

treatment early, when it has the greatest potential for good.

The proposed cuts in H.R. 1 would eviscerate these life-saving services.

While these cuts to family planning were proposed under the guise of being “fiscally responsible,” that is far from the truth.

For every dollar invested in Title X family planning services, taxpayers save just under \$4. Cutting family planning is not fiscally responsible, and will not reduce the bottom line.

Moreover, this cut has nothing to do with ending funding for abortions, despite claims to the contrary. Title X family planning funds simply do not fund abortions. If we want to reduce the number of abortions in this country, the methodology is clear—empower women to prevent unintended pregnancies through education and access to contraception. And, that is precisely what family planning funding does.

In my home State of New York, cuts to Planned Parenthood would impact 209,410 patients. Just last year, Planned Parenthood provided 70,490 screenings for cervical cancer in New York, detecting 7,931 abnormal results requiring medical action. Another 67,957 women received breast exams. 138,501 tests for chlamydia helped to avert the leading cause of preventable infertility in America today. New Yorkers stand to lose valuable health services.

Instead of cutting vital health care services, we should focus on rebuilding our economy and creating jobs.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I strongly support the Blumenauer, Lowey, Markey amendment to restore our commitment to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Public broadcasting provides an essential service, providing millions of Americans with educational and cultural programming. In my district, and throughout the entire Washington, DC metropolitan region, we have been admirably served by public broadcasting stations like WETA on television and WAMU on the radio for many years.

Support for public broadcasting was first provided in 1967, and has been maintained for more than 40 years—it is an American institution. Whose children have not grown up learning their A,B,Cs from Sesame Street? Who has not enjoyed one of the many rich musical performances or riveting documentaries, including Ken Burns’ historic 1990 series on the American Civil War, and a recent series on America’s national parks, shown exclusively on PBS?

In America, unlike many countries around the world, the media industry always has been a completely commercial enterprise. Public

broadcasting was not designed to supplant private media—and given the explosion of private television channels it clearly has not. Instead it merely provides viewers with a broad selection of educational and cultural programs that are available for free in every household in every community. I myself did not subscribe to cable television until just a few years ago and routinely watched PBS using rabbit ears on my old television set. Millions of Americans choose PBS, and they support it with their own money by donating to local stations during pledge drives. This has been a successful partnership, leveraging public investment with private funds for decades. That’s why the proposed Republican cut is all the more surprising, given their alleged reverence for respecting the popular will expressed on You Cut. The number of Americans who support public broadcasting with their private contributions exceeds all of the participation in You Cuts by tens of multiples.

I recognize the need to control federal spending and reduce the deficit, and I support responsible reductions to that end. However, eviscerating public broadcasting is not responsible budgeting and flaunts any pretense of respect for popular support.

While less than twenty percent of its funding comes from the federal government, any reduction in support would result in significant degradation of the educational and cultural programming it provides. Public broadcasting is an extraordinarily cost-effective investment in America’s cultural and educational advancement. For more than 40 years, PBS has brought the world to our living rooms, regardless of our financial means or where we lived. A PBS is to broadcasting what the Internet is to the digital revolution, and like the Internet democratizes and makes universal access to information. We must not sever access to such a unifying public resource at the short-sighted altar of fiscal dogma. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Blumenauer, Lowey, Markey amendment. Support the American institution of Public Broadcasting.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Chair, I rise today to oppose the drastic and reckless cuts my colleagues in the Majority have included in H.R. 1. This legislation includes cuts that will destroy jobs, pollute our environment, damage our schools, threaten public safety and impact nearly every aspect of our economy. They will not strengthen our nation, they will negatively impact our natural resources and inhibit future generation’s ability to compete and innovate in the global economy.

Specifically, H.R. 1 would reduce NOAA’s operating budget by more than \$450 million

dollars, severely diminishing NOAA’s ability to protect marine ecosystems, manage our nation’s fisheries and provide weather monitoring data to weather sensitive industries. In addition, it will cut programs that provide life-saving services in every state and district. These irresponsible cuts will jeopardize thousands of jobs, threaten public safety and have lasting effects on our national and regional economies.

Of particular concern to coastal regions like Guam, are threats to coral reef ecosystems and the fisheries and tourism industries they support. The US commercial fisheries industry alone accounts for more than \$100 billion in annual sales and supports 1.5 million jobs, while the coastal recreation and tourism industry serves as one of the nation’s largest employers. These industries are critical to the long-term economic success of coastal regions however they are significantly threatened by coral reef degradation due to pollution, and climate change. Without healthy coral reefs, fishery levels plummet, and tourism declines.

Reducing NOAA’s operating budget will further jeopardize these important industries. Without sufficient funding, NOAA cannot adequately protect our coral reef resources and could be forced to reduce public access to National Marine Sanctuaries and other recreational areas. In addition, H.R. 1 would significantly deteriorate NOAA’s law enforcement abilities against illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing. The weakening of these programs would cause both immediate and long term job losses within the commercial fisheries and tourism industries. I strongly oppose all proposed cuts to NOAA’s operating budget, it is too important to our economy and preserving our marine resources for future generations.

Another reckless cut included in H.R. 1 is more than \$217 million to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). NIFA provides critical grants to universities around the nation, supporting food and agriculture research promoting economic growth and environmental protections. The research yields national value and is especially significant to food security, nutritional health, and increased agricultural production.

Specifically important to Guam, is the Tropical and Subtropical Research program, T-STAR. In 2010, the T-STAR program supported 46 research projects at the University of Florida, the University of Hawaii, the University of Puerto Rico, the University Guam, the University of the Virgin Islands, and at American Samoa Community College. These projects are critical to sustainable agriculture, pest control, and disease research. Funds provided by T-STAR are leveraged by a commitment of local resources, further improving public health, protecting agro-ecosystems, and saving taxpayer dollars over time. They offer a high yield on investment and funding for the NIFA and T-STAR programs should be made a priority. I strongly oppose the majority’s irresponsible cuts to these programs.