December 14, 2011

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H8915

this legislation directly helps by bringing more physicians to places like eastern Washington by providing creative avenues for funding our graduate medical education. It also helps solve the longer-term problem of too few doctors in rural areas, because studies show that, when people do their residencies in rural areas, because studies show that, when people do their residencies in rural areas, they’re more likely to practice in the rural areas.

I urge the support of this legislation, and I thank Mr. Thompson for joining me in introducing it.

RECENT OPPOSITION TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

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

Mr. Moran. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012, which we will be voting on today.

The bill is rife with provisions that are vital to our national defense, but it also includes provisions that present a false choice between our safety and our values.

Section 1021 would authorize the indefinite military detention of all terrorism suspects. Allowing the United States military to detain individuals, some of whom may be innocent, without charge or trial during this endless war on terrorism undermines our most defining principles as a Nation of individual freedom and justice for all.

Mr. Speaker, our civilian law enforcement agencies have proven themselves capable of apprehending, interrogating, and prosecuting terrorism suspects. In fact, civilian courts have overseen the successful prosecution of more than 400 terrorists—the military courts only six.

This Congress should not impose these law enforcement duties upon our troops. It is un-American and unconstitutional. We should reject the false choice between our short-term security and our long-term survival as the leader of the free world.

SUPPORT H.R. 1905, THE IRAQ THREAT REDUCTION ACT

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

Mr. Welch. I rise today in support of the Iran Threat Reduction Act.

Mr. Speaker, I believe in dialogue and I very much believe in diplomacy; but despite an unprecedented effort by President Obama in his speech to the Iranian people for outreach, the Iranian Government was unreciprocal in any kind of response. Instead, what we’ve seen is that they are pursuing the development of nuclear weapons full speed ahead. Last month, the International Atomic Energy Agency further confirmed in a report detailing efforts by the Iranian Government Iran’s nuclear aspirations to acquire the skills needed to weaponize highly enriched uranium.

This is extremely dangerous. Iran has had a longstanding relationship with Hezbollah, which continues to condone violence as a political tactic; and Iran is continuing to be the major bulwark of support for the brutal crackdown by the Syrian Government on the democratic aspirations of its people.

I urge my colleagues to support the Iran Threat Reduction Act.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 493 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk reads the resolution, as follows:

H. Res. 493
Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report accompanying the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the conference report to its adoption without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate; and (2) one motion to recommit if applicable.

SEC. 2. It shall be in order at any time through the remainder of the first session of the One Hundred Twelfth Congress for the Speaker to entertain motions to reconsider the conference report rule and other end-of-the-year housekeeping provisions.

H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, has been considered in committee. It was debated on the House floor. It included 152 amendments made in order before passing this Chamber, and that was done in May with an overwhelming and bipartisan majority. It went through the Senate. And now we bring to you today a bipartisan conference report.

I have to commend the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. McKeon), as well as the ranking member, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Smith), for truly continuing the tradition of bipartisanship and mutual cooperation in the Armed Services Committee and in this particular bill.

There are some in Congress who have a reputation of being somewhat contentious and partisan, sometimes deservedly so. However, I have been a member of the Armed Services Committee myself for several years, and I recognize that they clearly understand Article I of the Constitution, which requires a common defense of our country; and in that particular committee, bipartisanship really has been checked at the door regarding the product of the Armed Services Committee, which is this annual Defense Authorization bill.

In its essence, I think the process has been good, the efforts have been good, and it has made a significant issue that we are bringing here to the floor ready to pass in its final version from the Senate, the conference committee. There are significant underlying issues that I think we will talk about during the course of the discussion on the rule and perhaps on the bill as well, but those things, I think, will be handled as they appear at a particular time.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I thank my friend from Utah for yielding the