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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YODER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 23, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KEVIN YODER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Pastor Frank Hampton, Jr., Church of God, Jackson, Michigan, offered the following prayer:

Our Father in Heaven, we are eternally grateful for the opportunity to approach Your throne as we open this session of Congress in prayer.

We pray for Your particular blessings on those in authority. Please give them guidance, the understanding to recognize the gravity of their responsibilities, and the courage to be unwilling to compromise integrity and moral convictions for any political advantage.

Lord, we are cumbered with critical issues and we are exhausting our resources. In this time of chaos and confusion, we need Your mercy and divine assistance as no other time in our Nation's history. And You said, if we would acknowledge You in all our ways, You would direct our path.

Although circumstances are mounting, Your Word gives us hope. It says, "If My people, which are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

So Lord, at this time we are honestly appealing to Thee in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. CICILLINE 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.

WELCOMING PASTOR FRANK HAMPTON, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Michi-

gan (Mr. WALBERG) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. WALBERG. Pastor Frank Hampton, Jr., has been praying over his congregation at the Church of God in Jackson, Michigan, since 1967. Today, it's an honor to have him praying over the U.S. House of Representatives.

Back in Michigan, Pastor Hampton has lived, worked, and served the Jackson community for over 45 years and is a well-respected man of God. Local business owners, elected officials, and pastors from around the country seek his counsel on matters of faith and life itself. I'm grateful for the opportunity to learn from his wisdom and to call him my friend.

I first met Pastor Hampton in 2003 and admire him for his sincere faith and heart of service. His impact has been long and consistent, whether in his church, community, the family barbershop, or his ministry to prisoners in the court system. Pastor Hampton's influence has extended beyond the State of Michigan, speaking at venues in Panama, the Cayman Islands, Honduras, Haiti, and Jamaica.

I sincerely appreciate Pastor Hampton's presence today and his thoughtful prayer. My hope is that Pastor Hampton will continue to have many opportunities to share his faith and uphold this great country in prayer.

May God bless you and all the work you do.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 5 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

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

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



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H2915

**IT'S TIME TO BUILD THE
KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE**

(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, for over 1,700 days, the administration has delayed the Keystone XL pipeline application. According to a recent Pew Research poll, two-thirds of the American people from both political parties support the project. Last night, there was a bipartisan vote to promote the pipeline from Canada, America's best energy partner. The completion of the Keystone XL pipeline will create 120,000 jobs and produce 830,000 barrels of oil each day, helping to grow our economy.

Two years ago, I had the opportunity to visit Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada, and I witnessed firsthand the Canadian oil sands and positive impact that exploration has for American families. In South Carolina's Second Congressional District, companies like Michelin Tire Corporation of Lexington and MTU Detroit Diesel of Aiken County will create jobs due to Keystone's production.

As the American people and a bipartisan Congress support it, let's create jobs and build the Keystone pipeline.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Our sympathy goes to our British allies in this war who were cowardly attacked at the Royal Artillery Barracks in London yesterday.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF RECENT TORNADO IN OKLAHOMA

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sympathies for the victims of this week's tornado in Moore, Oklahoma, and the surrounding area. I want to especially pay my respects to my colleagues, Congressmen TOM COLE and JAMES LANKFORD, and their constituents as they begin the difficult work of rebuilding their community following this natural disaster. All of us in this Chamber mourn today for the 24 individuals who were killed, including 9 children, 7 of whom died in their local elementary school. Our thoughts and prayers remain with them and their families.

In the face of such loss, we ask how so many American lives could be taken so quickly. But as we have in the past, through scores of other natural disasters, our country will get through this difficult time, confident in our capacity to persevere through any trial and committed to doing all that we can to help each other. If the spirit of America, in one Nation, indivisible, means anything at all, it means all of us will

come together to help Oklahomans through this difficult and painful time.

On behalf of all of the residents of Rhode Island's First Congressional District, I offer my thoughts and prayers to the people of Oklahoma.

PASS THE FARM BILL

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

Mrs. NOEM. Today, I rise in support of passing a 5-year farm bill for rural and urban America. The House Agriculture Committee acted last week to pass a bipartisan farm bill by a vote of 36-10. It saves nearly \$40 billion and makes substantial reforms to the food stamp program and farm programs. The bill eliminates direct payments and consolidates many of the conservation programs. Through this, it also saves money but promotes a strong safety net in a way that is accountable to taxpayers.

We recognize that the agriculture community will take some cuts, given our Nation's fiscal situation, but we need to continue to support good policies that support our ability to grow our own food in this country. The farm bill we passed out of the committee represents the first reforms to the food stamp program since 1996. We've put a lot of work into this reform and making sure the money goes exactly where it's needed. It closes loopholes in order to crack down on waste, fraud, and abuse. The reforms we make ensure that we can keep integrity in the program. It ensures assistance goes to those who need it most.

I believe we need to hold the Federal Government accountable to the taxpayers, and this bill is a step in the right direction. Our number one industry in South Dakota is agriculture. I'm proud of the families in my State that have dedicated their lives to growing our food.

□ 0910

JOBS

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this week, the class of 2013 graduates from college. This Congress is offering them a terrible graduation present. The bill we're voting on today would increase the long-term cost of student loans in order to pay for a budget deficit that college students did not create. But worse, this Congress is doing absolutely nothing to address the core challenge in their lives: jobs, jobs, jobs.

The class of 2013 is entering the most difficult job market of any graduating class in memory. Many who have the good fortune to receive jobs will not be using their university-level skills or earning a living wage.

It has been 872 days since I arrived in Congress, and not one vote on jobs. Mr.

Speaker, for the sake of the class of 2013, I urge you to bring the American Jobs Act to the floor for a vote. It deserves a vote. Our mantra should be: jobs, jobs, jobs.

ENERGY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as House Republicans continue to get to the bottom of what happened last September in Benghazi, it's important to bear in mind how events around the world affect such things as your family's gas bill here at home.

We import a lot of our energy in this country—that's a fact. It's just a natural part of our global economy. But considering how volatile things can get elsewhere in the world, wouldn't it be a good idea to develop as much energy as we can right here at home? You'd think that would be a commonsense idea, but apparently it hasn't occurred to the Democrats who run Washington.

The Keystone XL pipeline, for instance, would be able to transport 830,000 barrels of oil per day. That's about half the oil the U.S. imports from the Middle East.

The more energy we can produce right here in America, the more jobs and more secure future we create. It's time for the President to approve this pipeline.

STUDENT LOAN BILL

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

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of affordable student loans for America's students.

I attended California's public schools from kindergarten through undergrad, through medical school. I could afford to go because of Federally funded student loans. My country made an investment in me, and we need to make that same investment in the next generation of students.

Yesterday, I offered an amendment to the Rules Committee, and they rejected it. This amendment would have made student loans more affordable for today's students. That's what we have to do, invest in the next generation.

Unfortunately, the bill that is coming to the floor today is going to make college less affordable for the next generation. We must make education more accessible. Vote "no" on the Making College More Expensive Act.

**FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS LEGAL
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT**

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1910, the bipartisan Foreign Manufacturers Legal Accountability Act, which I've introduced

this term with Representative MIKE TURNER of Ohio. This is a bill that will help level the playing field for American manufacturers and retailers and protect American consumers.

Current law allows foreign companies selling defective products in the United States to dodge service of process, and they do. When a foreign company does that, it puts all of the burden on American retailers to account for any harm that is caused because of the defective product. That is not fair to American companies, and it's not fair to American citizens.

This bill streamlines service rules so foreign companies selling products here in America can be served with process here in America.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Members to support H.R. 1910. Let's make sure that everyone benefiting from the American marketplace plays by American rules.

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, May is Mental Health Month—has been and will continue to be. It is an opportunity to raise awareness and encourage others to get help and to recognize the symptoms and warning signs of mental health issues.

There is a lot of stigma. We must accept it as an illness. We've got to reduce that stigma. We must expand mental health services and give it the parity needed because it does not know boundaries. It affects everybody in every segment of our communities.

It is all right. It's okay to ask for help and learn to recognize the symptoms and to learn about the service providers in your area. We must expand more mental health services to our community. We need it for the military, because one in five suffer from major depression or PTSD.

Youth—suicide, the third leading cause of death; second for college students. School-based mental health services are greatly needed for early intervention. Minority communities—Native Americans highest ethnicity for suicide.

Mental health services must be provided in languages also.

Thank you to the mental health professionals, the 500,000 licensed certified professional counselors that work for us and throughout the United States. Thank you, President Obama, first U.S. President to declare May Mental Health Month.

SMARTER SOLUTIONS FOR STUDENTS ACT

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

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1911, the Smarter Solutions for Students Act.

Ever since 2006, student loan interest rates have been set by Congress

through legislation. As I'm sure all of us remember, about 1 year ago we were affected by the artificially low interest rates that were ready to expire. But instead of finding a viable solution, Congress temporarily extended the rates and put off a permanent decision for another year.

Now, here we are again. And if we do nothing, we will be here in the same exact place again with the fight again at the expense of our college students. Congress should not be in the business of setting interest rates, and H.R. 1911 fixes this problem and prevents Congress from playing political games with our young Americans' future.

The college experience has always been a large part of the American Dream. We want the best for our children. We want them to have the opportunity to pursue a college education and create a better life for themselves. We owe it to our younger generation. We owe it to those high school seniors. And I believe that this bill will take care of that issue.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1911, SMARTER SOLUTIONS FOR STUDENTS ACT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 232 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 232

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1911) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish interest rates for new loans made on or after July 1, 2013. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-12 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. In the engrossment of H.R. 1911, the Clerk shall—

(a) await the disposition of H.R. 1949; (b) add the text of H.R. 1949, as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 1911;

(c) conform the title of H.R. 1911 to reflect the addition of the text of H.R. 1949, as passed by the House, to the engrossment;

(d) assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment; and (e) conform cross-references and provisions for short titles within the engrossment.

SEC. 3. On any legislative day during the period from May 24, 2013, through May 31, 2013—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 4. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 5. The Committee on Appropriations may, at any time before 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29, 2013, file privileged reports to accompany measures making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014.

SEC. 6. The Committee on Agriculture may, at any time before 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29, 2013, file a report to accompany H.R. 1947.

□ 0920

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 232 provides for a closed rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1911, the Smarter Solutions for Students Act.

As many of us know, on July 1, today's 3.4 percent subsidized Stafford loan interest rate is set to double to 6.8 percent for millions of current students, all because elected officials made a promise they couldn't afford to keep for the long haul. Student borrowers shouldn't have to ride the roller coaster of political largess, wondering every year whether Congress will intervene in time to keep their student loan rates low. And taxpayers shouldn't be expected to foot the bill whenever Members of Congress promise more than they can deliver.

For the sake of students, families, and taxpayers, before July 1 we need to move our Federal student loan programs away from politics. Student loan rates should not be subject to the whims of Washington or seized as bargaining chips.

The Smarter Solutions for Students Act will remove politics, uncertainty, and confusion from the rate-setting equation and instead anchor student loan interest rates on the 10-year Treasury note, not just for 4 years, but for good. By tying rates to the market, the Smarter Solutions for Students Act establishes a predictable rate for loan calculation insulated from the politics and posturing of Washington.

House Republicans aren't alone in finding the answer for predictability in

the market. President Obama offered a similar market-based interest rate plan in his 2014 budget proposal, and some of my colleagues across the aisle have voiced openness to utilizing the market to set interest rates as well.

In developing this legislation, the committee has attempted to build on this common ground and work in good faith with the administration to improve the Smarter Solutions for Students Act and get it to the President's desk by July 1. Students, families, and taxpayers deserve a long-term solution, not more can-kicking from Washington. The Smarter Solutions for Students Act puts an end to the temporary fixes and campaign promises that have failed to deliver the best rates to students.

This legislation offers predictability, simplicity, and the ability for students to take advantage of low rates, even after graduation, a need particularly acute in today's jobless economy. The American people deserve the clarity, certainty, and protection the Smarter Solutions for Students Act offers.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the rule and the underlying bill.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from North Carolina for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On July 1, interest rates on federally subsidized Stafford student loans will double from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. At a time, as everybody said this morning, when job prospects for students remain few and far between, we must not—or should not—let student loan interest rates rise.

That is why it's so disappointing that instead of helping the college students, the majority is doing "go-nowhere" legislation—because the Senate will not take this up—that would actually increase loan costs for the Nation's students.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, a student who borrows the maximum subsidized Stafford loans for each of the next 4 years would actually pay \$1,056 more under the majority's plan than they would if Congress failed to act and interest rates doubled. That's a rather sobering idea.

This is just the latest example of putting politics and special interests ahead of the American people. As we speak, the majority is preventing a budget from being finalized even though they have been calling for a budget for years.

Currently, both the House and the Senate have passed the budget resolutions, which means the only step left—and everybody who knows how a bill is passed knows this—the only step left is to organize a conference committee to finalize the conference report; yet the majority of the House refuses to appoint conferees and begin the conference process.

Now, why is the majority suddenly abandoning their quest to produce a budget? Is it because their desire for a budget is nothing more than to make political points?

It is clear the majority is consistently choosing to put political interests before the welfare of the Nation, even if it means that the American people will and are suffering. This obstructionism must come to an end.

I urge my colleagues, once again, to reject today's rule and the underlying legislation that will never go past the House so that we can get busy solving the American student loan debt crisis in a bipartisan way. Let's protect our Nation's students from a doubling of student loan interest rates and work together to craft a solution that will end the growing mountain of student debt and ensure college is more affordable for our Nation's students. Our Nation's future depends on it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

It's important to remember how we landed in this predicament to begin with. Why are we now facing this student loan interest rate cliff?

In a push to win votes during the 2006 campaign cycle, Democrats pledged to cut student loan interest rates in half across the board permanently. After gaining control of Congress in 2007, they realized this campaign promise was far too expensive. Instead, they championed legislation to phase down gradually the interest rate on one type of Federal student loan—subsidized Stafford loans made to undergraduates—from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent over 4 years. Once the law expired in 2012, the interest rates would jump back up to 6.8 percent.

Instead of working with Republicans on responsible solutions that would help make higher education more affordable for students in the long run, the Democrat Congress chose to make false promises to borrowers and kick the can down the road.

Democrats had an opportunity to fix this problem. In 2009, they passed the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, which produced large budgetary savings by eliminating the private sector loan program. "Savings" should be in quotation marks, Mr. Speaker. But instead of making good on their campaign promises of lower student loan interest rates, Democrats spent all of the funds on other pet projects, including siphoning \$8 billion from Federal student aid programs to pay for ObamaCare.

It is time for a long-term solution that gets politicians out of the business of setting student loan interest rates. That is why Republicans approved a 1-year extension of the 3.4 percent interest rate last year to allow time to work on a comprehensive solution. The Smarter Solutions for Students Act is the result of our efforts.

□ 0930

Republicans and Democrats should come together to pass this legislation

and ensure students and families don't have to worry about politicians setting arbitrary interest rates or kicking the can down the road for years to come.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California, the ranking member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, (Mr. MILLER).

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for her work on this rule last night in the committee.

It has already been said that, in a little more than a month, the interest rates on loans for millions of the neediest students will double to 6.8 percent from the current 3.4 percent. This morning, unfortunately, the Republican majority has put forth a bill that is even worse than if the Congress does nothing.

Think about it. If Congress does nothing, the interest rates go from 3.4 percent for those most in need of the student loans, for those families most in need to finance their educations, and will jump on July 1 to 6.8 percent. We're trying to avoid that because we know what that means to students who have to borrow money and families who have to borrow money to try to pay for their college educations.

What's the remedy of the Republicans?

The remedy of the Republicans is to do something that is worse than letting the interest rates double. Understand that. They've made a choice that's worse than if the interest rates double. It's no wonder that, beyond the Republican caucus, it's very hard to find anybody who is supporting this legislation. In fact, yesterday, the President said, if this bill is sent to his desk—I hope it will not be—that he will veto it.

Why would we do that?

Because it's very clear that this is going to add \$4 billion to the debt of our students who Members of Congress lament are so deeply in debt because of the money they have to borrow that goes to education. It's not necessarily a choice for students or families if you want to get a college education, but why would you add \$4 billion onto the backs of these students and their families?

Now, the majority had a number of alternatives last night in the Rules Committee. Mr. COURTNEY went there and said, We'll pay for it. We'll raise additional revenues to keep it at 3.4 percent. Then the Education and the Workforce Committee of this House can do its job, which is to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, and we can put in place a long-term program for helping families finance their educations. We have to also understand that we've got to do something about

the State support and the cost of college at the institutional level, but they turned Mr. COURTNEY down.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I offered to have the Obama amendment made in order, the legislation by President Obama, which actually saves students about \$30 billion in interest rates over the next 6 years. It saves students and families over \$30 billion. They wouldn't make that amendment in order.

Mr. HECK of Nevada came before them and said, Why don't we do like the market does? If you pay your loan on time for 4 years, we'll provide you an incentive to continue to be a good payer of your loan—important to the Treasury, important to the students' credit ratings. Let's try that. They turned Mr. HECK down.

Mr. RICE came before the committee, the gentleman from South Carolina, and he said he would like to reduce the interest rates. He understands what students and families are struggling with. They turned him down. They turned down every attempt to try to help students and families.

I appreciate people talking about being through the recession. Well, let me tell you, for a lot of middle-income families, they're not through the recession yet. They've still lost the equity in their homes. They still have their credit problems. But do you know what? Recession or no recession, their kids are graduating from high school, and they want them to go to college. What the hell is this Congress doing making it more difficult for those kids to go to college? But that's the choice the Republicans have given us.

I would hope on a bipartisan basis we would reject this effort and that we would go to work on legislation that is long term, that's in the interest of the students, and stop crushing the aspirations of these families and these students, which this legislation does. It should be rejected. This isn't an interest in the market rates. This is using the market to crush these families by extracting billions of additional dollars off of their school loans.

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

Mr. Speaker, in my career before coming to Congress, I was the director of an Upward Bound special services program. I was an adviser for students at Appalachian State University. I was the president of a community college. For all of my life, I have devoted my time to helping students—particularly disadvantaged students—who wanted to go to college, who wanted to do the same kind of thing that I did as a disadvantaged person, and that is to get a great education and use that education to better my life.

I am offended that my colleagues would say that what I want to do is to stop people from going to college or to

hinder them in any way from achieving the American Dream. My whole goal all my life has been to help other people, particularly young people, and I believe my experience shows that.

So, Mr. Speaker, that's not what this bill is about. This bill is about taking away the arbitrary control of Members of Congress who think of themselves as smarter than everybody else in the world, and it is about allowing the market to work.

The current Federal loan program is broken. An overwhelming majority of students are stuck with interest rates on loans that do not match the current low interest rate environment because of failed Democrat campaign promises to cut student loan interest rates in half permanently. These students are also often confused about why most of their Federal loans are fixed at nearly 7 percent when the market rate is much lower, and they question why each type of student loan has a different rate. To put it simply, student borrowers are getting a raw deal, and they know it.

Under the legislation, student loan interest rates would reset once a year and move with the market, much like they did from 1992 to 2006. This bill is the only viable plan on the table that is fiscally responsible, that helps students and protects taxpayers. We should pass this bill immediately. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the proposal does not cost any additional revenue to implement over the next 5 or 10 years.

H.R. 1911 will provide stability and certainty for students making decisions about how to finance their post-secondary education. They will be assured year after year that the interest rate on their student loans will be similar to market conditions, and they won't have to wonder whether Congress is going to make arbitrary changes to interest rates. The bill offers students the ability to take advantage of interest rates when they're low, and it protects them with affordable caps in high-rate environments. The bill continues current law in which students have the option to consolidate their loans after graduation and to lock in a fixed interest rate for the life of the loan. Mr. Speaker, these are common-sense provisions that will benefit student borrowers greatly.

The legislation also ensures students can continue to take advantage of a number of generous Federal repayment options and debt management programs available to help those experiencing difficulty in repaying their loans. For example, students can enter one of the income-based repayment plans that caps their monthly payments at affordable levels and provides forgiveness after 20 or 25 years. For students in the public sector, the program allows loan forgiveness after 10 years. The Smarter Solutions for Students Act is a long-term, comprehensive solution that gets Washington politicians out of setting interest rates

on Federal loans, and it will better serve the interest of students. We should pass this rule and the underlying bill now.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. I thank the gentlelady for yielding time, and I thank her for her leadership on this issue and here in the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the rule for H.R. 1911. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this rule to prevent this flawed legislation from moving forward.

We have a student loan debt crisis to be sure, but this is not the solution. A free market approach will not solve this problem, and Mr. MILLER was so accurate in his statement just a moment ago. For my constituents in eastern North Carolina, paying for higher education has never been more difficult.

□ 0940

I represent a very low-income district. One in four people in my district lives below the poverty level. While the economy is recovering, my region's 8.9 percent unemployment rate remains higher than the national average. At the same time, the cost to attend our colleges and universities has been steadily increasing. The cost to attend college is 1,100 percent more expensive than it was 30 years ago. Access to affordable Federal student aid can be the difference between constituents attending college or not.

Just last year, despite strong opposition from Republicans, Congress voted to continue to keep interest rates on federally funded Stafford loans at 3.4 percent, instead of doubling to 6.8 percent. If those rates had doubled, Mr. Speaker, more than 7 million students each would be saddled with an average of \$1,000 in additional debt. Once again, the rates are set to double on July 1 unless we act.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this rule and this misguided approach. This legislation would tie loan interest rates to the 10-year Treasury note but require that rates adjust each year. That variability, Mr. Speaker, would lead to higher interest rates and increase the debt our students face. In fact, the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service indicates that students will pay more than if interest rates were to double. Mr. MILLER was absolutely correct in that assertion. That's right: passing this rule and this bill would be worse than doing nothing at all.

This bill is a step in the wrong direction and will saddle students and families with unnecessary debt.

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

During the 2006 election cycle, Democrats made student borrowers a promise they did not keep. As a result, interest rates on student loans are set to

double in a matter of weeks. The Smarter Solutions for Students Act will provide student borrowers with the certainty and stability they need to finance their education.

Today's graduates are facing severe economic headwinds that make finding a job, repaying student loans, and starting a family extremely difficult. These students want nothing more than the opportunity to earn their own success. That's the American Dream. But for many of them, that dream seems hopelessly out of reach. We can do better, Mr. Speaker.

The overall unemployment rate is 7.5 percent. That's hardly better than the day President Obama took office. Twelve million Americans are unemployed and anxious to get back to work, and 7.9 million Americans are underemployed.

According to the Joint Economic Committee, the slight decline in the unemployment rate is largely a mirage created by declining labor force participation. If the labor force participation rate had not declined since January 2009, the unemployment rate would be 10.9 percent instead of 7.5 percent. As we all know, this is well above the officially reported rate and the stimulus promise of 5.1 percent.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of involuntary part-time workers increased in April by 278,000 to 7.9 million. These are people working part time because their hours were cut back or because they are unable to find a full-time job.

There were 835,000 so-called "discouraged workers" in April alone. Discouraged workers are those "persons not currently looking for work because they believe no jobs are available for them."

Mr. Speaker, these people aren't just jobless; they're hopeless and they deserve better. It's time to get America working again. But the failed policies of President Obama and Senate Democrats—higher taxes, more spending, and bigger government—are designed to continue to fail to create jobs or spur economic growth. The effects of President Obama's runaway spending, spiraling deficits, and mounting debt are being felt by every American.

When President Obama took office, there were 31.9 million Americans using food stamps. Today, 47.3 million Americans use food stamps. That's an increase of 15.4 million people. Today, 15 percent of the entire U.S. population receives food stamp assistance. That is, by far, the largest number in history.

Mr. Speaker, the policies of this administration are taking us in the wrong direction. The Republicans are focused on creating jobs and making things better for all Americans, and we need to pay attention to those policies. We can pass this rule, pass this bill, and get us going in the right direction for college students.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentle-

woman from the State of Washington (Ms. DELBENE).

Ms. DELBENE. I want to thank the gentlewoman for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose this rule and discuss the importance of protecting college affordability.

One of my top priorities is to ensure that all students have the opportunity to get a high quality education and acquire the skills needed to compete in the 21st century economy.

I know personally how important this is. When I was young, my father lost his job and my parents never got back on track financially. But thanks to student loans and financial aid, I was able to get a great education and build a successful career as a businesswoman and entrepreneur.

I'm very disappointed that the proposal we are considering today makes college more expensive. If we did nothing and let interest rates double in July, we would actually save students more money in the future than if we pass the underlying bill. It's incredibly disappointing that in our work to make college more affordable, this bill instead makes the problem worse.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this rule so we can work together on a long-term solution that supports our students and their families.

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

In my last comments, I talked about statistics and the effect of the policies of this administration. These statistics ultimately say the same thing: the Obama economy is making life more difficult for all Americans, especially young people.

Fortunately, House Republicans have a plan to restore economic growth and spur job creation so that graduating students can find employment.

Job creators are being stymied by mountains of regulatory red tape, crippling tax rates, a perplexing Tax Code, needlessly high energy prices, and rampant uncertainty caused by the President's failed leadership. Mr. Speaker, there is a better way.

House Republicans are hard at work passing legislation to help grow the economy and create jobs. Our goal is to tear down the barriers to job creation and unleash the power of American ingenuity so that today's graduates can prosper and succeed and achieve the American Dream.

As part of this plan, we're working diligently to make life easier for student borrowers, cut job-killing red tape that costs small businesses \$10,585 per employee each year, reduce gas prices, and create jobs by producing more American energy, which is important since every penny increase per gallon of gas costs consumers \$4 million per day. We also need to simplify a job-killing Tax Code that cost Americans \$168 billion in 2010 just to comply, prevent job-killing tax hikes on small businesses, and reduce uncertainty by tackling the debt crisis with responsible spending cuts.

The Republican plan will demolish Washington's self-made roadblocks to prosperity and put American job creators back on offense.

The trick to growing our economy is getting politicians out of the way and letting American workers and entrepreneurs do what they do best: create shared prosperity through freedom and innovation. The Smarter Solutions for Students Act is an important part of this plan. I urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying bill.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR).

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. I thank my colleague, the ranking member of the Rules Committee, for yielding the time and for being a consistent voice on behalf of families and students across America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Republicans' Making College More Expensive Act and the rule, and I rise on behalf of students all across America, particularly back home in Florida and in the Tampa Bay area.

□ 0950

Mr. Speaker, we know that a college education is key to success in life, and that the rising costs of attending college can be an impediment to a student's ability to get into the classroom and get the courses that they need.

About 10 days ago, I was at Tampa's Robinson High School talking with graduating seniors, and they implored me to please stand up for them and be a voice because they see the direct connection on the money that their families have to spend and on their ability to attend college. That is why this Republican Making College More Expensive Act would be so detrimental to the future of our country and to those families and students that really want to get ahead in life.

For example, the GOP's bill is projected to nearly double student loan rates by 2016, and by the time next year's freshmen graduate and start repaying their loans in 2017, the interest rate is expected to more than double beyond today's current rate.

So I think about the 34,000 students in my district who rely on loans, whether they're at Hillsborough Community College, St. Pete College, the University of South Florida, the University of Tampa, or wherever. This Congress has got to stand up for families and students for a change.

So I urge my Republican friends to cross over and join us and to block this student loan increase that the Republican leadership is proposing, side with students and families, oppose the rule and oppose the bill.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady from New York, a good friend; and I rise in opposition to the rule and the underlying bill. This comes down to an important question of American domestic policy: how important is it to us as a country to make college possible and accessible for students so they can improve their lives and improve our country.

Some of the great historic moments of American policy, the creation of the land grant colleges, the GI Bill, providing student loans, were directed toward increasing access to higher education. And today, the House will vote on a bill that would reverse decades of progress. It would, in effect, transform the Federal Government into a greedy Wall Street bank, charging students punitive and wildly variable interest rates while banking billions in profits. Yes, the government would reap profits derived from students and recent students.

The authors of this bill see this as government revenue. Instead of collecting taxes, they do it through a back door, trying to pay down the deficit on the backs of students.

So today we have a choice: Do we make college more expensive for our low-income and middle class students? For me, the clear answer is "no." It's wrong. It's shortsighted. It's not right for students. It's not right for families, and it's not right for our economy.

The Rules Committee could have given us a bill to lock in low rates for student loans, in the national interest, not to collect interest from students. But instead, they want to balance the budget on the backs of students and recent students.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, my colleague is accusing Republicans of increasing taxes on students. That is a laughable accusation, especially when you look at the number of proposed tax increases included in the Democrat budget resolution. It's almost as disingenuous as their calling for dedicating the 10-year savings generated by the underlying bill to higher education. After all, in 2010, House Democrats passed the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, SAFRA, which included language that put \$13 billion in savings toward deficit reduction. In the final version of SAFRA, Democrats siphoned approximately \$9 billion of the \$19 billion in savings to pay for ObamaCare. The rest of those savings went to deficit reduction.

The Smarter Solutions for Students Act is a fiscally responsible plan that generates a small amount of savings based on CBO estimates. It stabilizes Federal loan programs for future generations of students and gets Washington out of the business of setting student loan interest rates.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentlelady from New York and the gentlelady from North Carolina. I thank the gentlelady from New York for her persistent leadership on this issue.

I rise today to first ask the question how you can have legislation that sounds positive, but in actuality literally puts the education system of America upside down.

First, let me tell you how frustrated Americans are as they see the drip, drip, dripping of the sequester; and I join the gentlelady in her frustration on why we have not gone to budget reconciliation. I just want to mention the pathway of education so we can see that families are being pounded upon. Sequestration is causing 70,000 children to lose Head Start and Early Head Start. And, unfortunately, 950,000 military children will lose teachers. I live in a State where we have a lot of military bases.

So when I rise today to oppose H.R. 1911, I rise with a high degree of overwhelming frustration for the people who live in my State. I am sorry that this rule did not accept an amendment that I had that would have submitted a report to Congress on the feasibility of offering loan forgiveness for those who put businesses in economically depressed areas. That truly provides for jobs.

But then the real thing is to cap the interest rates at 4 percent. As was indicated by my colleague, Mr. HOLT, he indicated how the numbers would go up for the students. Well, let me talk to you about Parent PLUS. Now, you can really see the oppression on parents who are trying to help their children go to school. In addition to the \$100 billion of debt that students are carrying, we now eliminate the feasibility of Parent PLUS loans. Right now in current law, they're \$27,956. But if we go into this bill, they'll go up to almost \$36,000. Imagine a parent with four children.

I've spoken in the last couple of weeks at the University of Houston-Downtown, the University of Houston, Texas Southern University, Houston Community College. I've spoken at Lone Star colleges, all of these colleges in our districts, St. Thomas.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. All of this does not answer the question when this bill will be passed. I ask my colleagues to oppose the rule, oppose the underlying bill. Cap this. This is not the President's message. The President had an extended life to be able to provide for parents and students. All you have to do is look at the red—\$36,000 is what this bill is going to cost parents, and that means that we're going to close the door of opportunity for women, for minorities, and for Americans to get a higher education.

This is not the way in graduation season to say thank you to our children for being successful and graduating from college. Let's oppose this bill and do the right thing for Americans.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I'll continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS), a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

(Mr. ANDREWS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from New York for giving me the time.

We approach July 1 with a problem where if the Congress does nothing, interest rates will double on student loans from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. There are three options that are before the country and before the Congress. The first is to just let it happen, to let the rates go up to 6.8 percent and make higher education less affordable for people in the country.

The second option is the option that's on the floor which will make it worse, to raise the interest rates over the long term higher than 6.8 percent, and cost students and families an additional \$3.7 billion to pay for a higher education.

There is a third option offered by Mr. COURTNEY from Connecticut. That option would say let's leave the rates at 3.4 percent for 2 years, let's pay for that decision so it doesn't add to the deficit, and then use those 2 years to negotiate a sensible, long-term solution to the problem.

□ 1000

Now I know that there are those who disagree with Mr. COURTNEY's approach. I know there are those who agree with the Republican approach. But what I don't understand is why all three options aren't before the Congress.

See, what we have in front of us today is to either do nothing and let the rates go to 6.8, or do something and make them go even higher. There's a third and better choice that the majority has refused to let the Congress vote on. I suspect the reason we can't vote on that choice is it would win. It would prevail.

This is supposed to be a body where a majority rules. Instead, it's a body where paralysis rules. This bill will probably pass the floor.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. ANDREWS. I thank my friend.

This bill will probably pass the floor. It will go nowhere, and we will be back sometime in late June trying to solve this problem.

Let's have a democratic vote with a small D. Let's let the House vote on all the options, and I believe Mr. COURTNEY's option to leave the rates at 3.4 percent would and should prevail.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I'm delighted to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. I rise in opposition to this bill. Why?

It increases the cost of student debt for millions of Americans just trying to continue their education. It is just another example of the House majority who would put a further burden on the middle class and working families.

Without broad access to a good college education and the opportunities and the social mobility that it provides, there will be no middle class in America. The compact will be broken that allows hard work to pay off and allows future generations to do better.

The costs of college are high today. Over the last 30 years, the average tuition at a 4-year State university has almost quadrupled. Sixty percent of Americans now borrow money for college.

Student loan debt last year passed the trillion dollar mark. The average student loan debt among graduating seniors is over \$26,000, a heavy burden to carry into a tough job market.

This bill would compound those costs. A student with that level of debt would pay over \$5,300 more in interest than they would if the current interest rates were extended, leaving them at 3.4 percent.

But this is characteristic of the Republican majority. Let me just give you an example and what they view about the opportunity for education.

In the last election, their standard bearer, Mitt Romney, when he was asked the question about increasing the student loan interest rate, this is what he replied. He said that if students need to borrow money, let them go to their parents.

Well, if your father is the head of American Motors, then, in fact, you can go and get a loan from your parents. But if they are not, and what struggling parents are doing today, if their jobs have either gone or their wages are down, or their health benefits are gone, or their home may be underwater on the mortgage because of the crushing recession that we have had, they're telling their children that they can't afford to send them to college. They can't go to their parents for a loan.

That's where my Republican colleagues would take this issue. And instead of us, here, adding further to students' debt, we should work harder to make college more affordable for families. Let us not let those interest rates double this summer.

This bill moves us in the wrong direction. I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues are concerned about the predictability of the market. What about the predictability of Congress?

Congress is the source of this volatility. Our bill protects students if in-

terest rates rise with caps. Not even President Obama's plan does that.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I would like to yield 3 minutes to my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL).

Mr. WOODALL. I thank my friend from North Carolina for yielding me the time, and really appreciate her leadership on this issue.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I tell the young people when I speak to them back home, I say, turn on C-SPAN. If you don't have cable, don't buy cable; go to your friend's house to watch it. But turn on C-SPAN, and every person who comes to the House floor is going to say whatever they're doing today, no matter what it is that they're doing, they're doing it for the young people. They're doing it for that next generation, so the next generation can have a better life.

And I hear that from every single one of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. We want to come down here and we want to defeat this rule today and we want to defeat this bill today, and we want to do it for the young people.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm down here for the young people of my district too. The young people of my district say, ROB, what about our prosperity? What about our future? What about fiscal responsibility?

Why are you and previous generations doing to us what you're doing?

How can we have a guaranteed access to opportunity, not guaranteed success, but guaranteed access to opportunity, going forward?

And the answer is, when we get out of the business of playing political games with every single issue, every single day, and we get back into the business of providing some certainty.

Mr. Speaker, you remember how we got in this predicament today. We got in this predicament because when my friends on the left were in control and they began to deal with student loan rates, at the time they said a 6 percent rate would be good. At the time they said a 4.5 percent rate would be good. Now, suddenly, only a 3.4 percent can be good.

With every single one of these changes, Mr. Speaker, there are economic consequences. We now know in America today student loan debt is greater than all credit card debt combined. It's an amazing burden that we're passing on to the next generation. We're not giving them opportunity; we are ensuring decades of servitude.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, begins to realign marketplace rates with student loan rates, giving every student a tremendously subsidized Federal rate.

And here's the thing, Mr. Speaker. You hear this debate. It's as if this very small portion of the marketplace, these 3.4 percent subsidized loans, are the "end all, be all" to every student in America. Not true. Not true.

As my friends on the other side of the aisle know perfectly well but never

say, more than 70 percent of all of our students take out both subsidized and unsubsidized loans. And as my friends on the left know perfectly well but never say, they leave those unsubsidized rates at 6.8 percent.

The bill that Ms. FOXX has worked on so carefully with Chairman KLINE brings those rates down to 4.5, maybe even 4.4. We'll see in that last week of Treasury markets in May. But we're tying the fiscal realities of this country to opportunities for our students.

I encourage students, Mr. Speaker, look at your bills, look at your rates. Look at the subsidized and the unsubsidized. You will see what this bill will do for you.

I rise in strong support, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), a member of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. POLIS. I thank the gentlelady from New York.

T-minus 38 days, 38 days until student loan interest rates are scheduled to increase from 3.4 to 6.8 percent.

Mr. Speaker, in my district in Colorado, students trying to finance their education through Federally subsidized loans at the University of Colorado and Colorado State University and our other fine universities and, indeed, across the country simply can't afford, in a low interest rate environment today, with the sluggish economy, to have their rates double—double—in 38 days.

Look, there's been a lot of good ideas that have been presented that would allow student loan rates to remain the same or even get better. We had, in our committee, the Education and Labor Committee, a Courtney amendment, which I supported, our Democratic substitute, to keep them at 3.4 percent.

There are even proposals to lower them beyond that. I have a bipartisan bill with Representative PETRI that moves the program over to earnings-contingent education loans, so that repayment amounts are contingent upon how much somebody is earning.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I oppose the rule because it hasn't allowed any of these ideas to be brought forward to the floor.

□ 1010

I was glad to see our ranking member, Mr. MILLER, bring forth the President's proposal, which includes Earnings Contingent Education Loans. Unfortunately, the Rules Committee did not make it in order under this rule, which is why I oppose it.

The underlying bill is a step in the right direction towards the President's proposal. I think it provides the framework which we need to improve upon in the Senate and work with the administration over the next 38 days to prevent student loan rates from doubling.

First of all, to be clear, the proposal before us on the underlying bill is not the President's proposal. It does not include a robust earnings contingent income-based repayment program. It also

charges a higher rate of interest above the 10-year Treasury note. To its credit, the Kline-Foxx bill does include a cap on interest rates, which is very borrower friendly and student friendly. Again, what's critical here is it provides a framework for moving forward over the next 38 days to resolve this issue and prevent student loan rates from doubling.

The Washington Post editorialized on this 2 days ago and said that the Education and Workforce Committee bill is "a similar policy" to President Obama's policy, namely, pegging the student loan rates to a rate at which the government borrows, providing more certainty to borrowers, and helping make sure that college can remain affordable.

I call upon my colleagues to oppose the rule and the underlying bill.

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

America's college students, especially those who have studied math, understand that if Washington can't get its act together, their generation will be stuck paying the tab. So they have little sympathy for elected leaders who refuse to face reality by pretending that recklessly spending money we don't have will somehow translate into economic prosperity. It's time to face the simple truth: government spending won't fix our economy.

America's growing debt is real, and Congress has the responsibility to deal with it. The first step must be reining in government spending by passing a balanced budget. That is why House Republicans took the lead and passed H. Con. Res. 25, the Path to Prosperity Budget. Our budget brings spending discipline back to Washington, which balances the budget in 10 years, provides for comprehensive tax reform without raising tax rates, and removes many of the regulatory barriers that prevent employers from hiring new graduates. The House Republican budget stops spending money we don't have by cutting waste, fixing our broken Tax Code, and balancing in 10 years.

A balanced budget will promote a healthier economy, create more jobs for graduating students, and put more money in Americans' pockets. Our budget provides economic security for workers and families, ensures a secure retirement for the elderly, repairs the safety net, and expands opportunities for graduating students entering the workforce.

Republicans have passed a bold budget that tackles America's most pressing fiscal challenges and grows our economy today to ensure the next generation inherits a stronger, more prosperous America.

Mr. Speaker, one of the best things we can do for college students now and in the future is to provide a stronger economy.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I hope my friend's comments mean that the Republicans are ready to appoint conferees.

I am pleased to yield 1 minute to my colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE).

Ms. CLARKE. Today, I rise in opposition to this rule and the underlying bill, H.R. 1911, Smarter Solutions for Students Act, the so-called Republican solution to address the impending student loan interest rate raise.

Despite their rhetoric, the Republicans do not want the American economy more competitive. If they did, they would not have introduced this bill. Under the current law, student loan interest rates are fixed. However, H.R. 1911 would change that and student loan interest rates will become variable rates based on the Treasury interest rate plus additional percentage points. This is truly a bait and switch. Students could start their college careers with a 5 percent student interest rate, but by the time they reach their senior year, have a 7.7 to 8.5 percent student loan rate.

Education has traditionally been and still remains a path out of poverty and into the middle class. And it is middle class that has historically been the backbone of America society. Instead of doing the right thing by permanently lowering student loan interest rates, the Republicans have once again decided to do things the wrong way. The Republicans just don't get it.

Oppose this rule and the underlying bill.

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

My colleagues allege, "The Republican bill raises interest rates on students when we should be providing them with relief from their student loan debt." But let me respond to that, Mr. Speaker.

The Smarter Solutions for Students Act will lower the interest rates for all new borrowers in the Stafford loan and PLUS loan programs rather than just extend an artificially low rate to a small subset of borrowers. This makes Federal loans more affordable for all incoming students and parents. The underlying bill helps all students, including those borrowers receiving subsidized loans, whose loans are slated to double, based on the irresponsible actions of the other side.

The bill includes a reasonable cap—something missing in the administration's budget—which protects borrowers in high interest rate environments. If Democrats think the 8.5 percent cap is too high, then let's see their fiscally responsible, paid-for proposal to back up their rhetoric.

The legislation also maintains current law allowing borrowers to take out a consolidation loan after graduation, where they can lock in their interest rate for the life of the loan. Students can also take advantage of a number of repayment plans and debt management initiatives such as the income-based repayment program, loan forgiveness programs, and opportunities for deferment or forbearance.

The Smarter Solutions for Students Act is a comprehensive, responsible so-

lution that will benefit all students and parents.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule that will allow the House to vote on the Veterans Backlog Reduction Act. To discuss our proposal, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ENYART).

Mr. ENYART. I thank the gentle lady from New York.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1739, the Veterans Backlog Reduction Act. As a retired military veteran, one of my top priorities is caring for our veterans. The sad fact is the VA is not honoring its commitment to our veterans today. There are currently over 900,000 claims waiting to be processed. The average wait for that backlog is now 272 days, or nearly 9 months.

These are real people, real American heroes, who deserve disability benefits because they sustained injuries in service to our country. One of these is Michael Boren of Energy, Illinois. Michael came home from Active Duty in Iraq and Afghanistan with nerve damage, an injured back, and other physical problems. By every measure, Michael is legitimately deserving of disability benefits.

The reason I know about Michael is because he contacted my office a few months ago when he was at the end of his rope and in danger of losing his home. Permanently disabled from his injuries sustained in service, he is unable to find gainful employment to sustain himself and his family. The VA couldn't coordinate his paperwork to make a ruling on his claim for nearly 19 months, all while he waited and worried without income.

Too many veterans like Michael are threatened with home foreclosure, having their cars repossessed, their credit cards cut off, all because the VA can't get its act together. It's shameful. And despite promises from the VA to reduce the backlog, just yesterday we learned the backlog is actually increasing and the VA hasn't met a single one of its benchmarks.

The solution is the Veterans Backlog Reduction Act. It says the VA has 125 days to process claims filed by disabled veterans. If the VA can't live up to a reasonable timetable on processing these claims, then disabled veterans will get a provisional payment until a final ruling is made. If the claim is ultimately deemed valid, then the remainder of the disability benefits will be paid out. If the claim is denied, then the veteran is held harmless and would not have to repay the provisional benefit, unless there would be a finding of fraud or bad faith on the part of the veteran.

□ 1020

The goal is to get these claims processed in a timely manner. And it's my belief that this legislation gives the VA a powerful reason to clean up its act and speed up the process.

This bill serves as a lifeline to countless veterans who can't wait months or years for this problem to be solved. Our veterans are demanding leadership now. This is not a Democrat or a Republican issue. Taking proper care of our wounded veterans is an American issue.

This is a national embarrassment, and we in Congress must meet it head on. It is my hope that we can restore the trust veterans have lost in their government to care for them when they need it most.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to inquire of the gentlewoman from New York if she is prepared to close.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, if my colleague has no further requests for time.

Ms. FOXX. I'll reserve the balance of my time and allow my colleague to close.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I wish we were debating legislation that I thought might actually have a possibility of becoming law, but we are not.

I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" and defeat the previous question and to think about Memorial Day and our proposal to take care of the veterans' backlog. I hope that we are successful in getting that done.

I urge a "no" vote on the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are committed to providing more opportunities for more Americans and helping make life work for more families. This legislation is a great step in that direction.

Student borrowers deserve more than platitudes and empty promises. They deserve real solutions that will improve their lives and help them achieve success.

Our conservative solutions to the challenges facing young Americans today are the right solutions, and the results will speak for themselves. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to vote for this rule and the underlying bill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Rule and the underlying legislation because H.R. 1911, the Smarter Solutions for Students Act would cause financial hardship for students seeking a higher education.

The Rule for H.R. 1911 did not fix the underlying legislation. In fact, the Rule we are debating accepted no amendments that were offered by Members of the Congress. I offered the Jackson Lee Amendment #1 that would have capped student interest at 4 percent. This would have removed the threat of the cost of education doubling at the beginning of July.

I also offered the Jackson Lee Amendment #2, which directed the Secretary of Education

to submit a report to Congress on the feasibility of offering student loan forgiveness to those who start businesses in economically depressed areas such as HUBZones.

This amendment would have encouraged young people from low income areas who get college degrees to return home to start businesses. This would establish economic opportunities for young graduates as an option for employment and at the same time bring businesses and job opportunities to target areas.

Students who are graduating across the nation are departing colleges and universities this spring with immense debt. Student borrowing is widespread with more than \$100 billion in federal education loans distributed every year. In total, student loan debt adds up to \$1 trillion. As a direct consequence of a weak economy, more than ever students and parents must rely upon loans to pay for higher education.

The American family has been under financial pressure for twenty years resulting in longer hours, less pay and more debt. The only reliable way in today's economy to earn more is to learn more. During difficult economic times adults seek new careers by going back to school. Parents who want a better life for their children will take on college loan debt because the cost of education requires it.

In the City of Houston, this spring I have participated in commencement exercises for the University of Houston, Texas Southern University, Houston Community College and Lone Star College North Harris. There are thousands of new graduates just in the City of Houston alone who are ready to pursue their dreams, but who will wake up to the reality of tens of thousands of dollars in debt.

On July 1, 2013 the student loan interest rate will rise from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. As Members of the Congress we know what this will mean for students in our districts and what it will mean for colleges and universities in our Congressional Districts.

Some may try to tell you this bill does what President Obama proposed to do, but it does not. The President's proposal would have fixed the rate on student loans based on the actual Department of the Treasury's cost of borrowing. The Administration's plan would set the repayment costs for the entire life of the student loan, which would have created certainty for the borrower. The President's plan would tie student loan repayments to what graduates were earning after starting their careers. This would have supported a student's dream to become a teacher, social worker, artist, lawyer, doctor or engineer.

Finally, President Obama would extend these favorable loan options to those already in the workforce who still have student loan debt. Paying a reasonable rate that is fixed over the life of the loan and would be based on what you can afford to pay—that is what the President proposed, but this is not what this bill does.

The need for education from cradle to grave should be a national priority, not an afterthought. This is a bad bill that will not solve the problem of out of control student loan debt. For all of these reasons, I urge my Colleagues to join me in voting no on the Rule for H.R. 1911, and the underlying legislation.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF

UNIVERSITY WOMEN,

Washington, DC, May 15, 2013.

Re Oppose the Smarter Solutions for Students Act (H.R. 1911)

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the over 150,000 bipartisan members and supporters of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), I urge you to vote against the Smarter Solutions for Students Act (H.R. 1911). While AAUW supports preventing the doubling of interest rates on subsidized Stafford loans, scheduled to occur on July 1st, the Smarter Solutions for Students Act fails to provide stability in borrowing for students, and would not ensure that rates stay low in the foreseeable future.

With changes in the workforce over the century, higher education is becoming less of a luxury and more of a necessity. At current rates, the U.S. will add over 16 million jobs by the year 2020 that require at least some postsecondary education. Moreover, the number of jobs requiring a graduate degree is estimated to grow by at least 2.5 million by that same year. Since many students cannot pay for their degrees out-of-pocket, student loans are an important option and a worthwhile investment. College graduates have fared better in the recent recession and current recovery, and have higher wages and better job prospects overall. Students rely on Stafford loans as a part of the financial aid they use to finance higher education. Subsidized Stafford loans are only offered to students with demonstrated need. Specifically, about 30 percent of undergraduates in 2007-08 received a subsidized Stafford loan, and a majority of those recipients were women.

Many graduates struggle to repay their loans. Loan repayment is an even more significant burden for women, who earn less on average over the course of their lives than their male counterparts. AAUW's research report, Graduating to a Pay Gap: The Earnings of Women and Men One Year after College Graduation, found that the median student loan debt burden was slightly higher in 2009 for women than men. In addition, among full-time workers who were repaying their loans in 2009, nearly half (47 percent) of women one year after college graduation were paying more than 8 percent of their earnings toward student loan debt. Only 39 percent of men were in the same position. Furthermore, just over half of women (53 percent) and 39 percent of men, were paying a greater percentage of their income toward student loan debt than AAUW estimates a typical woman or man could afford.

Keeping interest rates low on student loans is important and the Smarter Solutions for Students Act would fail to do so. At the current interest rate of 3.4 percent the government earns almost 12.5 cents per each dollar loaned in the subsidized Stafford loan program. This underscores that there is no reason rates should increase at all for students. Under the Smarter Solutions for Students Act, over the next 3 years interest rates are projected to rise to as much as 7.36 percent. Not only would Fixed rates ensure that when students borrow, they know upfront what their monthly repayment amount will be, as the rate is consistent through repayment. AAUW knows that this is a key component of ensuring students are smart borrowers when it comes to financing their higher education. If they must take out a loan, knowing the repayment schedule of that loan is necessary for their planning purposes.

Allowing the interest rates on subsidized Stafford loans to double on July 1 would have a real impact on students. The interest rate increase could mean as much as \$1,000 in additional debt. But, the Smarter Solutions

for Students Act is not a real solution. Under this proposal interest rates would be projected to increase, and students and graduates would be faced with annual uncertainty as their rates at origination and during repayment would vary based on the market. I urge you to vote against the Smarter Solutions for Students Act (H.R. 1911). Votes associated with this legislation may be scored in the AAUW Action Fund Congressional Voting Record for the 113th Congress. If you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact me or Anne Hedgepeth, government relations manager.

Sincerely,

LISA M. MAATZ,

Director,

Public Policy and Government Relations.

The material previously referred to by Ms. SLAUGHTER is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 232 OFFERED BY MS. SLAUGHTER OF NEW YORK

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 7. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1739) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay provisional benefits for certain nonadjudicated claims, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 8. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 1739 as specified in section 7 of this resolution.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party of-

ferred a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 224, nays 195, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 180]

YEAS—224

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Aderholt | Barton | Brady (TX) |
| Alexander | Benishek | Bridenstine |
| Amash | Bentivolio | Brooks (AL) |
| Amodei | Bilirakis | Brooks (IN) |
| Bachmann | Bishop (UT) | Broun (GA) |
| Bachus | Black | Buchanan |
| Barletta | Blackburn | Bucshon |
| Barr | Boustany | Burgess |

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Calvert | Huelskamp | Radel |
| Camp | Huizenga (MI) | Reed |
| Campbell | Hultgren | Reichert |
| Cantor | Hunter | Renacci |
| Capito | Hurt | Ribble |
| Carter | Issa | Rice (SC) |
| Cassidy | Jenkins | Rigell |
| Chabot | Johnson (OH) | Roby |
| Chaffetz | Johnson, Sam | Roe (TN) |
| Coble | Jones | Rogers (AL) |
| Coffman | Jordan | Rogers (KY) |
| Collins (GA) | Joyce | Rogers (MI) |
| Collins (NY) | Kelly (PA) | Rohrabacher |
| Conaway | King (IA) | Rokita |
| Cook | King (NY) | Rooney |
| Cotton | Kingston | Ros-Lehtinen |
| Cramer | Kinzinger (IL) | Roskam |
| Crawford | Kline | Ross |
| Crenshaw | Labrador | Rothfus |
| Daines | LaMalfa | Royce |
| Davis, Rodney | Lamborn | Runyan |
| Denham | Lance | Ryan (WI) |
| Dent | Lankford | Salmon |
| DeSantis | Latham | Sanford |
| DesJarlais | Latta | Scalise |
| Diaz-Balart | LoBiondo | Schock |
| Duffy | Long | Schweikert |
| Duncan (SC) | Lucas | Scott, Austin |
| Duncan (TN) | Luetkemeyer | Sensenbrenner |
| Ellmers | Lummis | Sessions |
| Farenthold | Marchant | Shimkus |
| Fincher | Marino | Shuster |
| Fitzpatrick | Massie | Simpson |
| Fleischmann | McCarthy (CA) | Smith (NE) |
| Fleming | McCaul | Smith (NJ) |
| Flores | McClintock | Smith (TX) |
| Forbes | McHenry | Southerland |
| Fortenberry | McKeon | Stewart |
| Fox | McKinley | Stivers |
| Franks (AZ) | McMorris | Stockman |
| Frelinghuysen | Rodgers | Stutzman |
| Gardner | Meadows | Terry |
| Garrett | Meehan | Thompson (PA) |
| Gerlach | Messer | Thornberry |
| Gibbs | Mica | Tiberi |
| Gingrey (GA) | Miller (FL) | Tipton |
| Gohmert | Miller (MI) | Turner |
| Goodlatte | Mullin | Upton |
| Gosar | Mulvaney | Valadao |
| Gowdy | Murphy (PA) | Wagner |
| Granger | Neugebauer | Walberg |
| Graves (GA) | Noem | Walden |
| Graves (MO) | Nugent | Walorski |
| Griffin (AR) | Nunes | Weber (TX) |
| Griffith (VA) | Nunnelee | Webster (FL) |
| Grimm | Olson | Wenstrup |
| Guthrie | Palazzo | Whitfield |
| Hall | Paulsen | Williams |
| Hanna | Pearce | Wilson (SC) |
| Harper | Perry | Wittman |
| Harris | Petri | Wolf |
| Hartzler | Pittenger | Womack |
| Hastings (WA) | Pitts | Woodall |
| Heck (NV) | Poe (TX) | Yoder |
| Hensarling | Pompeo | Yoho |
| Holding | Posey | Young (FL) |
| Hudson | Price (GA) | Young (IN) |

NAYS—195

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Andrews | Cicilline | Edwards |
| Barber | Clarke | Ellison |
| Barrow (GA) | Clay | Engel |
| Beatty | Cleaver | Enyart |
| Becerra | Cohen | Eshoo |
| Bera (CA) | Connolly | Esty |
| Bishop (GA) | Conyers | Farr |
| Bishop (NY) | Cooper | Fattah |
| Blumenauer | Costa | Foster |
| Bonamici | Courtney | Frankel (FL) |
| Brady (PA) | Crowley | Fudge |
| Bralley (IA) | Cuellar | Gabbard |
| Brown (FL) | Cummings | Gallego |
| Brownley (CA) | Davis (CA) | Garamendi |
| Bustos | Davis, Danny | Garcia |
| Butterfield | DeFazio | Grayson |
| Capps | DeGette | Green, Al |
| Capuano | Delaney | Green, Gene |
| Cárdenas | DeLauro | Grijalva |
| Carney | DelBene | Gutiérrez |
| Carson (IN) | Deutch | Hahn |
| Cartwright | Dingell | Hanabusa |
| Castor (FL) | Doggett | Hastings (WA) |
| Castro (TX) | Doyle | Heck (WA) |
| Chu | Duckworth | Higgins |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Himes | McCullum | Sánchez, Linda | Collins (NY) | Johnson, Sam | Ribble | Lowenthal | Owens | Scott, David |
| Hinojosa | McDermott | T. | Conaway | Jones | Rice (SC) | Lowe | Pallone | Serrano |
| Holt | McGovern | Sanchez, Loretta | Cook | Jordan | Rigell | Lujan Grisham | Pascrell | Sewell (AL) |
| Honda | McIntyre | Sarbanes | Cotton | Joyce | Roby | (NM) | Pastor (AZ) | Shea-Porter |
| Hoyer | McNerney | Schakowsky | Cramer | Kelly (PA) | Roe (TN) | Lujan, Ben Ray | Payne | Sherman |
| Huffman | Meeks | Schiff | Crawford | King (IA) | Rogers (AL) | (NM) | Pelosi | Sinema |
| Israel | Meng | Schneider | Crenshaw | King (NY) | Rogers (KY) | Lynch | Perlmutter | Sires |
| Jackson Lee | Michaud | Schrader | Daines | Kingston | Rogers (MI) | Maffei | Peters (CA) | Slaughter |
| Jeffries | Miller, George | Schwartz | Davis, Rodney | Kinzinger (IL) | Rohrabacher | Maloney, | Peters (MI) | Smith (WA) |
| Johnson (GA) | Moore | Scott (VA) | Denham | Kline | Rokita | Carolyn | Peterson | Swalwell (CA) |
| Johnson, E. B. | Moran | Scott, David | Dent | Labrador | Rooney | Maloney, Sean | Pingree (ME) | Takano |
| Kaptur | Murphy (FL) | Serrano | DeSantis | LaMalfa | Ros-Lehtinen | Matheson | Pocan | Thompson (CA) |
| Keating | Nadler | Sewell (AL) | DesJarlais | Lamborn | Roskam | Matsui | Polis | Thompson (MS) |
| Kelly (IL) | Napolitano | Shea-Porter | Diaz-Balart | Lance | Ross | McCarthy (NY) | Price (NC) | Tierney |
| Kennedy | Neal | Sherman | Duffy | Lankford | Rothfus | McCollum | Quigley | Titus |
| Kildee | Negrete McLeod | Sinema | Duncan (SC) | Latham | Royce | McDermott | Rahall | Tonko |
| Kilmer | Nolan | Sires | Duncan (TN) | Latta | Ryunyan | McGovern | Rangel | Tsongas |
| Kind | O'Rourke | Slaughter | Ellmers | LoBiondo | Ryan (WI) | McIntyre | Richmond | Van Hollen |
| Kirkpatrick | Owens | Smith (WA) | Farenthold | Long | Salmon | McNerney | Ruiz | Vargas |
| Kuster | Pallone | Swalwell (CA) | Fincher | Lucas | Sanford | Meeks | Ruppersberger | Veasey |
| Langevin | Pascrell | Takano | Fitzpatrick | Luetkemeyer | Scalise | Meng | Rush | Vela |
| Larsen (WA) | Thompson (CA) | Thompson (CA) | Fleischmann | Lummis | Schock | Michaud | Ryan (OH) | Velázquez |
| Larson (CT) | Pastor (AZ) | Thompson (MS) | Fleming | Marchant | Schweikert | Miller, George | Sánchez, Linda | Visclosky |
| Lee (CA) | Payne | Tierney | Flores | Marino | Scott, Austin | Moore | T. | Walz |
| Levin | Pelosi | Titus | Forbes | Massie | Sensenbrenner | Moran | Sanchez, Loretta | Wasserman |
| Lipinski | Perlmutter | Tonko | Fortenberry | McCarthy (CA) | Sessions | Murphy (FL) | Sarbanes | Schultz |
| Loeb sack | Peters (CA) | Tsongas | Fox | McCaul | Shimkus | Nadler | Schakowsky | Waters |
| Lofgren | Peters (MI) | Van Hollen | Franks (AZ) | McClintock | Shuster | Napolitano | Schiff | Watt |
| Lowenthal | Peterson | Vargas | Frelinghuysen | McHenry | Simpson | Neal | Schneider | Waxman |
| Lowe | Pingree (ME) | Veasey | Gardner | McKeon | Smith (NE) | Negrete McLeod | Schrader | Welch |
| Lujan Grisham | Pocan | Vela | Garrett | McKinley | Smith (NJ) | Nolan | Schwartz | Wilson (FL) |
| (NM) | Polis | Velázquez | Gerlach | McMorris | Smith (TX) | O'Rourke | Scott (VA) | Yarmuth |
| Luján, Ben Ray | Price (NC) | Visclosky | Gibbs | Rodgers | Southerland | | | |
| (NM) | Quigley | Walz | Gingrey (GA) | Meadows | Stewart | | | |
| Lynch | Rahall | Wasserman | Gohmert | Meehan | Stivers | Bass | Gibson | Roybal-Allard |
| Maffei | Rangel | Schultz | Godlatte | Messer | Stockman | Bonner | Gutierrez | Speier |
| Maloney, | Richmond | Waters | Gosar | Mica | Stutzman | Clyburn | Herrera Beutler | Westmoreland |
| Carolyn | Roybal-Allard | Watt | Gowdy | Miller (FL) | Terry | Cole | Lewis | Young (AK) |
| Maloney, Sean | Ruiz | Waxman | Granger | Miller (MI) | Thompson (PA) | Conyers | Markey | |
| Matheson | Ruppersberger | Welch | Graves (GA) | Mullin | Thornberry | Culberson | Miller, Gary | |
| Matheson | Ruppersberger | Wilson (FL) | Graves (MO) | Mulvaney | Tiberi | | | |
| Matsui | Rush | Yarmuth | Griffin (AR) | Murphy (PA) | Tipton | | | |
| McCarthy (NY) | Ryan (OH) | | Griffith (VA) | Neugebauer | Turner | | | |
| | | | Grimm | Noem | Upton | | | |
| | | | Guthrie | Nugent | Valadao | | | |
| | | | Hall | Nunes | Wagner | | | |
| | | | Hanna | Nunnelee | Walberg | | | |
| | | | Harper | Olson | Walden | | | |
| | | | Harris | Palazzo | Walorski | | | |
| | | | Hartzler | Paulsen | Weber (TX) | | | |
| | | | Hastings (WA) | Pearce | Webster (FL) | | | |
| | | | Heck (NV) | Perry | Wenstrup | | | |
| | | | Hensarling | Petri | Whitfield | | | |
| | | | Holding | Pittenger | Williams | | | |
| | | | Hudson | Pitts | Wilson (SC) | | | |
| | | | Huelskamp | Poe (TX) | Wittman | | | |
| | | | Huizenga (MI) | Pompeo | Wolf | | | |
| | | | Hultgren | Posey | Womack | | | |
| | | | Hunter | Price (GA) | Woodall | | | |
| | | | Hurt | Radel | Yoder | | | |
| | | | Issa | Reed | Yoho | | | |
| | | | Jenkins | Reichert | Young (FL) | | | |
| | | | Johnson (OH) | Renacci | Young (IN) | | | |

NOT VOTING—14

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| Bass | Gibson | Miller, Gary |
| Bonner | Herrera Beutler | Speier |
| Clyburn | Horsford | Westmoreland |
| Cole | Lewis | Young (AK) |
| Culberson | Markey | |

□ 1046

Ms. TSONGAS and Ms. WILSON of Florida changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. LAMALFA changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 180, had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 224, nays 193, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 181]

YEAS—224

| | | |
|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Aderholt | Bishop (UT) | Calvert |
| Alexander | Black | Camp |
| Amash | Blackburn | Campbell |
| Amodei | Boustany | Cantor |
| Bachmann | Brady (TX) | Capito |
| Bachus | Bridenstine | Carter |
| Barletta | Brooks (AL) | Cassidy |
| Barr | Brooks (IN) | Chabot |
| Barton | Broun (GA) | Chaffetz |
| Benishek | Buchanan | Coble |
| Bentivolio | Bucshon | Coffman |
| Bilirakis | Burgess | Collins (GA) |

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Andrews | Crowley | Hahn |
| Barber | Cuellar | Hanabusa |
| Barrow (GA) | Cummings | Hastings (FL) |
| Beatty | Davis (CA) | Heck (WA) |
| Becerra | Davis, Danny | Higgins |
| Bera (CA) | DeFazio | Himes |
| Bishop (GA) | DeGette | Hinojosa |
| Bishop (NY) | Delaney | Holt |
| Blumenauer | DeLauro | Honda |
| Bonamici | DelBene | Horsford |
| Brady (PA) | Deutch | Hoyer |
| Bralley (IA) | Dingell | Huffman |
| Brown (FL) | Doggett | Israel |
| Brownley (CA) | Doyle | Jackson Lee |
| Bustos | Duckworth | Jeffries |
| Butterfield | Edwards | Johnson (GA) |
| Capps | Ellison | Johnson, E. B. |
| Capuano | Engel | Kaptur |
| Cárdenas | Enyart | Keating |
| Carney | Eshoo | Kelly (IL) |
| Carson (IN) | Esty | Kennedy |
| Cartwright | Farr | Kildee |
| Castor (FL) | Fattah | Kilmer |
| Castro (TX) | Poster | Kind |
| Chu | Frankel (FL) | Kirkpatrick |
| Cicilline | Fudge | Kuster |
| Clarke | Gabbard | Langevin |
| Clay | Gallego | Larsen (WA) |
| Cleaver | Garamendi | Larson (CT) |
| Cohen | Garcia | Lee (CA) |
| Connolly | Grayson | Levin |
| Cooper | Green, Al | Lipinski |
| Costa | Green, Gene | Loeb sack |
| Courtney | Grijalva | Lofgren |

NAYS—193

NOT VOTING—16

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|---------------|
| Bass | Gibson | Roybal-Allard |
| Bonner | Gutierrez | Speier |
| Clyburn | Herrera Beutler | Westmoreland |
| Cole | Lewis | Young (AK) |
| Conyers | Markey | |
| Culberson | Miller, Gary | |

□ 1058

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 258. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to fraudulent representations about having received military decorations or medals.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 94-304, as amended by Public Law 99-7, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senator as a member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki) during the One Hundred Thirteenth Congress:

The Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN).

□ 1100

SMARTER SOLUTIONS FOR STUDENTS ACT

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 232, I call up the bill (H.R. 1911) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish interest rates for new loans made on or after July 1, 2013, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 232, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce

printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 113-12 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1911

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 “Smarter Solutions for Students Act”.

SEC. 2. STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATES.

Section 455(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by inserting “, AND BEFORE JULY 1, 2013” after “2006”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “and before July 1, 2013,” after “2006,”;

(C) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “and before July 1, 2013,” after “2006,”; and

(D) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “and before July 1, 2013,” after “2006,”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (8) and (9) as paragraphs (9) and (10), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (7), the following:

“(8) INTEREST RATE PROVISION FOR NEW LOANS ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2013.—

“(A) RATES FOR FDSL AND FDSL.—Notwithstanding the preceding paragraphs of this subsection, for Federal Direct Stafford Loans and Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loans for which the first disbursement is made on or after July 1, 2013, the applicable rate of interest shall, during any 12-month period beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30, be determined on the preceding June 1 and be equal to—

“(i) the high-yield 10-year Treasury notes auctioned at the final auction held prior to such June 1; plus

“(ii) 2.5 percent, except that such rate shall not exceed 8.5 percent.

“(B) PLUS LOANS.—Notwithstanding the preceding paragraphs of this subsection, for any Federal Direct PLUS Loan for which the first disbursement is made on or after July 1, 2013, the applicable rate of interest shall, during any 12-month period beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30, be determined on the preceding June 1 and be equal to—

“(i) the high-yield 10-year Treasury notes auctioned at the final auction held prior to such June 1; plus

“(ii) 4.5 percent, except that such rate shall not exceed 10.5 percent.

“(C) CONSOLIDATION LOANS.—Notwithstanding the preceding paragraphs of this subsection, any Federal Direct Consolidation Loan for which the application is received on or after July 1, 2013, shall bear interest at an annual rate on the unpaid principal balance of the loan that is equal to the weighted average of the interest rates on the loans consolidated, rounded to the nearest higher one-eighth of one percent.”.

SEC. 3. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) PAYGO SCORECARD.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARD.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) and the gentleman from California (Mr.

GEORGE MILLER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1911.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1911, the Smarter Solutions for Students Act.

We're here today to address a crisis of Washington's own making. Several years ago, Congress decided politicians, not the free market, were better equipped to set student loan interest rates. Politicians set a fixed rate of 6.8 percent for all loans and then decided to advance legislation based on a campaign promise that would temporarily phase this rate for subsidized Stafford loans down to 3.4 percent.

Last summer, with the expiration of the lower rate scheduled for July 1, 2012, debate about student loans reached a fever pitch. The President began touring college campuses, calling on Congress to prevent the increase that his own party set in motion back in 2007.

As I said at the time, no one wanted to see interest rates double—particularly at a time when one out of every two college graduates was struggling to find a full-time job. But we need to move away from a system that allows Washington politicians to use student loan interest rates as bargaining chips, creating uncertainty and confusion for borrowers.

When Congress approved legislation to temporarily stave off the Stafford loan interest rate increase, my colleagues and I lent our support with the promise that we would use this time to work toward a long-term solution that better aligns interest rates with the free market.

The Smarter Solutions for Students Act accomplishes this goal by simply moving all Federal students loans, except Perkins loans, to a market-based interest rate system. This responsible legislation builds upon a proposal that was actually put forth by the President earlier this year.

The Smarter Solutions for Students Act is a narrow piece of legislation that will provide a lasting solution to the problem facing the Federal student loan program. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, some critics would rather kick the can down the road and simply extend the current arbitrary rates at a taxpayer cost of roughly \$8 billion. They want to continue the failed status quo and leave politicians in charge of setting rates.

Earlier this week, The Washington Post called it a “weird fact” that student loan interest rates:

Aren't pegged to anything real, just to the whims of Congress, which inevitably uses student loans as political playthings.

Students deserve better. They shouldn't have to watch as Washington holds their interest rates hostage each election year. They shouldn't have to deal with the uncertainty that comes with waiting for politicians to cobble together another temporary fix to keep interest rates in line with the market.

We have an opportunity today to get politicians out of the business of setting student loan interest rates. We have an opportunity to provide students with more stability in the long run by putting an end to quick fixes and campaign promises, and we have an opportunity to build upon common ground with the administration and advance a bipartisan solution that's a win for both students and taxpayers.

I urge my colleagues to support the Smarter Solutions for Students Act.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, in little more than a month, the interest rates on loans to millions of the neediest students will double from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent. With that doubling, those that can afford it least will be burdened with more debt. With total student loan debt already surpassing \$1 trillion, this Congress needs to stop that interest rate hike, that doubling of the interest rates.

But rather than make it more affordable for students and families to pay for college, this Congress this day in this Chamber is debating a bill—I know people won't believe this—but we're debating a bill to make it more expensive for families and students to achieve a college education. At a time when college costs are rising and historic low interest rates, the majority is asking us to accept a bill that would increase interest rates. And even though the student interest rate is scheduled on July 1 to double from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent, the bill presented on this floor today is worse than that for students and their families. It increases the drag on the economy that the student debt is to families and to young people trying to seek a job and to seek to form family.

This bill is so bad that it means more than the doubling of the interest rates. How do you think that has anything to do with the market rates? According to the Congressional Research Service, when they look at this bill, you can see that under current law interest rates, they would pay \$4,000. And they are doubling to 6.8 percent, so they'd pay \$8,800 in interest rates. And under the Republican bill, families would pay more than \$10,000 in interest. How can that possibly be in the interest of these families? How can that possibly be happening in this economy when people are struggling with interest rates? It cannot be allowed.

You can see here that the parents who may have to contribute something, they would take out a loan to

help their child complete a college education, they are going to pay more than \$35,000 over the life of those loans than under the current law, and that's what we've got to stop from happening.

And so what you see is when it is all said and done, this bill asks students over the next few years to pay more than \$3.7 billion, almost \$4 billion, in increased interest rates. No wonder this poor student has a headache. No wonder this parent is pounding on his head thinking, What am I going to do?

But what do they say? They say we have a market rate here. We have a market rate. Well, many in America, certainly middle class families and many low-income families, will remember the last time when we had this kind of market rate because what they have, they have a teaser rate. For your first year, they'll have a lower interest rate. So you have a teaser rate. But you know that next year that teaser rate adjusts so you don't get that rate because next year you get a new rate. And when you're a sophomore in college and you take out another loan, you get a new rate, a higher rate. And when you're a junior, you take out a loan, and you get a higher rate. And when you graduate, they take all of your loans together and give you a higher rate. Does that sound familiar to people? That's the marketplace. That's the marketplace when you choose to crush the people who are borrowing the money.

The President has the market rate. The chairman has said many times the President is looking to use the markets to set a realistic rate. But as he sets the rate, it's deficit neutral. As he sets the rate, the amendment we tried to offer was deficit neutral. He saves those students and families about \$30 billion over the life of those loans. You get the difference? Yes, the market's the market. But you can pick the worst of the market, and you can pick the best of the market. They've chosen to pick the worst of the market for these students.

Now they had options. Republicans last night in the Rules Committee had options. Mr. COURTNEY offered an amendment to keep rates at 3.4 percent. They rejected it.

I offered the President's market approach. They rejected that.

Then Mr. HECK from the Republican side of the aisle from Nevada offered to say let's provide an incentive to make sure that students in fact continue to pay on time, as they should, as the market would do because you want to incent good behavior because you get more of it. They rejected that.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina went before them. He's a member of the Republican caucus, very concerned about interest rates in this legislation, very concerned about what's going to happen to these families. He thought he could lower the interest rates within their bill, within the market rates, stick with the market principle. They said "no."

So all you get today is whether or not you want a solution that is worse than the doubling of the interest rates on July 1. That's not an answer for America's families. That's not an answer for America's students.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1110

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I'm now pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI), the vice chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. PETRI. I rise today to support H.R. 1911 because it would put in place a long-term, market-based solution to Federal student loan interest rates.

Some on the other side wish to engage in endless debates on the level of student loan interest rates. This is the wrong debate to be having, however, and distracts us from real reform. By taking this issue out of the hands of politicians, H.R. 1911 moves the discussion forward.

I believe there are better ways to help students manage the repayment of their loans than ever-higher interest rate subsidies. Income-based repayment, an idea that originated with Milton Friedman and was subsequently advocated by Presidents Reagan, Clinton and Obama, is better for students and taxpayers.

While we have an income-based repayment option now, it doesn't do enough to protect our taxpayers. Therefore, working with Representative JARED POLIS, I've introduced legislation to make needed reforms.

With today's bill, we can break free from this debate over interest rates and focus on real reform to help students struggling with student loan debts. So I'd urge passage of H.R. 1911.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA).

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1911, the Republican bill to make college more expensive. In America, we often speak of the importance of expanding educational opportunity and supporting students in achieving the American Dream. Unfortunately, our student loan debt crisis is crushing the dreams and aspirations of students and college graduates.

As Congressman MILLER said earlier, today student loan debt exceeds \$1.1 trillion. According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, student loan debt surpassed total outstanding credit card debt for the first time in 2010. These staggering figures are truly unacceptable and must serve as a wake-up call for developing a long-term solution that helps, not harms, current and future borrowers.

As a result, it is shocking that the majority party would bring a bait-and-switch scheme to the House floor, a bill that would force students into loans with skyrocketing interest rates.

I find it shameful that H.R. 1911 would reduce the Federal deficit on the

backs of students and parents by saddling them with almost \$4 billion in additional loan interest charges, and leave students worse off than if Congress simply allowed student loan interest rates to double on July 1.

High levels of student loan debt can limit where college graduates live and work. It can affect the kinds of careers that students can follow. High levels of debt can create obstacles for young people who hope to start a family, to purchase a home and save for retirement.

To be clear, students and families deserve more from the U.S. Congress, not less.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield the gentleman an additional 10 seconds.

Mr. HINOJOSA. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to oppose H.R. 1911. I suggest you do two things: one is work to prevent interest rates from doubling on July 1, and second, work to make college more affordable and accessible through the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Dr. ROE), the chairman of the Health Subcommittee.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. I thank the chairman.

I rise in support of the Smarter Solutions for Students Act. Student loan debt, I agree with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, is a huge issue in this country.

And how did we get to the current rate of 6.8 percent, I asked myself. I went back and reviewed it, and in 2006, the Congress decided that interest rates were too high, so they wanted to lower the interest rates, but found out they couldn't afford the cost of it.

So gradually, stepwise, it went down last year. In 1 year we had a 3.4 percent student loan rate tied to nothing other than the whims of Congress. It created a fiscal cliff for loan rates. So we voted to extend it for 1 year to give us time to have a permanent solution for this.

The permanent solution that we're offering is to simply treat a student loan like any other loan and tie it to a Treasury note plus 2.5 percent for a Stafford loan.

Now, what does that mean?

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, very eloquently, Mr. MILLER spoke just a moment ago about how rates can go. Variable means rates can change. That's absolutely true. But rates can also go down. It doesn't necessarily mean that rates will go up. And in acknowledging this, an 8.5 percent cap was put on those loans.

I checked the student loan rate if you went to your local bank or credit union to see what a loan rate would be, and it's about 7 percent now, higher than that.

And I agree with my good friend, RUBÉN HINOJOSA, who believes that we

should work for ways to help make college more affordable. I could not agree more.

The Secretary of Education, just this past Wednesday, said he agreed and supported a permanent solution. The President said he supported a market-based approach. This will give certainty to it, and certainly I would urge my colleagues to vote and support this very-needed piece of legislation.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

(Mr. ANDREWS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

The question before the House this morning is whether we should make college more affordable or less affordable, which is better for the country.

If we do nothing by July 1, interest rates double on student loan rates from 3.4 to 6.8 percent. This bill makes it worse. It will actually increase college costs for a typical student by \$5- or \$6,000 over a 10-year period, \$3.7 billion across the country.

There's a better way. The government's borrowing money today at 1 percent. Why don't we borrow the money at 1 percent, factor in the cost of administering the loans and setting aside a reserve for default, and charge that amount to the students, rather than run a profit-making enterprise on student loans?

Mr. TIERNEY and others have taken the lead on this, Mr. COURTNEY has, and that's the bill that I think is the appropriate long-term solution.

But I do know this. If you listen to any corporate leader, any business leader in America, they tell you this: we will only grow and prosper with a skilled workforce, and we will only have a skilled workforce if higher education is affordable.

The simple question before the House is, if you think higher education should be less affordable, vote "yes." If you think it should be more affordable, vote "no."

"No" is the right vote. There's a better way. We should put that on the floor and proceed that way.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), a member of the committee.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Absent congressional action, interest rates on student loans will double from 3.4 to 6.8 percent on July 1. It's not that far away. We need both parties and both Chambers working on solutions now. We can't afford more last-minute, backroom deals and political brinkmanship.

The Smarter Solutions for Students Act is a commonsense approach. This bill prevents the rate hike from happening and ends what has become an annual debate within Congress on how to set the rates for student loans.

This bill puts in place a rate that is more predictable and affordable. It builds on a proposal put forward by President Obama in his fiscal year 2014 budget request.

Now, both these proposals move to a market-based interest rate, not one set by politicians in Washington. We have a responsibility to America's youth to put forward a long-term plan for college affordability. This bill is a good first step. It will offer students the lowest possible rates for higher education by ensuring the solvency of these important loan programs. And I encourage my colleagues to join in support of this bill.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

□ 1120

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in opposition to the Making College More Expensive Act. In 2007, Congress cut the interest rate on student loans in half, from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent, for 5 years. Last year, we extended that benefit for 1 more year. In a few weeks, on July 1, if Congress chooses not to act, the interest rate is scheduled to double back to the rate of 6.8 percent.

Incredibly, this bill is so bad that, according to the Congressional Research Service, students will actually be better off if Congress were to let the rate double to 6.8 percent than to adopt this legislation. This bill is also bad because it makes rates variable for the life of the loan, therefore forcing students to sign for an interest rate that will fluctuate over time so they don't even know what it's going to be from one time to the next. This proposal essentially asks students to sign up for loans without knowing what they're signing up for.

This is different from the Democratic proposals on variable interest rates, because the President's proposal and the Democratic alternative that was offered in committee have a variable rate; but once you sign the loan, that rate is fixed for the duration, so you know what you've signed up for. With the historic low rates now, you can sign up for a loan rate that's probably much lower than any of the numbers that are being considered. But this rate is so bad that the Congressional Research Service estimates that if we return to normal rates, the students will actually be worse off than if we just let the rates double to 6.8 percent.

So I ask my colleagues to work diligently to improve access to quality education by making higher education more affordable and ensuring that the interest loan rates are reasonable, and that starts with defeating this bill.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the chairman of the Workforce Protection Subcommittee, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, recently, I had the opportunity to meet with more than a dozen of Michigan's private colleges and university presidents. They're working hard, as you might guess, to address the rising costs of college education with their institutions and other institutions and with students who desire an education. At the same time, this House, under the direction of this committee, is working hard to address student loan interest rates in a way that brings long-term stability to the program.

The interest rate for federally subsidized Stafford loans is currently set to rise to 6.8 percent on July 1, 2013, matching it to the current unsubsidized Stafford loan rate. Other Federal loans have rates as high as 7.9 percent. Any further temporary extension of the current rate only kicks the can down the road. We've done this already. In politicians versus markets, markets will always produce better long-term results, and only those who refuse to deal with the truth of history and reality would say otherwise.

Congress has a unique opportunity to institute long-term, bipartisan reforms. Why not? We know in our hearts it's the right thing to do. Both President Obama and the House have favored market-based solutions to current rates. The Secretary of Education desires a long-term solution like this as well.

Instead of another short-term fix, the Smarter Solutions for Students Act provides a long-term solution to the student loan interest rate problem. It returns all Federal student loans, except Perkins loans, to a market-based interest rate and takes politics out of this part of our children's education.

The only way this plan won't work is if the liberal, progressive, central planners that control our government policy now are allowed to continue their failed approach. And it is a failed approach. Pass this bill.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY).

Mr. TIERNEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I draw the point that was mentioned earlier that the Democrats made a promise to keep these loans at 3.4 percent, and the promise is being broken. It's being broken by this bill, this proposal by the Republican Party. We kept our promise through the entire reauthorization of the Higher Education Opportunity Act, and 2 more years in addition. This is the proposal now. We say stay at 3.4 percent. Republicans say, no, jack it up more than double on that basis.

I join with millions of students and parents and organizations that represent them in strong opposition to this Making College More Expensive Act that's before us here today.

My Republican friends talk about how this bill is simple and predictable. It's predictable all right. I predict the rates are going to go right up beyond the 6.8 percent rate. We've already seen

that from the Congressional Research Service, a nonpartisan group that says, if we pass this Republican bill, those rates will go up more than double on that basis. It is not simple.

They would have you believe through this debate that the rates are going to go down to market rates, which, at the current time, are lower. They would if you followed our bill at 3.4 percent. But if you went with this bill of Making College More Expensive Act, it sets it low for the first year but it rewrites the second year, and it resets the third year and it resets the fourth year. So at the end of 4 years, you get the whole package with the higher rate. And that is going to be almost \$4 billion more in cost for these students and parents than it is for people right now.

The Congressional Budget Office said these interest rates would be almost \$4 billion. We know that to be the case. These are the same people that tell us they don't want to burden our next generation with the debt, but they apparently have no problem at all burdening the next generation by burying them in student loan debt year after year after year.

I have been hearing from people all over my district. In fact, one woman from Wilmington wrote me and said that, when her son graduates from college, his loans will equal what her husband and she paid for their first home. With the interest rates he'll pay, it will be even more. Something is not right with the system, she says. Both college tuition costs and student loan interest rates are wrong.

She's right. This bill is wrong. Let's do the right thing. Let's have 3.4 percent now. In the interim, do a Higher Education Reauthorization Act that takes care of this problem going forward.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, in order to balance the speakers, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY), a member of the committee.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today against the Making College More Expensive Act. Let me tell you why.

I represent a pretty large minority area, and over the last several years, we've seen those scores in those students going up and up. For the first time, we're seeing a higher rate of young people going to college. This is not the time to be looking at making college more expensive. They are first-time-generation students going to college. This is wrong. This is supposed to be a family-friendly bill. For whom? It's certainly not for my constituents.

I'm sorry also to say that what we're going to be seeing is that after this bill passes—and it will probably pass today—it dies. The Senate is not going to pick this up. So, again, we have wasted all our time instead of working together to come to a solution.

Again, as you heard, according to the CBO, if Congress did nothing and let student loan rates double on July 1, students would be better off.

This is not a good bill. I ask my colleagues to vote against it.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS), a member of the committee.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, student interest rates are set to double in a little over a month unless Congress stops it, and that's why I rise today in opposition to the Making College More Expensive Act. We should be considering legislation like the one my colleague, Mr. COURTNEY, introduced to extend low interest rates for 2 years; but, instead, we're debating a bill that makes students worse off than if Congress does nothing. That's because, under this bill, student interest rates would be subject to the whims of the market.

Today, interest rates are at an all-time low, but what about 5 years? what about 10 years? what about 15 years from now? This bill lures students in with a low variable rate, only to trap them with a higher rate upon repayment. Well, Mr. Speaker, we've seen this bait and switch before, only usually it was by credit card companies setting up shop outside of college sporting events, not by the Federal Government.

We are not subprime lenders. The Federal Government should not be profiting from students. It shouldn't be making \$4 billion off of students.

Mr. KLINE. I now yield 1 minute to a member of the committee, the gentleman from Tennessee, Dr. DESJARLAIS.

□ 1130

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1911. This commonsense bill, aptly named the Smarter Solutions for Students Act, brings the student loan interest rate program back to reality.

Instead of coming back each year to partake in the Washington tradition of putting last year's failures off to the next year, this bill gives students and their families the certainty that their loan rates won't be subjected to the whims of bureaucrats in Washington or legislators on Capitol Hill.

This legislation ties student loan interest rates to the 10-year Treasury note. In fact, the President's fiscal year 2014 budget request included language very similar to this bill. H.R. 1911 goes even further toward protecting students and families from high interest rate environments by including caps on interest rates.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I thank Chairman KLINE and VIRGINIA FOXX and their staffs for their hard work in bringing this commonsense legislation to the floor.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. May I inquire of the Chair of the time remaining on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). The gentleman from California has 15 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Minnesota has 20 minutes remaining.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY), a member of the committee.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, it is amazing. At a time when we know that student loan debt now has skyrocketed above all other forms of consumer debt—credit card debt, car loan debt—and students are now graduating, on average, with over \$25,000 of student loan debt, a ticking clock 38 days away where the rates are going to double, the bill that the majority has come forward with makes the problem worse, not better.

Again, the analysis from independent sources—the ones that we rely on to make decisions in this body, the Congressional Budget Office and the Congressional Research Office—make it clear that if we do nothing, the interest costs for the average Stafford loan will add \$4,000 in interest payments. If we pass this bill, the interest will rise by \$5,000. So the notion that this is somehow a solution to the problem, the misnomer that this bill is given, the reverse is true.

Mr. Speaker, we know that the Senate is not going to move over the next 38 days; they're doing the farm bill, they're doing immigration reform. It is time to protect students by extending the 3.4 percent rate, a rate, which I hasten to add, that was passed in 2007 with a large bipartisan majority, signed into law by George Bush, was extended again last year with large bipartisan majorities, signed by President Obama. Let's do a 2-year extension, and then let's get to work with a 5-year Higher Education Reauthorization Act.

The problem with higher ed is not about Stafford loans only; it's about Pell grants, it's about Perkins loans. It's about students not being given good information in high school. It's about allowing graduates to refinance their debt, which they are now confronted with large barriers to. That's the real work to solve the higher education challenge and issue in this country. In the mean time, let's extend the 2-year rates.

Mr. Speaker, I have letters from 21 campus-based organizations representing real live college students all across America who support the Democratic measure to extend those rates, get a good higher education authorization bill, and totally—totally—reject the measure that's on the floor today, the Make College More Expensive Act.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI), a member of the committee.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Making College More Expensive Act, a bill that

will potentially make college more expensive for thousands of students and families across the country.

Across America, students and graduates are trapped under a trillion-dollar mountain of student loan debt, and with this bill, the problem is about to get worse.

On July 1, interest rates will double for millions of students entering college. But this bill is not a constructive solution; in fact, this bill will make the problem worse.

Rates are currently 3.4 percent, and they will double to 6.8 percent if we do nothing. But under this bill, the rates will be uncertain because they will be variable, and will be as high as 8.5 percent.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, this legislation will force students to pay thousands more in interest than if Congress simply does nothing and lets the rates double.

It's just not fair. On average, middle class families haven't seen a raise in years. Many are working harder for less money. They're struggling to buy everything from groceries to gas. They're relying more on the Federal student loans programs to finance the growing cost of college.

But instead of debating how much we should lower rates, instead of considering comprehensive reforms to address college costs, we're actually considering legislation that would be worse than if we did nothing at all.

Mr. Speaker, this is unproductive, unreasonable, and unacceptable. I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to yield 3 minutes to another member of the committee, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER).

Mr. MESSER. I would like to thank Chairman KLINE for his hard work on this bill. I'd also like to thank Subcommittee Chairwoman FOXX for her hard work.

I rise today in support of H.R. 1911, the Smarter Solutions for Students Act.

This debate is about a fundamental question: Who do you trust more—the promises of Big Government or the private market setting rates in the marketplace?

I believe we must return to a market-based policy rather than keeping Congress in the business of fixing interest rates by throwing darts at a dart board.

Let me make two simple points to this Chamber. First, markets work. The President has recognized this, Education Secretary Duncan has recognized this. They both have called for a return to market-based rates and policies on our student loan interest. Families deserve the security of knowing that the marketplace will be setting their interest rate, not the results of the next mud wrestling match in Congress.

We've heard a lot of rhetoric on the other side of the aisle about how rates will rise if we change this policy. Lost

in that rhetoric is the fact that over the course of the last decade there have been times where interest rates would have been much lower had we had a market-based approach to interest rates.

In 2002, student groups lobbied Congress to set student loan interest rates at a fixed 6.8 percent, beginning in the 2006 academic year. At that time, rates on student loans were variable and at historically low levels. However, student groups believed that a 6.8 rate would result in a better deal. It turned out they were wrong. Through that period, interest rates—had we stayed at a variable rate—would have been 2.36 percent. I don't think it's fair to those families that accumulated loans during those times that we had the government in the way.

The second point I think that needs to be made in this debate is that while we need to have low interest rates for students—and we're all concerned and want to make sure they don't rise—the real threat to young people in this country is not a few dollars on their interest loans.

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

Mr. KLINE. I yield the gentleman 1 minute.

Mr. MESSER. The real threat is the explosive growth of debt in this country, the fact that we are adding \$1 trillion of debt each year, \$6,800 of debt per taxpayer each year. It's dragging down our economy and hurting our ability to create jobs.

Let's return to commonsense policy on interest rates. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1911.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

Mr. WELCH. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Making College More Expensive Act.

Mr. Speaker, what we're doing is just not right. The Federal Government is borrowing money at 1.8 percent. Then we're lending it—now—at 3.4 percent. If we do nothing, it goes to 6.8 percent. And under this bill, it probably will hit up around 10 percent. We're ripping off kids. I mean, we're making money off of these kids. A confident Nation will invest in the dreams of our young people, it won't crush those dreams.

Why are we doing it? You know what? We're borrowing money as a government at 1.8 percent. The Federal Reserve is lending money to the big money center banks at 0.75 percent. But we're going to be charging up to 8 or 10 percent to our kids? I don't get that.

Families are sitting around the kitchen table having discussions—if they have three kids, which two can we send to college?

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. WELCH. Parents who thought they had equity in their home and were going to be able, after working 30 years of work, to finally take that cruise or that vacation, they're refinancing their home to help their kids. And despite that—which compromises their retirement—their kids are getting out of college in Vermont with an average debt in the range of close to \$30,000.

It's tough on the kids, it's tough on the parents, it's bad for our economy, and it's just not right. We borrow, the Federal Government, at 1.8 percent, and we're going to charge up to 8 percent for families? We're lending to the banks at 0.75 percent.

□ 1140

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL).

Mr. SWALWELL of California. I rise in opposition, Mr. Speaker, to the Making College More Expensive Act.

How short are some of the memories of my friends on the other side, for it was market-based principles, unregulated market-based principles, that led to the housing crisis that we are just now getting out of.

Doubling the student loan rate is an attack on students. The increased debt that they will take on will build a great wall around our middle class. There's no better way to have a healthy, growing middle class than access to education.

Today, our middle class is shrinking. If you're in the middle class, you're making about \$5,000 less than you were 10 years ago. If you're in the middle class, you owe about \$25,000 more in debt than you did 10 years ago. Doubling the rates will increase the debt that our middle class has.

I know a thing or two about student loans. I have thousands of dollars of them myself. This is not just dollars on interest rates. We are talking thousands of dollars that individual borrowers like myself and the people that grew up with me in a middle class town called Dublin will take on.

Let's tear down this great wall that the GOP and the House leadership are trying to build around our middle class. Let's not double the rates.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in strong opposition to the Republican Making College More Expensive Act that we're considering today. Market-based systems will drive up the cost for millions of middle class families but will, of course, also benefit some of our biggest banks and other financial institutions.

If we want to get our country back on the right track, put men and women

back to work and ensure that we remain competitive in the global economy, we have to do more to make higher education more accessible and more affordable, not more expensive.

Without Congressional action, the interest rate on Federal subsidized Stafford loans is scheduled to increase from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent for more than 7 million students. We should not be making a profit on student loans—period.

We have proposals that will end this practice and give students access to college at the lowest cost possible. Unlike this bill, the Student Loan Relief Act, the Responsible Student Loan Solutions Act, and the Bank on Students Loan Fairness Act would each preserve low interest rates for students.

The bill before us today is a bad Republican idea that will make college more expensive for working families and will benefit some of America's largest financial institutions who will earn billions more in student loan interest. Hidden within this bill is a blatant bait-and-switch scheme that will allow students to borrow money at one rate before the interest rates skyrocket.

Let's reject the Making College More Expensive Act and find a serious, long-term solution on student loans that will make college more affordable for millions and millions of American students.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS).

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I'm puzzled. This is not the America that I know. It can't be.

When we were growing to make ourselves a great Nation, we were talking about trying to make sure that our young people had a free education. I can't figure out what's going on here. So many Americans that are doing well now, when I talk to them about when they were going to school back in the forties and the fifties and the sixties, it was a free education. Now we want to ask our young people, the ones that are going to be the middle class, the ones that are going to strengthen this country, to be more in debt than ever.

How could we say to our students—when we're talking about financial literacy everywhere and trying to teach them how to be financially able—that you've got to take a bait-and-switch loan? Didn't we learn anything from this last financial crisis?

What are homeowners doing now? All who had these adjustable-rate mortgages, all of them are running to make the adjustable-rate mortgages fixed-rate mortgages. And yet we take what we say are our precious resources—our children—to say that you've got to pay these resources is ridiculous. Some are wealthy, some are not.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I have no further speakers.

Is the chairman the last speaker?

Mr. KLINE. I am prepared to close.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to thank all of my colleagues who entered into the debate here this morning on this legislation. I think it is clear that there is a very big difference between our positions on this legislation; there's a very big difference between the President's bill, who is trying to use a market system, and this bill before us, Mr. KLINE's bill, that uses a market system.

The fact is that the President's bill saves students billions of dollars, but the Republicans would not make President Obama's bill in order for consideration. Why not? They say it's like they're doing the same thing as the President. Well, they're not. In fact, they're adding \$4 billion worth of debt onto the backs of students over their program.

And how can they possibly do that? You've heard my colleagues on this side of the aisle speak to the issues that we hear all of the time when we go home. The struggle of students, the struggle of families, be they low-income, be they middle-income, to get access and to be able to complete a college education, to get access to a community college, to a State college system, to get a certificate, to get a degree that will allow them to participate in the American society, in the American economy. That's part of the American Dream.

Yes, we lowered the interest rates to 3.4 percent, and they've held over a period of years. And they held over those exact same years when families were under the most stress because of this recession that was created on Wall Street and the scandals that took away 70 percent of the wealth of African American and Hispanic families in this country, that destroyed the equity and good chunks of middle America because of teaser rate loans, subprime loans.

And what is happening today in the private market? The banks are getting money from the Treasury at 0.75 interest, and they're loaning it to families in private student loans. If you have good credit, they'll loan it to you for somewhere around 7 percent.

Bankers used to go die and go to heaven if they could get a 7 percent spread. That's how you become a billionaire. Get it at 0.75 and put it out at 7. And if your credit rating is not so good, those statistics sort of suggest you drift towards 13 percent.

Obviously, the students and middle class can't survive in that market for the most part, and that's why we have a student loan program. That's why we took this program away from the banks a number of years ago. We took the \$60 billion that we were giving to the banks to loan the public's money to students and we said why don't we put that to use for families, and we did.

And we lowered the interest rates, and we increased the participation in the Pell Grants, made it available. We increased some loan limits. We gave people a chance to manage their debt after they graduated, so the more you earn, the more you pay, but you don't get crushed on your first job that may not have the best salary, even though it's the career you want to go in and it takes time to get that salary. We made it more affordable for America's families.

Yes, we lowered the debt to 3.4 percent. It was paid for, and that's all we could afford. Congress will make that decision. Last year, the Congress made a decision to extend it. This year, they've decided that they don't want to extend it on the other side of the aisle. So, fine, come up with a plan. But the plan they came up with is worse than having the 3.4 percent double on July 1.

How can you develop a plan that's worse for students? I guess maybe if you go home and everybody in your district is working and everybody is participating in this slow-growing economy that's getting better. I don't know. Families I represent, they're still struggling. The recession hasn't left town. The recession hasn't left the country.

If you pick up *The Wall Street Journal* today, there's greater concern about what's happening in China dragging down the world economy, there's greater concern about the Europeans dragging down the world economy. America is trying to struggle and the students are trying to struggle, and we're going to come along and more than double the rate.

We're going to give them a teaser rate, though. This next September when families go out and they get a rate, it will be probably somewhat lower than the current rate. But that loan will be adjusted, and they don't know what those rates are going to be. As long as they're paying on that loan, that loan will continue to be adjusted. We just saw that history in America. We saw what that did.

I don't have a problem going to a market system. How about a fair one? When the President went to a market system for the subsidized Stafford loan, he said on the market system we'll go to 0.9. They said they would go to 2.5—10 years plus 2.5. The President said 10 years plus 0.9.

□ 1150

There are a lot of ways to go to a market system. You don't have to punish the American family. You don't have to punish the students in school to go to a market system. I wish the President had a cap. The gentleman has a cap. This could be worked out, but we don't do things bipartisanly anymore in the Congress of the United States. So, because we can't get the President and the majority on the Education and the Workforce Committee to sit down and work out the market system—because that's not allowed and

we don't do bipartisan work—the victims are going to be the families and the students, and, in the long term, our Nation.

Every Member of Congress has come to this floor and has said how important this education system is to our future economic growth, to competing in a globalized world, to have innovation, to have discovery, to have job creation. We're now creating a drag on job creation. We're now creating a drag on the opportunities for families. We are creating a drag on the ability to achieve the American Dream—and a college education is part of that dream, but a college education is also critical to keeping this economy and this society moving.

I would hope that my colleagues, whether they are committed to a market rate or not, would understand that this is a very flawed market rate.

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

Mr. KLINE. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, as always in these debates, there is a lot of confusion, and there is a lot of misinformation. We are using that old thing about “figures lie and liars figure,” and you've got different guesses for interest rates and reports and all those sorts of things, and I want to get into some of that, but some of it is at the core of our differences here. Let's get a couple of things straight.

We watch what has happened as Congress tries to chase an interest rate and gets in political battles year after year. You'll remember that the 6.8 percent that was put in law was considered a good deal. Then there was the plan to take it from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent for all loans. It didn't work. It costs a lot of money, and it's added to the debt, which is a problem that is still nagging us to this day. So interest rates were taken from 6.8 to 3.4 percent gradually over years. It got down to the point where, for 1 year, the interest rate on subsidized Stafford loans—not the unsubsidized Stafford loans, not the PLUS loans, because we didn't have the money for that—took it down to 3.4 percent for 1 year, and then there wasn't enough money. So, by law, the interest rates on those loans went back up to 6.8 percent, and last year, an election year, we had a big political fight, and that's what you can anticipate, apparently, forever as politicians try to use this as a political pawn and fight over what the student loan interest rates ought to be and what can be afforded.

Mr. Speaker, what can be afforded counts because a problem, as I said, that is continuing to nag us is we have a mountain of debt in this country. We've been running deficits year after year of over \$1 trillion. We've got over \$16 trillion in debt. We have to face that issue here coming before us. So, while we would like all student loan interest rates to be low and as we want to get them as low as we can, we don't

want to add to the mountain of debt that's out there.

We thought that it would be a good idea to let the free market determine what those rates ought to be, and we came forward with a proposal, and we talked about our proposal with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle—staff to staff, hour after hour—trying to beat this out staff to staff and in talking to the White House and the Department of Education about what we're doing and what they're doing and what might work out. I talked to the Secretary of Education before this bill was ever introduced because I agreed with the President and the Secretary that we needed a long-term solution and to get out of kicking this can down the road with annual—or maybe it's semiannual or biannual—political battles.

So we moved to the market. We used a 10-year Treasury that the White House was proposing using—center Republicans wanted to use a 10-year Treasury—and then we worked it, Mr. Speaker. We worked it and worked it to get it as close to budget-neutral as we could possibly get it because we want to help students, and we wanted to give them certainty, and we wanted them not to rely on the whims of politicians here, and we wanted also not to put the burden on the American people and the taxpayer, and we wanted not to add to that debt. So we tried to get it close to zero.

We've seen charts down here—I love charts, particularly colored charts. We've seen charts down here that say that our bill is adding billions of dollars to student debt. Well, we've got a counterproposal over there. I think the gentleman from California offered it. It's the President's proposal, President Obama's plan. That additional debt to students is \$3.1 billion—ours is \$3.7 billion—over 10 years. We tried to come together on this. Mr. Speaker, I think we can continue to try to come together on this, and we need to move this forward.

There are a lot of things we need to do to help students. Certainly, one of them is to help graduates get to work. Half of all college graduates now are underemployed or unemployed, doing things, working in places, employing none of the skills that they learned in college. We need to get the economy going. We're still asking, Where are the jobs? We need to get Americans back to work. You can't get Americans back to work if you just keep piling on mountains and mountains and mountains of debt and piles of regulations, but that's a fight for another day. Income-based repayment systems we didn't touch in our bill, but there are some interesting proposals out there we want to look at. Right now, with this bill, we're just trying to determine who is going to set interest rates—politicians here or the market.

So here is what we've heard from the other side today: that Washington should be in charge of setting interest

rates on student loans, that Washington should be in the business of creating confusion and uncertainty for student loan borrowers. Washington cannot agree to a long-term solution that will serve the best interests of students and taxpayers. I think we need to keep working to do that.

It was pointed out that the Senate won't act. Well, for many of us in this body, that's not a lot of news, but July 1 is still July 1, and there is an incentive over there, and I believe the Senate must take action. I look forward to working with them to achieve the long-term solution that I think that we all need to see.

It was pointed out that we have a variable rate. The President has a variable rate but then his fixes. Certainly, under our law, when you graduate, if you're in a low-interest environment, you can consolidate those loans and fix them for the duration of however long you're taking to pay off those loans. If it's in a high interest rate environment, you may not want to do that. In the other plan, you've already got a fixed rate.

We believe we can work together. The only way we can continue to work together to solve this is to pass this legislation. Pass it today. I urge my colleagues to reject the failed status quo and to embrace a responsible long-term solution on behalf of students, families, and hardworking American taxpayers. I urge my colleagues to support the Smarter Solutions for Students Act.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1911, the wrong approach to a very real problem for our nation's students.

As we all know, the interest rate on student loans will double in July if Congress does not act. But today's legislation is not the solution. In fact, today's bill will make student loans more expensive, not less.

Student loan debt already tops \$1.1 trillion, burdening recent graduates with high monthly payments even as they struggle to find jobs and start their lives. With that much debt at the start of their careers, they may put off purchases like a home or a car. But rather than address that problem, today's bill would add \$3.7 billion in additional loan interest charges over the next ten years. In fact, if we did nothing and allowed the student loan interest rate to double, students would be better off than they would be under H.R. 1911.

Today's bill also makes it difficult for students to accurately predict their college costs. Under this proposal, the interest rate on loans would be recalculated every year for the life of the loan. According to Congressional Budget Office estimates, interest rates will be higher than current rates for seven of the next ten years. A borrower who takes out a loan next year under the Republican plan would see his interest rate more than double by the time he starts repaying that loan in 2017.

Mr. Speaker, we need a comprehensive solution to the problem of student debt that includes affordable financial assistance and works with states and colleges to keep costs

down. It is time to reauthorize the Higher Education Act—let's take this opportunity to negotiate a sustainable, long-term plan that works better for students.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Making College More Expensive Act that we are considering today. If we are serious about getting our country back on the right track, putting people back to work, and ensuring that we remain competitive in the global economy, we have to do more to make higher education more accessible and more affordable, not more expensive. Without Congressional action, the interest rate on federal subsidized Stafford loans is scheduled to increase from 3.4% to 6.8% for more than seven million students.

The United States Government should not be making a profit on student loans. Period.

And there are several proposals pending before the House today that would give students access to college at the lowest cost possible. Unlike this bill, the Student Loan Relief Act, the Responsible Student Loan Solutions Act, and the Bank on Students Loan Fairness Act would each preserve low interest rates for students. But the bill before us today is a bad Republican idea that will make college more expensive for working families. This bill before us today will make college more expensive to millions of Americans.

According to the independent, non-partisan Congressional Research Service, students with five years of subsidized Stafford loans borrowed at the maximum amount would owe \$4,174 in interest under current rate and \$8,808 if we allow interest rates to double on July 1st. But under this proposal, students would owe a total of \$10,109 in interest payments on their loans.

Hidden within this bill is a blatant bait and switch scheme that will allow students to borrow money at one rate before their interest rates skyrocket. Our friends on the other side of the aisle like to claim that putting student loans into the "marketplace" is a cure—all for increased student debt. But in this case, "marketplace" is code for billions of more dollars in interest payments as this bill would prevent students from enjoying the lowest available interest rates.

Let's reject the Making College More Expensive Act and find a serious long-term solution on student loans that will make college more affordable for millions of Americans.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 1911—the Smarter Solutions for Students Act. Mr. Speaker, this terrible bill should instead be called the Making College More Expensive Act because that is exactly what it would do if passed through Congress.

Instead of making college more affordable for students, H.R. 1911 would burden students with an additional \$4 billion in loan interest charges relative to current law. According to a recent study by the Federal Reserve, there is plenty of evidence that student loan debt has negatively affected a student borrower's participation in our economy. With the national student loan debt already topping \$1.1 trillion, H.R. 1911 would only deepen the college debt crisis students are now experiencing in America.

Over the past couple of years, legislators have been repeatedly warned about the impacts student loan debt has on economic growth. Even the Federal Reserve has identi-

fied that student debt is the likely cause of delays by American college graduates in purchasing homes and cars or starting families.

H.R. 1911 is a bait and switch scheme that does nothing to remedy this issue. This bill only makes it more expensive to attend by forcing students and families to accept loans with skyrocketing interest rates that increase annually.

Just this past weekend, students from all over the country in the class of 2013 graduated with an average debt load of \$30,000 (Source: Mark Kantrowitz—publisher of FinAid.org analysis). When adjusted for inflation, that's roughly double the average amount of debt students graduated with 20 years ago.

The passage of this bill would continue this trend by changing student loan interest rates from year-to-year based on the 10-year Treasury note, marked up by 2.5 percent to 4.5 percent. As a result of this variable rate, federal student loans taken out by incoming freshmen class of 2013 would at first be at a lower rate; however, by the time this class of freshman graduates in 2017, the interest rate on their loans is projected to be 7.4 percent, more than double today's current 3.4 percent rate for subsidized Stafford loans.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, CFPB, released a report this month citing the long-term impacts of high student loan debt. The CFPB found "As a growing number of young consumers have been unable to participate more fully in the housing marketplace, the segment of young consumers that remains interested in becoming first-time homebuyers may face new barriers to homeownership. The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) stated that higher student debt burdens "impair the ability of recent college graduates to qualify for a loan." According to NAHB, high student loan debt has an impact on consumers' debt-to-income (DTI) ratio—an important metric for decisions about creditworthiness in mortgage origination.

I have long championed the importance of developing the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators to lead our country boldly in the 21st Century. Yet, the CFPB report found that student loan debt is posing a barrier to young entrepreneurs.

According to the report by CFPB "For many young entrepreneurs, it is critical to invest capital to develop ideas, market products, and hire employees. Student debt burdens require these individuals to divert cash away from their businesses so they can make monthly student loan payments." Is this the future we want for our nation's student borrowers? Instead of building businesses, buying homes, and having families they are being crushed by the weight of student loan debt. This is not the future I want for current and future student borrowers.

Attaining an education is one of our Nation's founding principles. We should be working on finding solutions to lower the cost of education for our nation's youth rather than debating legislation designed to earn another \$3.7 billion in revenue from struggling student borrowers. This bill is egregious.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear to my Democratic colleagues and I that college affordability is still a pervasive issue in America. It is also clear, that this issue will require more than just a temporary fix. In order for us to maintain our competitive edge as a nation, we need to support every single American who desires to pur-

sue a higher education. Congress needs to pass meaningful legislation that actually solves this problem and not perpetuate it. Let's start by voting no on H.R. 1911 and support our American students by not saddling them with insurmountable debt.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, once again House Republicans refuse to address the affordability of higher education head on and instead are using sleight of hand to make students think their interest rates will remain low. The awful truth is that H.R. 1911 will add even more to the already \$1.1 billion of student debt in this country and further increase the cost of getting a college education.

As we continue to recover economically, we must ensure that students can afford a higher education. In 2007, as we were dealing with the worst of the recession, I voted in favor of legislation to reduce interest rates on Stafford loans from 6.8 to 3.4 percent. On July 1, interest rates will go back to 6.8 percent if Congress does not act.

An increase to 6.8 percent will add an additional \$1000 in debt over the lifetime on a student's loans. However, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that under H.R. 1911 interest rates will rapidly increase to 7.7 percent by 2018. This bill does not guarantee lower interest rates. In fact, it does the opposite. The CBO does not project that interest rates will come down any time in the next 10 years. This is a hard truth students and their families cannot afford.

I am a proud cosponsor, along with 138 of my colleagues, of H.R. 1595, the Student Loan Relief Act by Representative JOE COURTNEY, which keeps the interest rate at 3.4 percent through 2015. That gives the Congress time enough to address comprehensive legislation to amend the Higher Education Act and develop long-term solutions to address student loans.

There are nearly 48,000 students attending a university or college in my district who have a Stafford subsidized student loan. Those loans total over \$212 million. Increasing the interest rate will add an unnecessary burden on those students as they graduate and enter the workforce. We must do everything we can to help as they get started.

We should not have to choose how we are going to invest in our country's future. Republicans don't seem to realize that by not finding a compromise, they are playing politics with students, families, and the future of our country.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to H.R. 1911, the Smarter Solutions for Students Act.

This bill will return federal student loans to a system of market-based variable rates, an imprudent policy that seeks profits for deficit reduction at the expense of students struggling with the substantial and ever-climbing cost of post-secondary education.

With federal student loan interest rates set to double on July 1, 2013, Congress must act quickly to extend the current rate, rather than passing legislation that hurts students and families. According to the Congressional Research Service, H.R. 1911 will actually make it more expensive for students than if Congress did nothing and let the current interest rate expire. The Congressional Budget Office estimates this bill will cost students and parents an addition \$3.7 billion in additional interest charges over the next 10 years.

This is unacceptable. Approximately 60 percent of students take out loans to attend college and increasing the costs of borrowing will prevent millions from being able to pursue higher education. Last year the total amount of student loan debt reached \$1 trillion and the average borrower from the class of 2011 graduated with \$26,600 in debt.

College educated students are the future engine of our country, and anyone who wants to pursue a post-secondary education should have the opportunity to do so without going into crushing debt. I urge my colleagues to extend the current interest rate of 3.4 percent for two years and find a true long-term solution to the cost of college worthy of our nation's young people.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose H.R. 1911, the so-called "Smarter Solutions for Students Act". I propose a more accurate title "The Making Kindergarteners Pay for Our Mistakes Act of 2013." I must confess that every time I hear someone say they support austerity for the children, I am forced to question their understanding of economics. I try not to question their motives, but on a day like today—that is a struggle I am hard pressed to win. This bill does little more than turn the United States government into a payday lender—charging students interest that far outstrips the government's cost of lending. Instead of a fixed interest rate, that will let parents and students know how much their education costs, this bill sets interest at a variable, market rate—plus a nice little premium for the government. I wonder what fury my friends across the aisle would raise if we were to treat banks in a similar manner.

This fall's incoming class of students born in 1994 and 1995 was in kindergarten when Republicans seized control of our country and its surplus, and moved us quickly to deficit and debt. While these children were learning how rewarding it was to read, my colleagues across the aisle learned how remunerative it was to pass unfunded tax cuts and unfunded wars onto those children. While they let wages stagnate—an act which continues to this day—and they cut funding to schools—another policy which continues to this day—they reaped millions in campaign contributions from the billionaire's whose taxes they cut, the military contractors to whom they brought billions. Now, my friends across the aisle will vote to ensure students who were five when Republicans started running up the debt, will pay down that debt as the price of going to college.

Today a college degree is more necessary than ever, and more expensive than ever. Unlike my friends across the aisle, I remember that my own education was subsidized by the state. Unlike my friends across the aisle, I don't brag about paying for my college education during a time when our Federal and State governments looked out for students and the poor—when education was treated as a public good, and the minimum wage far outstripped its modern equivalent.

The modern Republican party—many of them bragging about their in-state educations when they want to stress how much they understand the common person's experience—have all but officially declared for the for-profit model of education. Cut funding, and cut funding, and cut funding to the school. Push more of the cost onto students. Use those students to profit. I apologize that we cannot politely

agree to disagree, but treating our children as a cash cow while proclaiming concern about our children does not pass the test of well-meaning debate. If they want the government out of the educating children business, then say so. But don't treat public education as a chance to pay down the debt. Children born in 1995 aren't the reason for our problems—Republican policies are. Eighteen-year-old kids didn't force them to increase inequality; 18-year-old kids didn't force them to destroy American meritocracy by securing inherited wealth for the child of every billionaire and denying opportunity to low-income children; 18-year-old kids didn't make them destroy the middle class to secure greater wealth for those who line your pockets with contributions.

The promise of the American middle class was created when affordable education made the prospect of a good paying job possible for every child. If they want to destroy it, say so. If they want to take out on our children their own guilt about the haphazard, excessive spending of Republican administrations, say so. If they don't care about our children—at least not those who don't benefit from the millionaire tax cuts they pass at every opportunity—just say so.

I urge my friends across the aisle to look at their own actions, and reassess if they can in good conscience support taking more from children just entering into the adult world. I urge them to drop this bill and begin working on a real solution, one that provides the next generation the same opportunities they were provided.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1911, the Smarter Solutions for Students Act because this bill becoming law would be worse than allowing student loan interest rates to double on July 1, 2013.

If Congress does nothing the student loan interest rate will rise from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent on July 1st. As Members of the Congress, we know what this will mean for students in our states and what it will mean for colleges and universities in our Congressional Districts.

The bill H.R. 1911 does not fix the problem of higher interest rates for student loans, but places a greater financial burden on young professionals just starting out in life. The Treasury 10 year rate over the last several years is abnormally low due to the weak economy, but in years when the economy was strong the rate was consistently above 6 percent or more. This is the rate that H.R. 1911 would use to calculate student loan repayment not over the life of the loan, but each time funds were provided.

I have a strong interest in how student loan repayment plans impact graduates. During the last Congress, I introduced the College Literacy in Finance and Economics Act of 2011 or College LIFE Act to address the challenges faced by African American and Hispanic students who sign loan agreements, but may not have the financial literacy to comprehend the significance of taking on long-term debt.

My bill directed that eligible institutions provide financial literacy counseling to borrowers within 45 days after students receive their loan.

Literacy counseling under the College LIFE Act would require: a minimum of two 4-hour counseling sessions, the first when a student receives a loan payment, and the second when student's complete their study.

The focus of financial literacy education under the College LIFE Act was to make sure students knew through counseling what they were agreeing to in signing up for and receiving a student loan.

Counseling would provide information on student education financial options that went beyond loans and included scholarships. Student financial literacy programs can provide insight into information on loan management and the basics of personal financial management.

The bill would have also provided financial education that taught students how to: make a budget, prioritize financial decision making related to how to balance income, expenses and personal spending, develop realistic goals based on income, and manage credit and debt.

Students would have learned how to understand credit scores, credit cards, and investing so that they could become better financial consumers.

The College LIFE Act would have benefited thousands of graduating students. In the City of Houston, this spring I have participated in commencement exercises for the University of Houston, Texas Southern University, Houston Community College and Lone Star College North Harris. There are thousands of new graduates just in the City of Houston alone who are ready to pursue their dreams, but who will wake up to the reality of tens of thousands of dollars in debt.

I am proud to call Texas Southern University a constituent of the 18th Congressional District of Houston Texas. Texas Southern University is the third largest Historically Black College and University in the Nation. I joined Texas Southern University's current president Dr. John Rudley at the school's commencement. Texas Southern University has a long proud history of success in the students it has sent forth.

The school was founded in September of 1927 with a loan from the Houston Public School Board. This was not a loan intended to saddle the school with a debt too great to survive. For this reason, along with hard work and the dedication of faculty, students and the Houston Community, the University will celebrate its 86th anniversary this year.

Texas Southern University's loan statistics for the 9700 students attending the school tells us why financial aid is important:

Eighty-one percent of the students attending the school receive some form of student financial assistance.

Texas Southern University received \$85 million in student financial aid revenue for graduate and undergraduate students.

Due to a change in how the Department of Education determines eligibility for parent student loans, there are over 400 fewer students attending Texas Southern University this year.

Changes to student loan rules—no matter how minor—can result in major consequences for a young person's prospects for a college or university degree. A college degree can open up a world of opportunities that would otherwise not be available.

I spoke at Texas Southern University's commencement exercise and was pleased to be joined by Michael Strahan, a Texas Southern University Alum who is a co-host of Live with Kelly and Michael.

Not all Texas Southern University graduates are as famous as Michael Strahan, but many

of them pursue careers that lead to personal and professional success. The goal of attending a university should and ought not to be gaining fame and fortune.

The outcome of our work in Congress should not result in crushing financial debt, because that will end the dreams of college for otherwise college-ready students.

In 2008, 62 percent of students who graduated with a baccalaureate degree left college with more than knowledge—they were burdened with debt. Students of every race, ethnicity, and gender struggle with loans.

According to 2008 statistics: 92 percent of African-American students, 85 percent of Hispanic students, 85 percent of Native American students, 82 percent of multiracial students, 80 percent of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island students, 77 percent of white students, and 68 percent of Asian students received financial aid.

Education is the surest path out of poverty. However, if the changes proposed by H.R. 1911, that would amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 are allowed to become law, the cost of education will become more uncertain and much more costly.

The reason, I introduced the College LIFE Act was to deal with the issue of personal financial education that has to proceed or come as a requirement when students take on college education debt.

The bill directed that eligible institutions provide financial literacy counseling to borrowers within 45 days after students receive their loan.

The focus of the financial literacy education under the College LIFE Act was to make sure students knew what they were agreeing to in signing up for and receiving a student loan.

Counseling would provide information on student education financial options that went beyond loans and included scholarships. Student financial literacy programs can provide insight into information on loan management and the basics of personal financial management, such as how to make a budget, prioritizing income, expenses and personal spending, as well as how to develop realistic goals based on income.

These students would have also learned about credit and debt management by understanding the importance of credit scores. Counseling would make sure that students understood credit cards and investing.

The need for education from cradle to grave should be a national priority, not an afterthought. We know that the United States is behind in a wide array of areas related to Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics known as STEM education. The Republican leadership must make the national interest for STEM education a top priority.

Students who are graduating across the Nation are departing colleges and universities this spring with immense debt. Student borrowing is widespread with more than \$100 billion in federal education loans distributed every year. In total student loan debt adds up to \$1 trillion dollars. As a direct consequence of a weak economy more than ever, students and parents must rely upon loans to pay for higher education.

The only reliable way in today's economy to earn more is to learn more. During difficult economic times adults seek new careers by going back to school. Parents who want a better life for their children will take on college

loan debt because the cost of education requires it.

This is a bad bill that will not solve the problem of out-of-control student loan debt. For the reasons stated, I urge my Colleagues to join me in voting no on this bill.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1911, the Smarter Solutions for Students Act. I was displeased that the House Committee on Rules decided late last night to consider this bill under a closed rule and would not consider any amendments submitted to H.R. 1911. My amendment would have extended Pay As You Earn in order to give past borrowers the same benefits afforded to new borrowers.

Pay As You Earn, created under the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, reduces the monthly payment under Income Based Repayment, IBR, by a third, from 15 percent of discretionary income to 10 percent of discretionary income, and accelerates the loan forgiveness from 25 years to 20 years. However, it is only effective for new borrowers of new loans on or after July 1, 2014.

We need to protect students from high interest rates on these loans so they are not financially paralyzed for simply pursuing an education. In a global economy, putting a college education within reach for every American has never been more important. But it's also never been more expensive. On July 1, the interest rate on subsidized Stafford student loans will double from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent if Congress does nothing, increasing college costs for over 7 million students by \$1,000 per student, per loan. Unfortunately, this bill does not adequately provide the assistance our students need and instead exacerbates the college debt crisis.

According to estimates by the Congressional Budget Office, interest rates under H.R. 1911 will be higher than current fixed rates for millions of borrowers seven of the next ten years. Even more troubling, H.R. 1911 also includes provisions that will provide \$3.4 billion in debt reduction. It will be a sad day in American history if should the Congress decide to further burden struggling students to reduce a national debt they will already be paying for throughout the course of their lives.

In Texas and all across the country, students and recent college graduates are now facing the highest unemployment rate of any other group. By 2018, 63 percent of all American job openings will require some sort of postsecondary education. In order for our country to remain competitive, we need to make college more affordable and accessible. Political gimmicks such as H.R. 1911 will only discourage our Nation's students from pursuing an education.

With the cost of higher education continuing to skyrocket, I simply cannot support a measure that will increase the financial burden for millions of students and their families. If Americans fail to address this issue now, we will default on commitment to a better future for our children. We owe it to our young people to provide the opportunities that will allow them to become successful and productive adults.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker. I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1911, the Making College More Expensive Act. This misguided bill would actually increase the cost of student loans and

make it harder for graduates to escape the crushing burden of college debt.

It is a matter of critical national interest that we ensure our colleges and universities are turning out a well-educated, highly-qualified workforce. Unfortunately, the ever-increasing cost of tuition is creating a permanently indebted generation of graduates who are too often paying off crippling debt instead of building fulfilling careers that will increase their financial mobility and our country's economic competitiveness.

We should be working together to solve this looming crisis. Regrettably, this partisan measure makes college more expensive by tying student loan interest rates to the 10-year Treasury note, plus an additional 2.5 to 4.5 percent, and prevents students from locking in a fixed rate. Since these rates will reset every year, by the time next year's freshmen graduate, they will be paying more than double today's current rate for subsidized Stafford loans. The Congressional Budget Office estimates this will produce an extra \$3.4 billion in federal revenue, meaning the government will be profiting off the extra debt students incur. I find this completely unacceptable.

That is why I am a cosponsor of a bill, introduced by Congressman JOE COURTNEY, to extend the current rate of 3.4 percent on Stafford loans for an additional two years. Rather than waging another partisan fight on a bill that will not pass the Senate and the President is prepared to veto, we should consider legislation that has a real chance of becoming law and that will provide real relief to students and their families. What we have before us today is a bait-and-switch scheme, promising benefits that cannot be realized for another four years and that can in no way be guaranteed.

As part of the upcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, we should take on student loans as part of a comprehensive effort to address student debt, college affordability and the financial aid system as a whole. We can take advantage of today's historically low rates without making empty promises to college students.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to a bad bill that increases the cost of financing a higher education and adds to the burden of debt for students and their parents. Without quick Congressional action, the interest rate on subsidized Stafford loans will climb from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent in July for all new loans. Students and families struggling to afford increasing college costs are relying on us to stop this dramatic increase now, and to work in a bipartisan way to find a long-term solution that will make financing a college education more affordable. Unfortunately, the Republican bill being considered today will do the opposite; it will actually make college more expensive for millions of young people and their families.

Chairman KLINE and House Republicans are bringing a bill to the House floor that creates greater uncertainty for students and their parents by instituting a variable interest rate over the lifetime of loans. Under this legislation, a college freshman starting school this fall who takes out a subsidized Stafford loan this fall would have no guarantee of what their interest rate would be at graduation! Tying Stafford and Parent PLUS loans to a market-based rate might sound good now, when market rates are low, but that could quickly change. In fact, according to projections from the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, in four short

years the Republican plan would have students paying an interest rate of 7.4 percent on the Stafford loans they take out this fall. Students graduating from college in 2017 would be worse off under this bill than if we did nothing at all!

Too many students and college graduates across this nation are already struggling with a crushing amount of student loan debt. Congress should not pass a bill that would burden them with \$3.7 billion of additional debt, as this Republican bill will do. What college students and their families really need is a comprehensive approach that makes college more affordable. The Democratic proposal freezes rates in the short term so that Congress can incorporate a long-term solution to student loan rates into the upcoming Higher Education Act's reauthorization. Democrats are asking Republicans to work with us to reduce the cost of higher education instead of shutting my colleagues on the Education and Workforce Committee out of policy discussions and bringing partisan proposals like this one to the floor.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, May is college decision time for high school seniors across the country. The excitement and joy of this decision is, increasingly, tempered by concerns about just how they are going to pay for this education. The cost of college has gone up 150 percent since 1995. In July, federal subsidized undergraduate student loan rates are set to double from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent, following the expiration of a one-year extension of lower rates. I support action to create a permanent fix to hold down student loan rates.

H.R. 1911 would require that student loan interest rates change year-to-year based on the 10-year Treasury note rate. In effect, over today's rates, H.R. 1911 would increase student loans by 2.5 percent to 4.5 percent, depending on the type of loan. Because interest rates on Federal student loans will be reset every year, under the Republican plan, next year's freshmen would face an interest rate on loans taken out freshman year of 7.4 percent, more than double today's current 3.4 percent rate for subsidized Stafford loans. Those borrowing the maximum amount would pay approximately \$2,000 more in interest payments under this plan during the life of those loans.

This is unacceptable in a time of rising tuition costs and growing student debt. Not only does it burden our students and bar some of them from pursuing higher education, it also burdens our economy and limits economic opportunity.

Instead, I support H.R. 1595, the Student Loan Relief Act, which extends the current lower rate. I also support H.R. 1979, the Bank on Students Loan Fairness Act. This legislation, championed by ELIZABETH WARREN in the Senate, would allow students to take out federal student loans at the same low interest rate offered to large financial institutions. The low rate enjoyed by big banks, currently about 0.75 percent, would make college more affordable for more students.

Interest costs on student loans, however, are only part of the problem. A college education is easily one of the best investments an individual can make and as a nation, educating our young people is the best investment we can make in the future of our economy. Yet, college has become so expensive in the United States that it is far out of reach for too

many students and those who do attend often find themselves saddled in a heavy debt load for years to come.

We must work to make education more accessible and affordable to all of our nation's students. H.R. 1911 runs counter to this goal and for that reason I do not support it.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today, the House will consider yet another bill that will make secondary education even more expensive for students. I strongly oppose this legislation that would serve to deepen the student debt, and burden student borrowers with crushing debt, when we have the ability to find a temporary solution, creating the time to find a better solution that would allow student borrowers to thrive.

Pursuing higher education is becoming increasingly essential to securing gainful and fruitful employment in the United States. Most students and their families cannot afford to pay for college outright and as such, rely on financial assistance from the government. This bill would offer these students the help they are seeking, only to later force them to accept sky-rocketing interest rates. It is projected that student borrowers entering school this fall would be subject to a 7.4 percent interest rate by the time they graduate in 2017. This is more than double the current interest rate of 3.4 percent. Approximately 81 percent of African-American students and 67 percent of Latino students find themselves graduating with both a bachelor's degree and a staggering student loan debt. This is in comparison to the 64 percent of white students who also graduate with student debt.

Students should be focusing on their studies and pursuing their dreams, not about whether or not they can afford to attend the next semester, or how they will be able to repay the tens of thousands of dollars of student debt awaiting them after graduation. Not only would the passage of the "Smarter Solutions for Students Act" create a crushing debt for those students and their families seeking to further their education, it would also create long-term negative effects on our already bruised economy. Student borrowers who are subject to the proposed variable interest rates would have little choice but to delay homeownership and starting families. Furthermore, subjecting students to such a drastic increase in, and variability of student loan interest rates would prohibit many students from returning to, and revitalizing their rural communities which are in need.

The "Smarter Solutions for Students Act" is entirely nonsensical. Student borrowers are being exploited, and turned into profit generators for the government. Over the last five fiscal years, the department of education has collected approximately \$101.8 billion dollars in profits from student borrowers.

I urge the Republicans to find a short term solution to this issue and freeze the current interest rates, so that the House can work on a long term solution. We must make college more affordable for those students who wish to attend. Currently, the student loan debt is at \$1 trillion. To allow the student loan interest rate to increase on July first would only serve to exacerbate this debt, and pile on billions of dollars to loan debt.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 232, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Ms. SINEMA. I am.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A point of order is reserved.

The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. SINEMA moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1911 to the Committee on Education and the Workforce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Redesignate section 3 as section 4.

Insert after section 2, the following new section:

SEC. 3. PROTECTING STUDENTS FROM TEASER INTEREST RATES THAT LEAD TO HIGHER LONG-TERM COSTS.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to—

(1) authorize a student or parent borrower to be charged a teaser interest rate that entices the borrower with an initially low-interest rate that subsequently skyrockets, dramatically increasing the total amount of interest due on a Federal student loan for the student;

(2) authorize an increase in the total cost of postsecondary education for students;

(3) authorize false advertising that hides the true cost of any Federal student loan to a student or parent borrower, including possible interest rate increases from year-to-year, the total amount of interest that a borrower may owe on such loan, and the number of years that a borrower may take to repay such loan; or

(4) limit the authority of the Secretary of Education to include in any disclosure related to interest rates that the Secretary is required to provide to a borrower for a loan made under part D of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087a) at or prior to the disbursement of such loan—

(A) an explanation that the applicable rate of interest for the loan is a variable interest rate and how such variable rate may affect the borrower's total cost of attending an institution of higher education; or

(B) estimations of the total amount of interest payments that a borrower may owe under all possible interest rate scenarios under this paragraph for each repayment option and length of repayment that is typical for borrowers under such Act.

Mr. KLINE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes in support of her motion.

□ 1200

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, this is a final amendment to the bill and will not kill it or send it back to committee.

I oppose H.R. 1911. While it's bad enough that student loan interest rates

are set to double on July 1, this bill actually makes interest loan rates even worse for our students. By allowing interest rates to rise dramatically on their loans, this bill steals from students and forces them to pay for Congress' debt. That's absolutely unacceptable.

The higher interest rates in this bill will force graduates, who are just beginning to plan their lives, to pay an estimated added \$1,200 each year to the government over 5 years. That's in addition to what they're already expecting to pay. And not only that, the interest rate is not guaranteed, so they can't even plan for this bad news.

When you buy a car, you know what your interest rate will be for the life of the loan. Future graduates who are starting a family, looking for work, and hoping to contribute to our communities should at least have the same reassurance about their investment in their hard work as they would have when buying a car.

It is Congress' duty to stop student loan interest rates from increasing by July 1, and it is outrageous that we would force students to pay for the debt that Congress has created. Hard-working students shouldn't have to pay for Congress' mistakes.

Two weeks ago I shared the story of one of my students at Arizona State University, Ariel Carlos. Ariel and his wife, May, worked their way through college to pay for school and put food on the table for their kids. Ariel also took out student loans in order to make it.

Ariel has debt that he and his wife will pay for decades to come. Students of mine, like Ariel, will make about \$30,000 a year when entering the workforce. They can't afford to pay down Congress' debt in addition to taking care of their families. When Ariel asks me to tell Congress not to make matters worse for families like his and then Congress responds with this so-called solution, we have failed him and his family.

My motion to recommit would help students. My amendment includes a truth-in-lending requirement that stops teaser rates. Teaser rates start low, but then skyrocket without warning and cost thousands of dollars more for students in the future. This amendment also requires the government to tell students the true cost of their loans, including the amount of their interest payments. This amendment allows students to plan for their future.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California, Representative GEORGE MILLER.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I want to congratulate the gentlewoman for offering this motion to recommit. I think she goes right to the heart of the matter, and that is the uncertainty that is being presented by the legislation on the floor today.

Other Members tried to deal with this issue of uncertainty. Mr. HECK from Nevada tried to deal with this un-

certainty by providing an incentive for those students who borrowed money and were able to pay 4 years on steady payments to give them incentive to continue to do that. Mr. RICE of South Carolina sought to have a lower rate.

This lower rate isn't chiseled in granite. This isn't the market rate. This is a choice of the Republican Members of the committee to choose these rates. Mr. RICE thought this time couldn't we have the lower rate to begin with, but the Rules Committee turned that out. Then Obama's plan was offered, and they turned that out.

So now we're stuck, and that's why we need this motion to recommit, to do as the gentlewoman from Arizona has said: to protect the students from the escalation of their interest rates, to protect the students from the escalation of the cost of college.

These are families and students. Companies and colleges create calculators to try to show students what it will cost over 4 years. This legislation takes all of that uncertainty out for families: how they set money aside, how they save money, how they borrow money. Those calculators don't work with this variable rate, and this variable rate can go on and on and on and on. That's the problem here.

This is a big choice for most families. I appreciate for some families that it's not a big deal as they've got enough money. From where I live, my family, people around me, my neighbors, this is a big choice and commitment to finance the education of your children. That's why this motion to recommit from the gentlewoman from Arizona is so important. There should be truth in lending for America's students, truth in lending for America's families, and we should get rid of the rates that will just punish them and crush them into the future as they graduate from college and they seek to participate in the American economy and in a career of their choice with the talents that we need as a Nation.

I want to thank the gentlewoman so very much.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Minnesota wish to still maintain his point of order?

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my point of order, and I rise in opposition to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The point of order is withdrawn, and the gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, we're trying to get to a long-term solution on how student loan interest rates are set. I believe the process for that is to pass the underlying legislation here, talk to our Senate colleagues, get them to act so that we can come together and come to a long-term solution.

The gentlelady's motion puts Washington squarely back in the middle of setting student loan interest rates. It's the wrong thing to do. I urge my col-

leagues to vote "no" on the motion and vote "yes" on the underlying bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of the bill, if ordered, and approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 194, nays 223, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 182]

YEAS—194

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|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| Andrews | Grayson | Nadler |
| Barber | Green, Al | Napolitano |
| Barrow (GA) | Green, Gene | Neal |
| Beatty | Grijalva | Negrete McLeod |
| Becerra | Gutierrez | Nolan |
| Bera (CA) | Hahn | O'Rourke |
| Bishop (GA) | Hanabusa | Owens |
| Bishop (NY) | Hastings (FL) | Pallone |
| Blumenauer | Heck (WA) | Pascarell |
| Bonamici | Higgins | Pastor (AZ) |
| Brady (PA) | Himes | Payne |
| Bralley (IA) | Hinojosa | Pelosi |
| Brown (FL) | Holt | Perlmutter |
| Brownley (CA) | Honda | Peters (CA) |
| Bustos | Horsford | Peters (MI) |
| Butterfield | Hoyer | Peterson |
| Capps | Huffman | Pingree (ME) |
| Capuano | Israel | Pocan |
| Cárdenas | Jackson Lee | Polis |
| Carney | Jeffries | Price (NC) |
| Carson (IN) | Johnson (GA) | Quigley |
| Cartwright | Johnson, E. B. | Rahall |
| Castor (FL) | Kaptur | Rangel |
| Castro (TX) | Keating | Richmond |
| Chu | Kelly (IL) | Roybal-Allard |
| Ciçilline | Kennedy | Ruiz |
| Clarke | Kildee | Ruppersberger |
| Clay | Kilmer | Rush |
| Cleaver | Kind | Ryan (OH) |
| Cohen | Kirkpatrick | Sánchez, Linda |
| Connolly | Kuster | T. |
| Conyers | Langevin | Sanchez, Loretta |
| Cooper | Larsen (WA) | Sarbanes |
| Costa | Larson (CT) | Schakowsky |
| Courtney | Lee (CA) | Schiff |
| Crowley | Levin | Schneider |
| Cuellar | Lipinski | Schrader |
| Cummings | Loeb sack | Schwartz |
| Davis (CA) | Lofgren | Scott (VA) |
| Davis, Danny | Lowenthal | Scott, David |
| DeFazio | Lowe y | Serrano |
| DeGette | Lujan Grisham | Sewell (AL) |
| Delaney | (NM) | Shea-Porter |
| DeLauro | Luján, Ben Ray | Sherman |
| DelBene | (NM) | Sinema |
| Deutch | Lynch | Sires |
| Dingell | Maloney, | Slaughter |
| Doggett | Carolyn | Smith (WA) |
| Doyle | Maloney, Sean | Swalwell (CA) |
| Duckworth | Matheson | Takano |
| Edwards | Matsui | Thompson (CA) |
| Ellison | McCarthy (NY) | Thompson (MS) |
| Engel | McCollum | Tierney |
| Enyart | McDermott | Titus |
| Eshoo | McGovern | Tonko |
| Esty | McIntyre | Tsongas |
| Farr | McNerney | Van Hollen |
| Fattah | Meeks | Vargas |
| Foster | Meng | Veasey |
| Frankel (FL) | Michaud | Vela |
| Fudge | Miller, George | Velázquez |
| Gabbard | Moore | Vislowsky |
| Gallego | Moran | Walz |
| García | Murphy (FL) | |

Wasserman
Schultz
Waters

Watt
Waxman
Welch

Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—223

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cotton
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger

Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen

Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Radel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stockman
Stutzman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams

NOT VOTING—16

Bass
Bonner
Clyburn
Cole
Garamendi
Gibson

Gohmert
Herrera Beutler
Lewis
Markey
Miller, Gary
Speier

Stivers
Westmoreland
Wolf
Young (AK)

□ 1230

Messrs. BARLETTA, ROONEY, GRIFFITH of Virginia, COOK, and RYAN of Wisconsin changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. CARNEY, VISCLOSKY, and COHEN, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. KIND

changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 221, noes 198, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 183]

AYES—221

Aderholt
Alexander
Amash
Amodei
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Boehner
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Bridenstine
Brooks (IN)
Broun (GA)
Bucshon
Burgess
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Coble
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Cook
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Daines
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers
Farenthold
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gingrey (GA)

Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (MO)
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Guthrie
Hall
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Lankford
Latham
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Maffei
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Noem

Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Palazzo
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Petri
Pittenger
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Radel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Runyan
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schock
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Southernland
Stewart
Stivers
Stockman
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Weber (TX)

Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Whitfield
Williams

Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall

NOES—198

Andrews
Barber
Barrow (GA)
Beatty
Becerra
Bera (CA)
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brooks (AL)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Dempsey
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fattah
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Gohmert
Graves (GA)

Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Grimm
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Michaud
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal

Yoder
Yoho
Young (FL)
Young (IN)

Negrete McLeod
Nolan
O'Rourke
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schradler
Langevin
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—15

Bass
Bonner
Clyburn
Cole
Garamendi

Gibson
Herrera Beutler
Johnson (GA)
Lewis
Markey

Miller, Gary
Speier
Westmoreland
Wolf
Young (AK)

□ 1239

Mr. MAFFEI changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So 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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker: On rollcall No. 180, (Ordering The Previous Question on H. Res. 232, a resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 1911—Smarter Solutions for Students

Act) had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 181, (Adoption of H. Res. 232, a resolution providing for consideration of H.R. 1911—Smarter Solutions for Students Act) had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 182, (Member (D-) Motion to recommit H.R. 1911 with instructions) had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 183, (Passage of H.R. 1911—Smarter Solutions for Students Act) had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 184, (Approval of the Journal) had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 182, on consideration of a motion to recommit with instructions for H.R. 1911, and rollcall vote 183, on passage of H.R. 1911, the Smarter Solutions for Students Act, because of a longstanding commitment to discuss compassionate approaches to assist the poor and hungry. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 182 and "aye" on rollcall 183.

FAREWELL TO AUSTIN BURNES

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I know that Members want to catch planes, and I will be brief; but I did want to take this opportunity.

From time to time we, in sadness, see one of those people leave who have served this institution very well, and served me, both in my role as majority leader and as Democratic whip. But I wanted to rise at this point in time to say thank you—and I know you want to join with me—to Austin Burnes, who is leaving as my floor director and as a valued friend and staff member.

At the same time, I want to thank those on Speaker BOEHNER's staff, on Majority Leader CANTOR's staff and on Whip MCCARTHY's staff who have worked so well and positively with Austin Burnes, for helping us to do our job better. Obviously, there were differences from time to time—well, maybe all the time—but I thank you for that.

Austin, I want to thank you for the service you have given to this institution, to your country, to me, and to all the Members who appreciate very much your advice and counsel.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1773

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor on H.R. 1773.

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

There was no objection.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, during the 2013 State of the Union address, President Obama stated that every day we must ask ourselves: How do we attract more jobs to our shore? And how do we make sure that the hard work leads to a decent living? Well, this week the House considered and passed H.R. 3, the Northern Route Approval Act, legislation approving the Keystone XL pipeline.

Despite estimates showing thousands of new jobs resulting from the project, the administration has delayed approval. Despite the Democrat-led Senate passing an amendment recommending its approval, the administration has delayed approval. Despite an environmental review process that has been more rigorous than similar, previously approved projects, the administration has delayed approval. Despite two-thirds of Americans favoring its approval, this administration has delayed approval.

It's time for the President to move from asking the jobs question to answering it. He can do so by ending the bureaucratic delays blocking approval of Keystone XL and moving forward with this vital project that will bring thousands of high-paying jobs to America's shore.

IRREVERSIBLE DOES NOT MEAN UNAVOIDABLE—REJECT KEYSTONE XL

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Safe Climate Caucus to say that we have now passed 400 parts per million of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere for the first time in

human history—in fact, for the first time in several million years.

This is, indeed, a milestone, but it should not be a breaking point. We have done damage to our climate through human activities. If we continue to fill our atmosphere with carbon and other greenhouse gases, then, yes, we will begin to experience irreversible changes to the planet.

Over the last century, we have demonstrated how human actions—especially the unregulated consumption of fossil fuels—can harm our planet and upset human welfare, as we've seen with historic droughts, fires, floods, and superstorms more and more.

Yesterday, the House again voted to approve the Keystone XL pipeline, a project that represents a long-term reliance on fossil energy and would commit us to the path toward irreversible global warming and climate change.

The political decisions we make today will decide the future. We must reduce our dependence on conventional fuels and redirect our policies.

□ 1250

REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN HEROES AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, on Memorial Day we take time to honor all those who sacrificed so much to secure our Nation's freedom, peace, and prosperity. This week, I came together with a bipartisan group of my freshman colleagues to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. We paid respect to our Nation's fallen heroes, especially those known only to God.

In my opinion, there is no more special place in our Nation's capital than Arlington. When you enter the gates, all labels but American are shed. And no words are necessary, for the countless rows of white markers speak volumes. With the sometimes vigorous debate in this Chamber, it is important to remember those who rest just 4 miles from here. There we find what holds our country together.

The Book of Wisdom teaches that: "The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They are at peace." What comfort, indeed, for our fallen heroes.

REDUCE THE COST OF COLLEGE

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

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, higher education has always been the pathway to economic prosperity in this country. In fact, a Georgetown University study—my alma mater—shows that a college graduate earns

over \$1 million more over a lifetime than a non-graduate. Yet, today our college students are graduating with debt despair instead of job security.

That's why Barbara Malloy called my office. She's a single mom, an elementary school teacher. She's got a son, James, in his freshman year of college. She is very, very worried that she's not going to be able to afford to keep her son in college because they're racking up tens of thousands of dollars in debt.

Mr. Speaker, that's why I oppose today's plan. I think we have to do better. We need to find a way to reduce the cost of college, not raise the cost of college, and I hope that we can in a bipartisan way do a better job.

MEMORIAL DAY 2013

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, they are from every State and territory. They are of all races, both sexes. They are from farms, ranches, and cities. They are rich and poor, but generally they are young. They all to a person are volunteers, the all-American volunteers, volunteers to defend America. Some have gone off to war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some have returned. Some have returned with the wounds of war, and some have returned with an American flag draped over their coffin.

Here are 37 warriors from the Second Congressional District in Texas who died protecting us from the forces of evil in Afghanistan and Iraq. You see they are very diverse. They are all races, they are young, they are old, they are from privates to colonels, enlisted to even West Point graduates, they are from different branches of the service.

So this Memorial Day we remember them all, those who gave all, and we thank their families for giving America their sons and their daughters, for the worst casualty of war is to be forgotten.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the list of the 37 warriors killed in Afghanistan and Iraq from the Second Congressional District of Texas.

SSgt Russell Slay, U.S. Marine Corps, 11/9/2004.

LCpl Wesley J. Canning, U.S. Marine Corps, 11/10/2004.

LCpl Fred Lee Michael, U.S. Marine Corps, 1/26/2005.

PFC Wesley R. Riggs, U.S. Army, 5/17/2005.

SGT William B. Meeuwssen, U.S. Army, 11/23/2005.

LCpl Robert A. Martinez, U.S. Marine Corps, 12/1/2005.

SSG Jerry Michael Durbin, U.S. Army, 1/26/2006.

TSgt Walter M. Moss Jr., U.S. Air Force, 3/30/2006.

PFC Kristian Menchaca, U.S. Army, 6/16/2006.

SSG Benjamin D. Williams, U.S. Army, 6/20/2006.

LCpl Ryan A. Miller, U.S. Marine Corps, 9/14/2006.

SSG Edward Reynolds, Jr., U.S. Army, 9/26/2006.

CPT Michael Fraser, U.S. Army, 11/26/2006.
LCpl Luke Yepsen, U.S. Marine Corps, 12/14/2006.

SPC Dustin R. Donica, U.S. Army, 12/28/2006.

SPC Ryan R. Berg, U.S. Army, 1/9/2007.

SSG Terrance D. Dunn, U.S. Army, 2/2/2007.
LCpl Anthony Aguirre, U.S. Marine Corps, 2/26/2007.

PFC Brandon Bobb, U.S. Army, 7/17/2007.

PFC Zachary Endsley, U.S. Army, 7/23/2007.

SPC Kamisha Block, U.S. Army, 8/16/2007.

CPL Donald E. Valentine III, U.S. Army, 9/18/2007.

LCpl Jeremy W. Burris, U.S. Marine Corps, 10/8/2007.

SSG Eric Duckworth, U.S. Army, 10/10/2007.
CPL Scott A. McIntosh, U.S. Army, 3/10/2008.

SGT Shawn Tousha, U.S. Army, 4/9/2008.

Lt. Col. Mark Stratton II, U.S. Air Force, 5/26/2009.

SPC Jarrett Griemel, U.S. Army, 6/3/2009.

Cpl Jeremy W. Johnson, U.S. Marine Corps, 5/11/2010.

P03 Zarian Wood, U.S. Navy, 5/16/2010.

Sgt. Brandon Bury, U.S. Marine Corps, 6/6/2010.

SPC Matthew Ryan Catlett, U.S. Army, 6/7/2010.

SSG Edward Loreda, U.S. Army, 6/24/2010.

SSG Jessie Ainsworth, U.S. Army, 7/10/2010.

SSG Leston "Tony" Winters, U.S. Army, 7/15/2010.

SFC Calvin Harrison, U.S. Army, 9/20/2010.

PFC Cody R. Norris, U.S. Army, 11/9/2011.

NFL ATHLETE SAFETY

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

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, there are few things Americans enjoy more than watching Sunday football with their friends and family. But the excitement of football, the clashing of helmets, the tackles, can cause long-term health damage to our Nation's athletes.

Last May, Junior Seau, a former Miami Dolphin and one of the top linebackers in NFL history, sadly took his life after battling a debilitating depression associated with repeated head trauma.

Last season alone, we saw high profile players sent back into the game immediately after suffering concussions. This is unfair to athletes, their families, and it is also unfair to taxpayers since they pick up the cost when these athletes can no longer afford the cost of their injuries.

The NFL has the power to ensure that the American pastime—this American pastime—becomes safe.

PATRICK HENRY COLLEGE'S NATIONAL MOOT COURT TEAM

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

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Patrick Henry College's National Moot Court Team on their fifth consecutive national championship this year. The team boasts

two two-time national champions, as well as a national orator champion who holds the record for the most points earned in the history of the league.

Patrick Henry College, or PHC, has now won a total of seven national moot court championships and has built a strong reputation for success nationwide. I thank the coaches—Dr. Michael Farris, founder of PHC, and Dr. Frank Guliuzza—for their leadership and investment in these young leaders.

In a time when we are asking the government to get out of the way, PHC serves as a shining example of what can be achieved when freed from the binds of the government's purse strings. From day one, the college has not accepted Federal funding.

I congratulate Patrick Henry College, and its talented young people, for the example it has and will continue to set for higher education in America.

I also thank Congressman FRANK WOLF for graciously giving me the opportunity to make these remarks.

MEMORIAL DAY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as we leave here today, many of us will anxiously return to our constituency to be able to celebrate and pay tribute to soldiers, those who have fallen, and of course those who are now veterans.

As I look out—and will look out—into the vast audience at the Houston veterans cemetery, I can tell you that I will see an array of America; families who have come to say thank you to the fallen. Those who have no relatives at that particular site are just being Americans. And as we, as Members of Congress, are sent to the podium to say thank you and to talk about the work we have done, the beautiful sunshine will shine on those faces, and we will feel that America is a country that really understands the love and affection for our soldiers and those who are on the battlefield.

I want to thank the city of Jacinto City, which will be placing flags to honor our soldiers. And I want to thank the community of Heights, where I will go later and place flags at the World War II memorial and draw the community together.

It is a day when we bond together as Americans because we are not of any party, of any region, of any political persuasion. We are simply Americans saying thank you to the soldiers, God bless you to America. For those who have fallen, we will never, never forget you, never any day of our lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEPUTY CHRIS JONES

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic efforts of Deputy Chris Jones of the Jersey County, Illinois, Sheriff's Department.

On April 23, Deputy Jones pulled a 67-year-old woman from a car that was being swallowed by floodwater. At 8:42 in the evening, Deputy Jones received a call to alert him of a driver in distress on State Highway 100.

When he arrived on the scene, he tried to make verbal contact with her, but her car was submerged in water that covered the hood and part of the trunk, and she was unable to respond. He proceeded to enter the water, where he found the driver still conscious and he assisted her from the vehicle. He later learned that the woman had been trapped for around 40 minutes.

Because of his valiant efforts and service to Jersey County, I am proud to honor the actions that Deputy Chris Jones took on April 23 of this year.

□ 1300

THE IRS SCANDAL

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, the IRS has broken faith with the American people. The agency responsible for administering our Tax Code has admitted targeting Americans for their political beliefs.

American families across the country are disappointed and fearful. They are disappointed that the administration that promised hope and change has used its enforcement power as a political weapon. They are fearful of a government that has expanded under President Obama at an alarming rate. They are disappointed that our President has not taken responsibility for his administration's shameful behavior. They are fearful of corruption that is the logical result of a rapidly expanding bureaucracy and an administration that confuses playing politics with leadership.

Hardworking families deserve better. Federal agencies have a responsibility to be above politics, and we have a responsibility to hardworking American families to hold accountable those who politicize decision-making and those who are untruthful about those decisions.

THE IRS

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Firings and jail time are in order. On Friday, May 10, the IRS admitted to the targeted scrutiny of conservative groups in their applications for tax-exempt status. Hundreds of groups have been targeted, and it went beyond those with just "Tea Party" or "patriot" in their names.

Since then, there has been a resounding opposition on both sides of the aisle against the IRS' abhorrent actions. The President called this incident "outrageous." Frankly, Mr. Speaker, it's beyond outrageous. It is completely unethical. For those involved in this mess, I expect them to be held accountable for their audacious abuse of power.

Did I mention that firings and jail time are in order?

Thomas Paine said it this way:

Government is at its best a necessary evil and at its worst an intolerable one.

I am RANDY WEBER, and that's the way I see it here in America.

MEMORIAL DAY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Greetings to my friend Jim Withrow, whom I would like to recognize today, and I would just remind everybody of how important it is that we participate in this Memorial Day weekend in order to remember those who have fallen and honor those they've left behind.

It's a lot of times thought of as a weekend to go out and have barbecues or watch car races on TV or sports like that, but it's really rewarding for the heart for us to go participate on Monday in one of our communities. For those watching, just take that time in the morning to go out and honor those veterans. It will make you feel better as an American. Then our obligation as citizens is to fulfill our role as voters, as people who hold our government officials accountable, because when you hear veterans say that they don't recognize the America they once fought for 50, 60 years ago, it really hurts.

So let's uphold the honor of our Nation that they fought for and be participants in our government in the process and hold all of that accountable and honor them in that ultimate way. We give thanks for their service, and God bless them. Please participate on Memorial Day this weekend.

STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDING). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CICILLINE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise in strong opposition to the Making College More Expensive Act. This legislation is an attack on students, and it undermines the dream of higher education.

If we are serious about getting our country back on the right track, putting people back to work and ensuring that we remain competitive in the global economy, we have to do more to make higher education more accessible

and more affordable, not more expensive.

Without congressional action, the interest rate on Federal subsidized Stafford loans is scheduled to increase from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent for more than 7 million students. Rather than fixing this problem, this legislation makes it worse. This bill will hurt young people and middle class families who are already struggling with crushing student loan debt. The idea that as a country we make money on the pursuit by young people of their educations is plain wrong.

Simply put, the United States Government should not be making a profit on student loans, and there are several proposals pending before the House today that would give students access to college at the lowest cost possible. The Student Loan Relief Act, the Responsible Student Loan Solutions Act, and the Bank on Students Loan Fairness Act would each preserve low interest rates for students; but the bill before us today is a bad Republican idea that will make college more expensive for working families and millions of students.

According to the independent, non-partisan Congressional Research Service, students with 5 years of subsidized Stafford loans borrowed at the maximum amount would owe \$4,174 in interest under the current rate. It would rise to \$8,808 if we allowed interest rates to double on July 1; but under this proposal, students would owe a total of \$10,109 in interest payments on their loans. Hidden within this bill is a blatant bait and switch scheme that will allow students to borrow money at one rate before their interest rates skyrocket.

We've seen this before. Our friends on the other side of the aisle like to claim that putting student loans into the marketplace is a cure-all for increased student debt; but in this case, the "marketplace" is code for billions of more dollars in interest payments, as this bill would prevent students from enjoying the lowest available interest rates. This is just wrong.

Our young people deserve more. It's in the interest of our entire country to ensure that as many young people as possible have access to higher education. So let's reject the Making College More Expensive Act and find a serious long-term solution on student loans that will make college more affordable for millions and millions of Americans.

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

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It has been an interesting week here in Washington, especially here on Capitol Hill. We found out a great deal we didn't know before. We're getting more details. It's intriguing that we have the IRS official, Ms. Lerner, who knew—found out about—the outrageous practice of targeting what were perceived to be the President's enemies—people who wanted the Constitution followed, people who felt they had been taxed enough already, the Tea Parties, constitutional groups, pro-Israel groups, conservative groups, people who could have made a difference in the last election.

One reporter had asked before, Why would people even be bothering to get legal status? Why would they even apply to the IRS to get 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) status?

The answer is: because that's the way the government has taken over people's political abilities, because you can't call people to Washington or call people to come state their opinions without normally raising money, and if you don't have a legally recognized group by the IRS, then the IRS will go after the individuals who engage in pooling money and in helping pay people's way to get them here. They'll go after the individual.

□ 1310

We have forced people who want to make their voices heard collectively into begging the IRS for legal status, and the threats are there if you don't get their legal status recognized. Then when we see what the IRS has done as just an arm, basically, of the Democratic Party to help defeat or help prevent people from having legal status, it is absolutely incredible, especially when you find out they wouldn't even give them an answer "yes" or "no"; because these people at the IRS, the higher ranking officials, they knew if they denied a request, gee, that could be appealed and they might get an answer before the election, and they weren't going to let that happen in time, at least, to make a difference in the election. So it's what most people who care about the Constitution have been afraid of for so long.

I've heard some people, some friends, some Republican friends say they think Richard Nixon was a great President, but I've read transcripts of conversations. Anybody who will say one thing to one person and turn right around immediately thereafter and say exactly the opposite to another person and play them against each other, I just can't consider that to be a great President.

We know that under the Nixon administration the IRS was used to target an enemies list, but now we find that under this administration it's been used and abused as a process, as a political arm in ways that Richard Nixon would never have dreamed possible. He never would have dreamed that anybody would get away with this kind of activity before an election, es-

pecially after Watergate. And so it has been.

So we want to take this time to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that people are aware and the RECORD contains the stories of different Tea Party groups and the difficulties they've had. In that regard, I am quite proud to yield to my friend from New Mexico, Mr. STEVE PEARCE. Hopefully, it won't hurt his reputation for me to call him a dear friend. That's the way I figure him.

Mr. PEARCE. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and we will hold those comments quietly between ourselves here.

You bring up a point that absolutely must be discussed in public. We need to highlight those things that are going on right now from our government towards its citizens.

Our Founding Fathers understood this policy very well, this concept. They said:

When the people fear the government, there is tyranny. When the government fears the people, there is liberty.

I hear constantly from people in America right now that we fear the government, we fear the retribution, we fear that they're going to come in and take things from us, that they're listening to us at all times. Many would discard that as simply paranoia, until now.

An 83-year-old grandmother in Albuquerque, New Mexico, who I've known for the last 15 years, since I've gotten into political circles—she's probably the most joyful, ebullient person in all of politics because she's here for what comes in the heart, not for what it can do for her. You see, she's a naturalized citizen who was born in Indonesia.

She came here and ended up, from ages 12 to 16, spending time in the Japanese internment camps because of her origin, though she's not Japanese herself. She has experienced the government that would become heavy-handed in a time of war. But the government that would become heavy-handed over political processes is a completely different government than that during World War II.

She helped establish the Children's Freedom Scholarship Fund, where she hands out patriotic coloring books to youngsters in the Albuquerque area. And because of these activities that got the attention of the IRS, they came in and audited and harassed this 83-year-old grandmother.

I had an email before the scandal broke about one of my constituents in Socorro, who said: I was audited and we couldn't figure out why. I talked to my accountant. During the audit, we couldn't figure it out. There was no unusual question. But during the audit, I noticed a handwritten name across my file, and I just made mental note of it.

After an audit that asked nothing specific, the auditor asked, Do you know—and he read the name. The guy says, It doesn't ring a bell to me. It did not. On the drive home, he said, Wait a minute. That's that meeting I went to

3 years ago. That's the meeting where I said, I don't want to be a part of this group. They're interested in the Constitution and the debt. I know about all that stuff. He writes a small check, leaves and never goes back. One meeting with the guy who later formed the Tea Party—it wasn't even formed—causes an audit.

When our government knows this kind of minute information and is willing to single you out, to veritably persecute you, because persecution is when we're dealt with differently, we have a different set of rules, that then qualifies as persecution. When this government is willing to do that, it causes us to say, Wait. This is not paranoia. This is justifiable fear of our government.

A small school in my hometown wanted to charter itself and submitted a 501(c)(3) application. The application was never handled. It went on and on and on. Our office made a call, and then the person listed on the organizational chart was called in for an audit.

I will tell you that we were told by the administration spokesman yesterday, Mr. Lew, the Treasury Secretary, that there's absolutely no indication that this was anything political.

There's absolutely no indication that it was anything but political, Mr. Lew. Regardless of what you all say down the street, understand that the American people are frightened of the government. They also think, with respect to the idea that we're going to hold people accountable—we hear that: We're going to hold people accountable; we're going to bring them in; we're going to look; we're going to find the facts, and then we're going to hold them accountable.

The American people look with a little bit of curious disregard for those statements.

Why would Americans be suspicious of the government, that they won't actually do anything to the people who are involved, that they won't actually get to the bottom of it? Well, there's a track record in the last 5 years that has caused the American citizens to look with disdain at any promises that there will be penalties, that the wrongdoers would be punished.

You can start with the Fort Hood shooter. He has not yet been brought to trial. He murdered dozens of people, and he has drawn \$287,000 in pay because they can't take him off the payroll until he comes to trial. Meanwhile, the victims can't get their pay from the government that they're supposed to receive, and the American people understand an injustice is occurring from this White House because they will not pursue convicting a man that everyone knows has committed murder.

Well, it's said that's one instance. We can, then, take a look at Fast and Furious. I was one of the first to call for Attorney General Holder to resign, and we should look more closely at his participation in the Fast and Furious,

where rifles were sent across the border and came back and killed an American employee of the Border Patrol. Yet no one has been held accountable for that action there.

Mr. GOHMERT. I think that it's worthy to note that apparently, when there was a Fox News reporter named Rosen that wanted to look into this Fast and Furious information and hopefully get the scoop, get to the bottom line of what really happened, instead of this Justice Department doing as it told the American people, as the Attorney General and all these other people said as part of this administration, "We're going to get the people responsible for this," instead of being diligent and relentless in getting to the bottom of what happened—who approved these 2,000 or so guns being sold to criminals that would be in criminal hands and ultimately used to kill hundreds of Mexicans?

□ 1320

Mexico should be outraged at what this administration has done. Instead of doing that, they go after a reporter that wants to find out what happened. They end up going after his phone records. They go after his email, from what we've learned, apparently. Possibly other family members. And they still, all these years later, haven't given us real information on who was responsible, who authorized that, who forced the sale of those guns. All we know is that this administration has tried to use Fast and Furious to demand more gun control legislation.

And we have a President that goes down to Mexico in the last 2 or 3 weeks and tells them about how outrageous it is that America has been selling guns to criminals that are using them in Mexico. He should have donned his hat and said, Thank you very much, my administration did that to you, and I'm very sorry. But, oh, no, he blames America without actually saying, Please, I beg your forgiveness. This was my administration's doing.

They haven't even gotten to the bottom and, instead, go after the reporter that tried to find out what happened. That's even more outrageous, and it goes to just what the gentleman was saying about people wondering how can we trust this administration when they've said that they're going to get the people responsible and they've done no such thing.

Mr. PEARCE. I think the gentleman's points are well made, and to continue the discussion of why Americans might be skeptical about whether anyone will pay any price for what has happened in the targeting of certain groups in this country by the Internal Revenue Service, it's also important that we look at other cases that have not yet been prosecuted and in which wrongdoing occurred.

MF Global was a commodities trading firm. Jon Corzine, a Democrat-elected official, took over that firm. It's against the law, when you have

your money in these trading accounts, whether it be Merrill Lynch or whoever, it is against the law to take your money out and use it for corporate governance activities, for corporate organizational activities. And yet Jon Corzine reached down into customer accounts and pulled out \$1.5 billion of money from account holders and spent it trying to keep his failing organization together. His efforts failed. MF Global filed bankruptcy. That was in 2011, and still Mr. Corzine has not had to answer any questions, has been convicted of no wrongdoing, hasn't been brought to trial, and hasn't had a grand jury impaneled.

Bernie Madoff, we saw him take billions from investors. And for decades, the regulators had reports that he was doing it, and not one regulator has been held accountable for their oversights and omissions. No one has ever checked.

So when we hear the administration say, Trust us; we're going to get to the bottom of this IRS scandal and we're going to hold people accountable, there is an anger building among the American people that says we don't think that Washington will hold anyone accountable.

You have the AP reporters whose phone records were gotten, and not just the ones who were involved, but the broad pool of reporters, and yet nothing is happening to the people in the Justice Department who did that.

Benghazi is another element where we believe no one will ever be held accountable. In fact, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says, What does it matter?

What it matters, ma'am, is that someone allowed American soldiers to be killed without reinforcements. C-130s were within flying time. Drones were there. Lasers were locked onto the artillery that were firing rounds into that compound, and no one says a word.

And so we have the Internal Revenue Service investigating and holding audits for law-abiding citizens like this 83-year-old grandmother. Meanwhile, there are over \$1 billion of unpaid taxes by Federal employees. Why doesn't the Internal Revenue Service go after the Federal employees who refuse to pay their own taxes.

The highest profile case is Mr. Geithner, who became Treasury Secretary; and we were told that he's such an important person, he can't be held to account for small actions like that. Yet one political party, one political viewpoint has been singled out by this administration in order to put the chill on people who might be involved in activities that would disagree with the government.

We've seen governments like this before in American history. We've seen tyrants before. We've seen tyranny before in world history, and I think Democrats, Republicans, and Independents are going to stand up on these issues and demand accountability from

Washington. I think the American people are coming together with a will and a backbone that will stand up and say, You, the people who perpetrated these evils and these crimes, will be accountable.

That's what makes this country great. That's what makes this country the envy of all other nations because we have a Constitution that our Founding Fathers put in place which gives the people the power. The government is working at the approval of the American people. I think the American people are coming together across racial lines, across party lines, across religious and cultural lines to say that we demand accountability from our government officials, that we will not allow any citizen to be treated this way.

The Nation spoke this way when it was Richard Nixon, and I think the Nation will speak this way under this administration. The parallels are extreme. When the government gets too strong, it's time for the people to stand up and say, No, you are not all powerful, that we the people do establish and ordain.

I think the people of this country are going to question this establishment and are ordaining. I appreciate the opportunity to speak.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you, and I would like to yield to the gentleman for a question.

It's my understanding that the Albuquerque Tea Party was one that filed for 501(c)(4) status 3 years ago. I don't know if the gentleman is familiar with the Albuquerque Tea Party.

Mr. PEARCE. I am. I've been there many times. They're people concerned about small government. They're concerned about the debt and the deficit. They understand that these are the biggest risks that we face, and they speak articulately and coherently about that. They are also groups that hold elected officials accountable for their actions. I think those are positive things.

Mr. GOHMERT. Well, apparently, after 2 years of waiting, they got a multipage letter from the IRS asking for really extensive, intrusive information that it sounds like the IRS should never have had to inquire about. But here again, it sounds like another case where the IRS knew if they ruled on whether or not they would have 501(c)(4) status, they could have appealed and probably had a good case based on what the IRS has been doing. They wouldn't give them an answer.

Mr. PEARCE. We had been listening. Before everyone recognized it was a nationwide scandal, we were hearing these reports. No matter that we disagreed with the Obama administration on policies, we never believed these reports to be true. So we investigated, but you could never substantiate. And now, then, 2 and 3 and 4 years later, to find out that it was systemic, that it was intentional, and that it was politically motivated causes one to fear for

the very institution that we call our Constitution and our government.

□ 1330

Mr. GOHMERT. Reclaiming the time momentarily, it's interesting, you know, we find out, as people have been digging deeper over the last few days, that the President of the United States met with the anti-Tea Party IRS union chief the day before the agency targeted the Tea Party.

National Treasury Employees Union President Colleen Kelley commented on the relationship between the anti-Tea Party IRS union and the Obama White House, and made this statement: For me, it's about collaboration.

So it is also important to note, and I didn't know if my dear friend was familiar with Executive Order 13522, I wasn't until just the last couple of days, but redstate.com had done a job of finding this.

This was an executive order that the President ordered, beginning in 2009, requiring that government agencies collaborate, consult in pre-decisional discussions with union bosses that would have to be off the record, unrecorded, and private, beyond the reach of anyone seeking to get information about the conversations.

And, in fact, this administration said pre-decisional discussions, by their nature, should be conducted confidentially among the parties to the discussions. This confidentiality is an essential ingredient in building the environment of mutual trust and respect necessary for the honest exchange of views and collaboration.

Well, this is the President that was going to have the most transparent administration in American history; yet, I didn't know, in 2009, he ordered these agencies that ought to be completely transparent, ordered them, his employees, to have meetings before they make important decisions with union bosses.

So that tells us something too about the atmosphere that was being created, when a union boss gets to have secret conversations with government officials that cannot be retrieved by any of us wanting the administration to be transparent. And we know that those unions were anti-Tea Party. They wanted them eliminated, and they get to go talk to the IRS officials that are making decisions about targeting the Tea Parties. Something seems awry.

I yield to my friend for a comment.

Mr. PEARCE. Yes, I would agree with the gentleman. Something seems awry.

The American people have a fascinating intuitiveness about them. It's reported that the unions spent \$40 million to defeat Scott Walker. The reason Scott Walker won, he won 40 percent of the union vote.

People who are supposedly represented by the union bosses understand that when their leadership begins to take this country in the wrong direction, that they will exercise their voices and they will speak up; and that's the very powerful reminder that we, as people, have at the ballot box.

When the American people are left without government interference, without government threats, without the IRS intimidation, the American people choose rightly an awfully big percentage of the time. So I have the ultimate belief, because I'm hearing Democrats here on Capitol Hill as outraged as Republicans. I heard Republicans under the Nixon administration as outraged as Democrats.

It's when we come together in a common belief that our Nation, regardless of political viewpoints, represents all viewpoints, that we all have a right to speak, that we all have a right to compel. That's what's made us strong through our history.

And so those Democrats who now are saying that the IRS and this administration have gone too far are the strength of this country, as Republicans were under the Nixon administration.

So I have the ultimate belief that we, as Americans, are coming together again in our core principles to understand that no government, no matter which party, is powerful enough to come in and have watchdogs over us, to allow members of their party to take \$1.5 billion from segregated accounts without being held accountable for the criminal actions.

They understand that we cannot break the laws of this Nation and other nations, sending guns to a foreign country illegally; not even the government can do that.

And they understand there's something intrinsically wrong when we hear the pleas of our four embassy personnel saying we need help, and we refuse it.

The American people have had enough. It doesn't matter that it's Democrat. If it was a Republican, it would be enough too. And I think the American people are coalescing into an idea that we are a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

And I believe that coalescing is going to provide us the framework for a new political institution. Don't know what it'll look like, don't know how it's going to shape up, but the American people are saying that enough is enough. Enough corruption. Enough scandals. Let's start cleaning out the mess. And that's what I hear from constituents from both parties every week I'm at home.

We're going to continue our work here, but I thank the gentleman for yielding and appreciate his bringing this issue to the floor.

Mr. GOHMERT. Thank you very much. It is an important issue.

We have a report here indicating the currently countless numbers, trying to get a count of groups that were targeted. We've seen reports that groups, Jewish and Christian groups, that were very supportive of Israel got heightened scrutiny by the IRS. They were deemed, apparently, not to be supportive of the President, as the IRS, apparently, at least their leaders,

wanted them to be. And, obviously, that was after consulting with the union boss, the IRS employees.

Let me just say I know many IRS employees, and there are those who are afraid to comment because of concern over their repercussions; but they're outraged because they came into the IRS and they were taught and they were trained you cannot have any conflict of interest. You cannot make any decisions based on political bias. You cannot have ever owed the IRS any money if you're going to work for us.

In fact, there was outrage among some that were afraid to speak up because they were not allowed. They were told that you cannot underpay through withholding what you will ultimately owe on your income tax. Or if you file an amended return where you failed to initially include income, you may be fired from the IRS.

So the first thing that this President does is go out and hire a guy who swore, I believe it was three or four years in a row, he swore to his employer that he would pay the taxes that were due and owing. If they would just give him all the money, he would see that the taxes on that money was paid.

And lo and behold, those taxes were not paid, as he swore he would. And not only was he not barred from working for the IRS; he was made the boss over the IRS, the boss over the entire Treasury Department.

But the Greater Phoenix Tea Party in Arizona filed for a 501(c)(4) in October of 2010 and, after waiting 2 years, received a letter demanding an inordinate amount of information. And so far, even now, this Internal Revenue Service has refused to give them an answer on their 501(c)(4), effectively keeping them out of the political process for the 2012 election cycle, and now working, apparently, even now, to keep them out of the 2014 election cycle.

Amazing how effective the IRS can be when one administration can use them to further their goals.

□ 1340

The Mississippi Tea Party filed for a 501(c)(4) status in 2009. On September 28, 2010, the group received a letter from the IRS wanting additional information, including what their relationship was with the Tea Party Patriots. But their analysis got rather abusive.

The Portage County Tea Party in Ohio applied for tax exempt status and they received incredibly onerous questions, harassing questions, and they answered them, gave them information that no one should have to provide. Four years later, they're still waiting on an answer.

The Mississippi Tea Party. They're still waiting. The Portage County Tea Party. They're still waiting. Anyway, it's just incredible.

The Alabama Tea Party we already mentioned. Really abusive requests were made by the IRS, harassing them. The Texas Patriots Tea Party filed for a 501(c)(4) status in June of 2012. They received numerous followup questions

and have not heard back from the IRS about their status. So they were effectively kept out of the 2012 political process.

Again, apparently there are reporters that are so far removed from how the political process has been forced to work. You've got to have IRS approval or they will come after you individually when you try to engage in any type of group effort. It used to be there was a freedom of assembly. You could gather people, assemble people as you want. You could pay for their bus fare. Unions do it all the time. But they have a very special status, obviously, with this administration.

One of the great scenes in video history was my old friend, Andrew Breitbart, coming out of the Coliseum and seeing all these protesters. He starts asking them about their signs, what they mean, can they give specific examples about when Glenn Beck lied or things they had on their signs. They couldn't. And it was amazing. I didn't see it in the beginning of the video but Andrew saw it immediately. These people were plants. They were handed these signs by their union. They were told to stand there and talk about people lying, and just demean individuals and organizations, as instructed by their union leaders.

When he got to the bottom of it, there was a note somewhere that it was produced by the union. So he got to the bottom of it. He had a camera that followed him as he would ask questions very pointedly. It became very clear they didn't know what they were there about, they couldn't give individual examples. They were told to go out there and be a protester. And the unions took care of it. And when the cameras were making them look bad, they were ordered to get back on the union bus and leave the area by the union bosses. Andrew had that gift. He could see right through all the baloney. It's a shame he's no longer with us. But what he has left is an organization that's doing even more amazing things.

You had the Ottawa County Patriots from Michigan file for 501(c)(3) status August 22, 2011. They're still waiting for a "specialist" to approve their application, despite numerous attempts to get clarification from the IRS. So they were totally kept out of the 2012 political process because of the partisan IRS leadership that would not even give a ruling on these things. It wasn't a problem for organizations that were supportive of the administration, apparently.

There were groups like the Louisa, Virginia, Tea Party in Virginia that decided not to apply after they heard from other Tea Party groups just how abusive the IRS was being. And their leaders didn't want to go through individually what other Tea Party leaders were having to go through. So the Louisa VA Tea Party never got their lawful status from the IRS. All of those people were effectively kept out of the 2012 political cycle by this partisan IRS work and effort.

The DeLAND 912 organization from Florida also heard about the horror stories of how abusive the IRS became if you applied for legal status as a Tea Party, so they didn't apply. Once again, the IRS was successful in their political endeavors in silencing another group of people from Florida during that political cycle.

Goose Creek 912 Project from South Carolina, they were preparing to file for a 501(c)(3) status or 501(c)(4) but after they heard about all of the harassment of other Tea Party groups, they voted unanimously not to file. The IRS partisan efforts worked. Another group of Americans were silenced because of the partisan political work of the IRS.

The McLean Tea Party in Illinois, another case where they decided not to apply after they got word of all the horror stories about the IRS abuses of individual Tea Party leaders and the individual Tea Party constituents themselves of the intrusive, abusive questions and information that was being demanded by the IRS.

The Lanier Tea Party Patriots from Georgia also heard about the widespread, massive abuse of Tea Parties that applied for legal status. So yet another group of people was silenced by the partisan, abusive Internal Revenue Service.

As I said, I know numerous employees of the IRS that would never think of being abusive like this. It is completely an anomaly to their way of thinking. It is counterintuitive to everything they have been taught and trained. But somehow this administration comes in and all of a sudden they see the IRS as the greatest political gift any partisan group could ever have and they use and abuse it after consulting, as ordered, by the President of the United States. They are ordered to have secret meetings with union bosses before they make decisions, which we now know occurred before they made decisions to go after the Tea Parties.

So the President of the United States signs Executive Order 13522 and orders an agency that is supposed to be completely nonpartisan, nonpolitical, to meet with an extremely political, extremely partisan boss before they make decisions. It is staggering.

So we know there's some that ask, Did the President know, did he not know? When you see that the President of the United States ordered meetings with partisan union bosses before decisions could be made by administrative heads at the IRS, it doesn't seem to me to matter much whether the President knew that they specifically targeted the Tea Parties. He ordered them to meet and to take in consideration what the union bosses said. If he ordered that those be completely confidential and beyond the scope of Freedom of Information Act requests, then there has to be some responsibility taken where the buck ultimately stops.

□ 1350

The Rowan County Tea Party in Tennessee—hopefully I'm saying that cor-

rectly—the good folks there filed for 501(c)(4) status in February of 2010. They received demands for excessive amounts of information, some of which is not required by law whatsoever.

Just 2 weeks ago, after over 3 years, and being kept out of the 2012 election cycle, having any input—not just on the President's race, but on issues—they didn't care about political candidates; they cared about issues. They knew if they could form these political Tea Parties, they could have an effect. Whether it was a Democrat, Republican, a Libertarian or an Independent that came forward, they knew that if they were a group as a Tea Party, they could get powerful enough and have their voices heard loudly, as they spoke loudly enough as a group, that somebody—Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, Independent—somebody would step forward and say I support what you believe, and I'm with you on the issues.

They were not about a party. They spent a lot of time being mad at the Republican Party, like I do. They weren't about a party; they were about the process. They wanted a constitutional country and a government that acted within the confines of the Constitution. And the IRS was determined to subjugate them, to punish them, to abuse them, and abuse the process of the IRS to make them pay for having the audacity to speak up or try to speak up, as did our Founders.

I can't help but note, I was tickled, some left-wing drone organization—drone basically being unmanned; they're not using their brains; they're just doing as they're directed—came after me for saying here on the floor, gee, the IRS might have shot the original Tea Party participants. Well, obviously that's hyperbole. But I found in Washington if you use sarcasm, you speak metaphorically, allegorically, use hyperbole, that it's often lost here.

We were having a discussion, for example, about endangered species. And I mentioned, gee, I understood—wasn't sure if it was true—but I understood there had been a pair of spotted owls that we were told for years couldn't mate anywhere but virgin woods, untouched by human hands, that may have been seen mating in a Kmart sign. In sheer sarcasm, in irony, I said, you know, a lot of Kmart signs have been out of business. Maybe we need to see if that's really true and, if so, maybe get Kmart signs and see if they ought to be declared endangered and maybe have a Kmart sign forest where these little owls could mate like crazy out there in the Kmart sign.

And I look over at people and reporters, folks sitting there, and you could see people looking at each other: Do you think he's serious? Anyway, it's an interesting place to—not live, but work here in Washington, D.C.

You have the Rochester Tea Party Patriots in Minnesota. They filed for 501(c)(3) status in August 2010. The group finally received their 501(c)(4)

status 2 years later in 2012, but not soon enough to have the kind of effect that they could have to make nominees, potential nominees, accountable for abiding by the rule of law and following the Constitution, as they wanted to do.

The Chattanooga Tea Party in Tennessee, they filed for 501(c)(4) status in November of 2009. The group received a letter from the Cincinnati IRS office in July 2010 with extensive, intrusive, abusive questions and demands. After 4 years, they received notification that they were approved. Apparently, as this scandal was about to break, the IRS realized, gee, well, we got what we wanted; we kept them out of the 12 election cycle so they could not have any influence whatsoever there. And we're about to get in trouble, so why don't we start giving approval to some of these folks. And we're seeing that happen.

The San Angelo Tea Party—the town that my parents lived in briefly right after they got married, San Angelo Tea Party back in Texas—they filed for tax-exempt status. But after receiving the intrusive, abusive, mean-spirited demand for information that the IRS had no business inquiring after, they withdrew their application. Once again, the IRS didn't have a chilling effect; they had a freezing effect. Froze them out and kept them from being able to participate as a group in the 2012 election cycle.

The San Fernando Valley Patriots in California filed for 501(c)(4) status in the fall of 2010. The group heard nothing from the IRS until February of 2012, when they received a packet from the IRS in the mail giving the group a 20-day time period to respond. After the abuse, the demands, the intrusiveness, the outrageous activity of the IRS, the San Fernando Valley Patriots in California finally, in August of 2012, felt like they had no choice but to crater under the abusive weight and power of a partisan, mean-spirited IRS leadership; and they pulled their application in order to protect their members from this kind of abuse.

So you've got to say, the executive order in 2009 by the President of the United States—current President—ordering the extremely partisan union bosses to be consulted on decisions by the IRS, find out that the union boss met with the President right before the decision was made as well. I guess when you're the President, you don't have to sign an executive order requiring that you have secret, confidential meetings with union bosses before you make decisions. You just do it, appears to be the case.

Then we find out, gee—and this is a brand-new story, this one by David French dated May 22, yesterday afternoon—that it wasn't just Tea Parties; it wasn't just constitutional groups; it wasn't just pro-Israel groups. The article title is "IRS Morality: Defend Planned Parenthood, Deluge Adoptive Families With Audits." In the article, skimming on down, it says:

During the 2012 filing season, 90 percent of the returns that claimed a refundable adoption credit were subject to additional review to determine if an examination was necessary.

□ 1400

The most common reasons were income and a lack of documentation.

It notes that:

Sixty-nine percent of all adoption credit claims during the 2012 filing season were selected for audit.

Of the completed adoption tax credit audits, over 55 percent ended with no change in the tax owed or refund due in fiscal year 2012. The median refund amount involved in these audits was over \$15,000 and the median adjusted gross income of the taxpayers involved is about \$64,000.

These would be considered middle class Americans.

The average adoption credit correspondence audit currently takes 126 days, causing a lengthy delay for taxpayers waiting for refunds.

It's interesting because we get word—as the article said—that the IRS has harassed a number of pro-life groups, including at least one alleged demand that a pro-life group not picket Planned Parenthood in order to have or keep their tax exempt status.

It points out this statistic:

In 2012, the IRS requested additional information from 90 percent of returns claiming the adoption tax credit and went on to actually audit 69 percent.

And that more details can be obtained from the Taxpayer Advocate Service.

It's really outrageous. And it's pretty clear to anybody familiar with the political process here in Washington that most people that are very supportive of adoption are not in favor of abortion. So if you want to go against—as the IRS, if you want to go after the opponents of Planned Parenthood, you want to go after the opponents of killing babies in utero, then if you go after parents that adopt children—a very, very costly process—you can have a very chilling or freezing effect on those parents who just want to adopt a child, adopt children, give them a loving home.

And this IRS' morality—as the article points out, because of the current leadership that is now under scrutiny—go after these middle-income folks that are not supportive of abortion and want to adopt, we'll teach them a lesson. It's very clear, it just screams from the statistics and information that we get from the IRS.

It's also worth noting—as prior articles have—that people have claimed, not the adoptive tax credit, but the child tax credit has been claimed—as has been shown many times—by people who did not legally come into the country. And there have been articles about that. Of course, I guess, everybody knows they'll never get a Pulitzer Prize for incredible investigative reporting on the billions of dollars that may be obtained by people who come into the country illegally and then

have learned you can claim a tax credit and get more money back than you put in. Oh, no, even if you don't have a Social Security number—as the law currently requires—to get that child tax credit, the IRS thought: Hey, we've got a good idea, we don't care that Congress said you've got to have a Social Security number, hey, we want to get all the tax income in we can, and we hear from some of the folks in Congress that there are people somewhere out there in the shadows, so we'll just give them a taxpayer number, even if they don't have a Social Security number, and let them get that child tax credit from there. So there are plenty of people that have come out of the so-called shadows to claim a child tax credit.

That's why Robert Rector, in talking with him this week, he says the projection probably that if people who are here undocumented, illegally, whatever you want to call it, are given legal status, then it will likely cost the country around \$10 billion that these individuals will be able to get back in child tax credit once they're legally here and that many are getting even now. An estimated \$1 billion—one estimate I read was \$4 billion—that we're currently paying out from the Treasury to people that are getting more back than they paid in who are not legally here, don't have a Social Security number.

So they're not going after those folks. Not auditing, not going in and demanding to know where are all these children you claim to get all this money back—\$20,000, \$30,000 you're getting back from the government for a child tax credit—where are all the children? Oh, no, they're not going after them. No. They much prefer to go after what some of these partisan political leaders in the IRS see as their political enemies.

When you have people like that heading up the IRS, you don't have to have an enemies list, like Richard Nixon had. You've got your friends at the IRS that are doing it for you.

So when we hear claims of outrage and we see that these people have suffered absolutely no consequences from this President—the boss—as a result of their outrageous, illegal, unconstitutional activity, then it seems that maybe the outrage is not as loud as we were being told that it originally has been.

And then when you find out that the AP—certainly hasn't helped me any, but that doesn't matter, we're supposed to have a free press—if they want to go after a guy that's conservative that has a southern accent, that's their prerogative. But we find out that the White House—the Justice Department at least—the Justice Department went after the AP, just like they did Rosen at Fox News, they go after the AP and get hundreds of phone numbers because they say they're after this egregious leak. The Attorney General told our committee last week, Gee, it's one of the most egregious leaks—not the most egregious, one of the most egregious

leaks—he had ever seen. Turns out all of the leaks that allow him to go after a conservative group or to intimidate a group like the AP, to them they're egregious. When we find out, Mr. Speaker, he could have just looked at the records of a handful of people in the administration—he chose not to do that, it might have embarrassed the administration—he abuses the freedom of the press.

It's time that people who are responsible are made accountable.

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

IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KING. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the privilege to be recognized to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives to raise the issues of our time and have this opportunity for this dialogue that I know that you turn a focused ear to, as well as do the other Members, their staff, and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I came to the floor here, one thing is to support the statement made by the gentleman from Texas across the spectrum of the topics that he addressed. He does see the world through a clear set of eyes and isn't afraid to say so, and we need more Members like Congressman GOHMERT, who is fearless and courageous and a constitutionalist and a rule of law Member, and he understands the Constitution and the law, being an attorney and a judge and a member in good standing of the Judiciary Committee for a number of years now, where one can learn a few things about those topics, as well as bring their own expertise in.

But, Mr. Speaker, that's the committee, the Judiciary Committee, where the immigration issue is likely to process through—or up to and, perhaps, not through.

□ 1410

There is a tremendous amount of, I will say, a hurry up, urgency momentum that has been created on the immigration issue over in the United States Senate. We can count it in hours the time that it has been since the Senate passed, I call it, an amnesty bill, a comprehensive immigration reform bill, which is the more modern vernacular for "amnesty." That's phraseology that was manufactured by people who couldn't quite bring themselves to say the truth on this, and that was the case back in 2006 and 2007 when it was George W. Bush and his people who were pushing this comprehensive immigration reform-amnesty.

What happened, Mr. Speaker, was that we had an election last November, on November 6 to be precise, a Tuesday

we would all know. There was a great expectation that Republicans would win the majority in the United States Senate and a great expectation that our Republican nominee, Mitt Romney, would be elected as President because, after all, who could imagine a second term for a man who refused to carry out his oath of office in his first term.

So the voters went to the polls, and there was a bit of a lack of enthusiasm on the part of the people on my side of the aisle, and a good number of them stayed home, a number that is calculated to be about 8 million voters; and about a million voters who normally would have voted for Barack Obama stayed home, but that's more than the difference between the election in the popular vote, and it may well have translated into a difference in the election in the electoral vote.

However, we know what happened in the election. The President was re-elected. There were some seats that were lost by Republicans, a net seat lost by Republicans in the Senate. Republicans lost some seats here in the House, but maintained still a strong majority in the House and would expect to do so at least into the foreseeable future.

But the results of that election were overreacted to by many people on my side of the aisle. They looked around and asked, How did we lose? Of course, the people who were the architects of these kinds of campaigns wouldn't want to take on the blame themselves, so they looked around to see where they could cast the blame elsewhere. They settled upon this theory in the middle of the night, so I would say it was in the morning, which started at 12:01 a.m. on the morning of November 7, 2012.

That theory that they settled on was that Mitt Romney would be President-elect that morning and President today if he just had not been so strident on immigration, if he just had not said those two words: self-deport. Their theory was that that was the reason that Mitt Romney is not the President today.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I think that's a manufactured theory, that it's a flawed theory, that it's not based on fact, in polling, in logic. If it's likely true that the Hispanic votes were the decision-maker on this election and then if the Hispanic vote went 71 percent for Barack Obama, I would ask those folks who think that you'd turn that vote around the other way by passing amnesty, Can you tell us how it is that Republicans can capture a majority of the African American vote when typically African Americans in this country will vote 92 percent for the Democrat or 95 or 96 percent for the Democrat if it's Barack Obama on the ballot?

So, if they can't tell me how one should reach out to the African American vote when we are the party of the abolition of slavery—and I can stand here and tell you my great grandfather

five times great—and for the record, because people get things intentionally confused, that's great, great, great, great, great grandfather—was killed in the Civil War. He was killed in the Civil War, fighting to put an end to slavery. They were an abolitionist family, and 600,000 Americans gave their lives in that struggle to put an end to slavery, roughly half on each side, roughly 300,000 on each side—more on the Union side than actually on the Confederate side by the data that I'm looking at.

Mr. Speaker, the emancipation of the slaves and an end to slavery and the blood that was spilled by the sword that was to be compensated for the blood that was spilled by the lash seems to be forgotten in the political parties of today. When you look to see what it took to pass the Civil Rights Act in the sixties, it took Republicans in greater numbers in the House and Senate to pass the Civil Rights Act than it did Democrats. There were a lot of Southern Democrats who were segregationist Democrats, I would remind people.

Nonetheless, the promise of what's coming out of the U.S. Treasury—and some of it's borrowed money from the Chinese and the Saudis and others—seems to have eroded the support for Republican fiscal conservatives among the certain minority groups in this country and others who are struggling to make a go of it. It's hard for them to see down the line a little ways as to how much more opportunity there is in America if we recreate the opportunity society that is being replaced by the cradle-to-grave welfare state that we have in America today. Not only is it a cradle-to-grave welfare state, but it is a cradle-to-grave welfare state that promises a middle class standard of living.

I look at some of the numbers that have been rolled out by, for example, Robert Rector of the Heritage Foundation, who is the most accomplished, senior, respected, and definitive researcher on these topics that I know, and I deal with many, many of them. I have in my hand, Mr. Speaker, the executive summary of about a 102-page report that was issued by Robert Rector of the Heritage Foundation. It's a special report dated May 6, 2013, and the title of it is "The Fiscal Cost of Unlawful Immigrants and Amnesty to the U.S. Taxpayer." The data that's in here should cause anyone in this Congress to pause before they would begin to look in any positive way on the Senate bill that is their 844-page comprehensive amnesty bill. Some of this data that's in here, Mr. Speaker, is shocking to people who haven't at least been numbed by the reality of it for some time.

The average illegal household in the interim phase of this bill would be a net cost to the taxpayer. They'd pay taxes and draw down welfare. Some will say that folks who are in this country illegally don't qualify for welfare. No, the truth of that is there are

at least 80 different means-tested welfare programs, and those who are in this country illegally just qualify for some of those 80, not for all of those 80. That is the truth, and it has been often distorted. So the net cost to the taxpayer per household in the interim phase for people who are unlawfully here now and who would be granted the amnesty status by the Senate version of the bill would be \$11,455. That's borrowed against our children's labor, I might add, Mr. Speaker.

After that interim, when they qualify for a larger number of those 80 different means-tested Federal welfare programs—"post-interim" is how it's defined by the researcher Robert Rector—then the net cost per household is \$28,000. The taxpayers will be subsidizing these households in the interim for \$11,455, and when they qualify then for more of the welfare benefits, that net cost goes to \$28,000. The average retirement, because they are going to retire just like anyone else, is going to be a net cost to the taxpayers per household of \$22,700.

Robert Rector in his report—and I'm going to quote from it because I think the language is very powerful—says:

Regrettably, many policymakers also believe that because unlawful immigrants are comparatively young they will help relieve the fiscal strains on an aging society.

Regrettably, this is not true. Now here is where I focused on this, Mr. Speaker:

At every stage of the life cycle, unlawful immigrants on average generate fiscal deficits, and that's benefits exceeding taxes. Unlawful immigrants, on average, are always tax consumers. They never once generate a fiscal surplus that can be used to pay for government benefits elsewhere in society. This situation obviously will get much worse after amnesty.

That is an irrefutable fact. There are others who will argue that there is a dynamic economy, and you can calculate this growth and dynamic economy. Well, they're not calculating the cost to society. They accept that we are a cradle-to-grave welfare state.

I've had this debate with Art Laffer, who I have great respect for. He is the author of Ronald Reagan's, I'll call it, "Laffer curve." I agree with that theory to cut taxes and stimulate the economy. That worked when Ronald Reagan came in in the early part of the eighties and was sworn in January of 1981. Art Laffer was there, and I'm glad he was. The economy grew and we recovered, and the Reagan years are looked back on as the transformative years when America was pulled from the abyss of the malaise.

□ 1420

So I give him great credit. Not only that, he's intelligent and he has a fantastic sense of humor. But here's where I disagree with Art Laffer and why I disagree with some people in Cato and why I disagree with the purist of Libertarians is this:

Many of them believe that labor should flow back and forth across the

border as if it were any other commodity like corn, beans, gold, or oil, and that the marketplace will determine where labor will go just like it will determine where you send these other commodities that I've listed.

The flaw in that rationale, Mr. Speaker, was spoken to by Milton Friedman, whom I'm confident Art Laffer knew well and probably had this debate with him. But Milton Friedman, the University of Chicago economist, famed internationally, said a welfare state and open borders cannot coexist. You might actually turn that around the other way, but the principle is the same. Yet we have a cradle-to-grave welfare state that guarantees a middle class income. If you don't work at all, you can draw down enough benefits to live as if you were working at a modest wage.

Milton Friedman understood that, that the welfare magnet will draw people in and they won't have the necessity to work in order to maintain that standard of living because it's being bought down, bid against by the welfare system.

And my debate with Art Laffer came out to be essentially this:

When I make that point to him that open borders and a welfare state cannot coexist, his answer is, Then end the welfare state.

Well, that would be nice if we could do that, Mr. Speaker. If we could at least ratchet it down and take that hammock that used to be a safety net—it was as safety net to keep people from falling through. That was the original welfare system that we had. Now we have people in this Congress that continually ratchet in another program here, another program there, manufacture this one here and that one there. There was only one welfare program out of an entire 80 different means-tested Federal welfare programs that required work.

Some of us will remember the intense welfare reform debates in the nineties when this Congress so aggressively and eagerly required the Welfare-to-Work program. Most of us in America have forgotten that the Welfare-to-Work program really was only one program, the TANF program, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. All the rest of them, none of them require that there be work, only TANF. And the President of the United States, even though the law is specific and he doesn't have the constitutional authority to do so, the President of the United States simply waived the work requirements in TANF. So this country now has no requirement of Welfare-to-Work, not even in one of the 80 different means-tested programs that we have.

We're seeing wealth transfer in this country. We're seeing class leveling in this country. We're seeing work and production and wealth punished and extracted from the sweat of someone's brow to pass it into the bank account, or, should I say, the EBT card, of some-

one else. When that happens—John Smith saw that that didn't work. He said, No work, no eat. Jesus said essentially the same thing, that you've got to work and earn your way. It's in numerous places in the Bible. It's in numerous places in our history.

Think about it in your family. If you have one family member that won't do anything, they want to sit on the couch and they want somebody to bring them food and bring them entertainment and they don't want to go out and mow the lawn or carry out the garbage or scrub the floors or do the things that you do around the home, let alone go punch a time clock and earn a living, how long does it take before that family says, I'm tired of that? I'm going to send you out into the world to earn your own way because you're digressing here; you're not developing your skills.

That is the way of the family. It's the way of the tribe. It should be the way of the Nation. Gently and compassionately take care of the people that can't take care of themselves, and nurture those that have an ability to contribute to our GDP out to go contribute to the GDP.

But we've lost that because there's a class-envy wedge that's being driven from the White House on down. It existed before Barack Obama became President. It was driven hard in here when we had the previous Speaker of the House, these class-envy wedges driven in and the effort, because somebody has something more than you have, to take from them and give it to somebody that has less.

Perhaps I can find this while I talk, Mr. Speaker, but that was well-articulated by Adrian Rogers, who has since passed away. But the principle of why people work and why they won't is an important principle to make, Mr. Speaker. Dr. Adrian Rogers was talking about wealth and work and stated:

You cannot legislate the poor into freedom by legislating the wealthy out of freedom. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else. When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them, and when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that, my dear friend, is about the end of any nation. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it.

That was the late Adrian Rogers, from 1931 to 2005. I never met him, but with clarity, he spoke to this issue, and more articulately than I am able to, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate his contribution to the discussion in our society, but there are people here that see this; they see that there is a political gain to be made by expanding the dependency class in America. So they decide that they're going to punish the rich, tax the rich.

Remember, the tax rates had to go up on the upper-income bracket. That was

a demand of the President of the United States. He could have gotten just as much revenue by cleaning up the loopholes and it would have given a more balanced tax plan than we have, but he had to raise the taxes on the highest bracket because that was a notch in his belt, a feather in his cap to punish the rich.

There's been a political gain to do that. That's been the motive because it gathers votes and it expands the dependency class. When you do that, that keeps people dependent upon one party with one-party rule. And this country and this society has one place where we block bad ideas. That's here in the House of Representatives where there is a Republican majority, where there's still a majority of us, I believe, that support and will defend free enterprise capitalism.

Anybody that's going to take the naturalization test to become a citizen of the United States can go look at the flashcards that CIS—Citizen Immigration Services—hand out. They're a glossy flashcard like that on a red backing, and you can pick them up. On one side it will say, Who's the father of our country? Flip it over, George Washington. Who emancipated the slaves? Abraham Lincoln. What's the economic system of the United States of America? Flip that over, and it says, Free enterprise capitalism.

Newly arriving immigrants, to-be-naturalized citizens study that and know that, but I suspect there are a whole lot of people over on this side of the aisle that, if they know that, they don't believe it. They don't understand how supply and demand is answered by the marketplace, how people need to be rewarded for the work that they do.

I take you back, Mr. Speaker, to 1976 when Jimmy Carter, one of the least successful Presidents in our history, said something that I'm happy to quote. He said this in Iowa, as he traveled all over Iowa and made the first-in-the-Nation caucus an effective venue for Presidential candidates. He said:

I believe the people that work should live better than those that don't.

That's probably going to be labeled "offensive" in today's Congress. But it was Jimmy Carter's statement back then in 1976, and I believe it.

And we have people in this party, my party, that looked at that theory that popped up in the early morning hours of November 7 and concluded, We're never going to win another Presidential election, another national election if we don't first pass comprehensive immigration reform. That's based on Barack Obama getting 71 percent of the Hispanic vote because that number has—it's gone up and down, but it's crept up for Democrats over time.

What they have forgotten is that tens of millions of dollars and very much organizational effort has been put into it by the Democrats to call Republicans racists; and my colleagues on my side of the aisle, they seem to disregard all

of that money spent, all of those dishonesties perpetrated. They think that if it exists at all, it didn't have any effect. It all was just those two words that Mitt Romney said, "self-deport."

□ 1430

We need to look at the actual facts. The actual facts are Bob Dole had the lowest percentage of Hispanic vote when he ran for President in '96. It was 21 percent. It is also true that Ronald Reagan, who signed an amnesty act in 1986, didn't get George H.W. Bush, Bush 41, a higher percentage of the Hispanic vote. It got him a lower percentage of the Hispanic vote.

If they're going to correlate this thing, I tell you, here's how you correlate it, Mr. Speaker, and it's this:

There were about 800,000 people that originally were to qualify for the amnesty in 1986 that Ronald Reagan signed. That number crept up to about a million. That's kind of the settled historical number. There were about a million that were here that fit the qualifications to receive amnesty from the '86 act that Reagan was honest enough to call the Amnesty Act.

And then once he signed that bill, then there was document fraud and people who came across the border. The magnet of amnesty drew more people in, and that number now, the lowest number that I see of those who received amnesty in 1986, or from the 1986 Amnesty Act, is about 2.7 million people. A lot of times you see 3 million as the quote. It'll go up to 3.5. Well, let's just settle on 3 million people.

If 3 million people received amnesty under Ronald Reagan's 1986 Amnesty Act, and then on average each of them—and this is data that can be chased down, and bigger numbers than I'm about to quote are available out there in certain studies, but on average a low number for family members brought in because of those that received amnesty is about a factor of five, or a little bit more. So let's just hold it down on the low end.

Three million received amnesty. They averaged bringing in five people by the family reunification plans that are there. Now, that's 15 million people. Some of them have died, and some perhaps have gone back to their home country, but there are a large block of voters there that have shifted over to vote for whom, Mr. Speaker? Barack Obama. Barack Obama.

I will make this statement. If the theory of those who believe that they can reverse the trend of Hispanic vote, if their theory is correct, then I would suggest to them, if they can provide amnesty and somebody is going to benefit from that, if their theory is correct, they have to admit that Ronald Reagan's signature on the 1986 Amnesty Act brought about Barack Obama's election. If you take those numbers of people out of the polls and you calculate that percentage of 71 percent—so let's just say we take 15 mil-

lion people out of the rolls and say they wouldn't have been here without the 1986 Amnesty Act, or at least they wouldn't be voting, and if 71 percent of them voted for Barack Obama, then it's clear to anybody that can do any kind of statistical analysis that Barack Obama wouldn't be President of the United States without Ronald Reagan's 1986 Amnesty Act.

And if that's the case, then how do the people on my side of the aisle think they're going to fix that problem? If it was created by amnesty, you create a bigger problem by amnesty by a factor of, let's say, four. And I'm just rounding 3 million times up to about 12 million, or 2.7 times 4 gets you in that 11.5 million range.

That's the facts of what we're dealing with here, Mr. Speaker. They've suspended their logic. They've suspended their reason. They've suspended their ability to look at data, surveys, polls. They've suspended their respect for the intelligence of the American people who honestly want to see the rule of law.

And all of us have compassion for all humanity, and I believe in the dignity of every human person. It's commanded by my faith. But also, when those who use religion to advocate for amnesty say, "For I was a stranger, and you let me in," Matthew 25:35, when you look at the interpretation, you have to go back to the Greek. "Stranger" in English, in Greek is "xenos." Xenos in Greek means invited friend, invited guest. It doesn't mean intruder. There's no religious commandment that says when someone comes into your house that you have to welcome them in. You're not commanded by God to do so. That's why we have a man's home is his castle. That's why we have nation-states with borders.

In fact, it says in Act 17:

And God created all nations on Earth, and he decided when and where each nation would be.

That's his commandment. And I'd suggest to those people that say to us, "For I was a stranger, and you let me in," they should understand also what Jesus said when they tried to trick him on that question about whether to pay taxes or not. And they showed him the coin and he said:

Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and render unto God the things that are God's.

Civil mercy is not something that can be delivered by religion, and mercy is not something to be delivered by government. We have civil law. Civil laws are set up by the judgment of the people. That's why we have penalties that are written into these laws, and that needs to be applied evenly. And, yes, people can have their dignity and still respect our laws; but somehow, some of the religious movement in the country believes that mercy should be delivered by civil law, that we can grant amnesty in the name of mercy to give a legal status to people here that

are unlawfully here in the United States.

And so I'd ask them to go back and peruse through their Bible, Old and New Testament, and show me where the word "mercy" is used. And wherever mercy is advocated in the Bible, next to it you will see the word "repentance." Mercy is never delivered biblically without repentance as a prerequisite, a requirement.

I don't see repentance out here in the people advocating for U.S. citizenship and the reward for that, but I can tell you, they and their descendants will remember who offered it, as they did in 1986.

And when the President of the United States came to the Republican Conference and he said to us, You must pass comprehensive immigration reform as Republicans or you will never win another national election; I'm trying to help you—that's the President of the United States. He's not trying to help Republicans.

We have some people who will take the bait on that, and the hook has already been set and they're trying to reel that amnesty bill over from the Senate and line it up here in the House of Representatives. It will split this party in half. It will pit Republicans against Republicans. The Democrats know that. That is a clear tactic in politics to divide the other party down an issue if you can. Republicans are falling for that. We should not take up anything until the President keeps his oath of office and enforces the laws that we have.

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

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 23, 2013.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: Pursuant to the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 955(b) note), I am pleased to re-appoint of The Honorable Betty McCollum of Minnesota to the National Council on the Arts.

Thank you for your attention to this appointment.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today until 11:15 a.m. on account of a family obligation.

Mr. GIBSON (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of traveling to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to serve as the senior guest speaker for the 82nd Airborne's All-American Week Division Review.

Mr. CLYBURN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, May 24, 2013, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1596. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Horse Protection Act; Requiring Horse Industry Organizations to Assess and Enforce Minimum Penalties for Violations; Correction [Docket No.: APHIS-2011-0030] (RIN: 0579-AD43) received May 9, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1597. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: System for Award Management Name Changes, Phase 1 Implementation (DFARS Case 2012-D035) (RIN: 0750-AH87) received May 14, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1598. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Government Support Contractor Access to Technical Data (DFARS 2009-D031) (RIN: 0750-AG38) received May 20, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1599. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Clarification of "F" Orders in the Procurement Instrument Identification Number Structure (DFARS Case 2012-D040) (RIN: 0750-AH80) received May 22, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1600. A letter from the Director, Office of Public and Congressional Affairs, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting NCUA 2012 Financial Statement Audits for Temporary Corporate Credit Union Stabilization Fund; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1601. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final priority. National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research—Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems Centers Collaborative Research Project [CFDA Numbers: 84.133A-7.] received May 21, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

1602. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Visas: Documentation of Immi-

grants Under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended (RIN: 1400-AC86) received May 17, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

1603. A letter from the Executive Secretary, Agency for International Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

1604. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Status for *Eriogonum codium* (Umtanum Desert Buckwheat) and *Physaria douglasii* subsp. *tuplashensis* (White Bluffs Bladderpod) [Docket No.: FWS-R1-ES-2012-0017] (RIN: 1018-AX72) received May 21, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1605. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for *Eriogonum codium* (Umtanum Desert Buckwheat) and *Physaria douglasii* subsp. *tuplashensis* (White Bluffs Bladderpod) [Docket No.: FWS-R1-ES-2013-0012] (RIN: 1018-AZ54) received May 21, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1606. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; 2013 and 2014 Atlantic Bluefish Specifications [Docket No.: 130104009-3416-02] (RIN: 0648-XC432) received May 12, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1607. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Framework Adjustment 50 [Docket No.: 130219149-3397-02] (RIN: 0648-BC97) received May 21, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

1608. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Temporary Placement of Three Synthetic Cannabinoids Into Schedule I [Docket No.: DEA-373] received May 16, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1609. A letter from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Tentative Eligibility Determinations; Presumptive Eligibility for Psychosis and Other Mental Illness (RIN: 2900-AN87) received May 14, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

1610. A letter from the Assistant Director, Legal Processing Division, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Proportional method for OID on pools of credit card receivables (Revenue Procedure 2013-26) received May 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1611. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule

— Update of Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2013-32] received May 10, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. OWENS, Mr. COBLE, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. BACHUS):

H.R. 2122. A bill to reform the process by which Federal agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. PALLONE):

H.R. 2123. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend the Medicaid rules regarding supplemental needs trusts for Medicaid beneficiaries to trusts established by those beneficiaries; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BARROW of Georgia:

H.R. 2124. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to improve worksite enforcement, prevent crime, and gain operational control of the borders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, Ways and Means, Armed Services, and Education and the Workforce, 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. SHUSTER:

H.R. 2125. A bill to prevent implementation and enforcement of Obamacare; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, the Judiciary, Natural Resources, and House Administration, 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. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 2126. A bill to facilitate better alignment, cooperation, and best practices between commercial real estate landlords and tenants regarding energy efficiency in buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. RAHALL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. OLSON, Mr. LATTA, Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, and Mr. PETERSON):

H.R. 2127. A bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from finalizing any rule imposing any standard of performance for carbon dioxide emissions from any existing or new source that is a fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating unit unless and until carbon capture and storage is found to be technologically and economically feasible; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 2128. A bill to provide for the establishment of a Home Energy Savings Retrofit Rebate Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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

in the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Mr. TIERNEY, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER):

H.R. 2129. A bill to amend the Defense Base Act to require the provision of insurance under that Act under a Government self-insurance program, and to require an implementation strategy for such self-insurance program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Ms. HAHN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HOLT, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. KILMER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. POLIS):

H.R. 2130. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants for treatment of heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (ecstasy), and phencyclidine (PCP) abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. COBLE, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. HANNA, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. TERRY):

H.R. 2131. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to enhance American competitiveness through the encouragement of high-skilled immigration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida (for herself and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 2132. A bill to reauthorize Federal natural hazards reduction programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. POE of Texas (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 2133. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the work opportunity tax credit for veterans and to allow an exemption from an employer's employment taxes in an amount equivalent to the value of such credit in the case of veterans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana (for herself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 2134. A bill to provide an election for funding parity for charity-sponsored pension plans; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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. OLSON (for himself, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 2135. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to clarify liability protections regarding emergency use of automated external defibrillators; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. HARTZLER:

H.R. 2136. A bill to ensure small businesses in rural America have access to credit to promote economic growth and job creation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. RUNYAN, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. LANCE, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. REED, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SIREs, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. MENG, and Mr. HOLT):

H.R. 2137. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for damages relating to Hurricane Sandy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCCARTHY of California (for himself, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. COFFMAN):

H.R. 2138. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to resolve the backlog of disability claims of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CRENSHAW (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 2139. A bill to make certain luggage and travel articles eligible for duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (for himself and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York):

H.R. 2140. A bill to permit insurance companies that are depository holding companies, or are subsidiaries of depository holding companies, to comply with the accounting and capital requirements applicable to the insurance company under State law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. POLIS):

H.R. 2141. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Head Start teachers the same above-the-line deduction for supplies as is allowed to elementary and secondary school teachers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BISHOP of New York (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. RUNYAN):

H.R. 2142. A bill to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to set-aside community development block grant amounts in each fiscal year for grants to local chapters of veterans service organizations for rehabilitation of their facilities; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. TERRY, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN):

H.R. 2143. A bill to amend title IX of the Public Health Service Act to revise the operations of the United States Preventive Services Task Force; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 2144. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CALVERT (for himself, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. TAKANO):

H.R. 2145. A bill to provide for the conveyance of a small parcel of Natural Resources Conservation Service property in Riverside, California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CAPUANO (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. WATERS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WATT, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. NADLER, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. LYNCH, and Ms. MENG):

H.R. 2146. A bill to extend the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program of the Department of the Treasury for 10 years; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:

H.R. 2147. A bill to provide grants to enhance the most effective freezing methods to improve access to affordable and locally produced specialty crops; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:

H.R. 2148. A bill to amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 to increase public awareness about the dangers of synthetic drugs through the national youth antidrug media campaign; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 2149. A bill to provide for the issuance and sale of a semipostal by the United States Postal Service to support effective programs targeted at improving permanency outcomes for youth in foster care; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and 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. COOK (for himself, Mr. FLORES, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, and Mr. TAKANO):

H.R. 2150. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a five-year extension to the homeless veterans reintegration programs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. TAKANO):

H.R. 2151. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize individuals who are pursuing programs of rehabilitation, education, or training under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to receive work-study allowances for certain outreach services provided through congressional offices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DOYLE:

H.R. 2152. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to establish the National Program for Arts and Technology; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DOYLE (for himself and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 2153. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the reporting of cases of infectious diseases at facilities of the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. HARPER):

H.R. 2154. A bill to mandate the monthly formulation and publication of a consumer price index specifically for senior citizens for the purpose of establishing an accurate Social Security COLA for such citizens; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FATTAH (for himself and Mr. HINOJOSA):

H.R. 2155. A bill to award grants in order to establish longitudinal personal college readiness and savings online platforms for low-income students; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FINCHER (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. TIBERI):

H.R. 2156. A bill to encourage uniformity and reciprocity among States that license insurance claims adjusters and to facilitate prompt and efficient adjusting of insurance claims in the case of natural and other disasters and losses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mr. VISCSLOSKY):

H.R. 2157. A bill to authorize the ground burial at Arlington National Cemetery of members of the United States Army who served honorably in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier platoon, Third Infantry Regiment (Old Guard), United States Army; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FLEMING:

H.R. 2158. A bill to exempt from the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 the expedited removal from the United States of certain snake species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. ESTY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 2159. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a STEM grant program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. FUDGE (for herself, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. LEWIS):

H.R. 2160. A bill to support and encourage the health and well-being of elementary school and secondary school students by enhancing school physical education and health education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 2161. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced interest rates for Federal Direct Stafford Loans; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and the Budget, 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. GOSAR:

H.R. 2162. A bill to provide for transparency and reporting related to direct and indirect costs incurred by the Bonneville

Power Administration, the Western Area Power Administration, the Southwestern Power Administration, and the Southeastern Power Administration related to compliance with any Federal environmental laws impacting the conservation of fish and wildlife, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. HAHN (for herself and Mr. FATTAH):

H.R. 2163. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to establish a program to make grants to ports to enable ports to employ high school students during the summer; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HARRIS (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 2164. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit human cloning; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HECK of Nevada (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 2165. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide individual and group market reforms to protect health insurance consumers, to make such reforms and protections contingent on the enactment of legislation repealing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, 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. HECK of Nevada (for himself and Mr. AMODEI):

H.R. 2166. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, 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. HECK of Washington (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 2167. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish additional requirements to improve the fiscal safety and soundness of the home equity conversion mortgage insurance program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HECK of Washington:

H.R. 2168. A bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to promote the efficient delivery and receipt of absentee ballots and other voting materials to absent uniformed services voters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. HIGGINS:

H.R. 2169. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the time limitation for use of eligibility and entitlement to educational assistance under certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HOLT (for himself, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. POLIS, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina):

H.R. 2170. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a partnership program in foreign languages; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HOLT (for himself, Mr. PETRI, Mr. KIND, and Mr. REICHERT):

H.R. 2171. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a lifetime income disclosure; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):

H.R. 2172. A bill to improve quality and accountability for educator preparation programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):

H.R. 2173. A bill to improve teacher quality, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. HIMES, Ms. ESTY, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. MENG, Mr. NADLER, Mr. KING of New York, and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York):

H.R. 2174. A bill to amend and reauthorize certain provisions relating to Long Island Sound restoration and stewardship; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. JOHNSON of Ohio:

H.R. 2175. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on June 6, 1944, the morning of D-Day; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. JONES:

H.R. 2176. A bill to require express prior statutory authorization from Congress to carry out any activities under the United States-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership Agreement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 2177. A bill to eliminate the application of sequestration to unemployment benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. KIND (for himself and Mr. SCHOCK):

H.R. 2178. A bill to authorize a grant program to promote physical education, activity, and fitness and nutrition, and to ensure healthy students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KIND (for himself and Mr. SCHOCK):

H.R. 2179. A bill to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Human Services of physical activity guidelines for Americans; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington:

H.R. 2180. A bill to amend the Procurement Technical Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program in title 10, United States Code; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LATHAM (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 2181. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act with respect to the qualification of the director of food services of a Medicare skilled nursing facility or a Medicaid nursing facility; to the

Committee on Ways and Means, 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 Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. HOYER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. CHU, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. VELA, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MOORE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. SRES, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HONDA, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 2182. A bill to establish the Federal Interagency Working Group on Reducing Poverty which will create and carry out a national plan to cut poverty in America in half in ten years; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 2183. A bill to direct the Director of the CIA to cease lethal drone operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Intelligence (Permanent Select), and the Judiciary, 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. LOEBSACK:

H.R. 2184. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to foster community involvement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LYNCH (for himself, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JONES, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. NEAL, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. TSONGAS):

H.R. 2185. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to encourage the nationwide observance of two minutes of silence each Veterans Day; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. RANGEL):

H.R. 2186. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the compounding of drug products; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MEEHAN (for himself, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. OWENS, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. YODER, and Mr. FATTAH):

H.R. 2187. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize veterans' treatment courts and encourage services for veterans; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MICHAUD (for himself and Ms. PINGREE of Maine):

H.R. 2188. A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to ensure that footwear furnished or obtained by allowance for enlisted members of the Armed Forces upon their initial entry into the Armed Forces complies with domestic source requirements; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida (for himself and Mr. MCCARTHY of California):

H.R. 2189. A bill to establish a commission or task force to evaluate the backlog of disability claims of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 2190. A bill to extend Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Ms. HAHN, Mr. RANGEL, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 2191. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations with respect to ensuring families are able to sit together on flights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 2192. A bill to amend the Act popularly known as the Antiquities Act of 1906 to require certain procedures for designating national monuments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 2193. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the financing of the Superfund; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PAULSEN:

H.R. 2194. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve access to health care through expanded health savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and 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. PAYNE (for himself, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HONDA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BASS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLAY, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. HIGGINS):

H.R. 2195. A bill to support Promise Neighborhoods; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PETRI (for himself and Mr. POLIS):

H.R. 2196. A bill to create and expand innovative teacher and principal preparation programs known as teacher and principal preparation academies; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. PINGREE of Maine (for herself and Mr. MICHAUD):

H.R. 2197. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the York River and associated tributaries for study for potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 2198. A bill to require State governments to submit fiscal accounting reports as a condition to the receipt of Federal financial assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. RICHMOND (for himself, Ms. WATERS, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BOSTANY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SCALISE, and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 2199. A bill to delay the implementation of certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SABLAN (for himself, Mr. FALCOMA, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Ms. BORDALLO):

H.R. 2200. A bill to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Financial Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, and 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. SMITH of Washington (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MORAN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Ms. DELBENE):

H.R. 2201. A bill to authorize voluntary grazing permit retirement on Federal lands managed by the Department of Agriculture or the Department of the Interior where livestock grazing is impractical, 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. THORNBERRY (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. MATHESON):

H.R. 2202. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the equalization of the excise tax on liquefied natural gas and per energy equivalent of diesel; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself and Mr. ROONEY):

H.R. 2203. A bill to provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Jack Nicklaus, in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence, good sportsmanship, and philanthropy; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. TSONGAS:

H.R. 2204. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Labor to award grants for the employment of individuals in targeted communities to perform work for the benefit of such communities; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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 Ms. TSONGAS (for herself, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 2205. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Groundwork USA national office, to provide grants to certain nonprofit organizations; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TURNER (for himself and Mr. HECK of Nevada):

H.R. 2206. A bill to provide enhanced protections for prospective members and new members of the Armed Forces during entry-level processing and training; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. TURNER (for himself and Ms. TSONGAS):

H.R. 2207. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the Uniform Code of Military Justice related to sex-related offenses committed by members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WITTMAN (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. DINGELL):

H.R. 2208. A bill to extend the authorization of appropriations for allocation to carry out approved wetlands conservation projects under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act through fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 2209. A bill to establish a chain of command for Army National Military Cemeteries; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. YOUNG of Florida:

H.R. 2210. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the eligibility of children of certain deceased veterans to educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. BASS (for herself and Mr. HONDA):

H. Res. 234. A resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and commending its successor, the African Union; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GRIMM (for himself and Mr. SIRES):

H. Res. 235. A resolution expressing support for designation of March 29 as Vietnam Veterans Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. HAHN (for herself, Mr. POE of Texas, and Ms. BROWN of Florida):

H. Res. 236. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on fully spending the receipts of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund on United States ports and harbors each year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HIMES (for himself, Ms. LEE of California, and Mrs. BEATTY):

H. Res. 237. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to childhood stroke and recognizing May 2013 as "National Pediatric Stroke Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. CONYERS):

H. Res. 238. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States efforts to promote Israeli-Palestinian peace; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PETERSON:

H. Res. 239. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the third week in October as National School Bus Safety Week and for the designation of Wednesday of that week as National School Bus Drivers Appreciation Day; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. BARR, and Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan):

H. Res. 240. A resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to place a real time display of the United

States gross national debt in the House Chamber; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. VARGAS (for himself, Mr. PETERS of California, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H. Res. 241. A resolution recognizing the importance of the United States International Boundary Water Commission (USIBWC) and its recent efforts to address trash, sediment, and water quality issues with their Mexican counterparts, Comisión Internacional de Límites y Aguas (CILA), through a proposed minute; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

32. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Maine, relative to a Joint Resolution urging the President and the Congress to support the Clean Air Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. GOODLATTE:

H.R. 2122.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the exercise of legislative powers generally granted to Congress by that section, including the exercise of those powers when delegated by Congress to the Executive; Article I, Sections 8 and 9 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the exercise of specific legislative powers granted to Congress by those sections, including the exercise of those powers when delegated by Congress to the Executive; Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation exercises legislative power granted to Congress by that clause "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof;" and Article III of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation defines or affects powers of the Judiciary that are subject to legislation by Congress.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 2123.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3; and including, but not solely limited to Article I, Section 8, Clause 14.

By Mr. BARROW of Georgia:

H.R. 2124.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. SHUSTER:

H.R. 2125.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have the Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and

among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 2126.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 2127.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to enact this legislation to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 2128.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to enact this legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 2129.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States and Article I, Section 9, giving Congress the authority to control the expenditures of the federal government.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 2130.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII which states "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;"

Most recently the Supreme Court has held that Article I, Section VIII gives Congress a plenary power to impose taxes and to spend money for the general welfare subject almost entirely to Congress's own discretion.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 2131.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4, which states that Congress has the power to establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida:

H.R. 2132.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 2133.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana:

H.R. 2134.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 1 and 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. OLSON:

H.R. 2135.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

The Congress shall have Power to . . . regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes

By Mrs. HARTZLER:

H.R. 2136.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I: Section 8: Clause 3 The United States Congress shall have power

"To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 2137.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MCCARTHY OF California:

H.R. 2138.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 12,13,18.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 2139.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, commonly referred to as the Commerce Clause. The Commerce Clause states that the Congress shall have power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes. This bill changes U.S. trade

By Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California:

H.R. 2140.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 2141.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. BISHOP of New York:

H.R. 2142.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 2143.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 2144.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 2145.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 and clause 18, and Article W, section 3, clause 2.

By Mr. CAPUANO:

H.R. 2146.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes).

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:

H.R. 2147.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to provide for the general welfare of the United States.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:

H.R. 2148.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to provide for the general welfare of the United States.

By Mr. CONYERS:

H.R. 2149.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COOK:

H.R. 2150.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. DEFazio:

H.R. 2151.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. DOYLE:

H.R. 2152.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DOYLE:

H.R. 2153.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee:

H.R. 2154.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section 8.

1) The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. FATTAH:

H.R. 2155.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. FINCHER:

H.R. 2156.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 2157.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 12, 13, 14, and 16), which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulations of the land and naval forces; and to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia, and for governing such

part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States.

By Mr. FLEMING:

H.R. 2158.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which states the Congress shall have the power "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 2159.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 2160.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, §8, clause 3 the Commerce clause.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 2161.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States"

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution provides spending authority for Congress to issue debt and set the interest rates thereof to insure that such debt will be paid, and under the "general welfare" clause the authority to pass laws that provide loans to students.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 2162.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority in which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to regulate commerce and provide for the general welfare as envisioned and enumerated by Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 3.

By Ms. HAHN:

H.R. 2163.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HARRIS:

H.R. 2164.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. HECK of Nevada:

H.R. 2165.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have Power To . . . regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

and

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HECK of Nevada:

H.R. 2166.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.1

By Mr. HECK of Washington:

H.R. 2167.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the General Welfare of the United States) and clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce)

By Mr. HECK of Washington:

H.R. 2168.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 clause 12, which gives Congress the authority to "raise and support Armies";

Article I Section 4, which gives Congress the authority to enact legislation pertaining to the time and manner by which Representatives and Senators are elected;

The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees, in part, that no State shall "deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws," which the Supreme Court of the United States has ruled to be inclusive of those laws pertaining to the right to vote.

By Mr. HIGGINS:

H.R. 2169.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces.

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 2170.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. HOLT:

H.R. 2171.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 2172.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 2173.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 2174.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the powers granted to the Congress by Article 1, Sec. 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio:

H.R. 2175.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1, Clause 18 and pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. JONES:

H.R. 2176.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 11, and Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 2177.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 2178.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 2179.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington:

H.R. 2180.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 "all legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."

By Mr. LATHAM:

H.R. 2181.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 2182.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 2183.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LOEBSACK:

H.R. 2184.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I of the Constitution which grants Congress the power to provide for the general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 2185.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution—the Necessary and Proper Clause.

By Mr. MARKEY:

H.R. 2186.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. MEEHAN:

H.R. 2187.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. MICHAUD:

H.R. 2188.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida:

H.R. 2189.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I. Section 8.

By Mr. MORAN:

H.R. 2190.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This Bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution,

which provides Congress with the power to regulate commerce and relations between the United States and Indian Tribes, and to pass all laws necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, as well as all other Power vested by the Constitution.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 2191.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 2192.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 2 of section 3 of article IV of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 2193.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. PAULSEN:

H.R. 2194.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 2195.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. PETRI:

H.R. 2196.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution.

By Ms. PINGREE of Maine:

H.R. 2197.

Congress has the power to enact legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1—The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3—The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 2198.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. RICHMOND:

H.R. 2199.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18).

Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and

shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

By Mr. SABLAN:

H.R. 2200.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 2201.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV Section 3. "The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States . . ."

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 2202.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 2203.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. TSONGAS:

H.R. 2204.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. TSONGAS:

H.R. 2205.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 2206.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Military Regulation: Article I, Section 8, Clauses 14 and 18

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces; and To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 2207.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Military Regulation: Article I, Section 8, Clauses 14 and 18

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces; and To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 2208.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 2209.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

By Mr. YOUNG of Florida:

H.R. 2210.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 7: Mr. SHUSTER.
 H.R. 36: Mr. COFFMAN and Mr. BONNER.
 H.R. 94: Mr. KLINE.
 H.R. 146: Mr. LATHAM.
 H.R. 164: Mrs. WALORSKI, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. CRAWFORD.
 H.R. 176: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.
 H.R. 198: Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H.R. 239: Mrs. BLACK.
 H.R. 309: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. MULVANEY.
 H.R. 312: Mr. CICILLINE.
 H.R. 318: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 351: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
 H.R. 357: Ms. SINEMA and Mr. GERLACH.
 H.R. 455: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
 H.R. 460: Mr. KEATING.
 H.R. 494: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. NUGENT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. PETERS of California, and Mr. HULTGREN.
 H.R. 508: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. HANNA, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. WATT, and Mr. KILMER.
 H.R. 531: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. ROSS.
 H.R. 533: Mr. DUFFY, Mr. POCAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. MORAN.
 H.R. 567: Mr. MESSER.
 H.R. 594: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 628: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
 H.R. 640: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.
 H.R. 664: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
 H.R. 685: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.
 H.R. 686: Mr. COBLE.
 H.R. 712: Mr. MEEHAN.
 H.R. 713: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. OLSON, and Mr. LEVIN.
 H.R. 714: Mr. VALADAO.
 H.R. 724: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
 H.R. 736: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 755: Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. MOORE, and Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.
 H.R. 765: Mrs. LOWEY and Ms. SCHWARTZ.
 H.R. 778: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
 H.R. 792: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.
 H.R. 797: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. SCHOCK, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
 H.R. 805: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BARTON, and Mr. BARROW of Georgia.
 H.R. 822: Ms. DELAURO.
 H.R. 842: Mr. WELCH.
 H.R. 847: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Ms. ESHOO.
 H.R. 850: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. JOHN-SON of Georgia.
 H.R. 855: Mr. POCAN and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
 H.R. 915: Mr. KLINE.
 H.R. 938: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. ROONEY, Mrs. NOEM, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP

- of Georgia, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. FLORES, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. NOLAN.
 H.R. 940: Mr. MCKEON.
 H.R. 942: Mrs. BLACK, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. AMODEI.
 H.R. 952: Ms. GABBARD and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
 H.R. 961: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. FATTAH.
 H.R. 984: Mr. ANDREWS.
 H.R. 1012: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. COURTNEY.
 H.R. 1014: Mr. OWENS and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
 H.R. 1015: Mr. SIRES, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
 H.R. 1020: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
 H.R. 1024: Mr. OWENS, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Ms. LEE of California.
 H.R. 1074: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
 H.R. 1077: Mr. STOCKMAN and Mr. KLINE.
 H.R. 1083: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
 H.R. 1098: Mr. WELCH.
 H.R. 1129: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
 H.R. 1136: Mr. VEASEY.
 H.R. 1146: Mr. NADLER.
 H.R. 1148: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
 H.R. 1151: Mr. PALLONE.
 H.R. 1155: Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. PERRY.
 H.R. 1175: Ms. CLARKE and Ms. DEGETTE.
 H.R. 1176: Mr. JOYCE.
 H.R. 1180: Ms. FUDGE.
 H.R. 1199: Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. ENGEL.
 H.R. 1201: Ms. LEE of California.
 H.R. 1251: Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. VEASEY.
 H.R. 1252: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
 H.R. 1254: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. HALL, and Mr. SOUTHERLAND.
 H.R. 1289: Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. DELANEY, and Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 1339: Mr. HIGGINS.
 H.R. 1343: Mr. GRAYSON and Mr. DOGGETT.
 H.R. 1355: Mr. PITTENGER.
 H.R. 1358: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H.R. 1416: Mr. REED.
 H.R. 1421: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
 H.R. 1428: Mr. OWENS.
 H.R. 1437: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H.R. 1440: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. CRAWFORD.
 H.R. 1451: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
 H.R. 1461: Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
 H.R. 1462: Mr. PRICE of Georgia and Mr. SHUSTER.
 H.R. 1464: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
 H.R. 1496: Mr. PITTS.
 H.R. 1498: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
 H.R. 1500: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 1507: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, and Mr. WOLF.
 H.R. 1538: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. RUSH, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. FUDGE, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. WATT, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mr. CLAY.
 H.R. 1546: Mr. STIVERS.
 H.R. 1563: Mrs. ROBY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.
 H.R. 1595: Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
 H.R. 1616: Ms. KUSTER.
 H.R. 1619: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 1623: Mr. CICILLINE.
 H.R. 1630: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mrs. BUSTOS.
 H.R. 1646: Mr. BISHOP of New York.
 H.R. 1690: Mr. SALMON, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. KILMER, and Ms. BONAMICI.
 H.R. 1692: Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 1708: Mr. DUFFY.
 H.R. 1717: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. ROSS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. NUNES, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
 H.R. 1725: Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. KILMER, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
 H.R. 1727: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
 H.R. 1729: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
 H.R. 1734: Mr. TAKANO.
 H.R. 1735: Mr. MULVANEY.
 H.R. 1742: Mr. BARBER.
 H.R. 1755: Mr. PIERLUISI.
 H.R. 1764: Mr. HALL, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
 H.R. 1774: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
 H.R. 1787: Mr. MICHAUD and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
 H.R. 1795: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. ESTY, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 1797: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. BARTON, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. WENSTRUP.
 H.R. 1798: Mr. MICHAUD and Mr. HECK of Nevada.
 H.R. 1801: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. ISRAEL.
 H.R. 1806: Mr. SCHRADER and Ms. BONAMICI.
 H.R. 1814: Mr. RUSH, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
 H.R. 1823: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico, and Mr. SIMPSON.
 H.R. 1825: Mr. STIVERS.
 H.R. 1829: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
 H.R. 1830: Mr. KIND, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mrs. CAPPS.
 H.R. 1837: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. POSTER, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
 H.R. 1851: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. NADLER, and Ms. TSONGAS.
 H.R. 1861: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan and Mr. FARENTHOLD.
 H.R. 1877: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Ms. MOORE.
 H.R. 1891: Ms. SLAUGHTER and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
 H.R. 1900: Mr. LATTA.
 H.R. 1910: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
 H.R. 1915: Mr. LATHAM.
 H.R. 1918: Mr. HUNTER.
 H.R. 1919: Mr. RUSH.
 H.R. 1920: Mr. KING of New York and Mr. VARGAS.
 H.R. 1926: Mr. KING of Iowa.
 H.R. 1933: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York and Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 1940: Ms. BONAMICI.
 H.R. 1941: Ms. NORTON and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
 H.R. 1950: Mr. CALVERT.
 H.R. 1963: Mrs. LUMMIS.
 H.R. 1971: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
 H.R. 1975: Mr. MCNERNEY and Mr. COOPER.
 H.R. 1978: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. NEAL, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. POCAN.
 H.R. 1993: Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. LANCE.
 H.R. 1999: Mr. ENYART, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. BERA of California, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GARCIA, and Mr. DELANEY.
 H.R. 2000: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. FARR, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
 H.R. 2009: Mr. THORNBERRY.
 H.R. 2014: Mr. HUDSON, Mr. NADLER, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. RICE of South Carolina.
 H.R. 2019: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. FORBES, Mr. TIPTON, and Mr. WALDEN.
 H.R. 2020: Mr. CARDENAS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
 H.R. 2022: Mr. OLSON, Mr. BARTON, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
 H.R. 2025: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee and Mr. STOCKMAN.
 H.R. 2030: Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Ms. BONAMICI.
 H.R. 2035: Mr. ELLISON.
 H.R. 2041: Mr. BOUSTANY.
 H.R. 2042: Mr. WELCH.
 H.R. 2043: Ms. LEE of California.
 H.R. 2053: Mr. RIBBLE.
 H.R. 2055: Mr. HUELSKAMP.
 H.R. 2056: Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. BASS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. HOLT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LEWIS, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MOORE, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
 H.R. 2059: Ms. BONAMICI.
 H.R. 2066: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. WHITFIELD, and Mr. POLLS.
 H.R. 2070: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Mr. LOEBSACK.
 H.R. 2083: Mr. HOLT.
 H.R. 2092: Mr. MASSIE.
 H.R. 2093: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
 H.R. 2107: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. O'ROURKE.
 H.J. Res. 47: Mr. ROE of Tennessee and Mr. MICHAUD.
 H. Res. 24: Mr. MARKEY.
 H. Res. 30: Ms. DELBENE.
 H. Res. 89: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
 H. Res. 102: Ms. EDWARDS.
 H. Res. 109: Mr. NUGENT, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. LATHAM, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
 H. Res. 135: Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. GRAYSON.
 H. Res. 136: Mr. CROWLEY.
 H. Res. 147: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
 H. Res. 155: Mr. HONDA.
 H. Res. 188: Mr. CROWLEY.
 H. Res. 208: Mr. FARR.
 H. Res. 209: Ms. FUDGE.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 1773: Mr. PETERSON.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

19. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the City of Seaside, California, relative to Resolution No. 2013-31 urging Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

20. Also, a petition of the Borough of Edgewater, New Jersey, relative to Resolution No. 2013-114 expressing condolences and

support for the victims of gun violence and their families; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

21. Also, a petition of the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, relative to Resolution No. 186 urging the House of Rep-

resentatives to pass H.R. 712; jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Agriculture.