group headquarted in Santa Ana called The Innocence Mission, which is working to help prevent abuse.

The Innocence Mission is putting forward a message of empowerment, one that tells parents they can prevent child sexual abuse. A message that speaks directly to children and adult survivors and says to them,—"you are not alone." Victims have the support of their communities, and have nothing to be ashamed of.

Far too often we read stories of child abuse in the headlines. It is heartbreaking and preventable, and that is why Congress and groups like the Innocence Mission must continue to advocate for victims and raise public awareness.

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1293, authorized by the gentlewoman from Illinois, Congresswoman JUDY BIGGERT. I gave Congressman PETRI the credit, but he does so many good things that I just made that mistake. I ask my colleagues to support the goals and ideals of National Child Abuse Prevention Month by voting for this bill.

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 California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1293, 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.

NATIONAL ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS WEEK

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1131) expressing support for designation of the week of April 18, 2010, through April 23, 2010, as National Assistant Principals Week, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1131

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Association of Elementary School Principals have declared the week of April 18, 2010, through April 23, 2010, as National Assistant Principals Week;

Whereas the assistant principal is responsible for establishing a positive learning environment and building strong school-community relationships;

Whereas the assistant principal is a member of the school administrative team who interacts with sectors of the school community, including support staff, instructional staff, students, and parents;

Whereas assistant principals play a pivotal role in the instructional leadership of the school by conducting instructional supervision, mentoring teachers, recognizing the achievements of staff, encouraging collaboration, ensuring the implementation of best practices, monitoring student achievement goals and progress, facilitating and modeling data driven decision-making to inform instruction, and guiding the direction of targeted intervention and continual school improvement;

Whereas the day-to-day logistical operations of schools require assistant principals to monitor and address facility needs, attendance, transportation issues, and scheduling, as well as supervise extra and co-curricular events;

Whereas assistant principals are entrusted with maintaining an inviting, safe, and orderly school environment that supports the growth and achievement of each and every student by nurturing positive peer relationships, recognizing student achievement, serving as mediators, analyzing behavior patterns, providing interventions, and conducting discipline;

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals/Virco National Assistant Principal of the Year program began in 2004 to recognize outstanding middle and high school assistant principals who have demonstrated success in leadership, curriculum, and personalization; and

Whereas the week of April 18, 2010, through April 23, 2010, would be an appropriate week

to designate as National Assistant Principals Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of National Assistant Principals Week;

(2) honors and recognizes the contributions of assistant principals to the success of students in schools in the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Assistant Principals Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of school leadership in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous materials on H. Res. 1131 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1131, which supports the goals and ideals of National Assistant Principals Week. With this resolution, we recognize the critical role that assistant principals serve in our Nation's schools, and we honor their hard work and dedication.

Many of us have fond memories of the assistant principals who served in our schools. They were the ones who made sure we were safe in the hallways and that we didn't miss our buses. They stopped by our classrooms to make sure we had all of the supplies we needed, and they counseled us through mistakes and successes to help us grow and to learn as students and citizens.

Assistant principals are the unsung heroes of our schools. They serve as a behind-the-scenes link between every sector of the school community. Their job description has expanded significantly over the past decades, and they are the backbone of a school's administrative team. They interact with students, with teachers, with staff, and with parents on a daily basis to ensure that every child is receiving the best education possible. National Assistant Principals Week recognizes their important contributions.

Since 2004, the National Association of Secondary School Principals and Virco have partnered to applaud secondary school assistant principals in their dedication and success in school leadership as part of National Assistant Principals Week. Their National Assistant Principal of the Year program recognizes outstanding middle level and high school assistant principals who have demonstrated success in leadership, curriculum, and personalization.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Nathan McCann, assistant principal at Flowing Wells High School in Tucson, Arizona, who has been named the 2010 National Assistant Principal of the Year. Mr. McCann is leading an effort to reform his school's curriculum in response to student feedback, and he has worked closely with school counselors to help the graduates of Flowing Wells to pursue their goals of postsecondary education.

I thank Mr. McCann for his hard work, for his dedication to his school and for being the role model he is for assistant principals nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I express my support for National Assistant Principals Week, and I thank the Nation's assistant principals. I thank Representative FUDGE for bringing this resolution to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1131, expressing support for the designation of the week of April 18 through 23 of this year as National Assistant Principals Week.

The successful operation of an educational institution requires competent administrators. An assistant principal, sometimes called a ''vice principal'' or a ''deputy principal,'' assists the principal in the general governance and leadership of a school. Assistant principals are often responsible for student discipline, for classroom observations, for teacher evaluation and supervision, for facilitating parent meetings, for maintaining schedules, and for handling logistical matters.

Additionally, the assistant principals frequently serve as testing coordinators; they assist in training staff on procedures related to standardized assessment as well as to account for testing materials. In addition to these duties, assistant principals are instructional leaders.

□ 1415

Assistant principals are members of the school's administrative team who interact with virtually every sector of the school community including support staff, instructional staff, students and parents. As a result of being the center of activity, they are able to foster positive relationships and resolve conflicts among all stakeholders throughout the school community.

These administrators play a key role in the leadership of the school by mentoring teachers, encouraging collaboration, and monitoring student achievement while ensuring that all students thrive in a safe, inviting, and orderly environment that is conducive to learning.

Today we recognize assistant principals in elementary, middle, and high school throughout the Nation for their dedication to the educational advancement of our children. We honor them for the contribution that they have made in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1131, authored by Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE from Ohio, and I urge my colleagues to support the goals and ideals of National Assistant Principals Week.

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 California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1131, 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. WOOLSEY. 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.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF WORKERS' MEMORIAL DAY

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 375) supporting the goals and ideals of Workers' Memorial Day in order to honor and remember the workers who have been killed or injured in the workplace, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 375

Whereas, each year, about 5,000 workers are killed due to workplace-related injuries in the United States, and more than 2,000,000 workers across the world die of workplace-related accidents and diseases;

Whereas, each day, an average of 14 workers are killed due to workplace injuries in the United States;

Whereas there are about 3,700,000 occupational injuries and illnesses in the United States annually;

Whereas tens of thousands of Americans with workplace injuries or illness become permanently disabled;

Whereas more people are killed worldwide each year at work than in wars;

Whereas, on February 7, 2010, 6 workers were killed and 26 injured when there was a massive natural gas explosion at the Kleen Energy power plant in Middletown, Connecticut;

Whereas, on April 2, 2010, 7 workers were killed by a fire at the Tesoro oil refinery in Anacortes, Washington;

Whereas, on April 5, 2010, 29 miners were killed and 2 were injured in a massive explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine in Raleigh County, West Virginia, in the worst coal mine disaster in 40 years;

Whereas, on April 20, 2010, there was an explosion and fire on the British Petroleum-

leased Transocean Deepwater Horizon drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico 50 miles off the coast of Louisiana in which 17 workers were injured and 11 workers went missing;

Whereas observing Workers' Memorial Day allows us to honor and remember victims of workplace injuries and disease; and

Whereas observing Workers' Memorial Day reminds us of the need to strive for better worker safety and health protections: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Workers' Memorial Day to honor and remember workers who have been killed or injured in the workplace;

(2) recognizes the importance of worker health and safety standards;

(3) encourages the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, industries, employers, and employees to support activities aimed at increasing awareness of the importance of preventing illness, injury, and death in the workplace; and

(4) calls upon the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 375 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 375, which supports the goals and ideals of Workers' Memorial Day.

A number of recent tragedies serve to remind us of the importance of occupational and mine safety. In early February, six workers were killed and 26 injured in a natural gas explosion at the Kleen Energy Power Plant in Middletown, Connecticut. On April 2, seven workers were killed in an explosion and fire at the Tesoro Refinery in Anacortes, Washington. On April 5, 29 miners lost their lives in a massive explosion at the Upper Big Branch mine in West Virginia. This incident was the worst U.S. coal mining disaster in 40 years.

And, finally, Mr. Speaker, today our thoughts and prayers remain with the friends and families of those 11 miners who went missing after an explosion last week at the Deepwater Horizon oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico. Seventeen workers were also injured, and we wish for their speedy recovery.

Too many workers in this Nation are subjected to dangerous conditions at work and have sacrificed their lives and health as a result. Everyone is entitled to a safe and healthy workplace. Every family deserves to know that when they send their loved one off to work, that loved one will come home that evening.

Mr. Speaker, with this resolution we remember and we honor all of these fallen workers, and we redouble our commitment to make our Nation's workplaces safe and healthy for all workers.

I thank Representative EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON from Texas for introducing this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Today we honor the men and women who have lost their lives on the job. With this resolution, we honor their sacrifice and offer our condolences to their families. And as ever, we use this occasion to recognize the importance of policies and practices that will encourage safe workplaces and prevent on-the-job illnesses, injuries, and fatalities.

Bringing this resolution at this time is particularly important given the recent tragedies and loss of life in the mining accidents in West Virginia.

Our diverse economy sometimes place workers in challenging situations. Some jobs are inherently more dangerous than others. Yet all workers should know the utmost precautions are being taken to limit dangers on the job. Employers must work diligently every day to provide safer work sites, free of hazards to ensure that all employees come home to their families at the end of the day.

This resolution speaks to preventing accidents and injuries on the job. A proactive approach to safety creates a safe working environment. By working together, employers, employees, and government safety officials involved can ensure safer work sites.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), the author of H. Res. 375.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I thank the presiding Member for yielding.

On Wednesday of this week, which is tomorrow, millions of people worldwide recognize Workers' Memorial Day.

Each year in this country, thousands of workers are killed due to workplace-related injuries, and tens of thousands more die of occupational illnesses. It is staggering to think that every day an average of 14 workers are killed due to injuries on the job. Worldwide more than 2 million workers die of occupational illness and injuries annually. That means more people are killed on the job each year than in wars.

The bottom line is that everyone deserves a safe and healthy workplace. Many of us take this basic right for granted. But for millions of Americans, the threat of being permanently disabled or even killed on the job is very real.

Workers' Memorial Day not only recognizes and honors those who have been killed or injured on the job, it also reminds us of the overwhelming need to improve health and safety standards in our Nation's workplaces.

It has been 40 years since the creation of OSHA, and over this time, worker health and safety standards have vastly improved. However, there is still work to be done, as evidenced by several recent workplace disasters.

The month of April has been particularly devastating for workplace deaths in the United States. On April 2, seven workers were killed by a devastating fire at Tesero Refinery in Washington. And just last week, as has been mentioned, we also saw a large explosion and fire on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig 50 miles off the coast of Louisiana. Seventeen workers were injured and 11 are missing and thought now to be dead.

April 5, as has been mentioned, the explosion at the Upper Big Branch coal mine in West Virginia where 29 lives were lost. Additionally, a miner was killed this past week at Pocahontas Mine in West Virginia. Both of these mines had a pattern of repeat safety violations. It appears that these companies were not dedicated to the safety of their employees. Rather, they were dedicated to staying open by doing the bare minimum to meet regulations.

Chairman MILLER, Congresswoman WOOLSEY, and Congressman RAHALL have been diligent in working to bring to light repeated violators and holding those who continue to operate unsafe mines accountable.

I would like to express my deepest sympathy to the families and loved ones of those who were killed and injured in these tragic events, as well as all those workers who were injured or killed worldwide. These are our mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, sons, and daughters. They left home for work in the morning like all of us do, only never to return.

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I thank the gentlewoman.

We hear again and again that those who died knew the risk of what they were doing, a risk many felt was necessary to provide for their families. Yes, accidents do happen. But often accidents are preventable, and we must do all that we can to prevent injury and death on the job.

I would like to thank House leadership and Chairman MILLER for their support in bringing this resolution to the floor today, and I would also like to thank Congressman BRUCE BRALEY and Congresswoman LINDA SÁNCHEZ for their assistance in bringing this resolution forward.

I urge my colleagues to support the recognition of Workers' Memorial Day.

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY), who has played a significant part in making this bill come forward.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution honoring Workers' Memorial Day.

The recent mining disaster in West Virginia serves as a strong reminder of the millions of Americans who put their lives on the line every day they go to work. Workers' Memorial Day commemorates those who have been injured or killed on the job. And, Mr. Speaker, this is personal to me because when I was 2 years old, my father was severely injured in a workplace accident, and one of the things I am proudest of was setting up a scholarship fund in his name to help injured workers and their families in Iowa get a new start on life.

Over the past several decades in the United States, we have made great progress in preventing injuries and deaths in the workplace. However, there is still much work that needs to be done, and each year more than 5,000 Americans are killed due to workplace injuries and millions more experience occupational injuries and illnesses. Work-related accidents are still too common in the United States. On average, 16 Americans are killed every day due to workplace injuries. We need to continue to work to ensure that every workplace is a safe one.

While in the United States we have improved workplace safety in recent decades, the numbers across the globe are overwhelming. It's estimated that nearly 2 million workers die each year due to work-related accidents or diseases worldwide. More people are killed due to workplace injury or disease than are killed in war.

As a founder of the Populist Caucus, dedicated to strengthening the middle class, I will continue to fight for workplace safety. I am also committed to recognizing this holiday and the millions of workers across the world who have given their lives on the job. That's why I was proud to work with my friends, Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON and fellow Populist Caucus member Congresswoman LINDA SÁNCHEZ as we continue to honor the millions of men and women who have given their lives for the continued progress of humankind.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased and honored to yield 4 minutes to the chair of the Education and Labor Committee, the number one champ for workers in our Congress, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and I thank the subcommittee chair for all of her work on behalf of workers in our country and her leadership on not only worker issues but also family issues as workers struggle to keep family and the workplace together and in sync from time to time.

I also want to thank Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON for her introduction of this resolution for Workers' Memorial Day and to all of the members of the committee who have supported it, to Mr. PETRI for his support.

This is the 21st annual Workers' Memorial Day, a day to honor workers who have lost their lives or become sick or injured because of the unsafe and unhealthy workplaces in the past year.

Our Nation's workers have had a tough year. Last Sunday, our Nation paused to remember 29 fallen miners in the Upper Big Branch mine, the worst U.S. coal mining accident since 1970. Upper Big Branch was not the only horrific workplace catastrophe this year. Last week 11 workers died in an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico.

□ 1430

Three days before the blast at Upper Big Branch, seven workers perished in an explosion at a refinery near Seattle. This comes after a devastating explosion at a power plant under construction in Connecticut, which cost six workers their lives. These explosions are a reminder that while we have made some strides in workplace safety, unacceptable risks still remain for our workers. Fourteen workers die on the job every day. We have to do better.

Take the Upper Big Branch mine: 2 months ago, my committee learned about how many mine operators managed to avoid some of the tougher sanctions implemented after the Sago mine explosion. While some have made safety a priority, others have responded by indiscriminately challenging nearly every safety citation. By flooding the system with unwarranted appeals, these companies have been able to avoid full accountability for their actions. The consequences of these delays can be deadly.

Last August, the Mine Safety and Health Administration identified 48 mines that were able to escape the possibility of tougher scrutiny because of these unresolved appeals. Upper Big Branch mine was one of them. So was the nearby Pocahontas mine, where a worker was killed last week.

Loopholes in our safety laws aren't exclusive to mining. Sadly, penalties for companies that violate health and safety laws are woefully outdated. Multimillion-dollar corporations often face little more than a slap on the wrist for potentially fatal violations. Without effective enforcement, it's easy for bad actors to become repeat offenders. Without adequate whistleblower protections, workers who want to report hazards often live in fear of retribution. According to the New York Times, one Upper Big Branch foreman recalled, ''I have had guys come to me and cry,'' because they were too afraid to report concerns about high methane levels in the mine. Workers shouldn't have to choose between losing their lives and losing their jobs.

These tragedies call for immediate reforms that will make all workplaces safer. First, we must allocate funding that will start to clear the backlog of the mine safety appeals. Second, we need to look at outdated and ineffective laws that continue to allow companies to put workers in harm's way. In 2008, I authored legislation that would have strengthened the mine disaster prevention efforts, improved emergency responses, and reduced long-term health risks to miners. The S–MINER Act passed the House, but died in the Senate because of a veto threat. We don't know yet if it would have prevented the Upper Big Branch tragedy, but it certainly could have helped.

Finally, Congress should pass the Protecting America's Workers Act. This bill will modernize safety protections for workers across all industries through stronger penalties, effective whistleblower protections, and meaningful accountability when employers break the law.

Four years ago, I made a promise to the families who lost a loved one in the Sago, Darby, and Aracoma Alma mine disasters. I told them we would do everything we could to heed the lessons of those disasters and keep miners safe. Unfortunately, I've had to make the same promise to families at the Crandall Canyon mine disaster and now the Upper Big Branch mine disaster. This has got to stop.

On this Workers' Memorial Day, it's time to live up to this promise for all the families of workers who have lost their lives on the job—and all working men and women across this country. We cannot afford to let another year go by without meaningful reform.

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE).

Mr. HARE. I want to thank Chairman WOOLSEY for her leadership on the Workforce Protection Subcommittee, who I have had the pleasure of serving with.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 375. On April 28, we observe Workers' Memorial Day, when people all over the world gather to remember and mourn the workers killed or injured on the job. April 28 also commemorates the creation of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Since its inception in 1970, OSHA has been a driving force in improving workplace safety and health conditions across the country. Over the past several decades, through the work of OSHA, we have made enormous strides

in protecting workers, yet there's still much work left to be done.

Mr. Speaker, worker safety has been at the forefront of our social conscience lately. We've seen devastating tragedies from West Virginia to Connecticut to Washington State and now Louisiana. While we grieve for those lost in these tragedies, we should never forget those who are killed on the job but never make the front pages. Their families' pain is no less substantial and our obligation to protect them is no less important. Each of these deaths should remind us that failing to give OSHA the tools it needs to regulate the workforce efficiently leaves our constituents, the American workforce, in jeopardy.

The government alone cannot fully protect our workers. Workers' Memorial Day must also be a reminder to our Nation's employers of their obligation to keep their employees safe. The days of certain companies skirting safety just to save a buck must come to an end once and for all. For those employers that fail to comply, we must strengthen worker protections and make penalties more severe.

On behalf of all of those who we honor on Workers' Memorial Day, I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join Chairman WOOLSEY and me in the fight to modernize OSHA to protect the lives and health of America's workers. Let us all stand together today in solidarity in recognizing Workers' Memorial Day, honor all those we have lost, and vow to take the steps necessary to make every American safer at work.

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, February 7, 2010, while a lot of families were returning from church, myself included, an explosion occurred at the Kleen Energy power plant in Middletown, Connecticut, a plant that was under construction—a new natural gas plant—where workers, particularly from Local 777 of the Plumbers and Pipefitters, were there as almost a nonstop series of shifts to get the plant online since a lot of the power credits had already been sold to the owners.

It was an explosion which took place in the middle of the State of Connecticut. It was heard as far away as Long Island Sound. That was the size and violence of the explosion. They were purging the natural gas power lines. There was a buildup of natural gas. Unfortunately, there was some ignition that caused the explosion to take place. Six workers were killed. Twenty-six more were injured. Among them was Raymond Dobratz of Old Saybrook, Connecticut, someone who was a father and a grandfather, a beautiful family. He was very active in the community. The other was Ronnie Crabb of Colchester, Connecticut. Ronnie is a friend of mine. His wife, Jodi Thomas, is the probate judge in Colchester, Connecticut. A young family. Ronnie was somebody who was so devoted to his wife and child and also would do anything in the community, whether it was raising money for charities, being involved in Little League, being involved in his union. The loss is something that is still felt so deeply in the community because of what a wonderful person he was.

The Education and Labor Committee, under Congresswoman WOOLSEY's leadership and Mr. MILLER, is going to conduct a study because there are certain rules that have now been recommended by the Chemical Safety Board for power plant construction because there is a wave of natural gas power plants that are under construction because of the Energy Act. The fact of the matter is, the law has not caught up with the technology that surrounds this very dangerous work.

I, again, applaud Congresswoman WOOLSEY for bringing this motion forward. But to honestly honor these individuals who lost their lives, we need to make sure that the laws are enacted to make sure that there are real protections for workers and their families and we don't have situations like the Crabb family and Dobratz family are experiencing today.

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON).

Ms. SUTTON. I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership on this extremely important issue. I rise in strong support of this resolution. This Thursday, April 28, 2010, millions of workers and their families throughout the world will gather to commemorate Workers' Memorial Day. We will remember and honor those injured or killed on the job, and we will renew the call for stronger workplace protections.

Since 1970, when the Occupational Safety and Health Act was passed, more than 410,000 workers' lives have been saved due to improvements in working conditions. However, the number of workplace-related illnesses, injuries, and deaths remains far too high. In 2008, more than 4 million workers were injured and 5,214 workers were killed due to job hazards. In Ohio, 168 workers lost their lives in the workplace in 2008; 168 Ohioans went to work and lost their lives as a result of workplace hazards. One hundred and sixty-eight men and women went to work and never returned to their families. This is about more than statistics. This is about lost lives.

This Workers' Memorial Day we pause and remember the thousands of lives lost in workplaces around the world. In the past 3 months alone, we have witnessed four major workplace tragedies that claimed the lives of 41 workers. Eleven workers are still missing after an oil rig explosion last week. We must act to ensure our workplaces are safe and our workers are protected. We must continue to fight to create well-paying, safe jobs for the American people. We must continue to fight to protect our workers' safety and health and to hold those who put their employees at risk accountable.

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 2½ minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, as we've heard, every year about 5,000 workers are killed and 4 million are injured on the job, with an additional 50,000 dying each year from occupational diseases. There are about 4 million cases of reportable workplace injuries and 3.7 million occupational illnesses and injuries on an annual basis. While coal mining remains one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States, every single day hardworking miners show up to the mines in order to provide for their families. We need to do whatever we can to ensure that they and other workers return home safely each and every night.

To honor those who have sacrificed their lives, their health, and their loved ones who sacrificed the lives of those that went to work and didn't come home, we must do more. We have to do more than talk. We have to bring OSHA and MSHA into the 21st century. That is my commitment to the workers of America. That is what I'm working on with the support of my subcommittee in Education and Labor, the Workforce Protection Subcommittee, and our chairman, GEORGE MILLER. That is what we know must happen.

So I urge my colleagues, in closing, to support H. Res. 375, support the goals and ideals of Workers' Memorial Day, and I thank Congresswoman JOHNSON and Congressman BRALEY and those that worked with her on this amazing resolution. It is so important.

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 375, supporting the mission and goals of Workers Memorial Day, introduced by my good friend, the gentlelady from Texas.

On Workers Memorial Day, we pause to remember workers who have been injured, sickened, or even killed on the job.

We were recently given a harsh reminder of the realities of workplace danger in West Virginia. The coal miners who lost their lives in that tragedy paid the ultimate price while working to support their families and supply energy to this great nation.

Sixteen workers are killed on the job each day in America. my home, Los Angeles County, that means that, on average, one worker dies every 3 days. We lose a neighbor on the job every 3 days.

Accidents don't just happen in the most dangerous industries or on the most hazardous job sites. They also happen in offices, stores, and warehouses.

The fact is, deaths and injuries at work are preventable. We just need to give the issue

the attention it deserves. I applaud steps taken so far.

President Obama's Labor Department has already raised the profile of this issue and OSHA and MSHA have been empowered to do much more than ask for compliance with voluntary standards.

With passage of the Recovery Act, we were able to shift resources to agencies that enforce workplace safety and health laws.

While the recent tragedy in West Virginia reminds us that we have far to go, my point is that it shouldn't take a disaster to put our eye on the ball. One preventable death at work is too many.

Disasters, like the recent loss of so many lives in West Virginia, serve as a stark reminder of the inadequacies that still exist. No family should ever have to suffer loss because we do not properly or fully inspect a workplace.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this resolution.

I also urge you to join the members of the Labor and Working Families Caucus as we continue our efforts to make it safe to go to work in America.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 375, 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. WOOLSEY. 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.

□ 1445

CONGRATULATING THE ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE LADY LAZERS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 561) congratulating the Onondaga Community College Lady Lazers for winning the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I Women's Lacrosse Tournament.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 561

Whereas, on May 10, 2009, the Onondaga Community College Lady Lazers defeated Monroe Community College 9–7 in the finals of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I Women's Lacrosse Tournament at Herkimer County Community College;

Whereas the Lady Lazers won the national title in their first year of existence;

Whereas the Lady Lazers' players, coaches, and staff are excellent representatives of Onondaga Community College;

Whereas Lauren Welch, Amanda Cizenski, and Emily Pierson were named 1st Team NJCAA All-Americans; and

Whereas the residents of Onondaga County and fans are to be congratulated for their support, dedication, and pride in the team: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates the Onondaga Community College Lady Lazers for winning the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I Women's Lacrosse Tournament.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 561 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Onondaga Community College Lady Lazers for winning the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Women's Lacrosse Tournament.

On May 10, 2009, the Onondaga Community College Lady Lazers team celebrated their National Junior College Athletic Association Division I championship title with a solid winning score of 9–7 over Monroe Community College. This was an especially notable victory for the Lady Lazers, winning the national title in their first year of existence. Winning the championship game was the conclusion to an outstanding season where their only loss all season was to Monroe College during the regular season. Getting to avenge that loss, resulting in the winning of the championship, made the triumph even sweeter for the team of young athletes.

Each Lady Lazers team member is a proud representative of the community college which is located in the heart of Upstate New York, near the Finger Lakes, Lake Ontario, and the St. Lawrence Seaway as well as the Adirondack Mountains. The community college takes pride in a history of excellence and athletics with more than 200 athletes who participate in one of the institution's 11 competitive teams.

Lady Lazers attacker Lauren Welch was named first team NJCAA All-American in addition to being named the Region III Player of the Year. Midfielders Amanda Cizenski and Emily Pierson were also named First Team All-Americans. Welch, Cizenski, and Pierson were also First Team All-Region selections.

I congratulate these residents as well as the fans all across the great State of New York for their support, dedication, and pride in the Lady Lazers champion team, and I wish them great success in the 2010 season.

I thank Representative MAFFEI for bringing this resolution forward, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

With that, 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 House Resolution 561, introduced by our colleague Mr. MAFFEI, congratulating the Onondaga Community College Lady Lazers for winning the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Women's Lacrosse Tournament.

Noted for its hills, wooded terrain, and expansive view of the surrounding countryside, Onondaga Community College is a college of the State University of New York system. Onondaga is a diverse educational learning community, committed to creating and maintaining an atmosphere where individuality is not only recognized but encouraged to contribute to the fabric of the campus environment. Onondaga Community College serves the educational and economic development needs of the region. Their focus is on a student-centered environment, learning-focused institution with a community-oriented approach.

In addition to its academic success, Onondaga Community College has a history of excellence in athletics and is proud of its more than 200 athletes who participate in one of the institution's 11 competitive teams. In the past 3 years, Onondaga teams have captured five national championships and, in 2009, became the first college in NJCAA history to achieve two simultaneous national championships in men's and women's lacrosse.

On May 10, 2009, the Onondaga Lady Lazers defeated Monroe Community College 9–7 in the finals of the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Lacrosse Tournament. The Lady Lazers won the national title in their first year of existence. In addition, Lauren Welch, Amanda Cizenski, and Emily Pierson were named First Team NJCAA All-Americans.

So today we congratulate Onondaga Community College, its students, faculty, and fans on their win. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MAFFEI), who is the author of this resolution.

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California and the gentleman from Wisconsin for their support of this legislation, which I do support on behalf of the community college team in my district.

I wanted to quickly mention that the word Onondaga is an Hodenosaunee word, an Iroquois word. The Iroquois Confederation was a major Native American confederation of actually

five and then six Native American Indian nations. Its capital was called Onondaga, and, indeed, the word means ''on top of the hill'' and was very, very close to where Syracuse is now—the city that I'm from—and it's a very, very special place. The college that, indeed, these teams are from is named after that original people.

Our community colleges are a tremendous asset that are too often taken for granted in our communities. In my community, we have one of the best community colleges, Onondaga Community College, and today I rise to congratulate two great lacrosse teams from this college. Before I do, I want to congratulate this college for its academics.

This college is becoming one of the best 2-year institutions of higher learning in this country, thanks in large part to the leadership of President Debbie Sydow. Onondaga is at the forefront of providing education to its students, and exhibits excellence in the high-tech and cutting-edge careers that are becoming the future of the economy in central New York and, indeed, in the country as a whole, particularly in the areas of health care, environmental technology, and high-tech manufacturing. It has become a center for art, music, and culture in our community. And with its extremely popular residence facilities, it now offers the full college experience.

After two or more years of study at Onondaga, students have gone on to transfer their credits and continue their education at some of the most prestigious institutions of higher learning in this country, including Columbia, Cornell, Syracuse University, the Rhode Island School of Design, NYU, University of Southern California, and Clarkson.

But I am here today to rise in congratulations of two of the college teams. I am going to congratulate one team now because that's the subject of H. Res. 561, and then I am hoping the gentlelady will yield to me when we consider H. Res. 563. I will talk about the other team.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Onondaga Community College Lady Lazers for winning the 2009 National Junior College Athletic Association women's lacrosse tournament. I am incredibly proud to represent the Lady Lazers. They had an incredible season and, of course, this national championship.

In 2009, as mentioned, their inaugural season, the Lady Lazers defeated Monroe Community College 9–7 in the finals of the NJCAA women's lacrosse tournament at Herkimer County Community College. This was the conclusion of a fantastic season by a fantastic team. Three Lady Lazers were named First Team NJCAA All-Americans, and all of the Lady Lazers were tremendous representatives of Onondaga College and their community. The 2010 season is already well underway, and the Lady Lazers are currently ranked number two in the country with a 7–1 record.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the OCC Lady Lazers on a tremendous season and a 2009 NJCAA national championship.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 561, congratulating the Onondaga Community College Lady Lazers for winning the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Women's Lacrosse Tournament.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 561.

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.

CONGRATULATING THE ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE LAZERS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 563) congratulating the Onondaga Community College Lazers for winning the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I Men's Lacrosse Tournament.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 563

Whereas, on May 10, 2009, the Onondaga Community College Lazers defeated Nassau Community College 9–8 in the finals of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I Men's Lacrosse Tournament at Herkimer County Community College;

Whereas the Lazers now holds 3 men's lacrosse national titles;

Whereas Head Coach Chuck Wilbur was the NJCAA Men's Lacrosse Coach of the Year;

Whereas the Lazers completed an undefeated season;

Whereas the Lazers' players, coaches, and staff are excellent representatives of Onondaga Community College;

Whereas Jerome Thompson and Jon Fiorillo were named the Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year respectively by the NJCAA Men's Lacrosse Coaches Association; and

Whereas the residents of Onondaga County and fans are to be congratulated for their support, dedication, and pride in the team: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates the Onondaga Community College Lazers for winning the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I Men's Lacrosse Tournament.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous materials on H. Res. 563 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Onondaga Community College Lazers for winning the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Men's Lacrosse Tournament. On May 10, 2009, the Onondaga Community College Lazers men's lacrosse team defeated Nassau Community College with a final score of 9–8 during the finals of the NJCAA Division I Men's Lacrosse Tournament at Herkimer County Community College.

The game that secured the Lazers' victory was remarkable, as it marked the third national title for Onondaga Community College's men's lacrosse program. The victory was also especially sweet as it concluded an undefeated season for the team. In addition to winning the NJCAA division championship, the 2009 men's team also won its fifth consecutive NJCAA Region III championship as well as its ninth consecutive Mid-State Athletic Conference title in 2009.

I congratulate Head Coach Chuck Wilbur on winning eight consecutive Mid-State Athletic Conference championships, five consecutive Region III championships, and three national championships. Chuck was named the NJCAA Men's Lacrosse Coaches Association National Coach of the Year in 2009, the third time he was given that honor.

I also wish to congratulate attack man Jerome Thompson and midfielder Jeremy Thompson, who were named the offensive and defensive players of the year, respectively, by the NJCAA Men's Lacrosse Coaches Association. In addition to Jerome Thompson and Jeremy Thompson, midfielder Ed Prevost, defenseman Pete Mumford, and goalie Jon Fiorillo were all named to the NJCAA All-American First Team.

In 2009, Mr. Speaker, Onondaga Community College became the first college in NCAA history to achieve two simultaneous national championships in men's and women's lacrosse, with both the men's Lazers team winning the title along with the Lady Lazers team. Onondaga Community College is very proud of its athletes as well as its academic programs.

I congratulate each member of the team, and I congratulate the community college family on winning the NJCAA Division I championship, and I wish them great success in 2010 for their men's lacrosse season.

I thank Representative MAFFEI for bringing this resolution forward, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

With that, 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 Representative MAFFEI's resolution, House Resolution 563, congratulating the Onondaga Community College Lazers for winning the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Men's Lacrosse Tournament.

Onondaga Community College is a college of the State University of New York system and one of 30 locally sponsored community colleges throughout New York State. They offer 2-year degree programs that serve as transfer opportunities for baccalaureate degree programs at 4-year campuses and for direct entry to the workforce, and they offer certificate programs that can be completed in 1 year. The college currently has over 11,000 students enrolled and strives to provide the full college experience.

The Onondaga Community College men's lacrosse team is an example of the college's excellence, with three national titles to its name. The team has included 35 All-American and 47 Lacrosse Coaches Association Academic All-Americans. The 2009 men's lacrosse team completed the season 16–0, an undefeated season.

□ 1500

The team captured the 2009 NJCAA National Championship against Nassau Community College on May 10, 2009, with a 9–8 victory, closer than the ladies who won 9–7. Jerome Thompson and Jon Fiorillo were named the offensive and defensive players of the year, and Head Coach Chuck Wilbur was named the NJCAA Men's Lacrosse Coach of the Year.

I stand to congratulate the Onondaga Community College men's lacrosse team, Coach Chuck Wilbur, the students and fans, and the faculty and staff at OCC. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution before us.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the gentleman from New York (Mr. MAFFEI) for such time as he may consume.

Mr. MAFFEI. I thank the gentlewoman from California as well as the gentleman from Wisconsin. We have had a very, very good year in lacrosse last year in upstate New York. In fact, a good portion of the bills that I have come to sponsor on the floor have been congratulatory resolutions for all of the various teams that we have had. Syracuse University won its tournament. Le Moyne was second in its division in lacrosse, and we have already mentioned the OCC women.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think the word that the gentleman from Wisconsin used, ''excellence,'' is the only way to describe this particular team. These young men had extremely high expectations on their shoulders, and yet they exceeded even those.

So I rise to congratulate the Onondaga Community College Lazers for winning the 2009 National Junior College Athletic Association men's lacrosse tournament. I am incredibly proud to be the congressman who represents the Lazers, and I am incredibly proud of them for an undefeated season and their third national championship in the past 4 years.

In 2009, the Lazers defeated Nassau Community College 9–8 in the finals of the NJCAA men's lacrosse tournament at Herkimer County Community College. This was the conclusion of a great season with many talented players, too numerous to mention here, but I will say that Jerome Thompson and Jon Fiorillo were named the offensive and defensive players of the year, and Head Coach Chuck Wilbur was named the NJCAA Coach of the Year.

All of the Lazers are tremendous representatives of their school and their community. The 2010 season is well underway, and the Lazers are currently ranked number 3 in the country with an 11–2 record.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Onondaga Lazers on a tremendous season and a 2009 NJCAA national championship.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 563 congratulating the Onondaga Community College Lazers for winning the NJCAA Division I men's lacrosse tournament.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 563.

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.

NATIONAL HEALTHY SCHOOLS DAY

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1280) expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools Day, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1280

Whereas there are approximately 55,000,000 children and 7,000,000 adults who spend their days in the Nation's more than 125,000 public and private schools;

Whereas children spend an average of 30 to 50 hours per week in school;

Whereas one-third of public school principals report that some environmental factors interfere with classroom instruction;

Whereas some environmental hazards that are common in schools include unsafe drinking water, ventilation problems and poor indoor environmental quality which are associated with a wide range of problems that include poor concentration, poor attendance, lower student test scores, respiratory illnesses, cancer, and other safety hazards;

Whereas about 9 percent of the Nation's students have asthma, which is a leading cause of school absenteeism and is aggravated by poor air quality and ventilation problems;

Whereas healthy and high performance schools are designed to improve indoor environments and other environmental factors by improving ventilation, providing for moisture and mold controls, temperature and humidity controls, as well as acoustics and noise controls, and other design elements;

Whereas healthy and high performance schools provide a healthier and safer learning environment for children and improved academic achievement and well-being;

Whereas National Healthy Schools Day is an important day to celebrate and promote healthy and green school environments for all children;

Whereas National Healthy Schools Day is coordinated by Healthy Schools Network in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Council of Educational Facility Planners—International and is celebrated on the first day of School Building Week; and

Whereas April 26, 2010, would be an appropriate day to designate as ''National Healthy Schools Day'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of National Healthy Schools Day; and

(2) supports the goals and ideals of this day which include the promotion of healthy and safe places to learn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1280 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1280, a resolution recognizing the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools Day.

Every year we celebrate National Healthy Schools Day to promote healthy and green school environments for all children. Across the country, more than 55 million children and 7 million adults spend their days in over 125,000 public and private schools in the United States. That is why it is essential that we recognize the importance of healthy learning environments. This year, National Healthy Schools Day 2010 focuses on the importance of good indoor air quality, nontoxic cleaning supplies, and environmentally friendly building materials.

The need for healthy schools is clear. Scientific studies show that poor environmental conditions in schools harm students' health and academic achievement. On the other hand, healthy

schools help students reach their maximum potential. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, more than half of the schools in the U.S. have problems linked to unhealthy indoor air quality. Too many school districts struggle with the poor physical condition of their facilities, and this reality has only become worse because of the fiscal crisis affecting our country.

Schools in urban and rural areas are often overcrowded, unhealthy, inadequately maintained, and reduce quality learning. Healthy school environments encourage better school attendance and participation. Kids who feel healthy are more likely to stay in school. Healthy schools also encourage students to spend time at school for extracurricular activities, which is a key part of President Obama's goal to make our schools the community centers that they should and could be. All students deserve dry, clean, and quiet facilities with good indoor air, lighting and sanitation.

National Healthy Schools Day highlights simple steps we can take that can improve school environments for our children. This year's healthy schools campaign focuses on the importance of green, nontoxic cleaning products. Approximately 25 percent of chemicals in cleaning products used in schools are toxic and contribute to poor indoor air quality, smog, cancer, asthma and other diseases. Simply replacing toxic products with all natural cleaners could immediately improve the health of our students.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides guides and assessments on their Web site to help schools improve indoor air quality. National Healthy Schools Day raises awareness of tools like these to help make our schools healthier and safer for kids.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution in support of National Healthy Schools Day serves to recognize the importance of healthy, safe, and green learning environments in our Nation's schools. I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) for introducing this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1280 expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the goals and ideals of National Healthy Schools Day. Most parents recognize the importance of keeping their children healthy, and strive to do so. National Healthy Schools Day recognizes the important role that schools also play in keeping students healthy and ready to learn.

Approximately 55 million children spend 30–50 hours a week in our Nation's schools. Local communities strive to make their school buildings places that support positive environments in which learning can thrive. For example, by taking steps to improve indoor air quality, school districts can decrease irritants in the air that may aggravate asthma and allergies in some children. Districts are also responsible for ensuring that school buildings are safe from physical danger and that all children will be protected during their time at school.

National Healthy Schools Day promotes schools that support parents' efforts to ensure their children are safe and healthy whether at home or at school.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring local schools that meet the commitment to keeping all children healthy and safe.

I have no additional requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), the author of this legislation, for as much time as he may consume.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California and the gentleman from Wisconsin. I rise today in support of H. Res. 1280, a resolution that I introduced to recognize National Healthy Schools Day. National Healthy Schools Day recognizes the importance of having a clean, healthy and safe indoor environment in our Nation's schools.

Each day millions of students, teachers, and staff go to work and school in our Nation's schools. Not all of these are healthy environments, especially for our young children. The EPA estimates that up to one-half of those schools have problems with indoor air quality. And 32 million students attend schools that have self-reported environmental problems with their facilities that can affect our children's health and learning.

Indoor air quality is one of the most common environmental problems in schools, which can aggravate children's allergies and asthma problems. Nine percent of our Nation's schoolchildren have asthma, which is the leading cause of absenteeism in schools. Other common environmental problems in schools include mold infestations, lead and copper contaminated drinking water, playgrounds and classrooms with high levels of pesticides, unchecked furnaces and buses leaking carbon monoxide, and exhaust from gasoline-powered equipment.

These problems affect the health of our Nation's schools and the people in them, and can contribute to absenteeism, learning difficulties, sick building syndrome, staff turnover, and liability issues for our school districts.

Research shows that simple steps can be taken to make our schools healthier. Heating and ventilation equipment can be improved to enhance indoor air quality. New schools can be built with a healthy design at non-polluted sites, in more sustainable ways that reduce energy and maintenance costs. Nontoxic products can be used for cleaning, maintenance and teaching. The use of natural light can be improved.

Healthy and high performance schools are designed to improve the indoor environment for the students and staff members who go to work and school in these buildings each and every day. They are more energy efficient and lead to better overall health. Many States, in fact, have already adopted guidelines for building healthy and high performance schools, like my home State of New York.

National Healthy Schools Day draws attention to the importance of having a safe and healthy school environment for our Nation's students. National Healthy Schools Day is supported by the Healthy Schools Network, the EPA, the National Education Association, and many more organizations. I am proud to be counted as a supporter of National Healthy Schools Day, and look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues here to ensure that every student has a healthy environment in which to learn. After all, our children are the foundation for this country's great future. Shouldn't we be providing them with the safest and healthiest places to learn?

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution recognizing National Healthy Schools Day authored by Congressman TONKO from New York, and recognizing the importance of ensuring healthy and green school environments for all of our children.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1280, as amended.

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

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: ''Expressing support for designation of April 26, 2010, as National Healthy Schools Day.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1515

RURAL HOUSING PRESERVATION AND STABILIZATION ACT OF 2010

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5017) to ensure the availability of loan guarantees for rural homeowners, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5017

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Rural Housing Preservation and Stabilization Act of 2010''.

SEC. 2. LOAN GUARANTEE FEES.

(a) UP-FRONT FEES.—Paragraph (8) of section 502(h) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472(h)(8)) is amended to read as follows:

''(8) GUARANTEE FEES.—With respect to a guaranteed loan under this subsection, the Secretary may collect from the lender, at the time of issuance of the guarantee, a fee equal to not more than 4.0 percent of the principal obligation of the loan, as determined sufficient by the Secretary to cover the costs (as such term is defined in section 502 of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661a)) of loan guarantees under this subsection.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 739 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 2001 (as enacted by Public Law 106–387; 114 Stat. 1549A–34) is hereby repealed

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF AMOUNT OF LOAN GUARANTEES.—Section 513 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1483) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) AUTHORIZATION FOR LOAN GUARANTEES.—The Secretary may, to the extent approved in appropriation Acts, guarantee loans under section 502(h) in aggregate amounts not to exceed $30,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.''.

SEC. 3. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go-Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled ''Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation'' for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI) and the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5017, the Rural Housing Preservation and Stabilization Act. This legislation aims to preserve the U.S. Department of Agriculture's section 502 Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program that helps low- and moderate-income rural residents obtain safe and affordable housing.

Since its inception, this program has helped hundreds of thousands of families realize the American dream of homeownership. Managed by the USDA's Rural Housing Service, the program provides a vital source of mortgage credit in communities of less than 20,000 residents. USDA currently guarantees rural home loans with the money that it receives through the appropriations process and the upfront fees it collects on loan originations.

Historically, Congress has also set, through the annual appropriations process, the statutory limit on the maximum loan commitment authority that the Federal Government will guarantee. These guarantees decrease the exposure of home lenders to default so that they will underwrite more mortgages for low- and moderate-income families in rural America.

In 2009, the 115,000 loans made under the program averaged $112,000. The financial crisis, however, has created unprecedented demand for and spiked homebuyer interest in the program. As a result, the program has more than tripled in recent years from guaranteeing about $3 billion in 2006 to guaranteeing more than $10 billion at the end of March 2010.

In March, USDA notified its State directors and participating lenders in the program that they would have to stop making conditional loan commitments at the end of April because they had exhausted their funding and would have to wait until they received additional appropriations. H.R. 5017 offers a commonsense solution to this problem by raising the upfront fee that USDA can charge commercial lenders up to 4 percent and increasing the USDA's loan authority to $30 billion for the current year. USDA confirms that these amounts would be sufficient for the program to continue to operate without interruption.

Moreover, by making this program self-sustaining, we would also reduce discretionary spending by $24 million in the current fiscal year. So this legislation represents a win for American taxpayers and a win for America's heartland.

This legislation additionally enjoys broad support and passed out of the Financial Services Committee by a bipartisan vote last Thursday. In this regard, I am especially grateful for the work of my colleague, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), who has worked closely with me on these matters. Her suggestions have helped make a good bill even better.

Additionally, many groups have called upon Congress to act quickly to fix this problem, including the National Association of Realtors, the Mortgage Bankers Association, and the American Bankers Association. We should heed their advice and pass this bill.

In sum, Mr. Speaker, to preserve the dream of homeownership in America's heartland, I urge all my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 5017.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. KANJORSKI, for his good, solid work on this bill. We have worked well together on H.R. 5017, and I think we see the results of that work together here today on the floor.

This legislation extends the USDA 502 loan guarantee program. This program is a very important homeownership tool for many rural Americans, many of whom live in my State of West Virginia, providing a loan guarantee on privately issued loans. The 502 program has a very low default rate.

Over the last few years, demand for the program has increased, and consequently loan commitment authority for the 502 program will be exhausted. Without swift action, borrowers who rely on this program will run out of options for affordable home loans.

Last week, I offered an amendment during the markup of H.R. 5017 in the Financial Services Committee that provides the 502 program with additional loan commitment authority and makes an important improvement to the program. In order to make the program self-sufficient, we are raising the guaranteed fee up to 4 percent, granting the Secretary the authority to choose the appropriate level. This ensures that the program will no longer be reliant on taxpayer funds to build capital reserves, a welcome part of the 502 program.

Although I am committed to continuing to work with my colleagues on potential long-term modifications to the 502 program that serve the best interests of the homeowners and the taxpayers, I believe it is important that the language increasing the loan commitment authority to $30 billion be limited to the current fiscal year and not beyond that time period. We must be aware of the impact on the private market and ensure that private entities are able to regain appropriate market share.

Mr. Speaker, with these changes, we strike a balance of extending the program through the rest of the year. I, and I'm sure many of my colleagues here, have heard from numerous Realtors, lenders and potential homebuyers about the situation that the 502 program has found itself in. Since its inception, the 502 program has helped hundreds of thousands of families with low to moderate incomes realize homeownership. Over the past several weeks, as I said, many constituents have contacted me stressing just how important this program is as they are on their path towards homeownership and wish to see its continued funding.

Again, I would like to thank Mr. KANJORSKI for working with me on this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, the U.S. Department of Commerce released figures for March for the sale of single family homes. It increased by 27 percent, the biggest increase since 1963.

We are finally starting to see real signs of recovery in the housing market, but it didn't happen by itself entirely. Prices have certainly gone

down, there are good rates available out there, but programs like the one Congressman KANJORSKI's legislation will protect and nurture have been a huge reason why we've seen the growth in numbers that the U.S. Department of Commerce reported last week.

The 502 program in eastern Connecticut has been a lifeline throughout 2009 and early 2010 where, again, the spike in numbers that Mr. KANJORSKI described has been a reality and has allowed, again, the market to thrive, but also to provide people an avenue to obtain financing that otherwise they never would have been able to get in the regular market.

As was said by the Congresswoman from West Virginia, lenders are holding their breath, homeowners are holding their breath, and the first-time homebuyer tax credit is about to expire in a few days. Passing this legislation which will provide an avenue to protect this program will continue the upward momentum that we are finally starting to see in the housing market.

Again, I congratulate Mr. KANJORSKI for his creative solution to this problem, which will not cost the taxpayers additional funds, but will keep, again, a growing real estate market moving in the right direction.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I would just, again, reiterate my support for this bill. I think it's timely. It's something that we want to do in an expeditious and responsible manner, and I believe that this bill addresses those concerns.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5017, the "Rural Housing Preservation and Stabilization Act of 2010."

This bill would preserve the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Service (RHS) Section 502 Single Family Direct Homeownership Loans Program, which is set to expire at the end of this month.

Section 502 is USDA's main housing loan program and is designed to help low-income individuals purchase, build, repair, or renovate homes in rural areas.

Currently, Section 502 is the only federal program targeting safe and affordable homeownership opportunities to low- and very low-income rural households. The annual average income of a Section 502 direct borrower is 55 percent of area median income, or $18,500 a year.

Since its inception, Section 502 has provided loans to approximately 2.5 million families at an extremely low cost to the federal government. Unfortunately, the amount appropriated for rural housing programs has been insufficient to meet the demand. The current backlog for Section 502 direct loans includes 27,000 rural households, totaling $2.9 billion in loan applications.

H.R. 5017, will preserve the Section 502 program and establish a self-sustaining program at no cost to taxpayers. I believe Section 502 is vital for our rural communities throughout the nation and this bill is absolutely necessary to help preserve a critical program at no cost to taxpayers.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this important bill.

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

Mr. KANJORSKI. 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5017, 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. KANJORSKI. 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.

PROHIBITING A COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN 2011

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5146) to provide that Members of Congress shall not receive a cost of living adjustment in pay during fiscal year 2011.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5146

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

SECTION 1. NO COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT IN PAY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no adjustment shall be made under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 31) (relating to cost of living adjustments for Members of Congress) during fiscal year 2011.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) 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 to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, while there are positive signs of economic recovery around the country, the budget deficit is still an important issue. Therefore, it is appropriate that we continue to forego a cost-of-living adjustment at this time as we did for 2010. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in supporting this measure.

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

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation, providing Members of Congress shall not receive a cost of living adjustment in pay during fiscal year 2011, sponsored by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. MITCHELL), actually mirroring language that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) has had before our body for some period of time. Both gentlemen have worked on this together, it is my understanding.

Across the country, we know that there are serious issues plaguing Americans, mainly a deteriorating economy and very high unemployment rates. In my home State, the underemployment rate is over 20 percent. In my district, Sacramento County has an unemployment rate of 12.9 percent, which is actually lower than some of the cities in my district. The city of Galt, for example, has an unemployment rate of 15 percent. So it goes without saying that things are not well in our economy and people are suffering.

As Americans around the country are struggling and sacrificing to make ends meet, it appears that we in Congress should not be immune. Other institutions are doing likewise. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court recently announced in his Year-End Report for the Judiciary that he would not be requesting the usual salary increase for Federal judges given that "so many of our fellow citizens have been touched by hardship." The President has also announced a pay freeze for top White House officials and other appointees in the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, recently in this House we passed H. Res. 1257, supporting the goals and ideals of National Financial Literacy Month, 2010. This legislation sought to raise public awareness about financial education through highlighting the importance of maintaining and managing personal finances, increasing personal savings, and reducing indebtedness in the United States. Some would ask whether we in Congress ought to undertake that same examination with respect to our spending in this House and our spending overall on the Federal budget.

□ 1530

At a time when we are passing resolutions telling Americans to be more cognizant of their financial situation, their debt, their savings, we do need to do the same in the House.

Millions of Americans are not getting a pay raise this year. Many, unfortunately, are not even getting paychecks. Under these circumstances, Congress must forgo a pay raise to save the hardworking taxpayers and hard-looking job seekers in this country a little of their money. Relative to the overall Federal budget, this single act doesn't have that great an impact. But any dollar, any Federal dollar, is something that we should treat with utmost responsibility because it comes to us in a sense involuntarily from our constituents. It comes through taxes or future taxes to pay for current debts.

So under these circumstances I think most of my colleagues, if not all of my colleagues, would agree that this is the time for us to forgo a pay raise. I would urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution, Mr. Speaker.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I would like to yield 3 minutes to the bill's sponsor, the distinguished gentleman from Arizona (Mr. MITCHELL).

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5146, the Cancel the Pay Raise for Members of Congress in Fiscal Year 2011 Act, a bill to stop Members of Congress from receiving an automatic pay raise in fiscal year 2011. Last week the Senate approved this same legislation, and I am pleased that today the House is finally following suit.

With unemployment high and so many families under stress, it would be simply unconscionable for Congress to raise its own pay. But that is precisely what will happen in fiscal year 2011 unless Congress takes action to stop it. This bill is simply the right thing to do. Earlier this year, Chief Justice Roberts announced that, in a major break from tradition, he will not seek a salary increase this year for Federal judges in light of the fact that, quote, ''so many of our fellow citizens have been touched by hardship.'' Likewise, President Obama has announced a pay freeze for senior White House officials as well as top appointees across the Federal Government. And as I mentioned, last week the Senate approved legislation to block the next automatic pay raise for Members of Congress.

It is time—past time—for the House to act. The American people are not getting a raise this year. Neither should Congress.

I want to thank Representative RON PAUL for his steadfast leadership on this issue. He and I have worked closely with each other for several years now to block the annual pay raise, and today's vote would not have been possible without him. Dr. PAUL, thank you.

I also want to thank the National Taxpayers Union and Citizens Against Government Waste for their support of our efforts to block the pay raise. And of course I want to thank Representative JIM MATHESON for his work on this legislation, as well as House leadership for allowing this important bill to come to the floor today.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield 5 minutes to the indomitable distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL), who has worked on this issue for some time.

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

Mr. PAUL. I thank the gentleman from California.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, and I want to compliment Mr. MITCHELL from Arizona for getting this bill to the floor. We have worked on this for several years. I am pleased that this is going to be passed today.

Much has been said about the unemployment rate in this country. And I saw one other take on unemployment today, where it said that for low-income people below $20,000, the unemployment rate is actually 31 percent, which shows how devastating this recession is, and for some it is an actual depression.

I would like this bill to be passed, but not just as symbolism. It is good symbolism and important symbolism. As was mentioned by the gentleman from California, it is not a tremendous amount of money, but it is important for us to recognize that we have a serious problem in this country and that we shouldn't be careless about the way we think about this problem. It shouldn't make us feel necessarily good because we passed this. This is just necessary.

It does remind me of a piece of legislation I introduced many years ago, in the 1970s, when we had rampant inflation, which I anticipate will probably come back to this country. Back then we had a 15 percent inflation rate. My suggestion then in the form of legislation, to get the Members' attention to understand what inflation was all about, I said we should take a pay cut at the rate of inflation. Even today we might suggest that. There is a lot more inflation out there than we admit to. So maybe not only should we freeze our salaries, maybe we should be taking a pay cut so that we can do a better job, because we really can't brag about the job that we have done for the country because of the condition the country is in.

But I would like to extend this motivation to freeze the pay of Congressmen to freezing a few other things. I would like to see our budget at least frozen where it is. That would go a long way to solving some of our budgetary problems. And how about freezing the debt level. Let's not raise the debt level. Instead, this next year our national debt is going to go up about $2 trillion when you add up all that we borrow from our trust funds.

Also, I would like to see a freeze on regulations because regulations usually backfire. There are unintended consequences, they cost a lot of money, they act as a tax, and they don't improve the economy overall.

I would be in support of freezing the wealth transfer system, the system that most people think is going to help all the poor people. The trouble is the wealth transfer system helps the rich people, and they are the ones who get the bailouts and the poor people don't. So a freeze on wealth transfer would go a long way toward restoring a free society and a constitutional government.

Also, I think the consensus of the American people today is we ought to freeze the bailouts. Let's not bail out anybody anymore. But it looks like it will be a long time before that happens because we have a monetary system where we have somebody over there called the Federal Reserve that says we can print money at will, and our job is to be the lender of last resort. That means to bail anybody and everybody out that needs money. And it looks like that will be domestic as well as international.

I would like to freeze the ability of the Federal Reserve to print money out of thin air. That in moral terms is counterfeit, and yet that is the encouragement for us to run up our deficits because the Fed can come in and increase the money supply. A sound monetary system would have frozen anybody's ability to just create money out of thin air.

I would also like to freeze the income tax at the 1912 level. And that indeed would be a real boost to the people of this country. All of a sudden there would be great wealth in the hands of the consumer. Just think if all the money that we spent on the bailouts that just tided things over, if just a portion of that had been used to get rid of the income tax, I think the money would have been better spent because the people would have been spending the money instead of the bureaucrats and the politicians and the regulators that bailed out the people who were making all the money in the first place.

But I would also extend this freeze onto some other things, too. I would like to freeze some of our militarism. I think we have enough fighting going on. I don't think we should expand the war. I don't think we should be looking for another enemy. I would like to freeze the sanctions on countries. I would like to see a lot more free trade. I would like to see that the bombing is not extended, that we quit allowing our CIA to extend the bombing of countries that have not attacked us. I would also like to put a freeze on this concept of preventive war. This whole idea of the concept of preventive war means that we can literally start the war.

So, yes, it's good that we are freezing the salaries of us here in the Congress. But if we really want to restore the Republic, we will freeze a lot of these other issues as well.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I would like to yield 2 minutes to the bill's cosponsor, the distinguished gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON).

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, as so many people in this country continue to struggle to find work, let alone receive a pay raise, I am glad Congress has chosen to highlight this issue. Now, last year Congress recognized how inappropriate it would be to accept the stealth salary increase and passed a measure to block a congressional pay raise for the current fiscal year. This past week the Senate continued the freeze on congressional pay without a single dissenting vote. And now I urge my fellow House Members to follow suit and pass this commonsense measure.

The need for this bill also underlines another significant problem with the

congressional pay raise system because every year, unless both the House and the Senate actually vote against a pay raise, like we are talking about doing right now, we automatically receive a pay raise. In almost every profession, salary increases are dependent on performance, experience, tenure, or any number of factors other than really showing up to work every day.

This system which shrouds the congressional pay increase in arcane procedures deters a healthy, open debate of the issue. This legislation is a straightforward measure to stop the pay increase for fiscal year '11 and has been widely supported in a bipartisan manner.

I commend Congressman MITCHELL and Congressman PAUL for their work on this issue over the past 2 years. Now, beyond this one-time issue we are talking about today, I would be remiss if I didn't mention I have introduced a separate piece of legislation which would permanently repeal the provision of the law granting automatic pay raises and bring this issue to an open, up or down vote to let the public know where we stand on this issue every year. The Senate has also passed this legislation. I look forward to discussing this issue as we move forward to address our budgetary priorities.

As I have said for the past many years, spending priorities in a time of war and economic turmoil should not include an automatic salary increase for Members of Congress. I urge my fellow Members of the House to prevent a pay raise for 2011 and vote in favor of the legislation on the floor today.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

After listening to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL), I am reminded of some freezes I would like to see. In addition to this freeze on our pay for a year, I would like to see us put a freeze on regulations on small business.

The previous speaker just mentioned that he believes we have somewhat of an arcane procedure for providing for pay raises to Members of Congress. That may be true. But there is certainly no more arcane activity that we engaged in than when we passed the health care bill in that having a new burden on business, particularly small business. And I speak of section 9006 of the health care bill, which has nothing to do with health, but has everything to do with regulation in that now, as opposed to the law which has existed for many years in which you had to file a 1099 on someone who provided a service for you, the purpose of which was to make sure that there was some paper trail to see if you were paying payroll taxes, we now have decided under this bill, the health care bill, section 9006, to require anybody involved in a trade or a service, that is any type of business who makes a purchase from some other corporate entity of any type that amounts to more than $600 cumulatively over a single year, that requires a 1099 to be filed with the person that you purchase the product from and the Federal Government.

What this means is that now if you purchase plane tickets and it amounts to more than $600 and you are engaged in a business, you will have to file a 1099 with United Airlines or American Airlines and the Federal Government. If you purchase food for your company and it amounts to more than $600, you will have to file a 1099. If you happen to be a rancher and you purchase bales of hay, you are going to have to keep a running tab all year long, and when you go over $600 you are going to have to file a 1099. If you in fact utilize FedEx or UPS, if during the course of the year it is more than $600, you will have to file a 1099 with FedEx or UPS and the Federal Government.

So this is a new burden that will require accounting procedures for anybody involved in business, particularly imposed on small business. But more than that, there is a double-edged sword to this. And that is this is a dagger at the heart of small business. Because if you have this obligation, it is easier to deal with one single big vendor than to have a number of them. Instead of going to your local hardware store if you are a small company and you need some hardware, you ought to go to one of the big guys because their universe of products is greater. And so if you have everything you purchased from them, knowing it is going to be over $600, you only have a single 1099 to file.

So what we have done in one fell swoop is make it more difficult to actually operate with this new regulatory scheme, and on the other hand, create disincentives for small business.

Now, when we contacted the Internal Revenue Service to see how they are going to interpret it, they said we haven't interpreted it yet because we are waiting for HHS to give us guidance. So now we have tax policy going to be determined by HHS.

□ 1545

All I'm saying is, if people think that we've had arcane procedures for means of pay raises for Members of Congress, it is nothing compared to what we've done in this health care bill with regulation on small business. I actually call that provision of the health care bill the ''universal snitch act'' because, when you file this 1099, it has nothing to do with your obligation to pay taxes. It has got to be premised on the idea that every vendor you deal with cheats and that the only way to catch cheaters is to have this new paper trail.

So I don't know. It just seems repugnant to me that we would do that, and I happen to have a bill that I introduced yesterday that would repeal that.

I just bring this up because the gentleman from Texas prompted this thought in my mind about freezes that would be appropriate. Then when the previous speaker mentioned arcane procedures, there was nothing more arcane than the health care bill we passed.

In fact, when we called the IRS, they weren't sure that this was in the bill. When we talked to the Congressional Research Service, they said, Oh, it couldn't be. Then when we pointed out that the new language in the bill is property and not just services—and that includes anything that you purchase—it has an unbelievable obligation on small business.

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. TEAGUE).

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Speaker, as a small business man in the oil and gas industry for over 30 years, I know that, when times are tough, we have to tighten our belts. That is why the very first bill that I sponsored in Congress was a bill to stop the automatic pay raise for Members of Congress.

Last year, we were able to get enough signers to stop this pay raise for this year, and I was proud to work to get that done. I am proud that our work has again paid off and that I am standing here today in support of a bill that will again stop the automatic pay raise that Members have taken advantage of for too long.

While many working New Mexicans are struggling to make ends meet, it is insulting that anyone would accept an automatic pay raise, which is something most of the constituents in my district will have to do without—if they are earning salaries at all. Our constituents expect honest and responsible leadership from their Congress. That's why I encourage my colleagues to just say ''no'' to the dough.

Mr. Speaker, we need to take this a step further. I call on my fellow Members of Congress to cosponsor legislation I have sponsored with my colleague from Arizona, Representative KIRKPATRICK. Our bill would cut pay for all Senators and Representatives by 5 percent beginning January 1, 2011. This would be the first congressional pay reduction since 1933.

I think it's about time that Congress has their pay cut just like the rest of the country, so I ask you to join me in this fight today.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the pride of the Coast Guard, the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

Mr. COBLE. I thank my friend from California.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on behalf of this bill.

Some would say, Well, it's just a symbolic gesture. Well, it may be symbolic, but it is symbolically significant. What better time to impose a freeze against ourselves than now during these harsh economic times of people being beneficiaries of pink slips, of being told their jobs are gone. Then

they see that Congress gets an automatic COLA. I think this is a good bill, and I urge its passage.

I thank the gentleman from California for having elevated me to the ''distinguished'' category as well.

Folks, we are on the right track here. This bill needs to be passed. We need to impose a freeze upon ourselves for the next fiscal year. I think it would send a message which would be well received by our constituencies across this land.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time.

I would just urge my colleagues to support this resolution. This is appropriate at this particular time. I think all Members of Congress recognize the difficult economic straits we are in. It is a simple resolution. It forgoes the pay raise for the year 2011, and I would urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to comment very briefly because my colleagues were asking for basically a freeze on a status quo of the health care that we know today.

They spoke of repugnant policies. I want to talk just for a minute about the repugnant policies that we know of today, which don't allow people to get insurance if they have preexisting conditions that have ratings which discriminate, particularly against women, and which make it almost impossible for small business to be able to take care of and to help their employees when it comes to health insurance. So, yes, we have some policies that we have been trying to change. Unfortunately, my colleagues are asking for a freeze.

Yet I do want to applaud the fact that we are here on a singular effort today, and that is to forgo the cost-of-living adjustment for Congress. I think that's a good idea. It is a very timely idea, and it is very important that we move forward with it today.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, Kansans continue to suffer from the effects of the recession. Times remain tough for many. Small business owners are struggling to keep the doors of their businesses open. Families are struggling to pay their bills. When faced with difficult times, Kansans make sacrifices. They cut back where they can and stretch every dollar to make ends meet.

Times are also tough for the Federal Government. The national debt is more than $12 trillion and it continues to grow every day.

When times are tough, Kansans expect their government to act like they do—to make sacrifices and cut spending. Yet, the Federal Government is spending more than ever before.

One of the first places Congress should look to cut spending is the annual cost-of-living increase for Members of Congress. Representatives and Senators do not deserve a raise, especially when many Kansans will not receive a raise this year and the unemployment rate remains high.

I have long been opposed to the hidden process by which Members of Congress get an increase in their pay. The lack of transparency in the yearly raise only serves to increase skepticism, disillusion and distrust of government. Last year, I sponsored H.R. 1597, which eliminates the automatic pay increase for Members of Congress. If Members of Congress believe they have earned a raise, they should vote on it in full view of the public.

I am pleased today, that the House of Representatives is considering a bill in clear view of the public that would do away with the cost-of-living increase for next year. While this legislation, H.R. 5146, is only a one-year fix to the problem, it is an important first step and I am proud to be one of the sponsors of this legislation. I oppose the yearly automatic increase in pay and strongly support today's legislation to make sure Members of Congress do not get a raise next year.

Our employers, the voters, are right to be unhappy with Washington's spending spree. There should be no increase in congressional pay until Congress listens to the public and cuts spending.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. 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 California (Mrs. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5146.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. 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.

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. 1131, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 5017, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 5146, 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.

NATIONAL ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1131, 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1131, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 0, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 224]

YEAS—411

Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Deutch
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
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
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
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
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)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)

Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
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
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
Schrader
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
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
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—19

Barrett (SC)
Becerra
Berry
Brady (TX)
Davis (AL)
Fallin
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Harman
Hoekstra
Mollohan
Moore (WI)
Price (GA)
Reyes
Richardson
Schwartz
Souder
Velázquez
Wamp

□ 1620

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:

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 224, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RURAL HOUSING PRESERVATION AND STABILIZATION ACT OF 2010

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAPUANO). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5017, 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5017, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 352, nays 62, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 225]

YEAS—352

Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Butterfield
Buyer
Camp
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Driehaus
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Gerlach
Giffords
Gordon (TN)
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Heller
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (NY)
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
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
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—62

Akin
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Campbell
Cantor
Carter
Chaffetz
Coffman (CO)
Culberson
Duncan
Flake
Fleming
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett (NJ)
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Granger
Hastings (WA)
Hensarling
Herger
Hunter
Inglis
Johnson, Sam
Jordan (OH)
King (IA)
Kingston
Lamborn
Lewis (CA)
Linder
Lummis
Mack
Marchant
McClintock
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Myrick
Nunes
Paul
Pence
Petri
Poe (TX)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Stearns
Westmoreland

NOT VOTING—16

Barrett (SC)
Becerra
Berry
Davis (AL)
Fallin
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Harman
Hoekstra
Mollohan
Moore (WI)
Price (GA)
Reyes
Ruppersberger
Souder
Wamp

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1631

Messrs. BURTON of Indiana, NUNES, Mrs. LUMMIS, Messrs. BROWN of South Carolina, ROONEY, MICA, KINGSTON, WESTMORELAND, GINGREY of Georgia, LINDER, and Mrs. SCHMIDT changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. MCHENRY changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, earlier today I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcalls 224 and 225. If present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcalls 224 and 225.

PROHIBITING A COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TONKO). The unfinished business is the

vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5146, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5146.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 402, nays 15, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 226]

YEAS—402

Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boccieri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Conaway
Connolly (VA)
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Deutch
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gallegly
Garamendi
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
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 (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moran (KS)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
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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
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Terry
Thompson (CA)
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Thornberry
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Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Watson
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Westmoreland
Whitfield
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Wilson (SC)
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Wolf
Wu
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Ellison
Jackson Lee (TX)
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Meeks (NY)
Moran (VA)
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Towns
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Berry
Davis (AL)
Fallin
Gohmert
Harman
Hoekstra
Marshall
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Waters

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1641

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas changed her vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. BARTON of Texas changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to make a correction on the vote on passage of H.R. 5146, providing that Members of Congress shall not receive a cost of living adjustment in pay during fiscal year 2011.

Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the RECORD that I support the denial of a cost of living adjustment for Members. The correct vote for rollcall No. 226 would have been ''aye'' instead of ''nay,'' providing that Members of Congress shall not receive a cost of living adjustment in pay during fiscal year 2011.

Again, I want to state that Congresswoman JACKSON LEE opposes the cost of living adjustment for Members of Congress as stated appropriately in H.R. 5146.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5013, IMPLEMENTING MANAGEMENT FOR PERFORMANCE AND RELATED REFORMS TO OBTAIN VALUE IN EVERY ACQUISITION ACT OF 2010

Mr. ARCURI from the Committee on Rules submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111–467) on the resolution (H. Res. 1300) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5013) to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for performance management of the defense acquisition system, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CHU). 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.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1259) recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1259

Whereas, on average, a person is sexually assaulted in the United States every 2½ minutes;

Whereas the Department of Justice reports that 203,830 people in the United States were sexually assaulted in 2008;

Whereas 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been victims of rape or attempted rape;

Whereas the Department of Defense received 2,908 reports of sexual assault involving members of the Armed Forces in fiscal year 2008, representing an eight percent increase from fiscal 2007;

Whereas children and young adults are most at risk of sexual assault, as 44 percent

of sexual assault victims are under the age of 18, and 80 percent are under the age of 30;

Whereas sexual assault affects women, men, and children of all racial, social, religious, age, ethnic, ability, and economic groups in the United States;

Whereas women, children, and men suffer multiple types of sexual violence, including but not limited to acquaintance, stranger, spousal, and gang rape, incest, child sexual molestation, forced prostitution, trafficking, forced pornography, ritual abuse, sexual harassment, and stalking;

Whereas it is estimated that the percentage of completed or attempt rape victimization among women in higher educational institutions may be between 20 and 25 percent over the course of a college career;

Whereas, in addition to the immediate physical and emotional costs, sexual assault has associated consequences that may include post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, major depression, homelessness, eating disorders, and suicide, among others;

Whereas only 41 percent of sexual assault victims pursue prosecution by reporting their attack to law enforcement agencies;

Whereas two-thirds of sexual crimes are committed by persons who are not strangers to the victims;

Whereas sexual assault survivors suffer emotional scars long after the physical scars have healed;

Whereas, with recent advances in DNA technology, law enforcement agencies have the potential to identify the rapists in tens of thousands of unsolved rape cases;

Whereas aggressive prosecution can lead to the incarceration of rapists and therefore prevent them from committing further crimes;

Whereas national, State, territory, and tribal coalitions, community-based rape crisis centers, and other organizations across the Nation are committed to increasing public awareness of sexual violence and its prevalence, and to eliminating it through prevention and education;

Whereas important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, health professionals, public health workers, educators, first responders, and victim service providers;

Whereas free, confidential help is available to all survivors of sexual assault through the National Sexual Assault Hotline, more than 1,000 rape crisis centers across the United States, and other organizations that provide services to assist survivors of sexual assault;

Whereas, according to a 2010 survey of rape crisis centers by the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, 72 percent of programs have experienced a reduction in funding over the past year, 56 percent have experienced a reduction in staffing, 23 percent currently have a waiting list for services, and funding and staffing cuts have resulted in an overall 50 percent reduction in the provision of institutional advocacy services;

Whereas individual and collective efforts reflect our dream for a Nation where citizens and organizations actively work to prevent all forms of sexual violence and no sexual assault victim goes unserved or ever feels there is no path to justice; and

Whereas April is recognized as ''National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(A) National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month provides a special opportunity to educate the people of the United States about sexual violence and to encourage the prevention of sexual assault, the improved treatment of its survivors, and the prosecution of its perpetrators;

(B) it is appropriate to properly acknowledge the more than 20 million men and women who have survived sexual assault in the United States and salute the efforts of survivors, volunteers, and professionals who combat sexual assault;

(C) national and community organizations and private sector supporters should be recognized and applauded for their work in promoting awareness about sexual assault, providing information and treatment to its survivors, and increasing the number of successful prosecutions of its perpetrators; and

(D) public safety, law enforcement, and health professionals should be recognized and applauded for their hard work and innovative strategies to increase the percentage of sexual assault cases that result in the prosecution and incarceration of the offenders;

(2) the House of Representatives strongly recommends national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, colleges and universities, and the media to promote, through National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, awareness of sexual violence and strategies to decrease the incidence of sexual assault; and

(3) the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

□ 1645

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

Madam Speaker, studies of the prevalence of crime and of victimization show that one in six women and one in 33 men will be a victim of rape or attempted rape in their lifetimes. On average, a person is sexually assaulted in the United States every 2½ minutes. In my home State of Wisconsin, we have learned that nearly 93 percent of sexual assault survivors are violated by someone they know and trust; tragically, oftentimes as youngsters before they have even reached the age of 15.

Nationwide, we know that children and young adults are most at risk. Forty-four percent of sexual assault victims are under the age of 18, and 80 percent are under the age of 30. It is estimated that 20–25 percent of women attending college are raped or assaulted over the course of their college career.

These statistics are staggering and unconscionable. Yet, as is often the case, statistics alone can't adequately convey the urgency of a future where no child, no woman, no man is ever sexually violated again.

Last fall I got a chance to hear from a courageous woman from Wisconsin who was sexually assaulted in 1993. I will call her Carrie, although that is not her real name. Carrie was walking from her home to meet her husband at a party in suburban Milwaukee. She was approached by three strangers with guns. Madam Speaker, she was raped for 45 minutes while two guns were held against her. She thought about screaming, but she was afraid she would be shot. After the assault, Carrie said, I lay there and the first thought that came to my head was: I wish they had killed me because this isn't going to go away.

Fifteen years later, the memories of the assault have not gone away. But with incredible personal strength, Carrie has channeled the horrendous experience of victimization and subsequent pain and fear into an incredibly positive way. She has dedicated herself to creating the social change necessary to end sexual violence, and she speaks eloquently about the need to support prevention programming and services for victims of sexual assault and their families. But maybe more importantly, she bravely puts a human face on sexual assault with those less familiar with the issue or its consequences.

Carrie is a neighbor, a daughter, a sister, a wife. And Carrie is a reason to fight as long as it takes to keep other women from experiencing what she has endured. She is a true survivor and an inspiration to me, and should be to all of us.

Although, like Carrie, most victims are younger women, the effects of sexual assault cut across all racial, social, religious, ethnic and economic boundaries. Whether the crime is rape, incest, child sexual abuse, stalking or sexual harassment, sexual assault impacts everywhere: our schools, workplaces, streets and homes. Sexual assault is a threat to both public health and public safety, and it requires a coordinated response in the form of increased support for prevention, education, law enforcement, prosecution, and services provided to survivors.

This year, as our country faces difficult economic times, sexual assault service providers are seeing marked increases in reported sexual violence for a variety of reasons. Yet according to a 2010 survey of rape crisis centers by the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, fully 72 percent of sexual assault prevention programs have experienced a reduction in funding over the past year; 56 percent have experienced a reduction in staffing; 23 percent currently have a waiting list for services; and funding and staffing cuts have resulted in an overall 50 percent reduction in the provision of institutional advocacy services.

We still have far to go in eradicating the harm inflected in our communities by sexual assault. There is a clear and

significant need for more public education and awareness.

The National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month does just this. Recognized each year in April, this dedicated month provides a special opportunity to educate Americans about sexual violence and to encourage the prevention of sexual assault, the improved treatment of its survivors, and the prosecution of its perpetrators. As part of the National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, we recognize national and community organizations as well as private sector supporters for their work in promoting awareness about sexual assault, and also applaud public safety, law enforcement, and health professionals for their hard work and innovative strategies to increase the percentage of sexual assault cases that result in the prosecution and incarceration of offenders.

Along with my colleagues, Congressman TED POE from Texas and Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ from Florida, I introduced House Resolution 1259 to recognize April 2010 as the National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. By supporting this resolution, we highlight the efforts of individuals and agencies that provide rape crisis intervention and prevention services. We also call attention to sexual violence as a major public health issue and raise awareness of the need for increased resources for preventing sexual violence.

Madam Speaker, I want to extend my thanks to a number of advocates for their work on sexual assault prevention, and tireless work to help victims cope with the trauma of sexual assault and transition from victim to survivor.

In Wisconsin, we are incredibly lucky to have the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault working to create the social change necessary to end sexual violence. My thanks go to the coalition and their member organizations across the State for the important work that they do.

And finally, I want to extend my sincere thanks to my colleagues, Congressman TED POE and Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for their strong support as the lead sponsors of this resolution. Thank you for your work and leadership.

Although we have made significant progress, we still have far to go in eradicating the harm inflicted on our communities by sexual assault, and I urge all of my colleagues to fully support this resolution recognizing National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today the House considers House Resolution 1259, a resolution designating the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and I totally support this important legislation. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) for sponsoring this bill and bringing it to the attention of Congress again this year. It is important that we recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Month to bring awareness to this tragic crime that occurs throughout the United States.

The goal of the resolution is to raise public awareness and educate communities and individuals about sexual assault and sexual violence. It encourages the prevention of sexual assault and the improvement of treatment of its survivors and the prosecution of perpetrators.

The numbers tell the story we cannot ignore. On average, a person is sexually assaulted in the United States every 2½ minutes. According to the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics, individuals age 12 or older experienced an estimated 222,000 rapes or sexual assaults in 2008, the last year for which we have data. The Rape Abuse Incest National Network, called RAINN, provides statistics about incidents of sexual assault in this country. And according to RAINN, children and young adults are the greatest risk of sexual assault: 44 percent of sexual assault victims are under the age of 18, and 80 percent are under the age of 30. One in six women and 1 in 33 men are victims of rape or attempted rape. And over the course of their lifetimes, 18 percent of all women in the United States are raped.

Thankfully, there are thousands of advocates across the country who serve as a bridge to recovery and encourage survivors of sexual assault to report the crimes as soon as it occurs. As my friend from Wisconsin has pointed out, there are numerous victims groups. I call them the victims posse, who are out to help victims of crimes, especially in the area of sexual assault, and we commend them for their work in this country.

As we work to empower victims of sexual assault, we also need to support the efforts of law enforcement officials to punish sex offenders and combat future occurrences. Unfortunately, only 41 percent of sexual assault victims report their attacks to law enforcement. We must encourage victims to report the crimes so we can aggressively prosecute rapists and remove them from our communities. That is why we build penitentiaries, to house rapists and people who sexually assault children.

Today's House resolution increases public awareness of sexual assault and works to combat it through prevention, education, and punishment. As chairman and co-chair of the Victims Rights Caucus, along with my friend from California (Mr. COSTA) we totally support this legislation.

I have no further requests for time and am prepared to close.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, as my friend has pointed out, this resolution, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the statistics really don't tell the story because it is a story about people. Real people. She mentioned one from her State of Wisconsin. And there are too many to mention and talk about. But I would like to talk about one person that impacted my life.

Before I came to Congress, I spent all of my time at the courthouse in Houston, first as a prosecutor and then as a criminal court judge. Every day for years, almost 30, I saw criminal cases, either prosecuting them or hearing them as a judge.

One of those cases involved a young lady. I will call her Lisa. Lisa was a student at the University of Houston. She was married and had a couple of sons. She worked in the daytime and went to school at night to get a second degree. She had left school one evening and she was driving down one of our freeways heading home out in the suburbs. The lights came on on the dash of her car, she had car trouble, and she pulled off to a service station she thought was open. It was not open, but she thought it was. Lisa talked to the service station attendant, turned out he wasn't the service station attendant but she thought he was, trying to get some help late at night.

The first thing that happened, Luke Johnson pulled her out of that car. He kidnapped her. He took her to a remote area of east Texas in the piney woods. He sexually assaulted her. He beat her so bad with a pistol that he thought he had killed her. In fact, when he later was arrested, he was mad that he hadn't killed her. Lisa was a remarkable woman. She survived that brutal attack even though she laid in the woods for a couple of days before a hunter found her. She was rescued. Her physical needs were met. The person who committed that crime, Luke Johnson, was captured by the police. He was charged with aggravated sexual assault. He was tried in my court. Lisa came and testified about the events. Luke Johnson was convicted and sent to the penitentiary for 99 years.

You see, Madam Speaker, we would hope that would be the rest of story and life would go on and victims would recover; but that is not the world we live in. Victims are people, and because they are people, things happen to them emotionally as well as physically.

□ 1700

The first thing that happened to Lisa was she didn't go back to school; she never went back to that campus again. The next thing that happened is she lost her job; she was fired because she could not concentrate based upon this crime. Her husband, being the kind of guy he was, he decided he no longer wanted her. He filed for divorce, divorced her, got custody of the children, and moved to another State.

Lisa started abusing drugs. First it was alcohol, then it was everything else. She couldn't quite handle the fact that she was a victim of crime, even

though the perpetrator was off in the penitentiary. And not too long after this crime was committed, I received a phone call from Lisa's mother, and she told me that Lisa had taken her life. She left a note, Madam Speaker, that I still have in my office today across the street, and the note reads, ''I'm tired of running from Luke Johnson in my nightmares.''

See, she got the death penalty for being a victim of sexual assault. And we would hope that victims could handle it, that they could move on with their life, that they could cope, but that's not the world we operate in because they're real people. And we as a Nation need to be sensitive to victims of sexual assault. It's the most unusual crime in our culture. We can sort of see why people commit theft. We can see sometimes why people get mad and in a rage they might even commit a murder. But there is no logical reason why anybody would commit the crime of sexual assault against another person unless it's an attempt to steal the very soul of that person, and that's what criminals are trying to do when they commit this crime. That is why it is such a horrible crime, and we as a culture must be concerned about it.

So this resolution helps bring that to the public forum, that Sexual Assault Awareness Month is something that we should be, as a people, concerned about because victims have rights, too. The same Constitution that protects defendants protects victims of crime. And as it has been said before, we are not judged by the way we treat the rich, the famous, the powerful, the important folks. We're judged by the way we treat the innocent, the weak, the victims of crime. That's how we as a people will be judged.

So I commend the gentlelady from Wisconsin for sponsoring this resolution. I wholeheartedly support it and I urge its adoption.

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

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I appreciate my cosponsor of this legislation for also putting a name, a story, and a face on this very consequential matter. Lisa and Carrie from our respective States represent many other victims and survivors alike, and it speaks to the importance of this resolution. I commend the gentleman for his advocacy and ask for support of this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TITUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1259.

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.

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DAY

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1208) supporting the goals of World Intellectual Property Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1208

Whereas intellectual property is the backbone of the economic competitiveness of the United States and the only economic sector in which the United States has a trade surplus with every nation in the world;

Whereas well over 50 percent of United States exports now depend on some form of intellectual property, compared to less than 10 percent 50 years ago;

Whereas intangible assets that stem from intellectual property, such as high-value services, global branding, technological know-how, and scientific research, must be recognized as cornerstones in achieving economic recovery and creating jobs;

Whereas intellectual property assets today represent more than one third of the value of United States-based corporations and more than 17 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States;

Whereas intellectual property plays a significant role in an increasingly broad range of services, ranging from the Internet to health care to nearly all aspects of science and technology and literature and the arts, and the potential for innovation and invention must be fostered as its greatest attribute;

Whereas the United States and all countries share the challenge of combating piracy and counterfeiting of intellectual property, including illicit trade in life-saving drugs, cutting edge technologies, film, music, books, and inventions that affect the quality of life;

Whereas the piracy and counterfeiting of intellectual property have a significant impact on economies around the world, translate into lost jobs, lost earnings, and lost tax revenues, and threaten public health and safety;

Whereas the World Intellectual Property Organization, with 184 member states, is the primary organization in the world focused on the development and protection of intellectual property rights for all creators and all countries;

Whereas World Intellectual Property Day provides an opportunity to reflect on how intellectual property touches all aspects of people's lives, how copyright helps music to be heard and art, films, and literature to be seen, how industrial design helps shape the world in which people live, how trademarks provide reliable signs of quality, and how patenting helps promote ingenious inventions that make life easier, faster, safer, and sometimes completely changes the way people live;

Whereas the theme of 2010 World Intellectual Property Day is ''Innovation-Linking the World'', and presents an opportunity to champion the role of intellectual property rights in providing incentives for the development of the innovative solutions needed to meet today's global challenges while creating jobs and stimulating the United States economy;

Whereas April 26, 1970, was the date on which the Convention establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization entered into force;

Whereas, in 2000, member states of the World Intellectual Property Organization established World Intellectual Property Day to celebrate the contribution made by innovators and artists to the development and growth of societies across the globe and to highlight the importance and practical use of intellectual property in everyone's daily lives; and

Whereas April 26, 2010, has been designated as World Intellectual Property Day, a time to celebrate the importance of intellectual property to the United States and the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals of World Intellectual Property Day to promote, inform, and teach the importance of intellectual property as a tool for economic, social, and cultural development;

(2) recognizes the ever-increasing importance of intellectual property and the new challenges and serious threats to its protection, which affect prospects for future growth of the United States economy;

(3) supports robust and ongoing efforts to protect the health and well-being of citizens in the United States from fraudulent and illegal counterfeiting and piracy;

(4) congratulates the World Intellectual Property Organization for building awareness of the value of intellectual property and developing the necessary infrastructure to help citizens take full advantage of their own creativity; and

(5) applauds the ongoing contributions of human creativity and intellectual property to growth and innovation and for the key role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter and stronger future for the United States and the world.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 1208 supports the goals of World Intellectual Property Day and recognizes the importance of protecting intellectual property. World Intellectual Property Day brings attention to the impact that intellectual property has in our daily lives, educates us on how intellectual property protection promotes creativity and innovation, and celebrates its contributions to society.

The theme for World Intellectual Property Day this year is, ''Innovation: Linking the World.'' The focus is to educate us on how innovation technologies have created an interlinked and global society.

Yesterday, we celebrated the 10th annual World Intellectual Property Day. This day was selected because on April 26, 1970, the United Nations established

the World Intellectual Property Organization, otherwise known as WIPO. WIPO works to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world, and yesterday was WIPO's 40th anniversary. This resolution congratulates the World Intellectual Property Organization for building awareness of the value of intellectual property. This resolution also celebrates the contributions of innovators throughout the world and reminds us of the importance of protecting intellectual property rights.

Protecting intellectual property rights is key to maintaining incentives for the development of innovative solutions to meet today's global challenges, and so we must continue to fight against piracy and counterfeiting of intellectual property. Piracy damages our national economy and the world economy. It results in lost jobs and stifles innovation.

I would like to thank Congressman ADAM SMITH for introducing this resolution. I would also like to acknowledge the strong bipartisan support of members of the Intellectual Property Caucus.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he might consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), a senior member of the Judiciary Committee and a former chairman of the Intellectual Property Subcommittee.

Mr. COBLE. I thank my friend from Texas (Mr. SMITH) for yielding.

Madam Speaker, intellectual property has been described as the cornerstone, or one of the cornerstones, of America's economic future; and I think that is an accurate description.

H. Res. 1208 supports the goals of World Intellectual Property Day, which falls on April 26 every year, which this year also happened to fall on the 40th anniversary of the World Intellectual Property Organization, commonly known as WIPO. WIPO has grown to 184 member states, and its new director general, Francis Gurry, issued a statement honoring World Intellectual Property Day, which pledged to ensure that the intellectual property system continues to serve its most fundamental purpose of encouraging innovation and creativity, and that the benefits of the system are accessible to all, helping to bring the world closer.

Robust and effective laws combined with effective enforcement are absolutely necessary to meet General Gurry's global ambitions. According to the Department of Commerce, intellectual property-intensive industries employ nearly 18 million workers, account for more than 50 percent of all U.S. exports, and represent 40 percent of the country's growth in the United States. USA for Innovation estimates that U.S. intellectual property is worth between $5 trillion and $5.5 trillion. The credit for this success belongs to our great innovators and for our robust intellectual property laws which have enabled innovation to flourish in America.

Expanding similar intellectual property protections throughout the world is, in my opinion, Madam Speaker, in everyone's best interest. In this regard, WIPO plays a very important role, and it is my hope that General Gurry will make every effort to help others realize the significance of intellectual property rights and work to help implement and enforce robust laws which ensure that intellectual property will flourish everywhere.

I urge support of H. Res. 1208.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH), the author of the resolution before us.

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 1208.

I would like to thank Chairman CONYERS as well as his staff for their support in bringing this resolution to the floor, and for the kind remarks from the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE). I also want to thank the other Chairs of the House Intellectual Property Caucus, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. BONO MACK) and, again, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), who have joined me in sponsoring House Resolution 1208.

This important resolution commemorates World Intellectual Property Day, which was observed yesterday, April 26. Each year since 2001, World IP Day has been held in observance of the establishment of the World Intellectual Property Organization by the United Nations. World Intellectual Property Day calls attention to the importance of IP for both our Nation and the international economy. It recognizes the contributions made by the countless artists, innovators, and other creative minds that enrich, assist, and inform us in many ways.

In and around my district in Washington State, I am able to observe daily the critically important role played by innovation and intellectual property to the economies of the South Sound region and the United States. As many of my colleagues are aware, Washington State is fortunate to boast a robust technological and innovative economy, with companies that range in size from major corporations to hundreds of smaller and medium-size businesses. Together, these industries directly and indirectly create hundreds of thousands of jobs and generate billions of dollars in economic activity. Each relies upon innovation and respect for intellectual property to remain successful and internationally competitive.

Similarly, in States and localities throughout America, artists, inventors, and employees in IP-intensive industries play a major role in supporting economic vitality. IP creates well-paying job opportunities for workers of multiple skill levels, drives research and development investment, creates new products and services that make our Nation more globally competitive, and drives American exports to foreign markets.

For intellectual property to work, it has to be protected; people have to know that they will get the value of their inventions and of their brain power. We must protect intellectual property to grow jobs here in the U.S. It is critical.

I am proud to recognize World Intellectual Property Day, and I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to recognize World Intellectual Property Day and the role that intellectual property plays in our Nation.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the purpose of House Resolution 1208 is to congratulate the World Intellectual Property Organization, WIPO, for its work and to support the goals of World Intellectual Property Day. This day includes teaching the importance of intellectual property as a tool for economic, social, and cultural development.

WIPO is considered the most important international organization for the promotion of intellectual property. Among other responsibilities, WIPO administers treaties, such as the Berne and Paris Conventions, that protect intellectual property globally. The United States, of course, is a WIPO member.

Nine years ago, WIPO member states commemorated the founding of the organization by establishing World Intellectual Property Day. April 26, 1970 is the date on which the convention that created WIPO took effect. This resolution commemorates the achievements of WIPO and its designation of April 26, 2010 as World Intellectual Property Day for the current year. In addition, the resolution contains background information on the extent to which intellectual property generates jobs, sales, and exports for the United States, while contrasting these benefits with the problems related to piracy and anti-counterfeiting.

I support this resolution and I urge its adoption.

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

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1208.

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.

□ 1715

INTERSTATE RECOGNITION OF NOTARIZATIONS ACT OF 2009

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3808) 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.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3808

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 ''Interstate Recognition of Notarizations Act of 2009''.

SEC. 2. RECOGNITION OF NOTARIZATIONS IN FEDERAL COURTS.

Each Federal court shall recognize any lawful notarization made by a notary public licensed or commissioned under the laws of a State other than the State where the Federal court is located if—

(1) such notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce; and

(2)(A) a seal of office, as symbol of the notary public's authority, is used in the notarization; or

(B) in the case of an electronic record, the seal information is securely attached to, or logically associated with, the electronic record so as to render the record tamper-resistant.

SEC. 3. RECOGNITION OF NOTARIZATIONS IN STATE COURTS.

Each court that operates under the jurisdiction of a State shall recognize any lawful notarization made by a notary public licensed or commissioned under the laws of a State other than the State where the court is located if—

(1) such notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce; and

(2)(A) a seal of office, as symbol of the notary public's authority, is used in the notarization; or

(B) in the case of an electronic record, the seal information is securely attached to, or logically associated with, the electronic record so as to render the record tamper-resistant.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ELECTRONIC RECORD.—The term ''electronic record'' has the meaning given that term in section 106 of the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (15 U.S.C. 7006).

(2) LOGICALLY ASSOCIATED WITH.—Seal information is ''logically associated with'' an electronic record if the seal information is securely bound to the electronic record in such a manner as to make it impracticable to falsify or alter, without detection, either the record or the seal information.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 3808, the Interstate Recognition of Notarizations Act of 2009, requires all Federal and State courts to recognize documents lawfully notarized in any State of the Union when interstate commerce is involved. An identical version of this bill passed the House in 2007.

A notary public has the professional expertise to verify the identity of the signatory to a document and ensure that it was willingly signed. Notary publics are a critical first line of defense against fraud. Although notarization serves the same purposes in all States, there are differences in State laws governing notarization, and also varying technical formalities. That makes it difficult for a State to recognize an out-of-state notarization.

For example, some States dictate that ink seals must be used, while others require embossers. Some States require very specific language in the acknowledgment certificate, and thus the language used in other States may not be acceptable. Such technical differences between State law hinder the recognition of documents that were lawfully notarized in the State in which the notarization was performed, and this can cause unnecessary delays that impact important legal rights and interstate commerce.

The fact that some States do not recognize documents lawfully notarized in other States also presents a constitutional issue. The U.S. Constitution requires that each State give full faith and credit to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other State. The 21st century affords advances in transportation and telecommunications that have expanded the ability of individuals and businesses to conduct their affairs across State boundaries. The laws governing notarization should not be permitted to continue encumbering their ability to do so.

By giving those laws reciprocal recognition, effectively harmonizing them, H.R. 3808 will bring those laws within the spirit of the Constitution's vision and bring much needed relief from antiquated formalities.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, at the outset I want to thank the sponsor of the bill, Representative ADERHOLT, for his persistence and patience. This is the third time the full House has considered his bill to streamline the use of notarized documents across State lines, and I hope this will be the last, followed by the Senate, and then enactment.

H.R. 3808 eliminates unnecessary impediments in handling the everyday transactions of individuals and businesses.

Many documents executed and notarized in one state, either by design or happenstance, find their way into neighboring or more distant states.

If ultimately needed in any one of the latter jurisdictions to support or defend a claim in court, that document should not be refused admission solely on the ground it was not notarized in the state where the court sits.

H.R. 3808 ensures this will not happen.

A notarization in and of itself neither validates a document nor speaks to the truthfulness or accuracy of its contents.

The notarization serves a different function—it verifies that a document signer is who he or she purports to be and has willingly signed the document.

By executing the notarial certificate, the notary public, as a disinterested party to the transaction, informs all other parties relying on or using the document that it is the act of the person who signed it.

Consistent with the vital significance of the notarial act, H.R. 3808 compels a court to accept the authenticity of the document even though the notarization was performed in a state other than where the forum is located.

Madam Speaker, much of the testimony we received at our Subcommittee hearing on the bill in 2006 addressed the silliness of one state not accepting the validity of another state's notarized document in an interstate legal proceeding.

Some of the examples were based on petty reasons. For instance, one state requires a notary to affix an ink stamp to a document, an act that is not recognized in a sister state that requires documents to be notarized with a raised, embossed seal.

Passing the bill will streamline interstate commercial and legal transactions consistent with the guarantees of the Full Faith and Credit Clause of the Constitution.

Madam Speaker, I urge Members to support H.R. 3808.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT).

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the chairman's support for this legislation to be brought to the floor, and of course the support of Ranking Member SMITH on this legislation as well. Without it, this legislation, we would not be here today where we are.

One other person who has been very supportive and who actually brought this to my attention several years ago is my friend MIKE TURNER, from Birmingham. We've worked together on this to try to resolve this issue through the United States Congress, and so here we are, as mentioned, the third time to try to resolve this.

There is an old saying, ''The third time's the charm,'' and I am hopeful today that saying holds true. As my colleagues who serve on the Judiciary Committee are well aware, today marks the third time that the House of

Representatives has brought up, and hopefully will pass, this bill. The key, of course, lies with our friends in the other Chamber. So I look forward to working with our colleagues in the Senate and getting the bill moved through that Chamber as well.

I was first made aware of this problem, as I say, by my friend MIKE TURNER when I was first elected to Congress back in 1997. Here we are in 2010. The issue is still not resolved. This is an issue of great frustration to people who deal with notaries on a daily basis.

Several years ago, the House Judiciary Committee worked with supporters of this issue to find a satisfactory solution to the problem of the recognition of notarizations across State lines. In March of 2006, the Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property heard from several witnesses who all agreed that this is an ongoing and difficult problem for interstate commerce. To businesses and individuals engaged in businesses across State lines, this is a matter long overdue.

In a nutshell, as it has been stated, H.R. 3808 will expedite interstate commerce so that court documents and other notarized documents will be fully recognized from one State to another. Today States can refuse to acknowledge the integrity of notarized documents from one State to another. This legislation, H.R. 3808, will streamline the interstate, commercial, and legal transactions consistent with the guarantees of the States' rights that are called for in the full faith and credit clause of the United States Constitution.

This legislation preserves the rights of States to set standards and regulate notaries, while reducing the burden on the average citizen who has to use our court systems. Currently, as the law stands today, each State is responsible for regulating its notaries. Typically, an individual will pay a fee, they will submit an application, and they will take an oath of office. Some States require the applicants enroll in educational courses, to pass exams, and even obtain a notary bond. Nothing in this legislation will change those steps. Please know we are not trying to mandate how States regulate notaries which they appoint. The bill will not preclude the challenge of notarized documents such as a will contest.

Again, I want to stress that this is in no way trying to mandate what a State should do or what a State should not do. It simply allows there to be more free flow of commerce between States, and particularly when you are talking about the regulation of notaries themselves.

Again, I want to thank the chairman and also the ranking member for their support of this legislation to allow us to move forward. I would urge my colleagues that when this legislation is brought for a vote that they would support it under suspension of the rules.

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

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 3808, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3808.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1033) expressing support for designation of April 2010 as ''National Autism Awareness Month'' and supporting efforts to devote new resources to research into the causes and treatment of autism and to improve training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for individuals with autism, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1033

Whereas autism is a developmental disorder that is typically diagnosed during the first 3 years of life, affecting individuals' ability to communicate and interact with others;

Whereas autism affects an estimated 1 in every 110 children in the United States;

Whereas autism is four times more likely to be diagnosed in boys than in girls;

Whereas autism can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, or other factors;

Whereas it costs approximately $80,000 per year to treat an individual with autism in a medical center specializing in developmental disabilities;

Whereas the cost of special education programs for school-age children with autism is often more than $30,000 per individual per year;

Whereas the cost nationally of caring for persons affected by autism is estimated at upwards of $90,000,000,000 per year;

Whereas despite the fact that autism is one of the most common developmental disorders, many professionals in the medical and educational fields are still unaware of the best methods to diagnose and treat the disorder; and

Whereas April 2010 would be an appropriate month to designate as ''National Autism Awareness Month'' to increase public awareness of the need to support individuals with autism and the family members and medical professionals who care for individuals with autism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives—

(1) expresses support for designation of a ''National Autism Awareness Month'';

(2) recognizes and commends the parents and relatives of children with autism for their sacrifice and dedication in providing for the special needs of children with autism and for absorbing financial costs for specialized education and support services;

(3) supports the goal of devoting resources to researching the root causes of autism, identifying the best methods of early intervention and treatment, expanding programs for individuals with autism across their lifespans, and promoting understanding of the special needs of people with autism;

(4) stresses the need to begin early intervention services soon after a child has been diagnosed with autism, noting that early intervention strategies are the primary therapeutic options for young people with autism, and that early intervention significantly improves the outcome for people with autism and can reduce the level of funding and services needed to treat people with autism later in life;

(5) recognizes the shortage of appropriately trained teachers who have the skills and support necessary to teach, assist, and respond to special needs students, including those with autism, in our school systems; and

(6) recognizes the importance of worker training programs that are tailored to the needs of people with developmental disabilities, including those with autism, and notes that people with autism can be, and are, productive members of the workforce if they are given appropriate support, training, and early intervention services.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DOYLE).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1033. This resolution expresses support for the designation of this month, the month of April, as National Autism Awareness Month.

Autism spectrum disorders are a group of developmental disabilities that affect an estimated one in 100 children nationwide. ASDs, or autism, are typically diagnosed within the first 3 years of life. Autism occurs in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups. However, we know that autism affects each person and certain groups differently.

People with Asperger's syndrome, one form of autism, typically do not have difficulty with language or intellectual disability. Others with autism have more notable language delays and social challenges, among other symptoms. This form of autism is referred to as autistic disorder, or classic autism. Autism is at least four times more likely to be diagnosed in boys than in girls.

We have made important progress in research on autism within the past few years, and I and dozens of Members of

Congress who annually seek and obtain billions of dollars for autism funding know that there remains much to learn about the risk factors and causes of this group of conditions.

We must also continue to raise awareness regarding the signs and symptoms of autism. Today's resolution gives us an opportunity to do just that. This awareness raising is particularly important since early intervention has shown to improve a child's development.

This resolution recognizes and commends parents and relatives for their dedication in caring for children with autism. It supports the investment of resources into research that will help improve our understanding of autism and promote early intervention and treatment. It also recognizes the importance of appropriately trained educators to respond to students with special needs.

Those are the reasons why my friend CHRIS SMITH and I, as founders and cochairs of the Congressional Autism Caucus, introduced H.R. 2413, the Autism Treatment Acceleration Act. That bill will reinforce our country's work to identify the causes of autism by improving the coordination of our government's efforts. And it establishes a national network of autism research in order to strengthen linkages between research and service initiatives at the Federal, regional, State, and local levels, and facilitate the translation of research on autism into services and treatments that will improve the quality of life for individuals with autism and their families. A national data repository will be created to share emerging data, findings, and treatment models.

This resolution on the floor today mentions the needs of adults with autism, and our bipartisan bill, H.R. 2413, actually creates an adult services demonstration project to provide an array of services to adults with autism spectrum disorders, including postsecondary education, vocational and self-advocacy skills, employment; residential services, supports and housing; nutrition, health and wellness, recreational and social activities; and transportation and personal safety.

I am proud that our bill, H.R. 2413, will also create a national training initiative on autism and a technical assistance center to develop and expand interdisciplinary training and continuing education on autism spectrum disorders.

We ask all the Members of the House, including this resolution's sponsors, to join us and cosponsor H.R. 2413, the Autism Treatment Acceleration Act, a meaningful bill that would achieve the goals of today's resolution.

I want to commend Representative REICHERT, the sponsor of this resolution, for his work on this resolution at a time when so much needs to be done for children and adults with autism.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to note that the Committee on Education and Labor received a secondary referral for this resolution. The committee agreed to waive the opportunity to exercise its jurisdiction in the interests of advancing this resolution. I want to say thank you to Chairman MILLER for allowing this resolution to be brought to the floor as quickly as possible. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1033, expressing support for National Autism Awareness Month, and I am pleased to join the gentleman from Pennsylvania, the cochair of the Autism Caucus, on behalf of the other cochair of the Autism Caucus, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), as well as the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT), the prime sponsor, and Mr. BACHUS of Alabama and Mr. GERLACH from Pennsylvania, who are other sponsors of this resolution.

□ 1730

The resolution, as was stated, acknowledges April as National Autism Awareness Month, and it supports the research efforts for the causes and treatments of autism. I would like to recognize the efforts of those who have gone through the appropriate training and who have provided support to individuals with autism.

I would also like to recognize the parents, the relatives, the friends of those with autism for their sacrifices and dedication, especially for absorbing many times the significant costs for specialized education and support services.

Some have estimated that one in every 110 children in the United States is affected by a disorder on the autism spectrum. Once diagnosed, early intervention is important to improve the outcomes of those with autism and to reduce the level of funding and services needed to treat people with autism spectrum disorder later in life. Continued research to identify the root causes of autism and support for the training of caregivers and teachers who work with children with autism will ensure that people with autism will continue to be important and productive members of society.

I would like to thank especially the author of the resolution, Mr. DAVID REICHERT of Washington, for his leadership in raising autism awareness, and I would like to commend the efforts of those who care for individuals with autism. I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Mrs. DAHLKEMPER).

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1033, expressing the House of Representatives' support for April as National Autism Awareness Month.

There are an estimated 1.5 million Americans living with autism, a developmental disorder that affects a person's ability to communicate and to interact with others. A recent report shows that autism prevalence is on the rise. It now occurs in one out of every 110 births in the United States. We need to take action to address the causes of autism now and provide support to individuals and families affected by the disorder.

National Autism Awareness Month is an important advocacy tool for those affected by autism and by those affected by Asperger's to raise awareness about a similar but distinct condition. Asperger's disorder is distinctive from autism in that its symptoms are less severe. Individuals with Asperger's often possess above-average intelligence and want social interaction with other people, but their condition is an obstacle to communication. Americans with Asperger's and autism have so much to offer. With the right support to help overcome the barriers of their disorders, they can share their talents and can be productive, engaged members of our communities.

I am proud to offer my support to National Autism Awareness Month, and I urge my colleagues to support not only this resolution but individuals and families affected by autism and Asperger's throughout our country.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the cochair of the Autism Caucus, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend, Mr. PITTS, for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1033, a resolution designating April 2010 as National Autism Awareness Month.

I thank my friends and colleagues Messrs. REICHERT, GERLACH, and BACHUS. I especially want to thank my good friend and colleague, the cochair of the House caucus, who is MIKE DOYLE, and Mr. PITTS for their leadership on this very important resolution and, most importantly, on this very important issue.

This resolution serves an important function of increasing awareness of the 1.5 million individuals who are living with autism spectrum disorder and of the extreme dedication and efforts of their families in providing the best possible care and environments for their children, grandchildren, brothers, and sisters.

I want to especially note that the parents and the grandparents of children with autism have earned our enormous respect. I know many families with autism. It can be a very harrowing ordeal. Yet they do it with such class and with such love and dedication to their children. The concerns of the parents are validated in the community, and have since been found to be true nationwide in terms of the numbers.

I will point out to my colleagues that I've been involved in autism since 1981,

since my first term. I'll never forget visiting Eden Institute in Princeton, which does tremendous breakthrough research and work with autism children and young adults. Frankly, for me, it wasn't until 1998 when two parents, Bobbie and Billy Gallagher from Brick Township, New Jersey, came to me after hours and said, Congressman, we'd like you to sit down and look over some of the evidence and data we've accumulated because it is our belief that there is a prevalent spike in autism in Brick.

We brought in all of the good players. We brought in the CDC; we brought in the NIH folks, and we brought in public health experts. We put together a study to find out what was or is the trigger that was seemingly causing this huge spike in autistic children in one particular town in the State of New Jersey. To our shock and dismay, as this was going on, we discovered that there was a prevalence spike for sure, but it was most likely throughout the rest of New Jersey and probably, as it was highly suggestive, throughout the entire country of the United States.

So we put together a piece of legislation to establish what we called the Centers of Excellence to look at, especially, and to apply the best principles and prevalence techniques to determine what was causing this and to determine how many children were being malaffected by autism. To our shock and dismay, again we discovered that the United States didn't have a one in 10,000 prevalence, which is what the expectation was when I was elected in 1981, but that it was much higher. At that point, it was put at about one out of every 150 children.

So the Centers of Excellence were funded. The legislation was passed. I'll never forget that Congressman MIKE BILIRAKIS was kind enough to accept our legislation as Title I of the Children's Health Act, which was a very comprehensive law designed to help children. Title I not only put more money into the CDC but also into the National Institutes of Health, which then was very much underfunding this effort to try to help autistic children.

Just for the record, we were spending $287,000 per year on autism at CDC. As my colleagues know, that falls off the table at some of our bureaucracies. That number has now gone up significantly to about $15 million, and now we have a critical mass of money working very synergistically with local health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as on these prevalence efforts to find out what the parameters are of this developmental disability, because you can't combat something unless you know the who, what, when, where, and why of it, and that is what we are trying to do.

In the early 2000s, Mr. DOYLE and I launched the Autism Caucus. We have tried throughout these years to be very supportive of every legislative effort, including the cure autism efforts of these past several years. The key has been more money for research, more money for early childhood interventions and trying to deal with the issue of what happens after a child reaches adulthood. It seems to me that every dollar we spend early-on means that we can have a higher functioning autistic child, now young adult, who can get a job, who can become gainfully employed, and who can become as independent as humanly possible. So every dollar we spend on autism is a dollar well spent.

Mr. DOYLE and I have already entered into a compact with friends in Northern Ireland, in Wales, and in Scotland where they have an autism problem. This is a global phenomenon, as my friends and colleagues know, and we need to do more.

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

Mr. PITTS. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I have introduced a bill which would provide small grant money to fledgling nongovernmental organizations throughout the world.

In my travels to places like Nigeria, I met up with a small nongovernmental organization which was like David versus Goliath. I was trying to get the government there to realize that they have an autistic problem that is estimated to affect about 1 million children in Nigeria alone. Nobody knows how accurate that is, but the best and most well-intentioned people in Nigeria have come to that number.

So we do have a serious spike. What is the trigger? Is it too many vaccines given at one time, you know, where the megadosing that occurs today in that little child can't metabolize and where the body can't deal with it in a way that leads to the child's being safe from those other diseases? Is it thimerosal? For our children and for our young adults who have autism, we need to continue to leave no stone unturned in finding what the trigger is or what the multiple triggers are.

Finally, again, I want to thank Bobbie and Billy Gallagher, who are the two parents in Brick Township who came forward with a stack of papers and who said, Please, will you take this up?

I took it up, and I've enjoyed working closely with friends and colleagues on the other side of the aisle so that we can cure autism now. The sooner the better.

Mr. DOYLE. I would just like to say that I deeply appreciate the efforts of the gentleman from New Jersey on behalf of all people with autism and on behalf of their families. He has been a true champion, and I appreciate his friendship, too.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS).

Mr. TOWNS. Thank you very much for yielding time to me.

Of course I want to commend the members of the Autism Caucus for their outstanding work that they're doing. I also hope that this resolution will bring about awareness and support for autism.

Madam Speaker, let me just say that we know that more research is needed, and I think that any way that we can make it possible for people to focus on it and to understand how important these additional resources are makes a whole lot of sense.

I just want to commend my colleagues for their outstanding work that they have done to bring us to this point. I am hoping that, as a result of this, we will get more Members involved and, of course, more people involved in this issue, because there are still a lot of unanswered questions. At any time we can create a situation where people will focus on it, then I think answers will be coming forth.

So I just want to commend my colleagues for this effort. I look forward to working with them because this is a very serious problem. It is one that should not be ignored, and it is one on which we really should spend time making certain we get the word out in order to get the kind of research that we need to have in order to bring about a solution.

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to one of the cosponsors of the resolution, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS).

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, as a parent myself, I know that there is nothing more important than the well-being of a child to a parent. When there is a change in a child's behavior and when the parents or grandparents notice that something is wrong, they are the first to notice, and they are also the first to want answers. Often those answers are that the child has autism or is on the autism spectrum.

I also join in commending MIKE DOYLE and CHRIS SMITH for their long labors on this issue, and I would like to associate myself with the remarks of Mr. TOWNS and of others.

Autism has always been a challenging diagnosis. There is an increased instance of autism spectrum disorder. It is quite a phenomenon. As of yet, it hasn't really been explained, but it is something that children, families, and siblings will have to deal with their entire lives. There are two very important things that we now know about autism:

The first is that awareness is critical, so I commend Mr. REICHERT and Mr. GERLACH, along with Mr. PITTS and the other speakers today. That's what makes the designation of April as National Autism Awareness Month so significant. The sooner an autism spectrum disorder is identified, the sooner a child can receive specialized treatment.

The second thing we know is that early intervention programs can make an exceptional difference in the quality of life for these precious children. This has been proven not just by studies but by the personal stories told by individual families. They've seen their

young people literally blossom in front of their eyes as a result of early treatment.

The Birmingham area, from which I hail, has an innovative center called Mitchell's Place. It's named for Mitchell, who is the son of the two founders, the Meislers. It is a model for autism services, not just for Alabama but for the entire country. Mitchell's Place combines the latest in behavioral and developmental research on autism with a structured and caring environment. When you walk through the doors of the center, which is bright and nurturing, you can feel the love for the children, and they respond.

There are many promising developments to report to families living with autism. Recently, I and Congressman MIKE DOYLE, who is the chairman of the Congressional Autism Council, hosted a briefing at which we heard from the Director of the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Thomas Insel. He told us about exciting research which is progressing in a number of areas. Expert researchers are studying causes, early intervention programs, strategies for older individuals with autism, and even potential cures.

□ 1745

In my State, thanks to the efforts of State Representative Cam Ward, we now have an Autism Task Force which is coordinating our State resources, and I know we patterned that after Pennsylvania, Congressman GERLACH.

In conclusion, it's an honor to speak on behalf this resolution and of the children and parents and grandparents and loved ones of those with autism. It's a pleasure to work with many Members of Congress who care so deeply about this issue, including the lead cosponsors, Congressmen REICHERT and GERLACH, along with Mr. PITTS from Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. DOYLE. Today's resolution has great meaning to millions of families across America affected by autism spectrum disorder.

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

Mr. PITTS. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. BACHUS. If it encourages parents to be more attentive to the symptoms of autism and to get early treatment for their children, we will have done a great service for their families.

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

Mr. PITTS. I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, my good friend JIM GERLACH.

Mr. GERLACH. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues and to thank my colleagues—Congressman BACHUS, Congressman REICHERT, Congressman PITTS, Congressman SMITH, Congressman DOYLE, Congressman TOWNS. Thank you for joining in support of this resolution to recognize April 2010 as National Autism Awareness Month.

As you may know, last December the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a report on the prevalence of autism. This report concluded that autism affects an estimated one out of every 110 children in the United States, including one in 70 boys. This means that autism is more common than childhood cancer, juvenile diabetes, and pediatric AIDS combined. In addition to being one of the most common disorders that affect our children, autism is believed to cost more than $90 billion a year to treat.

Earlier this month, the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare released its Pennsylvania Autism Census, which conducted a county-by-county census on the number of individuals suffering from autism. The total number of individuals with autism in the Commonwealth is estimated to be over 25,000, including 3,500 adults with the disorder.

Despite the prevalence of autism and its impact on individuals, families, and our Nation's health care system, there is still much to be learned about how best to diagnose and treat this disorder. That's why our resolution supports devoting resources toward researching the root causes of autism and identifying the best treatments and programs to help individuals with the disorder.

Because autism affects the entire family, not just the child with the disorder, our resolution also commends the parents and relatives of children with autism for their dedication in providing for their special needs. While there's no single cause known for autism, I believe we should focus our attention on increased awareness and funding for autism research. Our resolution is an important step in achieving our goal of searching for better treatments and hopefully, one day, a cure.

Please join me and my colleagues in supporting this resolution.

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, more children will be diagnosed this year with autism than with diabetes, cancer, and AIDS combined. It is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the world.

In fact, the United Nations General Assembly has gone so far as to adopt a resolution declaring April 2 as annual "World Autism Awareness Day" (WAAD). Autism is only the third disorder to be recognized in this manner by the UN, showing the disorder's pervasive nature and ever-increasing effect on millions of people throughout the world.

Autism afflicts one in every 150 American children—nearly one in every 94 boys. This statistic is disturbing, especially when we know so little about the root causes of the disorder.

As the Founder and co-chair of the Congressional Children's Health Care Caucus, I recognize the destructive force of autism and am proud to do my part to raise awareness of this life-altering and little known disorder. Children deserve a solid foundation—and communities are starting to understand autism like never before, but there is more we can do.

By raising public awareness of autism, my goal is to see that resources are dedicated to research the disorder's cause and to develop treatments and possibly, one day, a cure. Funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is an important part of this equation, as it offers the best hope to finding treatments and cures for diseases and disorders like autism.

Collectively, we must commit every available resource to research and treatment in order to enhance the quality of life for children, their families, and the people who care for and assist them in their lives.

Currently there is no medical detection or cure for autism, but early diagnosis and intervention holds much promise. Through enhancing awareness of autism, together we will offer hope to people who desperately need it. I encourage my colleagues to join in this mission to raise awareness and recruit the resources that will bring hope to children, their families, and their caregivers.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. Res. 1033, supporting the designation of April of 2010 as "National Autism Awareness Month" and supporting efforts to devote new resources to research into the causes and treatment of autism and to improve training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for individuals with autism. I would also like to commend Congressman DAVID REICHERT, the sponsor of this resolution, for his commitment to improving training and supoort for individuals with autism and those who care for individuals with autism.

This resolution draws critical attention to the impact that autism has on the people of the United States. Although only 1 percent of the population of children ages 3–17 in the U.S. have an autism spectrum disorder, the cost of autism over the lifespan is 3.2 million dollars per person. The effects of autism are widespread. Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability with a 1,148 percent growth rate. There are 1 to 1.5 million Americans who live with an autism spectrum disorder.

I have had the pleasure of visiting the Marcus Autism Center, near my district, where I was able to see and experience first hand just how crucial it is that families and children affected by autism are given the attention, support, and resources they need, The Marcus Autism Center is a non-profit organization with a mission to provide information, services and programs to children with autism and related disorders, their families and those who live and work with them. The Marcus Autism Center offers integrated advanced clinical, behavioral, educational and family support services. Through the encouragement and financial support of the Marcus family, Marcus Autism Center has become a nationally recognized center for excellence for the provision of coordinated and comprehensive services for children and adolescents with developmental disabilities. The Marcus Autism Center has served more than 30,000 people to date.

Please join me and support this resolution to bring awareness to improve training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for individuals with autism in the United States.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1033, a resolution designating April 2010 as "Nation Autism Awareness Month." I thank my friends and colleagues, Representatives REICHERT,

GERLACH and BACHUS for introducing this resolution—and my friend and co-chair of the House Autism Caucus, MIKE DOYLE.

This resolution services an important function of increasing awareness of the 1.5 million individuals living with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and the extreme dedication and efforts of their families in providing the best possible care and environment for their children, grandchildren and brothers and sisters. Especially the parents and grandparents of individuals with autism deserve our enormous respect and support. Also deserving recognition are the many ASD advocacy groups who have been working hard for so long and the many providers of care and services for individuals with autism.

From my first session in Congress in 1981, I have been a consistent advocate for individuals with developmental disorders, including autism. In 1998, I became much more deeply involved after learning and listening to parents in a local community in my district—Brick Township—about their concerns that the frequency of autism was much higher than was being reported by officials at the time. The concerns of those parents were validated for their community and have since been found to be true nationwide. As stated in the resolution before us, autism is now known to affect every 1 in 110 children—my own state of NJ has among the highest rates in the nation at 1 in 94.

Autism generally is a life-long disability that can overwhelm families, as their lives become consumed with the considerable challenges of identifying appropriate biomedical and psychosocial treatments, schooling and other needed support systems for their autistic child—and eventually for an autistic adult.

Our nation is in the midst of an autism crisis that becomes more severe each passing month, a crisis that costs our nation tens of billions of dollars annually in medical care, behavioral therapy, special child care, and a range of child and adult services needed to care for these individuals. The resolution before us provides the staggering financial costs of autism—$80,000 per year to provide specialized treatment in a medical center, $30,000 per child per year for special education services, and a nationwide costs of over $90 billion per year.

The resolution appropriately recognizes the critical importance of early diagnosis and early treatment for children with autism in order to have the greatest positive impact on their lives, and it recognizes the extremely important need to provide worker training for young adults and adults with autism so that they can active members of the workforce.

Thankfully, Madam Speaker, in December 2006, this Congress passed and then President Bush signed the Combating Autism Act, which added significant provisions to broaden and strengthen activities related to autism. Among its provisions, that law requires the National Institutes of Health to expand ASD-related research—including investigating possible environmental causes of autism, authorizes grant programs to improve the epidemiology of autism, and also includes a very robust section "Autism Education, Early Detection, and Intervention," to improve the early screening, diagnosis, interventions, and treatments for ASDs.

While we all were gratified with passage of the Combating Autism Act, we also recognized that there is a tremendous unmet need to improve services for both children and adults with autism. That is why I am extremely gratified to have joined my friend MIKE DOYLE, along with Rep. ELIOT ENGEL, in introducing, the Autism Treatment Acceleration Act (H.R. 2413), to provide for enhanced support, services and treatment, as well as research for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families.

To mention only two provisions of the bill—it would establish an Adult Services Demonstration Project to provide an array of services to adults with autism spectrum disorders including: post secondary education, vocational and self advocacy skills, employment; residential services, supports and housing; nutrition, health and wellness; recreational and social activities; and transportation and personal safety. And it would establish a "National Network for Autism Spectrum Disorders Research and Services" to strengthen linkages between research and service initiatives at the federal, regional, state and local levels, and facilitate the translation of research on autism into services and treatments.

I know that all of us here share the commitment to dramatically improve the lives for the well over a million American children and adults who have an autism spectrum disorder and improve the outlook for their families and other loved ones. I thank my friends Representatives REICHERT, GERLACH and BACHUS for introducing this resolution. And I thank my friend MIKE DOYLE for his leadership in establishing new programs to help individuals with autism.

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

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I hope that the House will unanimously approve House Resolution 1033, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DOYLE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1033, as amended.

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

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "Expressing support for designation of April 2010 as 'National Autism Awareness Month' and supporting efforts to devote resources to research into the causes and treatment of autism and to improve training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for individuals with autism.".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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.

IN RECOGNITION OF BOYS AND GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Boys and Girls High School in Brooklyn, New York. The boys basketball team last month won the New York City Public School Athletic League, PSAL, city championship. It is really referred to as the High, as it is affectionately known in Brooklyn, and has a long known history of athletic excellence.

I'm not standing here recognizing the High's boys basketball team only because it won its first PSAL championship in 31 years or because it has several players who college scouts are seriously recruiting. All of that is noteworthy and I think it is just great that that has occurred. But I also stand here because of the coach, Ruth Lovelace, the coach of the High's basketball team. She is the first woman in the history of the PSAL to take a male team to the championship and win.

Ms. Lovelace did not do it alone. She did not shoot or dribble a ball or even get fouled. Rather, she provided the leadership to take them all the way.

Ms. Lovelace starred in basketball at the High, played both at Hilbert Junior College and Seton Hall. As coach, she won 377 times and lost only 108 games during her 15-year tenure. Coach Love and the team have been featured in documentaries on ESPN, NBC, and CBS.

Coach Love would not have had the opportunity to lead a male team to a basketball championship without Congress's efforts to pass title IX in 1972. This signature piece of legislation opened the doors for women like Ruth Lovelace to participate in organized sports.

Again, I applaud the Boys and Girls High School boys basketball team for having a winning season and making the residents of the 10th Congressional District of Brooklyn, my fellow Brooklynites, so proud.

I would like to just enter the names of these great athletes into our CONGRESSIONAL RECORD because they are not only great athletes, they're also great scholars, they're also great gentlemen, and I think that within itself is something that we should recognize today.

I would like to recognize Jonathan Arroyo, Dominique Bostick, Ralph Colon, Leroy Truck Fludd, Anthony Hemingway, Leroy Isler, Darren Kirby, Christopher Lockhart, Nkosi Brown, Jamal Mapp, Aaron McBurnie, Saequahn Pettus, Jeffland Neverson, Jobse Reyes, Antoine Slaughter, Calvin Sterling, Michael Taylor, Jerry White, Brandon Williams.

And let me just recognize the coaches. First I want to recognize the athletic director, Sheila Shale; and then head coach, again, Ruth Lovelace; and

her assistant coaches, Elmer Anderson, Jeff Wiggins, and Gene Carroll for the outstanding job that they have done on behalf of these young people who I know will go on to college and to make all of us proud.

So it's my honor and my pleasure to say to the Boys and Girls High School we are so proud of you and what you have done to bring back the pride to Brooklyn that we rightfully deserve. Congratulations, Boys and Girls High School.

NEWS FROM THE THIRD FRONT

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. Madam Speaker, I bring you news from the third front. The third front is the border that the United States has with Mexico, almost 2,000 miles long. The first front, of course, is the battle in Iraq. The second is the one in Afghanistan. The third front is the violence that occurs on our southern border with our neighbors in Mexico.

Tonight I would like to talk about one specific group, and that's our Border Patrol agents who are doing a noble job on the broard southern border with Mexico. Some people don't realize this, but our Border Patrol agents, Madam Speaker, are under constant attack, daily attack, and it's from people that are coming into the United States illegally. The assaults against our Border Patrol officers have increased up to 16 percent more than last year. Just in the Tucson area, assaults against Border Patrol agents in the first 2 months of this year have increased 300 percent from last year. Over 108 Border Patrol agents in a 2-month period have been assaulted in the Tucson area.

Let me show you a photograph, Madam Speaker. I'm not sure you can see this. Let me hold it up. This is a Border Patrol vehicle. It's a pickup truck. But you can see that there is mesh steel across portions of this Border Patrol vehicle. The Border Patrol calls this vehicle and others like it a ''war wagon.''

Now, why would they have this mesh steel across their windows, across the front windshield, on the roof protecting the lights, the red lights? Why would they have this? Well, it's to protect themselves. You see, when these Border Patrol vehicles go up and down the U.S. border with Mexico, those people who want to come into the United States illegally are waiting for them in different parts of the border, on our side right on the border, and throw rocks at our Border Patrol, and that's how many of the assaults have occurred against our Border Patrol agents in recent years.

So thus they have to build these war wagons, something that you might want to see in Afghanistan or Iraq, to protect themselves from those who enter the United States illegally because they are constantly throwing rocks at them to divert the attention of our Border Patrol.

□ 1800

The rocks are a weapon of choice by those who want to come into the United States illegally and who confront our Border Patrol. It's not just the weapons of choice by them, our cartels, of course—the drug cartels. They use other weapons. A little more firepower. Border Patrol is outmanned, out-gunned, and out-financed by the vicious border cartels who bring drugs into the United States and make money off of the illegal use of narcotics in bringing those drugs into the United States.

Now, finally, we have started hearing something about what is taking place on the border. It's because of the folks in Arizona; that's where Tucson is. That's where Border Patrol assaults on Border Patrol agents have increased 300 percent in 2 months. They have so desperately taken matters into their own hands and made it illegal to be in the United States if you do not have a passport or a legal document. They have taken the Federal law and allowed police officers, when they have reasonable suspicion, to arrest somebody that's illegally in the United States. In other words, they catch them for doing some other crime, they find out they're illegally in the country and it becomes a crime in Arizona.

They had to pass that law because the Federal Government, who's supposed to protect the sovereignty of the country and protect citizens from people who throw rocks at our Border Patrol, for example, it's the Federal Government's job to do that. But the Federal Government—because we're too busy, like today. We honor on the House floor all the assistant principals in the United States. Now I'm sure that was an important piece of legislation that we passed today, yet we're honoring assistant principals and naming post offices while we ought to be securing the borders of the United States.

We secure the borders of foreign countries better than we secure our own borders. We secure the borders of Iraq and Afghanistan and Third World countries, but not our own border. So we have to leave our Border Patrol on patrol, driving these war wagons to protect themselves when they're trying to enforce the rule of law.

I recently asked a Texas Ranger down in the Laredo area, I said, What's it like after the sun goes down? He said, Congressman POE, it gets western. It gets western. What he meant by that, it gets violent. And it does get violent. The gunfire, the violence, the kidnappings, the murders all take place down there because the drug cartels are trying to bring drugs into the United States. And they out-man, out-gun, and out-finance our Border Patrol agents.

Our Border Patrol agents are doing as good a job as we'll let them do, and we need to help them all we can. Several Governors on the border States have asked that the President send the National Guard down there. That's probably a good idea. Let's send the National Guard to the border, secure the border, and make sure that our Border Patrol agents and our sovereignty is protected.

And that's just the way it is.

HELPING WOUNDED VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILY CAREGIVERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHRADER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, we have no greater obligation as a Congress and as a Nation than to look after the Americans who selflessly and patriotically have volunteered themselves into harm's way in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world. When they come home wheelchair-bound or with missing limbs or with a traumatic brain injury, they deserve nothing less than the very best treatment and care. Often, that care is provided not by health care professionals at a hospital, but by spouses, parents, other family members, or a loved one that isn't even next of kin. Many of these wonderful folks are already living on a tight budget. They're likely to be already caring for young children and/or aging parents. And often they have jobs they can't afford to lose.

I've fought to give these families the support they need. I introduced the first-ever expansion of the Family and Medical Leave Act, which provided Americans with 6 months of unpaid leave—unpaid, should be paid—of unpaid leave to care for wounded servicemembers and their families. Last week, a bipartisan majority in the House took important new steps by passing the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act. This would ease the enormous burden falling on those whose loved ones return from war with a severe injury. It provides tools and training so they can be better caregivers. When they accompany a veteran on medical visits, their lodging would be paid for. They would also be eligible for a monthly stipend as well as health care benefits of their own. And when the stress becomes too great, which of course it does, counseling and respite care would be available.

The bill also makes huge strides in recognizing the unique challenges faced by women who wear the uniform. It includes treatment for sexual trauma, which affects a staggering number of servicewomen. There is a child care pilot program so that women veterans can get the care they need without sacrificing the care of their children. Also, for the first time ever, there's neonatal care for the infants of returning soldiers giving birth.

I wish I didn't have to vote for that bill last week because I wish that bill

hadn't been necessary in the first place. Because the best way to support the men and women of the United States military, I believe, would be not to send them to fight in unnecessary wars in the first place.

The tragedy is all the more poignant, Mr. Speaker, because these injuries are being sustained in conflicts that are doing little or nothing to advance our national security interests. I can't help but think how many military families would have been spared the struggle if we had taken a SMART security approach to fighting terrorism or if we had doubled down on humanitarian aid rather than resorting to aggression, invasion, and occupation.

But as fiercely as I am in opposition to these two wars, I will never turn my back on the men and women who have been asked to fight them. In fact, the more skeptical you are about Iraq and Afghanistan, the greater you should be in your obligation to our troops on the front lines. There's one big solution to the strain on our veterans health care system and family caregivers, and that would be to reverse the disastrous policy that is creating more wounded combat veterans every single day.

So, Mr. Speaker, I can think of no better way to honor our soldiers than to end these wars and to bring all of them home—and bring them home now.

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.)

LADIES IN WHITE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the Ladies in White are a group of wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters of Cuban political prisoners. The group came together after the arrests of 75 Cuban dissidents in April 2003. Seventy-five Cuban political prisoners who, 7 years ago, joined the thousands of others who are imprisoned in Cuba because of their political beliefs or for ''crimes'' that are only ''crimes'' in a country brutally oppressed by a totalitarian regime of gangsters, by gangsters, and for gangsters. Because that is what the Castro brothers are—gangsters.

Fidel Castro has been a gangster since he was a juvenile delinquent. He became a Communist to give ideological clothing to his gangsterism. Raul Castro came to gangsterism via Marxism-Leninism, after his brother sent him as an almost illiterate adolescent to then-Czechoslovakia, where he received a rigorous indoctrination in Marxism-Leninism. So the brothers arrived at gangsterism via separate paths, but they are both experienced and ruthless practitioners of the most violent and brutal forms of gangsterism.

The Ladies in White experience the tactics of the Castros' gangsterism every single day. The Castros' state security apparatus pays and trains thugs to strike fear in the hearts of all Cubans in order to keep the regime in power. The thugs, the plainclothes terrorists of the Castros' regime, harass, intimidate, insult, spit upon, and engage in violence against the unarmed dissidents and other independent civil society members in Cuba. These spectacles are known as ''acts of repudiation.'' The international press refers to the plainclothes thugs of the Castros' state security apparatus as ''civilian government supporters,'' but that doesn't change their true nature. No, they're not ''plainclothes government supporters.'' They're plainclothes thugs of Cuban state security.

On recent Sundays, the Ladies in White have gone to church, as every Sunday, to pray for their family members who are political prisoners, and the thugs have become more violent. Protected by uniformed state security agents, the plainclothes thugs have spat upon and committed acts of violence against Laura Pollan, Bertha Soler, Reina Tamayo, Julia Esther Nunez, Asuncion Carrillo, Loida Valdez, Laura Maria Labrada, and the other Ladies in White.

I hereby submit for the RECORD the names of 96 Ladies in White who have been actively demanding the release of Cuban political prisoners in recent months.

1. Martha Díaz Rondón
2. Regla Vaillant Planas
3. Mildre Noemí Sánchez Infante
4. Ercilia Correoso Pérez
5. Maritza Castro Martínez
6. Blanca Hernández Moya
7. Lilia Castañer Hernández
8. Ivonne Malleza Galano
9. Deysi Lázara Suárez Martínez
10. Odalys Sanabria Rodríguez
11. Caridad Caballero Batista
12. Zoila Hernández Díaz
13. Gertrudis Ojeda Suárez
14. Niurkis Rivero Despaigne
15. Mercedes Fresneda Castillo
16. Sara Martha Fonseca Acevedo
17. Ismari Salomón Carcasés
18. Tania Montoya Vázquez
19. Yolanda Martínez Guerra
20. Guadalupe Varela Mora
21. Zayli Figueroa Acosta
22. Odalys Zurman González
23. Bárbara Couyedo Riego
24. Miriam Espinosa del Valle
25. Doraida Pérez Paceiro
26. Iris Tamara Pérez Aguilera
27. Mayra Morejón Hernández
28. Mari Blanca Avila Espósito
29. Petra Serafina Díaz Castillo
30. Rosario Morales La Rosa
31. Sonia Garro Alfonso
32. Maylisis Abrahantes Muñoz
33. Juana Gómez Riego
34. Yudermis Fonseca Rondón
35. Crispina Xiomara Duquesne Suárez
36. Doralis Alvares Soto
37. Ana Iris Vega Rodríguez
38. Lázara M. Caballero Betancourt
39. Marlenis Guerra Martin
40. Nerys Castillo Moreno
41. Tania Maceda Guerra
42. Caridad Sarduy Fernández
43. Raquel Castillo Urquiza
44. Sandra Guerra Pérez
45. María Elena Fernández
46. Yaneris Pérez Rey
47. Roxaida Ramírez Matos
48. Dulce Avalo Díaz
50. Ariela Riviaux Castillo
51. Evelia Hernández Ravelo
52. Georgina Noa Monte
53. Belinda Barzaga Lugo
54. Marioris Moreno Noa
55. Xiomara Duquesne Suárez
56. Mirtha Gómez Colás
57. Madeline Lazara Betancourt
58. Yaquelín Cutiño
59. Gladis Lugo Expósito
60. Dulce María Quintana
61. Suyoanis Tapia Mayeta
62. Leonor Reynord Borges
63. Leydi Coca Quesada
64. Noely Camila Araujo Molina
65. Yordanka Peña López
66. Yeni Palenzuela Izquierdo
67. Ana Aguililla
68. Laura Inés Pollan Toledo
69. Bertha Soler Fernández
70. Melba Santana Ariz
71. Reyna Luisa Tamayo Danger
72. Belkis Cantillo Ramírez
73. Alejandrina García de la Rivas
74. Julia Núñez Pacheco
75. Nélida Borrego Aragón
76. Reyna Maria Ortiz Tamayo
77. Milka Maria Peña Martínez
78. Ana Belkis Ferrer García
79. Loida Valdés González
80. Lidia Esther Lima Valdés
81. Magaly Broche de la Cruz
82. Isabel Sánchez Altarriba
83. Yamilé Velázquez Batista
84. Sonia Alvarez Campillo
85. Asunción Carrillo Hernández
86. Irene Viera Filloy
87. Bárbara Rojo Arias
88. Iraida Soledad Rivas Verdecia
89. Amada Evelia Hernández Ravel
90. Catalina Cano
91. Elsa González Padrón
92. Belkis Barzaga Lugo
93. Gisela Delgado Sablón
94. Noelia Pedraza Jiménez
95. Nancy Sánchez Altarriba
96. Mercedes Acosta antiago de Cuba

I also submit for the RECORD a letter sent today by representatives of the Ladies in White outside of Cuba, Blanca Reyes Castanon and Yolanda Huerga, asking international leaders for support in the Ladies in White's struggle for human rights and liberty.

MARCH 27, 2010.

DEAR SIR, We write you as the Representatives of the Ladies in White in Europe and the United States, to seek your urgent attention for the current plight of Cuba's political prisoners and their families.

The Ladies in White are members of independent civil society and the group was born spontaneously, seven years ago, as a result of the arrest of 75 members of the peaceful opposition by the Cuban regime during the Black Spring of 2003. Wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters of these prisoners only ask for the right to see their unjustly jailed relatives freed.

By this means we seek to ask, that as a representative of a democratic nation where human rights and freedom of speech are respected, that you attempt, and within your ability, interest yourself personally and seek the attention of those individuals and institutions that you see fit, to defend these

women, and their relatives, so that all hostility that they suffer in the streets of Havana and in all of Cuba cease, both physically and verbally, for defending their right to freedom.

We thank you for your time and cooperation, and we trust in your invaluable help, at the same time that we insist that the current situation is extremely delicate and dangerous.

Respectfully,

BLANCA REYES CASTAÑÓN,
Representatives in Europe.
YOLANDA HUERGA,
Representative in the United States.

This last Sunday, the day before yesterday, the Ladies in White were surrounded and subjected to 7 hours of insults and acts of violence by the plainclothes thugs of the Castros' state security apparatus. Surrounded and subjected to nightmarish, abominable insults and grotesque sexual gestures, as well as loud, constant screams and chants of communist slogans and violence for 7 hours, the day before yesterday, subjected to the well-planned tactics which are part of the training of the plainclothes state security agents of the Castros' gangster regime.

But the Ladies in White continue to stand tall. Like the political prisoners who they defend, the Ladies in White represent the true Cuba. They embody the decency, patriotism, and love of the real Cuba—not the grotesque, perverted hatred, envy, and perfidy of the Castros and their gangster regime.

This evening, my thoughts and prayers of limitless admiration and solidarity are with Cuba's Damas de Blanco—the Ladies in White.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois 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 Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR 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 Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO 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 Virginia (Mr. FORBES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FORBES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN 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 California (Mr. BILBRAY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BILBRAY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FINANCIAL REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, as we watch the Senate move on legislation yet again toward a cloture vote on Senator DODD's legislation, I think it is worth noting some of the concerns that many of us have and that many economists have with the Dodd-Frank approach on the legislation. I begin with focusing on a past occurrence, the rescue of investment bank Bear Stearns in the spring of 2008.

The Federal Government has committed trillions of taxpayer dollars to institutions like Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, AIG, Citigroup, and Bank of America out of fear that the demise of any of these too-big-to-fail institutions would trigger a systemic crisis and collapse of the global financial system. For my own part, I'd make the observation that I thought—I voted against those bailouts with the presumption that if we move to enhance bankruptcy, it would be preferable to setting up a system which would bring the moral hazard and the eventual evolution into a system where the Federal Government was guaranteeing institutions that were too big to fail.

But that is currently the concern I have about this legislation, even though the public has rejected this approach to financial regulation, the bailouts that we have seen, and abhor bailouts of financial institutions. If you have a town hall meeting, I guarantee you, you will sense the rejection of the Dodd-Frank approach.

□ 1815

Still, this approach, endorsed by the administration, would guarantee the bailout authority remains a powerful tool in the government's arsenal. Now, the President is hoping to use the tactic employed in the health care debate by dismissing legitimate concerns with rhetoric but not with facts. And I would take the comments he made in New York where he said, ''What is not legitimate is to suggest that we're enabling or encouraging future taxpayer bailouts, as some have claimed. That may make for a good sound bite, but it's not factually accurate.'' Well, actually it is accurate.

And let us look at the bailout fund in the House-passed bill. On the House side, H.R. 4173, subsection 1609(o), it provides authority for the government to borrow up to $200 billion that can be used by the government for its bailout actions.

In the Senate bill, Senate bill 3217, subsection 210(n), it creates a special $50 billion fund to resolve big financial institutions, to resolve those institutions when they've failed. Behind that fund is the ability to issue government debt—in other words, to issue taxpayer obligations. It is no wonder why our colleague on the other side of the aisle from California (Mr. SHERMAN) recently said of the Dodd bill, ''There are serious problems with the Dodd bill. The Dodd bill has unlimited executive bailout authority. That's something Wall Street desperately wants but doesn't dare ask for. The bill contains permanent, unlimited bailout authority,'' as my colleague on the other side of the aisle mentioned, and I agree with his assessment.

There is another piece of this in the broad expansion of open bank assistance authority granted to the FDIC. The House bill, section 1109, provides the FDIC authority to ''avoid or mitigate adverse effects on systemic economic conditions or financial stability by guaranteeing obligations of solvent'' financial institutions. The FDIC's guarantees can be up to $500 billion and may be expanded an additional $500 billion with permission from Congress. That is $500 billion in potential taxpayer liabilities to solvent companies.

This is not the death panel that Chairman FRANK so often claimed. This is not an ''enhanced bankruptcy process'' or an ''expedited bankruptcy'' that the administration wants people to believe. It is, in fact, a codification of the current ad hoc approach to bailouts. As Mr. SHERMAN has noted in the past, this amounts to TARP on steroids.

We are handing over the keys to the Treasury to unelected bureaucrats. If TARP was any indicator, regulators will always err on the side of doling out too many Federal dollars under the guise of preventing a systemic shock. If the letter of the law allows for them to guarantee $500 billion of debt for solvent companies, they will do just that.

And this is simply the wrong approach. Regulatory discretion armed with a large pool of taxpayer money will inevitably lead to political abuse.

Under the Dodd-Frank approach, government will determine which firms are too big to fail and which are too small to save. Under this bill, the government will determine which creditors and which counterparties of a failed firm should be bailed out and those that should not. And government will dismantle a healthy institution that they believe may pose a risk under the wording of the legislation.

This type of power will lead to a hyperpolitical environment where political pull will replace market discipline. Subjectivity will replace objectivity and the clearly defined rules of the road that have been a cornerstone of our capital markets. We need to expand the bankruptcy process and the clearly defined rules of the road that come with it, and we need to take out the ability for political manipulation in the process.

There are other concerns that I have with the approach in this legislation, in the Dodd-Frank approach, and one of the concerns I have is that it fails wholly to address one of the major root causes of the crisis. It is important to remember that one of the root causes of the crisis was in the junk mortgage market, subprime and Alt-A loans. Federal Government policies were responsible for the buildup of these loans. There were 27 million subprime and Alt-A loans in our economy in 2008 before the financial crisis. That's about half of all mortgages. Of those, 12 million were held or guaranteed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the government-sponsored enterprises; $5.4 billion of FHA and about 2 million as a result of the largest banks making CRA commitments in order to get approval for mergers and expansions.

One of the other factors, of course, in the economic contraction that we've faced was the fact that the Fed set negative real interest rates; in other words, they set the interest rates that were measured against inflation at a negative sum, and when our Federal Reserve put that in place for 4 years running, it was followed by central banks in Europe that did the same thing. So central banks all over the world for 4 years set those interest rates at a negative rate.

Virtually every economist will tell you that this played a significant role in the crisis; and we're not looking at the fact that we have not addressed this issue either because, in essence, the Federal and the central banks threw fuel on the fire. These unusually low rates incentivized the financial sector to take excessive risk and they exacerbate the normal business cycle. Dr. Friedrich Hayek won the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1974 for explaining this phenomenon on how this causes booms and busts in the cycle.

And, of course, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the easy money policy at the Fed were central to the housing boom and bust, and they are left unaddressed in the Dodd-Frank approach. When you add things in like excessive leverage in the financial sector and the overreliance on the failed rating agencies, you have a recipe for disaster.

And I will add that the Fed came to the Congress and suggested to us in 2004 and 2005 that there was systemic risk with Fannie and Freddie, and what they asked for was an amendment to deleverage these portfolios that were being built up in Fannie and Freddie, in our GSEs, our government-sponsored enterprises. The leveraging was in excess of 100:1. These institutions were involved in arbitrage, and it was Congress that gave them the wherewithal to do this and prevented the regulators from going in and forcing these institutions, these government-sponsored enterprises, to deleverage the size of these portfolios.

You can imagine the reaction from officials at the Fed when we turned a deaf ear in Congress. As a matter of fact, I want to point out that in the Senate, we had legislation from Senator Hagel written by the Fed that would allow that authority to regulate for systemic risk, to give the regulators the ability to deregulate these portfolios. That bill went out of committee, but Senator CHRIS DODD opposed it on the floor, opposed it coming to the floor, and, as a consequence, the bill never came up; although it passed committee, it never came up in the Senate.

On this side of the House, the House of Representatives, there was a bill that came to the floor, and I put in the amendment that Chuck Hagel had carried in the Senate. Again, the amendment that I introduced was written by the Federal Reserve in an attempt to give them the ability to regulate for systemic risk in Fannie and Freddie because they had warned that the consequence we faced was a systemic economic collapse. And certainly that's exactly where this collapse began. It was in the housing market. It was with the collapse of Fannie and Freddie, the loss of about $1 trillion in value.

Now I'm going to bring up one other issue that's missing on the Senate side that really gives me pause in terms of the way this is approached. Let me just make the point that the FDIC has no experience with these types of institutions. As I've said before, I have opposed the bailouts. I, instead, wanted to see a system devised. We have companies, major firms go bankrupt in the United States—airlines, railroads. These are handled instead by an expedited bankruptcy process through the courts, and that's what I wanted to see beefed up.

Let's go to the Senate bill. A major premise upon which the resolution authority was based is the notion that the FDIC uses a similar tool to unwind small commercial banks. In fact, last week before the Financial Services Committee, Secretary Geithner again reiterated this point. But this is like comparing apples to oranges, and I will share with you why.

The FDIC is liquidating very simple institutions primarily made up of insured deposits and made up of small straightforward loans. In fact, 98 percent of the liabilities of banks and thrifts unwound by the FDIC in the last 2 years were insured deposits. This is in stark contrast to the nondeposit-taking institutions likely to be covered under the resolution authority, which is going to end up creating this permanent bailout authority. And I would just give you some examples from the past.

Take Lehman Brothers, take AIG. Neither of these firms had insured depositors or depositors of any kind, and their complex assets and liabilities did not look anything like the simple small loans and residential and commercial mortgages that the FDIC deals with. The sheer size of these institutions trump anything the FDIC has touched. The $639 billion in Lehman was nearly 15 times bigger than the largest bank ever resolved by the FDIC, and AIG was over $1 trillion in assets.

This is another problem with this approach. Since nearly all of the liabilities of banks and thrifts unwound by the FDIC are insured deposits, there is a strong presumption of government backing behind these ''too big to fail'' institutions; and, by applying this model to the largest of our financial institutions, the legislation will signal that the government-provided safety net now extends to a much wider portion of our capital market.

And think for a minute what that means to the competitors of these large firms, for the smaller firms that are too small to save. Suddenly they face a differential in their borrowing costs that can reach up to 100 basis points. Some studies show 78 basis-point costs, some show 100 basis-point costs. That's the costs that small institutions have currently that is higher than the borrowing costs of institutions that face this implied government bailout or have been bailed out by the government.

□ 1830

You saw it with respect to the government-sponsored enterprises, how much lower their cost of borrowing was and how they were able to over leverage, and how on top of all of this, they could become a duopoly and put their competitors out of business because people presumed that the government was behind these institutions.

These are some of my concerns, and I know these concerns are shared by a colleague of mine on the committee, Mr. SCOTT GARRETT.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from New

Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 42 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I thank the Chair, and I thank the gentleman from California who was previously speaking for his insightful analysis of where the country currently finds itself with regard to this macro issue of Wall Street reform and banking reform in this country, something which Members on both sides of the aisle agree wholeheartedly is necessary and needed to be done. We just need to make sure that we do so in a thoughtful manner so we don't do more harm than good.

When President Obama and Democrats claim Republicans are doing the bidding of big Wall Street banks and oppose all financial service reg reform, you know, you hear that over and over again by some of the commentators on TV, I have to say, you find it laughable on a number of different levels.

First of all, think about this, it is the Democrat bills that have institutionalized permanent bailouts and too big to fail. It is no wonder then that Democrats have received such strong fund raising support from the titans of Wall Street.

As I stand here, I'm not sure I have all of those numbers before me. Later on I may. Off the top of my head, those numbers stand out as something to the tune of something like around $15 million from the various titans of Wall Street, as they put it, to the President's campaign in the last cycle. I think the number I saw just the other day, and the most recent numbers out for the 2008 cycle of Congress, something like $2.9 million from these various Wall Street firms and banks going to the majority party, the Democrat Party, in the last election; twice as much as what is going to Republicans.

Maybe it is no wonder that they have received such strong support from Wall Street that they would then put in a bill that would see to it that Wall Street is taken care of in the sense of the perpetuation of bailouts at the taxpayers' expense.

Not only do Republicans support real financial service reform, the House Republicans were the first ones to come forward with a comprehensive reform plan that actually ends too big to fail. It ends bailouts, and we also don't succumb to the Democrats' urge to take yet another vast portion of our economy with government overreach and intrusion and bullying of private businesses. Think about that.

The reason I point out that Republicans came out with a proposal earlier than the majority party, earlier than the White House, earlier than the Treasury. I remember being in this Chamber talking on this floor early last year in 2009, in January and February and March saying we need to attack this problem on Wall Street, we need to attack the morass that we are finding our country in economically. We needed to get reform done. All of the while Treasury was telling us we will have something next week, we will have something next week.

Week after week passed, and we finally ended our waiting for them and we put our minds together. We listened to the American public and we listened to the experts. We listened to the people who were involved with this and the people who also would be hurt by wrong actions being taken. We took all of that advice and we came up with a Republican solution to this proposal, and actually had it done before the White House ever even came up with their white paper that they presented at the White House.

I remember going to that presentation where the President came out and said here is my solution, here is the problem, just laid it out and left the stage. Didn't take a single question from the audience. That is how it has been ever since, left the stage and has not listened to what the American public and those involved have to say about their plan.

Before I go to our Republican plan, I would like to remind our colleagues over in the Senate on the other side, who likely will be asked to vote on the Obama-Dodd-Frank plan, and they will be likely to vote on it again soon. They voted on it earlier, and I guess they will be doing it again today, if they haven't done so already. And the way it is coming down in the press reports is that HARRY REID sees it as a win/win for them to just continue to put vote after vote after vote. The last vote Republicans stood together saying they would vote ''no'' on any bill that would perpetuate bailouts to taxpayers for these financial institutions. That is a good thing. We hope they stand firm on that.

There is a whole host of reasons, in addition to that, why both Democrats and Republicans should vote against that 1,300-page permanent bailout bill.

Let me digress for a moment on that issue. We are just now learning of the ramifications, unintended and otherwise, from the health care bill; you know, that 2,000-page bill that we know no one read on this floor and understood all of the ancillary portions of it, and yet it passed in the House, passed in the Senate, and came back to the House again and passed overwhelmingly after a lot of arm twisting by the White House and others to get all of the votes they needed to get it done.

But you could see during the debate in the health care bill, when poignant questions and particular questions were raised on particular portions of the bill, there was no one on the other side of the aisle who could honestly say I have read through the bill, all of the several thousand pages, and all of the ancillary references to it and had a complete understanding of it. Yet that bill passed, and now we are seeing the ramifications from that.

A study came out this past week from this administration saying the actual cost of health care, remember President Obama said he was going to actually lower it, would go up by a percentage or so over a 10-year period of time. Remember the President also promised no one would lose their health care plan, they didn't read the bill. Because they didn't read the bill, they find out now in another study that about half of those senior citizens on the Advantage program of Medicare will be losing their plans. That is the ramifications when you try to rush something through without reading it and understanding it.

Now back to the point, here we have over in the Senate, we have a 1,300-page plus bill that didn't go through the committee process and didn't have an opportunity for vetting and hearing from the various witnesses and experts, that, too, Senator REID is trying to push through this week against all odds and truly understanding what they are doing over there.

The bill they are attempting to work on and move quickly without that understanding codifies the government policies invoked to bail out AIG, Bear Stearns, and others, and it does so, in large part, by creating a permanent $50 billion bailout fund which, I should add, can be endlessly reloaded. Let me make a point on that.

They say we are going to set up this $50 billion fund to bail out the future bank losses and what have you. Well, if the next day they need that $50 billion and it goes down, the next day after that they can go right back to the pot of money and try to raise it back up again, and go to another $50 billion. So $50 billion is really a placeholder for 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, on and on and on it could go, bailing out failing institutions, so-called too-big-to-fail institutions, and potentially also indirectly put the American taxpayer on the hook.

I should probably explain just one example of that. Look at AIG. What was the number we saw on AIG. I think it was around $80 billion needed to bail it out. Here is the seminal question which I think we put to Secretary Geithner. I don't know if we ever got a satisfactory answer from him or anyone else who proposed the legislation in the Senate. The questions was: Had you had this bill, the Dodd bill, in place prior to AIG, would the outcome have been any different?

Well, there you needed about $80 billion, all from the American taxpayers. Here they say we will have $50 billion. Obviously $50 billion is not enough; so in the short term, where will you get that money. The bill, the Senate Democrat Obama-Dodd-Frank bill basically says you can go to the Federal Government, the Federal Reserve, they can basically front end load that money to the facility so they can loan it out to whether it is AIG next time or another Lehman in the future, or what have you. The American taxpayer at that point in time is now on the hook for however much money they want to lend out without basically any limit.

Other portions of the bill that are problematic besides creating a permanent $50 billion bailout fund, which, as I said, would be endlessly reloaded, paid for by taxing financial firms to pay for other larger firms' failure. I think that is an important point. If you have a local community bank in your community, you have to ask them, What do you think about the fact that potentially, depending upon your size, you could be held liable for the egregious mistakes and failures of these huge titans of Wall Street who make absurd investment decisions. I think most of your local community banks that potentially could be on the hook would say, it is nothing good for us, it is nothing good for our local community because any time you put a tax on something, one bank or another, it hurts the businesses in that community.

Another major point that is problematic with the bill, it expands the implied government guarantee in the financial marketplace for the largest firms. Sort of along the point I was just making here, it is the biggest firms in Wall Street that are going to be able to say, Thank goodness, thank goodness we made all of these contributions to those people in Washington who are now supporting this legislation of the Dodd-Frank-Obama bill because now we know who our friends are, and of course, it is on the other side of the aisle, who are supporting this legislation that will allow for their perpetual bailout.

Another problem with the bill is it continues to place taxpayers on the hook for billions, if not trillions of dollars for bailed out failed nonbanks. I say trillions of dollars because there is nothing in that 1,300 pages of legislation that is sitting in the other House, in the Senate right now that Senator REID wants them to push right through, vote on without having full understanding of it. There is nothing in that bill that would say, American taxpayer, your liability to the big banks in New York and around the country is going to be limited at this much or this much. There is no limit. It can just go up to billions of dollars, tens of billions of dollars, hundreds of billions of dollars, or trillions and trillions of dollars potentially.

And if you think trillions are out of sight as far as the potential, all we have to look at is the GSEs, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and where is the limit on the potential loss to the American taxpayer there. I think it is around $389 billion that they have scored that it will cost taxpayers over the next 10 years coming out of our Treasury, which means out of our pockets. But there is a potential there with several trillions of dollars of potential losses on their books that we can all Americans be eventually liable for. So trillions are not out of the question when you are talking about such mammoth institutions and trading as we have seen here.

To continue, with the problems of the Senate financial services so-called reform bill that Senator REID is trying to push through the Senate as we speak without anyone really understanding or reading it, the bill continues the pattern of government overreach that we have seen throughout the Obama administration and with the Democrats controlling here in the House.

It also continues the pattern of government picking winners and losers and political bullying and deciding just who it is will succeed in this country and who it is that is going to fail rather than through the private market and rather than through the rule of law and the rule of the bankruptcy code.

Did we ever think that we would come to the day when it would be the politicians who would decide: I think that business over there should do well and thrive and succeed, as opposed to this business over here. I don't have much favor for them for one reason or another, maybe they are not a friend of mine politically or otherwise, and the politicians says, That business can go into the dust and not succeed.

Did we ever think we would get to the day when it would be Washington and Washington politicians and bureaucrats who would say, I am going to pick that one as a winner, and that one over there is a loser.

That, in essence, is basically what we find in the 1,300-page bill that Senator REID would like to see passed without any real debate or discussion or amendments or improvements upon because it allows the bureaucrats of various Federal agencies, these appointed and unelected individuals, to make those basically life-and-death decisions for industry and life-and-death decisions for businesses as well.

□ 1845

Did we ever think we would get to the point where those decisions are not made by the markets because this business actually did do a better job in deciding how it would grow, how it would invest, what sort of services it would provide? That's how the free market has always thought that businesses should thrive. And if this business over here decides that they make poor investment decisions, poor customer service, poor decisions, generally, on how it's running, then the market should say that is the business that will fail.

Well, we're going to throw that all aside now with this piece of legislation and say the market forces are not going to be it. What people decide on situations of who should win and who should lose are not going to be the preeminent decision basis anymore. Instead it's going to be politicians and bureaucrats, a sad day that most Founding Fathers would never have thought we would get to.

Another problem with the Senate bill, the Frank-Dodd bill that HARRY REID is trying to push through the Senate right now without a debate and without a full discussion and disclosure of an understanding of the entire bill, is that the bill will restrict access to credit for families and small businesses and ultimately make credit more expensive and less available.

A recent study points out that the portion of the bill, the CFPA, Consumer Financial Protection Agency, something that they want to create as a brand new agency here in Washington, as if we don't have enough agencies already in Washington, a recent study points out that the CFPA will increase the cost of interest rates that consumers pay by at least 160 basis points. What does that mean? That means if you have a 6 percent loan that you could have gotten today, well, once this bill passes, then it will increase by 160 basis points. That means your 6 percent loan will now be 7.6 percent.

Also, the study shows it will reduce consumer borrowing by at least 2.1 percent. Well, that makes sense. Right now most people, when they're out looking for a car loan or they're looking for a mortgage for the house or a home equity loan to try to make some improvements, one of the first things they do when they sit down with their banker or when they open up the paper to see what the availability of interest rates is, they look to see how much are those interest rates. And you want to get the very best interest rates you can get because every percentage point higher means less money in your pocket at the end of the day and more money in the banker's pockets.

Well, this bill, outside studies have said that when you now start looking for those car loans, student loans, commercial loans, mortgages for your house or mortgages for commercial property, under this bill, because they're adding these new impediments to the access of credit, you will see your rates of interest go up by 1 point, 1.5 points. That 1.5 points can mean a lot of money, a lot of money out of your pocket and mine every time you take a loan. And think about it, is that something we really want to do during this economic morass, these economic troubles that we find ourselves in right now?

I have so many small businesses that come to me right now, owners of small businesses, some are individuals, that say I just can't get credit as it is. I have a good credit rating, I have a good credit position, I've been paying all my bills on time, but when I go out to try to get a loan, I just can't get it. And as it is, the rates that are out there are not just really where I want to be, but I can maybe afford them if I can get those loans.

Well, here we're going to have the Senate now try to pass a bill—and we already passed a version of it in the House, unfortunately—that will say to an individual who is already struggling to get a loan or struggling to pay his current interest, you know, the next time you get this loan, the rates were

here, now they're going to be 1 point, 1.5 points, even higher; more money out of your pocket each time just because we're creating a new agency in Washington with no other real effect except to make the credit availability less than it is now.

Another huge problem with the bill that's before us in the Senate, that already passed the House and potentially will come back to the House for another vote if it unfortunately gets out of the Senate, is that the bill will also cost jobs; and it will cost the jobs at a time when the singular focus in this Congress should be just the opposite. The one main goal that we should be able to work on across the aisle in this House is how to create more jobs all across this country, all 50 States.

I know the average rate for unemployment in this country is just shy of 10 percent; but, boy, you talk to some folks in different parts of this country and you know that the unemployment rate is a lot higher than that: 10 percent, 20 percent, 30 percent, 40 percent, 50, 60 percent higher in certain portions of this country than where it is as a national average. You talk to those people where the long-term unemployment rate is around 15, 16, 17 percent and ask them, What's the most important thing that Congress should be doing right now? They will honestly answer you, Get me a job; Help turn the economy around so unemployment rates start going down again and so I can start supporting my family again.

And what are we doing? What I'm doing is trying to create those jobs. But what is Congress doing? What is the Senate doing right now? What is the Democrat majority doing right now? Well, they're trying to pass a bill over in the Senate that will cost the creation of jobs just at a time when we should try making even more.

Remember I mentioned a study earlier saying that if we pass that Senate bill out of the Senate—today, tomorrow, this week, next week—I mentioned before that if we do so, your credit costs will go up. That same study also found the number of jobs will be impacted in this country as well. And here's what they found: the study found that the CFPA, the Consumer Financial Protection Agency, which is a provision in that bill over in the Senate, will actually reduce net new jobs in the economy by 4.3 percent. Let me repeat that: if the Senate bill were to pass and that new CFPA were to be created, as the President wants it to be created, you would reduce net new jobs in the economy by 4.3 percent. So pass the Senate bill, see the net number of jobs go down by 4.3 percent.

There's another provision in the bill as well, just as an aside—without getting into the weeds, as they say, portions of the bill—it says the derivative and systemic risk portion of the bill—that's a whole other portion separate from the CFPA, that is a section that tries to regulate and address the issue of derivatives. And Republicans, by the way, as I mentioned in the earlier portion of this hour, did put in language to try to address derivatives and make sure that there is more transparency and accountability there, but the way they're doing it right now over in the Senate, that section will also likely reduce jobs as well, according to outside experts. And why is that?

Well, it's hard to get into without going through a laborious explanation of derivatives and how they all work and what have you; but just understand this, that if you create higher costs for the end users, if you create higher costs, whether it's credits or otherwise, for people who currently use the markets as they are currently configured in an honest, transparent, and open way, if you require certain businesses to say, well, instead of taking this $100,000 that I was going to use to buy some new equipment, a new truck, new manufacturing equipment, or instead of me taking this $1 million I have over here to build a new plant, to hire new employees, to create a new manufacturing base, I'm going to have to use that over here because of all the new rules and regulations that the Senate wants to impose on that business.

I'm going to have to put it over here sort of just sitting in the bank, if you will, as far as capital because of these new derivative requirements. If I can't use it to buy a new truck, if I can't use it to buy new equipment, if I can't use it to build a new building, I basically just have to set it aside as far as margin or capital requirements, what happens to job creation in that business?

If he can't buy the new truck, he's not going to hire a new driver to drive that truck. If he can't use the money to buy a new piece of equipment, he's not going to be able to hire new people in the business to run the equipment. If he can't use the $1 million, or whatever it is, to build a new plant to manufacture something, he's not going to be able to hire new people that are able to run that factory and work in the offices in that factory as well or that business as well because this legislation will basically shift that money, job-creation dollars, from that practical good use for the economy over here to, well, let's say not a job-creating use—another problem of the overall legislation that the Senate is trying to pass as we speak.

So at a time when Americans are pleading with the political leaders to stop government overreach in the economy and in their lives, well, this bill basically, again, doesn't listen to those Americans. The Senate bill basically greatly expands government authority for government bureaucrats to regulate now another huge segment of the economy, including, by the way, non-financial institutions, things like retail stores that offer layaway plans, companies that finance their own sales, and even manufacturers that ensure against their risk.

All these areas had absolutely nothing to do with the economic problems that the country finds itself in today, okay, but all of a sudden, because there is an opportunity out there to grow government, grow government agencies, create new programs at the expense of the taxpayers, as the President's Chief of Staff said—and I paraphrase him—Don't let any good crisis go to waste, we're in a crisis situation, so instead of dealing with the crisis area over here, we're going to start creating all new agencies over here to regulate all different aspects of the economy that were not part of the problem. That's exactly what this legislation that we hear is about to be considered in the Senate, that Senator REID would like to pass through without the debate, deliberation, and transparency that we would like.

So at a time when Americans are pleading with political leaders to stop the government overreach, this bill greatly expands authority for government bureaucrats, as I say, to regulate huge segments of the economy, including those non-financial institutions, such as the stores and the layaway plans and so on and so forth.

It also allows—and here's a point—it also allows government bureaucrats to take over and actually close a firm. The government, for the first time you're going to be able to say, besides picking winners and losers, as I pointed out before, which is a tremendous overreach of government authority to say for a bureaucrat someplace in Washington or New York or some other place designated by the Washington bureaucrats to say, well, we think that your business should win and your business should lose, besides just picking winners and losers, the Senate bill goes even further than that.

It allows government bureaucrats to take over and close a firm. They can say for whatever reason—hopefully not political, but who knows—for whatever reason these bureaucrats will say, well, I think that firm over there is one I think the government agency now should take over. Isn't that really too much power in the hands of the government? And doesn't it open up our economy to political bullying rather than the way it should be?

And the way it should be is it should be that a firm's success or ultimate failure should be decided by the free markets, decided by the people of the country whether they think this company is providing the services they like and this company is not providing. That's the way it has been for 200-plus years—or longer than that, actually—in this country, and now we're going to change all that and allow bureaucrats to say, you win, you lose, we're going to take over you, we're going to not take over you; we're going to provide you with a bailout at taxpayers' expense; you're going to have to do it on your own. And you the citizens out there are going to have to all pay the price of this.

Those of you who think you have nothing to do with financial services,

well, you're going to see your interest rates go up. Those of you who are out there who think that this doesn't impact you, well, you may not be able to find a job next year because the net number of new jobs is not going to increase as it would have. It's going to impact upon all of us if we are to pass this failed bill over in the Senate.

Now, several portions of the bill also are handouts to—who do you think? The trial bar. Why is that? Because it will increase lawsuits. It will benefit lawyers, but drive up costs for everybody else. Nothing against lawyers by any means, trial lawyers as well, but do we really need another piece of legislation that will just basically increase the number of lawsuits in this country? Don't we have enough lawsuits already going on? Do we need to set up a structure that fundamentally is done in such a way that most of the experts looking at it are saying, yes, the number of lawsuits is going to increase just because there is so much ambiguity that's out there?

Also, at a time when you're seeing a growing consensus that the Federal Reserve should be less powerful, let's take a look at the Federal Reserve, and isn't there a consensus now. I think we saw bipartisan support that the amount of control and authority and power of the Federal Reserve, I thought there was growing consensus in this country and also in this Congress, in this House, that maybe the Federal Reserve should be reined in a little—or some were saying a whole lot. That's not what is happening over in the Senate.

So at a time when you're seeing a growing consensus that the Federal Reserve should be given less power, not more, the Senate bill greatly expands the Federal regulatory powers. This is done despite the fact the board has a proven track record of failing to identify systemic risks before they actually occur in its overeagerness to pay taxpayers money at risk while conducting fiscal policy without accountability. It has an overeagerness to put taxpayers' money at risk while conducting fiscal policy without any accountability.

And any time we try to get that accountability, I should add just as a side note, what do we get? We get pushback from the Federal Reserve. Pushback, whether it's a Republican idea; pushback, whether it's a Democrat idea to try to put in some additional levels of accountability and transparency. And so despite that, the Senate bill is going to say we're going to give them even more and greater power and control.

Given the extraordinary government interventions into private firms we've already seen with the trampling of the rule of law in order to benefit political favorites in the auto industry, for instance, I'm very uncomfortable with any of these new sweeping powers. The auto industry, I guess, is a clear example of that. It goes back to what I was saying before: Federal Government, bureaucrats saying this company wins, this company loses, and we're going to use the taxpayers' money to prop them up and keep them going.

Let me just go back for one little point I raised before—I didn't want to go into the weeds too much on it—and that was the derivatives portion of the bill. Derivatives, I've heard them described in a number of different ways, insurance policies or such, but without going into the details on how they actually operate, remember this about derivatives, I guess, to take away from my remarks on derivatives: none of the experts that came before the committee—those who use them, those who didn't use them, those who are involved with them, those who are not involved with them, academics and the like—there was no one who said that the problems that we find ourselves in today were because of the structure or the makeup of derivatives themselves. No. I think most of the experts who came to us said it was the fact that you had trading in derivatives without adequate transparency and capital there in certain circumstances, like in the AIG situation.

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And then similarly, with the AIG situation you had a situation where the regulators who were charged with knowing what they are doing, having the authority to do so, failed to live up to their obligation to monitor the very entities that they are supposed to be giving oversight to. Isn't it a little bit ironic that we see now in the Senate that those very same failed regulators are going to get even bigger and broader powers.

In any event, on the derivative portion of the bill, what does the Senate bill do? Well, it sets up a really, I don't know what is a good word for it—I guess a technical word would be clumsy—it sets up a clumsy new two-tiered SEC-CFTC regulatory regime over all derivative users. And that is really a huge portion of the economy.

You know, the average person says, ''I don't use derivatives.'' And the average small business might say, ''I don't use derivatives.'' But that small business begins to look one step behind its daily activities, it may find that the source of its credit does in fact use derivatives. That industry that has a particular product that they manufacture, what have you, maybe people in the company that work there don't recognize it, but you talk to the CFO, chief financial officer or otherwise, you will find out that they actually do use derivatives to protect themselves, just like other companies use risk management as mechanisms to protect other portions of their business. So they are used. They are a huge portion of the economy.

And here we have a Senate bill now saying we are going to fool around with this and set up this new two-tiered SEC and CFTC regulatory regime over all the derivative users. And in a way it goes back to my earlier point that it will probably be ripe for litigation and also confusion to say the least.

In all this, there will be some new truly heavy-handed government mandates that are likely to have major unintended consequences that could really make it more difficult for companies to hedge their risks. That's why I say a lot of businesses may not recognize how it impacts upon them. Maybe it is not the company themselves, it is other companies that they deal with, that they have to deal with. If they can't hedge their risks properly, they will find themselves at odds with being able to prosper and do as well next year as they have in the past.

So when the Senate bill tries to do this, what it's really doing is adding huge new costs to risk management. What will that do? That will needlessly tie up companies' moneys that could otherwise be used to create jobs. It goes back to that little analogy I had before saying that if you have a company that says we have X number of dollars in the bank that we are intending to use for new expansion, production, or growth, now that money may be unfortunately tied up over here through all the new regulation and otherwise, and capital margin requirements and the like. And if they can't have it over here to grow the company, prosper the company, and create new jobs and the like, and new benefits for their employees because it's now tied up, who hurts? Who pays the price? It is the employees, it is the economy, it is the community that that business finds itself in.

Now, to all that truly terrible legislation that we see sitting in the Senate that Senator REID is trying to push through without a true committee process where we could really get into the weeds and find out what is in those 1,300-plus pages and try to understand all the consequences, intended and otherwise, the Republicans do have a comprehensive substitute. It has received unanimous support from the party and those here who have worked on it, and also significant support from those players, both involved with the discussion, academics and otherwise.

And it is really also the only truly bipartisan plan that's out there. Because whether you are a Republican or Democrat, I think most in this country agree on one theme: No more bailouts. So it's bipartisan in the theme, it's bipartisan in the merits, it's bipartisan in the actual language. Its central theme, as I say, is no more bailouts. And our plan depends on an expedited bankruptcy rather than a government-run bailout fund.

Let me give you one, two, three, four points that are in it. It provides comprehensive transparency and accountability among the major traders in the derivative markets without setting up that Byzantine new regulatory regime that I just mentioned a minute ago. It allows for real consumer protection, important, without a bureaucracy that separates consumer protection from

what we call prudential regulation, safety and soundness like we saw with Fannie and Freddie.

I will digress there for 30 seconds. That simply means that you are not going to say that there is somebody sitting over here looking over an institution saying, well, I think you should do this in order to be safe and sound and prudentially run, and you are going to have somebody over here in a totally different silo, a different agency, who is going to be saying, well, I think you should have a consumer product that works this way or works that way. And if they are working at cross-purposes, which one prevails? Well, at the end of the day, the consumer is the one that hurts.

Additionally, third point, the Republican plan reins in the Fed instead of giving it vast new powers. It goes to that point I raised before. The Democrat majority plan in the House and the Senate says, ''Hey, Fed, you've been doing such a wonderful job with monetary policy, you've been doing such a wonderful job with regulation of the institutions under you, you've done such a wonderful job, Federal Reserve, with being able to see the calamities down the road.'' I say of course that all tongue in cheek. They say, ''Well, we're going to make you even larger and more expansive and grow in power.''

Well, not for the Republicans, not for most Americans. Most Americans want us to rein in the Fed. And that is what the Republican bill will do, by giving it less powers than it has right now.

Fourthly, the Republican plan responsibly deals with Fannie and Freddie, one of the biggest culprits in the entire process. Believe it or not, the Senate bill, the Dodd-Frank-Obama bill, does absolutely nothing with regard to Fannie and Freddie and the GSEs. Think about this little number right now. You hear about all the money that was spent over the last year or so out of taxpayer pockets, whether it goes to the Wall Street bailouts, whether it goes to the auto industry, whether it goes to AIG or Bear Stearns and you just name it, all those billions and billions of dollars went out the door. You know which bailout really trumps even all those combined? It would be the GSEs, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, where, as I mentioned I think earlier this evening, the number is close to $400 billion already projected to cost the taxpayer over the next 10 years. And the President's plan, the Dodd-Frank plan, is silent on trying to do anything about that.

Not only are they silent about doing anything about that, it's silent as to putting any limits to it. Right now there is no limit to the amount of money that can come out of your pocket and my pocket to bail out these institutions. Something should have been included in there. They did not.

Remember, finally, it was largely government that got us into this situation we find ourselves in in the first place. It was the implosion of Fannie and Freddie that created so many of the other problems that we see across the economic spectrum as we see it today. It was also the easy money policy of the Fed and the errors that were made over time there. It was the misplaced incentives and downright requirements in the housing finance sector that basically encouraged or forced firms to lend to borrowers that shouldn't have been buying a home in the first place. It was government regulators that didn't do their job whom the Democrats would like to further empower and provide a false sense of security and hamper the free markets.

It was all those problems that brought us to the situation that we find ourselves in today. None of those problems are addressed either at all or in a correct manner in the legislation that we see in the Senate right now.

Now is the time that we have an opportunity to do right for the American public. Now is the time we have an opportunity to do right for the economy. Now is the time we have an opportunity to create new jobs and new expansions in the economy, to make the economy of tomorrow better for businesses, for small community banks, for small communities across this country, for families as well. But we can only do that if we work in a truly bipartisan manner to go through the process and begin the discussions on what the root causes of these problems were and to come up with a no-bailout philosophy and approach to this that addresses the GSEs—Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac—that reins in the excessive powers of the Federal Reserve, and addresses the other concerns of job creation and the other concerns of regulation that I have addressed already this evening. If we do that, then we will be successful for this generation and generations to come.

I look forward to actually being able to get to that point in time. I look forward to hearing from the other side of the aisle and hearing from the Senate that the bill they are pushing right now, the Dodd-Frank-Obama bill, is being pulled and they are no longer going to force the votes, but instead they are willing to open up a true and honest dialogue to get the job done. When that time comes, I will be willing to work with them to accomplish that.

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

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. TOWNS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. TOWNS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, 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, May 4.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, May 4.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BILBRAY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, May 4.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 3253. An act to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reports that on April 26, 2010, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 4360. To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs blind rehabilitation center in Long Beach, California, as the Major Charles Robert Soltes, Jr., O.D. Department of Veterans Affairs Blind Rehabilitation Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, April 28, 2010, at 10 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Speaker-authorized official travel during the first and second quarters of 2010, pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO THAILAND, EXPENDED BETWEEN MAR. 27 AND APR. 2, 2010

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Lorraine C. Miller	3/27	4/2	Thailand	Baht	1,0720.00	Dollar	11,642.60				12,714.60
John V. Sullivan	3/27	4/2	Thailand	Baht	1,0720.00	Dollar	11,642.60				12,714.60
Thomas J. Wickham	3/27	4/2	Thailand	Baht	1,0720.00	Dollar	11,642.60				12,714.60
Tonya L. Spratt-Williams	3/27	4/2	Thailand	Baht	1,0720.00	Dollar	11,642.60				12,714.60

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

LORRAINE C. MILLER, Apr. 9, 2010.

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, KOSOVO, MACEDONIA, SERBIA, AND GERMANY, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 13 AND FEB. 22, 2010

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Earl Pomeroy	2/14	2/16	Bosnia and Herzegovina		268.00		4,260.00				4,528.00
John Lis	2/14	2/16	Bosnia and Herzegovina		518.00		9,275.00				9,793.00
Rachael Leman	2/14	2/16	Bosnia and Herzegovina		518.00		9,275.00				9,793.00
Hon. Earl Pomeroy	2/16	2/17	Kosovo		217.00						217.00
John Lis	2/16	2/17	Kosovo		217.00						217.00
Rachael Leman	2/16	2/17	Kosovo		217.00						217.00
Hon. Earl Pomeroy	2/17	2/18	Macedonia		299.00						299.00
John Lis	2/17	2/18	Macedonia		299.00						299.00
Rachael Leman	2/17	2/18	Macedonia		299.00						299.00
Hon. Earl Pomeroy	2/18	2/21	Serbia		671.00						671.00
John Lis	2/18	2/21	Serbia		1,171.00						1,171.00
Rachael Leman	2/18	2/21	Serbia		1,171.00						1,171.00
Hon. Earl Pomeroy	2/21	2/22	Germany		232.00						232.00
John Lis	2/21	2/22	Germany		232.00						232.00
Rachael Leman	2/21	2/22	Germany		232.00						232.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. EARL POMEROY, Apr. 13, 2010.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2010

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Bonnie Bruce	3/20	3/26	Qatar	3,582.00	984.49		7,934.70	7,200.00	1,979.65	10,782.00	10,898.84
Jean Flemma	3/20	3/26	Qatar	3,582.00	984.49		7,934.70	7,200.00	1,979.65	10,782.00	10,898.84
Committee total					1,968.98		15,869.40		3,959.30		21,797.68

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II, Chairman, Apr. 13, 2010.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2010

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ZOE LOFGREN, Chairman, Apr. 12, 2010.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7199. A letter from the Regulatory Analyst, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Swine Contract Library (RIN: 0580-AB06) received April 11, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7200. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Flumioxazin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0885; FRL-8810-3] received February 17, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7201. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Research and Development Contract Type Determination (DFARS Case 2006-D053) (RIN: 0750-AF'79) received March 26, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7202. A letter from the Principal Deputy, Department of the Navy, transmitting notice of cancellation of public-private competitions performed under the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 ''Performance of Commercial Activities''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7203. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the System's ''Major'' final rule — Electronic Fund Transfers [Regulation E; Docket No. R-1377] received April 13, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7204. A letter from the Chairman, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, transmitting the Commission's record of the public hearing on ''China's Activities in Southeast Asia and the Implications for U.S. Interests''; to the Committee on Financial Services.

7205. A letter from the Acting Scientific Director, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Annual Report on the National Institute of Child Health and

Human Development (NICHD) Division of Intramural Research for FY 2009; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7206. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's Vehicle Fleet Report on Alternative Fuel Vehicles for fiscal year 2009, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 13218; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7207. A letter from the Chief, Policy and Rules Division, OET, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Parts 25, 74, 78 and 101 of the Rules regarding Coordination between the Non-Geostationary and Geostationary Satellite Orbit Fixed-Satellite Service and Fixed, Broadcast Auxiliary and Cable Television Relay Services in the 7 GHz, 10 GHz and 13 GHz Frequency Bands [ET Docket No.: 03-254] received April 26, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7208. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting a legislative proposal to provide additional Flexibility to the Department of Energy Materials Protection, Control, and Accounting Program; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7209. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Oklahoma Regulatory Program [SATS No. OK-0320-FOR; Docket No. OSM-2008-0023] received April 6, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7210. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Corrections [Docket No.: 071220872-0093-04] (RIN: 0648-AS71 and 0648-AU71) received March 17, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7211. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Class E Airspace; Iliamna, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2009-1036; Airspace Docket No. 09-AAL-17] received April 26, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7212. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Hailey, ID [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0954; Airspace Docket No. 09-ANM-11] received April 26, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7213. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Model CL-600-2B19 (Regional Jet Series 100 & 440) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0656; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-038-AD; Amendment 39-16056; AD 2009-22-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 26, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7214. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Hawker Beechcraft Corporation Model G58 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-1176; Directorate Identifier 2009-CE-062-AD; Amendment 39-16226; AD 2010-06-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 26, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7215. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Low Altitude Area Navigation Route (T-284); Houston, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0878; Airspace Docket No. 09-ASW-7] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received April 13, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7216. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Killeen, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0928; Airspace Docket No. 09-ASW-28] received April 13, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7217. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Lampasas, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0925; Airspace Docket No. 09-ASW-25] received April 13, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7218. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Panama City, Tyndall AFB, FL [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0249; Airspace Docket No. 10-ASO-22] received April 13, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7219. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Quitman, GA [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0053; Airspace Docket No. 10-ASO-19] received April 13, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7220. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Mount Pleasnt, SC [Docket No.: FAA-2010-0069; Airspace Docket No. 10-ASO-15] received April 13, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7221. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Prohibited Area P-49; Crawford, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0921; Airspace Docket No. 09-AWA-3] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received April 13, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7222. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Extension of Compliance Date for Cockpit Voice Recorder and Digital Flight Data Recorder Regulations [Docket No.: FAA-2005-20245; Amendment No. 27-45, 29-52, 91-313, 121-349, 125-60 and 135-121] (RIN: 2120-AJ65) recieved April 13, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7223. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Luverne, MN [Docket No.: FAA-2009-1150; Airspace Docket No. 09-AGL-34] received April 13, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7224. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Notice of Availability of Class Deviation; Disputes Resolution Procedures Related to Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF and DWSRF, respectively) Reallocation Under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA) [FRL-9115-1] received February 17, 2010, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Transportation and Infrastructure.

7225. A letter from the Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's report on the Preliminary Damage Assessment information on FEMA-1874-DR for the Commonwealth of Virginia; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Homeland Security, and Appropriations.

7226. A letter from the Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's report on the Preliminary Damage Assessment information on FEMA-1875-DR for the State of Maryland; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Homeland Security, and Appropriations.

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:

Ms. SLAUGHTER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1300. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5013) to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for performance management of the defense acquisition system, and for other purposes (Rept. 111–467). Referred to the House Calendar.

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. DELAHUNT (for himself, Mr. ISSA, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Ms. RICHARDSON):

H.R. 5143. A bill to establish the National Criminal Justice Commission; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 5144. A bill to establish the Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area in the State of Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 5145. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the continuing professional education reimbursement provided to health professionals employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MITCHELL (for himself, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. TEAGUE, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. HOLT, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. HARE, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mrs. HALVORSON, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. HODES, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. ARCURI, Ms. KILROY, Mr. WALZ, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, Mr. BARROW, Mr. POLIS, Mr. KRATOVIL, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. DRIEHAUS, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr. HILL, Ms.

MATSUI, Mr. CHILDERS, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. MINNICK, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. COBLE, Mr. BRIGHT, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. SPACE, Mr. LANCE, Ms. GRANGER, Ms. JENKINS, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. FORBES, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. REHBERG, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

H.R. 5146. A bill to provide that Members of Congress shall not receive a cost of living adjustment in pay during fiscal year 2011; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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; considered and passed.

By Mr. OBERSTAR (for himself, Mr. MICA, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CAMP, Mr. COSTELLO, and Mr. PETRI):

H.R. 5147. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. CHAFFETZ, and Mrs. MALONEY):

H.R. 5148. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to clarify the instances in which the term ''census'' may appear on mailable matter; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BONNER:

H.R. 5149. A bill to extend Federal recognition to the Mowa Band of Choctaw Indians of Alabama, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CHILDERS:

H.R. 5150. A bill to restore Second Amendment rights in the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. FLAKE:

H.R. 5151. A bill to limit the amount which may be made available for the Members' Representational Allowance for fiscal year 2011, to prohibit the use of such Allowance for expenses of official mail of any material other than a document transmitted under the official letterhead of the Member involved, and to require the quarterly statement of costs incurred for official mail by offices of the House of Representatives to provide a separate breakdown of the costs incurred for each method of mass communication covered by the statement; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. GINGREY of Georgia (for himself, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. KINGSTON):

H.R. 5152. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to include the Wallis House and Harriston Hill, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN:

H.R. 5153. A bill to amend the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1999 to modify the boundary of the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in South Dakota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 5154. A bill to authorize public housing agencies to use public housing operating funds as collateral for financing energy conservation improvements and to freeze utility consumption levels for purposes of determining Operating Fund assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. JONES (for himself and Mr. ORTIZ):

H.R. 5155. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an aerial assessment of sea turtle populations in United States waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DINGELL, and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 5156. A bill to provide for the establishment of a Clean Energy Technology Manufacturing and Export Assistance Fund to assist United States businesses with exporting clean energy technology products and services; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 5157. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for the issuance of War on Debt Bonds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WILSON of Ohio:

H.R. 5158. A bill to require Federal contractors and subcontractors to comply with certain reporting requirements and transparency standards; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. HINCHEY (for himself, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. ARCURI, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. FARR, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. TANNER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. KILROY, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. TONKO, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. FILNER, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD):

H. Con. Res. 268. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Women's Health Week, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. PETERSON (for himself, Mr. LUCAS, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. KINGSTON, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. KRATOVIL, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. GRAVES, Mrs. LUMMIS, and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois):

H. Con. Res. 269. Concurrent resolution congratulating the outstanding professional public servants, both past and present, of the Natural Resources Conservation Service on the occasion of its 75th anniversary; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida:

H. Res. 1301. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Train Day; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CAO (for himself, Mr. HONDA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DENT, and Mr. CASSIDY):

H. Res. 1302. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Hepatitis Awareness Month and World Hepatitis Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida (for himself, Ms. WATSON, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. KIND, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. ENGEL):

H. Res. 1303. A resolution recognizing the close friendship and historical ties between the United Kingdom and the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. LINDER, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. BARROW, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia):

H. Res. 1304. A resolution honoring the members of the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team of the State of Georgia's Army National Guard for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States from 2009 to 2010; to the Committee on Armed Services.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

265. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, relative to House Resolution No. 6032 urging the United States Congress to select the Boeing NewGen Tanker; to the Committee on Armed Services.

266. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Maine, relative to House Joint Resolution 1303 urging the Congress of the United States to support a strong clean energy and climate bill; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 43: Mr. WEINER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 213: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan and Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 303: Mr. JONES, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. ALTMIRE.

H.R. 333: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas and Mr. SOUDER.

H.R. 616: Mr. TIAHRT.

H.R. 758: Ms. FUDGE, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 775: Mr. STARK.

H.R. 949: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. OLVER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. HARE.

H.R. 988: Mr. SHUSTER and Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 1074: Mr. BOSWELL and Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1079: Mr. MORAN of Kansas.

H.R. 1175: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 1430: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 1578: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 1587: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 1625: Mr. HOLDEN.

H.R. 1671: Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. KAGEN.

H.R. 1751: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Ms. HIRONO.

H.R. 1806: Mr. ORTIZ.
H.R. 2003: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 2016: Ms. WATSON.
H.R. 2067: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 2084: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 2104: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 2156: Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.
H.R. 2262: Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. HALL of New York, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mr. MCMAHON.
H.R. 2414: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. SCHRADER.
H.R. 2417: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H.R. 2455: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Sablan.
H.R. 2575: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 2597: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 2753: Mr. TIAHRT.
H.R. 2891: Mr. HEINRICH.
H.R. 2941: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 2987: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 3043: Ms. TITUS, Mr. MEEK of Florida, and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 3116: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 3185: Mr. HOLT, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 3212: Mr. COHEN and Mr. HODES.
H.R. 3339: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 3355: Mr. KLEIN of Florida.
H.R. 3393: Mr. NYE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. ROSS, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. KRATOVIL, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. POMEROY, and Mr. CHILDERS.
H.R. 3415: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 3421: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 3441: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 3594: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 3597: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 3668: Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 3706: Mr. HENSARLING.
H.R. 3734: Mr. BERMAN and Ms. FUDGE.
H.R. 3764: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PIERLUISI, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 4000: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4014: Mr. BERMAN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H.R. 4128: Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 4132: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 4219: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 4223: Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 4255: Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
H.R. 4296: Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 4303: Mr. STARK.
H.R. 4306: Mr. WALZ and Mr. AUSTRIA.
H.R. 4309: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 4320: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 4329: Mr. SHIMKUS.
H.R. 4502: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 4530: Mr. MOORE of Kansas and Mr. ARCURI.
H.R. 4544: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4593: Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 4638: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 4662: Mr. LATHAM, Ms. NORTON, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 4678: Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 4749: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 4751: Ms. BALDWIN and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 4759: Mr. SHULER.
H.R. 4800: Mr. NADLER of New York.
H.R. 4812: Mr. SALAZAR.
H.R. 4830: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. WU.
H.R. 4844: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 4850: Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, and Mr. ADLER of New Jersey.
H.R. 4856: Ms. HARMAN and Mr. MITCHELL.
H.R. 4866: Mr. AKIN and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
H.R. 4868: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 4870: Mr. FARR and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4914: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 4918: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 4919: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 4925: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. ARCURI.
H.R. 4943: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. INGLIS.
H.R. 4947: Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA and Mr. ARCURI.
H.R. 4953: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5012: Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 5015: Ms. BALDWIN and Mr. OLVER.
H.R. 5035: Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. SPACE, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. KRATOVIL, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 5040: Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 5044: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 5065: Mr. BONNER, Mr. LINDER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 5078: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 5085: Mr. LEE of New York and Mr. MURPHY of New York.
H.R. 5089: Mr. WILSON of Ohio and Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 5090: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5092: Mr. MICA, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KIRK, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mrs. BIGGERT.
H.R. 5111: Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. FORBES, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado.
H.R. 5138: Mr. MANZULLO and Mr. BILBRAY.
H.R. 5142: Mr. TEAGUE and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H. Con. Res. 16: Mr. CHAFFETZ.
H. Con. Res. 18: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H. Con. Res. 200: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. KAGEN.
H. Con. Res. 226: Mr. BISHOP of New York and Mr. MCNERNEY.
H. Con. Res. 240: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, and Mr. TIERNEY.
H. Con. Res. 260: Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. BARROW, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. TERRY, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. CARTER, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. CONAWAY.
H. Con. Res. 265: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H. Con. Res. 266: Mr. ACKERMAN and Mr. FLEMING.
H. Res. 407: Ms. DEGETTE and Ms. WATSON.
H. Res. 764: Mr. ROHRABACHER Mr. CHAFFETZ, and Mr. MCINTYRE.
H. Res. 767: Ms. HIRONO and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H. Res. 1033: Mr. CARNEY, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. COLE.
H. Res. 1073: Mr. ADERHOLT and Mr. PENCE.
H. Res. 1131: Mr. MICHAUD and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE Johnson of Texas.
H. Res. 1152: Mr. LYNCH.
H. Res. 1217: Mr. KING of New York, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. TONKO.
H. Res. 1224: Mr. STARK and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H. Res. 1229: Mr. CHAFFETZ.
H. Res. 1240: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. FUDGE, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H. Res. 1241: Mr. SOUDER.
H. Res. 1247: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. OLVER, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. FILNER, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SHULER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. COSTA, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. WOLF, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, and Mr. SKELTON.
H. Res. 1261: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H. Res. 1265: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H. Res. 1275: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H. Res. 1277: Mr. HOLT.
H. Res. 1279: Mr. AKIN.
H. Res. 1285: Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. LAMBORN, and Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H. Res. 1290: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. WATSON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H. Res. 1295: Mr. TERRY and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H. Res. 1297: Mr. ARCURI, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. ISSA, Mr. MINNICK, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. TANNER, Mr. TEAGUE, Mr. TERRY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. ADLER of New Jersey, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. SCHAUER, Mr. BOREN, Mr. JONES, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. KRATOVIL, Mr. BOCCIERI, Mr. COOPER, Mr. NYE, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. BOYD, Mr. WALDEN, and Mr. PERRIELLO.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

121. The SPEAKER presented a petition of City of Lauderdale Lakes, Florida, relative to Resolution No. 2010–05 calling upon the United States Conference of Mayors to adopt a plan for providing economic relief to the Nation of Haiti; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.