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No. 154

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
October 21, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr., to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### DRUG CRISIS

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

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, my State of West Virginia is experiencing a crisis. West Virginia is leading the country in a rather grim category: drug overdoses. This issue goes beyond party lines, and it is ripping our State apart.

President Obama is bringing national attention to our drug crisis by coming to my district this afternoon to discuss the prescription drug and heroin epidemic.

The statistics are disturbing. Overdoses in West Virginia increased by 134 percent between 2012 and 2013, which accounts for about 34 drug overdose deaths per 100,000 West Virginia residents. This overdose rate is more than double the national average.

There is no magical solution to this epidemic. We need local, State, and Federal officials to work together to effectively fight back. One of the ways that we can do this is to have the Federal Government support the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program, also known as HIDTA. The HIDTA program provides needed funds to law enforcement to combat drug trafficking while also helping local treatment and prevention efforts.

I have been hosting roundtable discussions across my district to hear directly from communities that are affected by the drug epidemic. I recently held one of these discussions in the town of Romney, West Virginia, in September, to talk about the ongoing issues they face in that community.

Officials at the meeting agreed that we need to utilize all resources available at the local, State, and Federal levels, and we agreed that HIDTA was a key tool in fighting back. It was also pointed out that foster parents are needed to help care for children whose parents are struggling with drug addiction issues.

So you can help, too.

But addressing drug trafficking is not the only thing that needs to be done to help fight the epidemic. We need to help the youngest victims of our shared battle with this crisis: infants who are born addicted.

That is why I cosponsored and voted for H.R. 1462, the Protecting Our Infants Act of 2015, which passed the House unanimously and is awaiting action in the U.S. Senate. This bill addresses a condition called neonatal abstinence syndrome by helping to find the best way to diagnose, evaluate, and

coordinate Federal efforts to help research and respond to this debilitating condition. Infants who suffer from neonatal abstinence syndrome can experience seizures, respiratory impairments, tremors, fever, and difficulty feeding.

Research published by the Journal of Perinatology found that the number of infants suffering from withdrawal grew nearly fivefold from 2000 to 2012. Evidence also shows that an infant is born with drug withdrawal every 25 minutes in the United States.

In West Virginia, it is estimated that, in 1 out of every 13 births, a baby is addicted to drugs. This is a problem that needs serious attention immediately, but this is just one crucial step.

To help fight addiction, one of the latest tools available to the public in West Virginia is a new 24-hour call line that has been launched to help people battling substance and mental health issues in West Virginia.

The call line is 1-844-HELP4WV. The line is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with the promise of never being put on hold. We must continue to work together to fight this epidemic.

### LEGALIZING MARIJUANA

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, advocates from the new emerging marijuana industry in Oregon are descending on Capitol Hill at a very critical time for this fledgling industry.

They have a report about the implementation of Oregon's Ballot Measure 91—overwhelmingly approved by voters last year—to legalize, tax, and regulate marijuana at the State level. Possession became legal July 1. Retail sales were authorized in existing dispensaries on the 1st of October to significant interest around the State.

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

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



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The first week saw an estimated \$11 million in sales.

They are working hard to implement the spirit and the letter of the measure, working closely with the Oregon legislature to refine it, learning from the experience of States like Washington and Colorado that have already legalized adult use.

Theirs is a positive story of economic opportunity, product development, tax revenues, more freedom for individuals, and eliminating the racial disparities in the enforcement of a failed policy of prohibition that comes down heavily against young men of color, especially African Americans.

At the same time, there was a scathing report this week from Brookings Institution researchers John Hudak and Grace Wallack that called out the roadblocks that are being put in place by law enforcement and Federal policies that stifle medical marijuana research, that interfere with the science and the doctor-patient relationship in ways that are completely unwarranted, counterproductive, and destructive.

They come at a time when the Federal Government has told the Drug Enforcement Agency to stop harassing medical providers after Congress clearly passed legislation to protect the industry and, more importantly, a patient's right to medicine.

The Rohrabacher-Farr amendment passed with strong bipartisan support, clearly specifying that the Federal Government should not interfere with State-legal medical marijuana operations.

The Department of Justice, unfortunately, took an outrageously flawed position, which infuriated those of us who authored these provisions and have worked to pass them over the last 2 years. The DEA ignored the law, and the Department of Justice defended them in this unfortunate action.

It is the latest example of how far out of touch the Federal Government agencies are with the reality on the ground, with the will of the majority of the American people, who think that marijuana should be legal, and with the policies of the President himself.

President Obama has declared marijuana no more harmful than other perfectly legal substances, like tobacco, which is, in fact, true, and that he had bigger fish to fry than fight against State legalization. Unfortunately, some parts of his Federal Government are still frying those fish.

The good news is that the tide has turned. As I mentioned, the majority of the American people now think marijuana should be legal, as 23 States, the District of Columbia, and Guam now have medical marijuana and 17 more have authorized a limited version of medical marijuana. We have 4 States and the District of Columbia that permit outright adult use, with more States considering this over the course of the next year.

All the Federal Government has to do, as Secretary Clinton recently said

in Colorado, is just stay out of the way. Stop interfering. Let legal marijuana businesses have bank accounts. Don't force them to be all cash. Let them deduct their business expenses from their taxes instead of penalizing them with grotesquely punitive levels of tax. Let the States continue in their efforts at reform. Let them treat it just like we do alcohol.

The day is fast coming when the Federal policy will be to robustly research and, ultimately, deschedule—or remove—marijuana from the Controlled Substances Act, no longer pretending that it is or should be a Schedule I controlled substance, and, instead, tax and regulate it at the Federal level.

In the meantime, the States will continue marching forward; the public will continue to request that we, at the Federal level, stop interfering with medical marijuana; and Congress will continue our efforts with increasingly large, bipartisan majorities to make this policy work to replace the failed attempt at marijuana prohibition.

#### CONGRESS AND ISRAEL MUST STAND TOGETHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the United States and Israel share the same principles and values: fundamental ideas like freedom, democracy, respect for the rule of law, and human rights.

Our nations also share, sadly, the same security concerns, like fighting terrorism and seeing stability in the Middle East, two issues that seemingly grow worse for the entire region day by day, but especially for Israel. Many of the recent tragic terror attacks and incidents of violence in Israel have been incited by both the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, with Abu Mazen openly inciting the violence himself.

Tomorrow the Foreign Affairs Committee will mark up a resolution that I introduced alongside my south Florida colleague, Congressman TED DEUTCH, which condemns the anti-Israel and anti-Semitic incitement by Abu Mazen and the Palestinian Authority. When Israeli citizens cannot walk out of their homes to go safely to work or to go to the grocery store for fear of another terrorist attack, we must hold the Palestinian leadership accountable.

Abu Mazen is also threatening Israel at the United Nations, where he seeks to delegitimize Israel and seeks unilateral Palestinian statehood. Just last month, Abu Mazen told the U.N. General Assembly that Palestinians would not abide by past agreements, proving, once again, that he is no partner for peace.

This morning a maneuver was foiled at UNESCO when the P.A. attempted to include incendiary text in a resolution that claimed the Western Wall was part of a Muslim holy site; and, next

week, Abu Mazen is scheduled to speak at a special meeting at the U.N. Human Rights Council.

You have got to be kidding: Abu Mazen speaking at a Human Rights Council.

President Obama must hold Abu Mazen accountable instead of continuing to give him a pass for his actions and show that actions have consequences.

But these aren't the only challenges that Israel faces. In addition to the terror inside Israel, it remains surrounded by threats like ISIL, Iran, Syria, challenges that are shared by the United States.

The Iran deal is riddled with loopholes, with ambiguities, and with outright dangerous provisions, including a sunset clause that paves the way for a nuclear-armed Iran in as little as 15 years—just bide the time. It also includes the lifting of the arms embargo against Iran and the lifting of sanctions on Iran's ballistic missile program.

In addition, the Iran deal releases billions of dollars that is allowing the regime to increase its terror financing and helps fulfill its destructive ambitions in the Middle East.

For years, Congress, not the administration, has led the charge to push back against Iran and to sanction it through an effective sanctions program that constricts its energy, transportation, and financial sectors.

It is now up to Congress to be proactive again, to get out in front of the Iranian deal, and to ensure that the administration holds Iran accountable and will not allow incremental cheating, because it is almost impossible to see this administration scuttling the deal for anything less than a major violation on Iran's part. We need to develop stronger sanctions against Iran for its illicit behavior and ensure that the administration fully enforces the sanctions on the books.

While the U.N. resolutions implementing an arms embargo and restricting Iran's ballistic missile program are still in place, Iran is already testing our resolve. It is violating these resolutions. It test-fired a ballistic missile, and it continues to ship arms to Assad and Hezbollah to use against the people of Syria and against Israel.

□ 1015

Congress must move to enact additional sanctions against Iran, and we must designate and sanction Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps and the Quds Force, because they will be the big winners in this sanctions relief. We must target Hezbollah and Iran's other proxies because you can be sure that, with Hezbollah, it is only a matter of when, not if, it decides to attack Israel.

We must ensure that Israel has what it needs to defend itself from Hezbollah and from other outside threats. With Iran providing Hezbollah with more advanced rockets and missiles, even with precision-guided systems, Israel is facing an enemy with almost 150,000 rockets pointed at every major city in

Israel. Congress needs to get more funding to Israel for its David's Sling system, for its Iron Dome system; and we need to do it sooner, rather than later.

Israel is an oasis of freedom in a desert of tyranny, a desert of terror and instability; and it is absolutely vital, Mr. Speaker, that Congress and Israel stand together to face these challenges united. The President won't do it. The Congress must.

#### COMMUNITY VOICES: WHY NUTRITION ASSISTANCE MATTERS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the pleasure of speaking with a group of people involved with Community Voices: Why Nutrition Assistance Matters. It was inspiring to hear about the real and positive impacts our Federal nutrition programs have in the daily lives of Americans all across this country.

Community Voices is a summer-long national campaign launched by the Center for American Progress, the Coalition on Human Needs, Witnesses to Hunger, the Food Research and Action Center, Feeding America, and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

It was started to share the personal stories of individuals and service providers who experienced firsthand programs like SNAP or WIC or school meals. These contributors are the real experts when it comes to the importance and effect of our vital nutrition assistance programs.

The Community Voices campaign culminated in this booklet, a compilation of many of these personal stories. I would like to take a moment and share a few of these stories.

Jonetta, from Sacramento, California, says:

"Several years ago, I left an abusive relationship, and now I am raising my daughter by myself. My daughter participates in the school meal program and the after-school snack program. The snack program really helps so that my daughter isn't as hungry when she gets home from school.

"We also receive \$356 a month in SNAP. This money is supposed to supplement my food budget, but it is really all of my food budget because my income barely covers my rent. Right now, I'm homeless, and it is hard to find a place to live for less than \$500 a month.

"Because of SNAP, we are not starving. As a mom, I try to cut out a lot of bad food from my family's diet, but it is a difficult task to buy the healthier food because it is expensive. It's also very difficult because we have been homeless for a couple of months, so I have to use other people's refrigerators.

"I am very thankful for these programs and to all the people who are

trying to make all these programs better. They really helped me and my daughter."

Let me share another story from Linda from the Massachusetts Coalition of the Homeless:

"Several years ago, I volunteered at a summer program at a park in Morgantown, Kentucky, assisting with skill-building activities. Without this nutrition program, the kids who came would not have had lunch, since school was not in session. If the kids didn't come to that park for nutritional food, I'm not sure they would have gotten it anywhere else. None of the food was wasted; and if there was any food left over, the kids would take it back to their families.

"Food is a basic human right, and our government sometimes forgets that and needs to be reminded. This is a moral imperative for our country to make sure that all people, especially children, have the resources needed to develop—even more so for families and children in poverty."

I want to thank Jonetta, Linda, and all of those who took the time to share their stories. They remind us that these programs are helping real families who are trying to do their best in very difficult times.

Mr. Speaker, all too often the discussion around SNAP and our other antihunger programs is punctuated by misinformation, false stereotypes, or downright nasty rhetoric. It is frustrating, and it is wrong.

Community Voices reminds us what a positive difference these programs make for families who are really struggling.

The data backs up just how important these programs are. In 2014 alone, for example, SNAP lifted 4.7 million people out of poverty, including 2.1 million children. Ninety-two percent of benefits go to households with incomes below the poverty line, which includes millions of struggling families working hard every day to put food on the table.

Federal investment in our nutrition programs is one of the smartest investments we can make. For example, for every \$1 spent on preventive services for a pregnant woman in WIC, the program saves \$4.21 in Medicaid costs by reducing the risk of preterm birth and associated costs.

Mr. Speaker, I have long believed that we need to hear firsthand from the people who are directly touched by SNAP, WIC, or school meals. They are the real experts, and they can guide us, as Members of Congress, as we work to strengthen and improve these programs.

Every Member of Congress should have received a Community Voices booklet. It is a call to action to protect our vital nutrition assistance programs. I encourage you to read the stories about how these programs are helping families who need them most. Without them, hunger would be much, much worse in this country.

I urge you to keep their stories in mind the next time proposals come before Congress to cut funding for WIC or restrict access to SNAP or make it more difficult for kids to get healthy meals in school. Harmful changes like these would hurt real families who are already struggling. We should not make their lives more difficult. We should not be making hunger worse in this country. Mr. Speaker, we can and we should do more to end hunger now.

#### FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize October as National Fire Prevention Month and would like to thank all the firefighters across my district and across the Nation for all that they do to keep our communities safe.

In 2013, departments across the United States responded to nearly 400,000 fires, resulting in \$7 billion in property damage and more than 2,700 deaths. That, unfortunately, amounts to an average of eight people every day.

Of those who lost their lives as a result of fire, one in four was caused by a fire that started in a bedroom. This is one of the reasons why one focus of this year's Fire Prevention Month is to raise awareness that every bedroom needs a working smoke detector.

Mr. Speaker, as a volunteer firefighter with nearly three decades of experience, I know that smoke detectors save lives. The statistics prove this, showing that working smoke detectors cut the risk of dying in a fire by half. Smoke detectors are inexpensive and easy to install. I urge everyone to take action to help prevent future tragedies.

#### GOODWILL INDUSTRIES' 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 50th anniversary of Goodwill Industries of North Central, located in my district. This organization assists people across a huge portion of north central Pennsylvania, including 13 counties.

Goodwill has been a valuable part of its region since its launch in 1966. Over the years, their service area has grown to cover more than a dozen counties, 20 stores—the most recent addition, our 21st store, which is an online store they operate—and has created jobs for more than 500 people. Last week, I visited Goodwill's distribution center in Jefferson County, Pennsylvania, and learned more about the organization's plans to open an additional three stores as well as a donation training center.

Fifty years after its founding, hard work and determination are still the cornerstone to Goodwill of North Central's foundation.

It certainly helps that this great local organization is backed by a highly regarded national network. Across

the United States, Goodwill is considered one of the top five most valuable and recognized nonprofit brands and is the second-largest nonprofit organization. Pennsylvania alone is served by 10 Goodwill Industries service areas; and Goodwill has solid ties to the communities it services through partnerships with local businesses, schools, and human service agencies, helping individuals overcome life challenges through opportunity, education, training, and employment.

I often say that I wear many hats during my day-to-day routine: father, husband, community member, caregiver, legislator, and so on. I am sure most of you would agree with the fact that the different roles that you fulfill in your life provide you with diverse perspectives and help shape your outlook on what is most important. My experiences have solidified my belief in the value of community. Whether we are talking about our national economy, the quality of our health care, or closing the skills gap, we can agree that the most successful efforts start in our local communities from the ground up.

Those who donate to Goodwill can have peace of mind that their money is going to the right place, since 90 cents of every dollar is directed toward its mission and its services. These services were provided to nearly 1,200 people across the north central region in Pennsylvania in 2013, providing an immeasurable benefit to our region.

The 50th anniversary celebration is a great time to reflect on all of the growth that Goodwill Industries of North Central has achieved as a team and to continue to prepare your plans for the future. I commend them for all their remarkable accomplishments, and I look forward to the great things that are to come.

#### DEFAULT PREVENTION ACT

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in some horror and alarm over the so-called Default Prevention Act that this Chamber will be considering. Of all the Orwellian names that the House comes up with for legislation, this one is truly deserving of an award by the Ministry of Truth.

For those of you at home who have not been following the swirling, mad-cap antics around the House of Representatives lately, let me assure you that the Default Prevention Act in no way prevents a default. The Default Prevention Act, in fact, specifies that two categories of people get paid in the event that the Congress does not raise the debt ceiling. It specifies that private bondholders of U.S. Treasuries will get paid interest, and it specifies that Social Security recipients will be held harmless. They will get paid.

Now, at some level, maybe that sounds attractive; but everybody else

that is expecting a check or a salary or some form of repayment by the United States Government, they are out of luck.

1.4 million Active-Duty troops, they are not in this bill as somebody who gets paid if the government doesn't raise the debt ceiling. Four million disabled veterans are out of luck under this bill. One million doctors who today are providing Medicare services to our senior citizens are out of luck. Sorry. You didn't make it into the Default Prevention Act cooked up by the Republican majority.

Mr. Speaker, this is a bill that stunningly and explicitly defines for the world, tells everybody exactly how the U.S. Government intends to be a deadbeat, who we are going to pay and who we are not going to pay, and here is how we are going to be a deadbeat.

Why would you do that? What possible sense does that make?

There are all kinds of reasons why this is a terrible piece of legislation, but let me just focus on two.

Number one, I hear constantly from my friends on the Republican side of the aisle that everything creates winners and losers: the Affordable Care Act, the Ex-Im Bank, you name it. Dodd-Frank creates winners and losers. This bill very explicitly creates winners: Social Security recipients and bondholders.

By the way, who are these bondholders? Who holds United States Treasury debt? Do you?

I will tell you who holds most of it: China. China does. This is why, on the Democratic side of the aisle, we have called this bill the Pay China First Act, which is actually a much better description of what this act actually does than the Default Prevention Act.

More seriously, Mr. Speaker, I worked in the capital markets for a long time. There is no way to gracefully default on your debt, to say, "Oh, we will pay interest; we will pay Social Security. But we are not going to pay soldiers; we are not going to pay Medicare." Once you tell the world that we do not intend to abide by our obligations, the world loses its faith in the United States.

Folks, this debt ceiling is a fiction. It is an absurdist fiction. What do we get from it? The debt ceiling has never prevented the accumulation of debt. That happens because this Chamber and the United States Congress chooses to spend more money than it chooses to tax and bring in.

There are really only two ways to reduce the deficit and the debt: you can tax more, which nobody likes to do; or you can spend less, which it turns out that nobody really wants to do either because, of course, everybody in this Chamber has the things that they want to spend their money on, but the other guy's stuff, well, that we are going to cut.

So we have the ultimate hypocrisy of saying we are going to tax too little and spend too much, create a deficit,

but then we are going to vote on this magical thing called the debt ceiling that will allow us to say "I am not raising the debt ceiling because I oppose spending." It is absurd. And you know what? It leads to legislation like this.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, we have seen this movie before. Pretty soon in the next couple of days, grown men and women in this Chamber are going to talk about maybe the Treasury minting a high-denomination platinum coin to solve this problem, as though we were characters in some kind of "Harry Potter" movie instead of responsible legislators.

This needs to stop, Mr. Speaker. My constituents are sick and tired of the House of Representatives acting in this fashion: ideological and absurd. My constituents want us to come together to deal with the real problems facing America: of improving the economy, of making education accessible. But, no, we are going to spend some time on this absurdly named Default Prevention Act.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this thing and move on to more serious issues.

#### OUR NATION'S DEBT TAX

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, in a mere 14 days, America will hit the limit for our national debt; but rather than working with Congress to address the causes of our debt, President Obama is demanding we dump more debt on our kids and grandkids.

President Obama is very different from Senator Obama. Here is a photo of Senator Obama speaking on the Senate floor, and here is what he said on our national debt on the Senate floor on March 16, 2006:

"The fact that we are here today to debate raising America's debt limit is a sign of leadership failure. It is a sign that the U.S. Government can't pay its own bills. It is a sign that we now depend on ongoing financial assistance from foreign countries to finance our government's reckless fiscal policies.

"Over the past 5 years, our Federal debt has increased by \$3.5 trillion to \$8.6 trillion. That is 'trillion' with a 'T.' That is money that we have borrowed from the Social Security trust fund, borrowed from China and Japan, borrowed from American taxpayers.

"Numbers that large are sometimes hard to understand. Some people may wonder why they matter. Here is why: This year the Federal Government will spend \$220 billion on interest."

The \$8.6 trillion that horrified Senator Obama in 2006 has exploded to \$18.1 trillion on President Obama's watch. "That is 'trillion' with a 'T,'" to quote Senator Obama.

Senator Obama later explained:

"Every dollar we pay in interest is a dollar that is not going to investment

in America's priorities. Instead, interest payments are a significant tax on all Americans, a debt tax that Washington doesn't want to talk about."

Senator Obama abhorred a debt tax that Washington didn't want to talk about, and now he refuses to talk about his new debt tax.

Senator Obama closed by saying:

"Increasing America's debt weakens us domestically and internationally. Leadership means that 'the buck stops here.' Instead, Washington is shifting the burden of bad choices today onto the backs of our children and grandchildren. America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. Americans deserve better. I, therefore, intend to oppose the effort to increase America's debt limit."

If Senator Obama thought that a national debt of \$8.6 trillion with a T is a "failure of leadership," what has changed? Why is President Obama okay with a new debt tax of over \$20 trillion, trillion with a T?

Clearly, President Obama has forgotten Senator Obama's words, but the American people remember. On their behalf and on behalf of all young Americans who will be crushed by this new debt, I ask President Obama to decrease our debt by working with Congress to stop his new debt tax.

#### DONALD TRUMP HOSTING "SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE"

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, did you hear that "Saturday Night Live" has invited Donald Trump to host the show in November? Now, let me get the exact quote from July when Donald Trump launched his "make America hate again" campaign. He said:

"When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best . . . They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing us those problems. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people."

"They're sending us not the right people. It's coming from more than Mexico. It's coming from all over South and Latin America, and it's coming probably from the Middle East."

While much of what Donald Trump says is hilarious, intentionally or otherwise, bald-faced racism for political gain isn't funny. His statements should disqualify him from being able to take the stage in any entertainment venue and speak to the American people as if what he said was no big deal.

It is not that I don't get the joke—I haven't been kidnapped by the politically correct police—but when public figures cross certain lines, they should lose their privileges to host TV shows, at least until they have apologized for their unacceptable behavior. To put Donald Trump on the air in America's

living rooms on the signature comedy show of one of the most important national networks after saying that Mexicans are rapists, drug dealers, and criminals, that is a corporate blunder too big to be ignored.

What happened, NBC and Comcast? Within a couple of weeks after Trump launched those racist bombs, you dumped Trump. You dumped his TV show on your network. You dumped his pageants and other ventures on NBC and Universal networks like Telemundo.

In July, NBC said: "Due to the recent derogatory statements by Donald Trump regarding immigrants, NBCUniversal is ending its business relationship with Mr. Trump."

NBC said: "Respect and dignity for all people are cornerstones of our values."

NBC, you were not alone in dumping Trump. Macy's Department Stores dumped Trump's clothing line. Serta dumped Trump's mattresses, chef Jose Andres pulled his new restaurant from a Trump hotel, and Univision dumped a Trump pageant. Even NASCAR and ESPN dumped Trump. Corporate America stepped up to the plate and dumped Trump, and we all applauded.

Let's be clear: the goodwill that corporate America earned from dumping Trump didn't just come from the Mexican-American community. No, when Trump says Mexicans are murderers, rapists, and drug dealers, Puerto Rico knows he is talking about us, too, and Colombians and Salvadorans, and pretty much everyone in the Latino community.

Look, Americans aren't very good at telling us apart; so when we are under attack by a tycoon running for the Republican Presidential nomination, we can't tell us apart either. We are all family.

What happened, Comcast, Universal, and NBC? Now, 3 months later, have Donald Trump's words been expunged? Did I miss an apology on one of his almost nightly television appearances? Has he confessed his racist and hateful call to action?

Well, NBC installing Trump as SNL host may be good for ratings, but it is a bigger deal than a cameo or being a guest on "The Tonight Show." I am calling you out.

If Donald Trump had said gays and lesbians were murderers and raping Americans, would he get to host a show? It is every bit as much a fiction and a lie.

Donald Trump has said some pretty awful things about women individually and collectively. But what if he said most women were criminals? Would the writers be thinking up sketches for Trump if he had slandered an entire gender rather than an entire ethnic group?

Trump says he wants to do away with the part of the Constitution that allowed freed slaves, freed African American slaves to be treated fully as American citizens. Yes, Trump thinks we do

not need the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

But what if he said that Black people were murderers, rapists, drug dealers? Would you still pitch skits with Donald Trump and some lighthearted banter?

What if all the Latino cast members all walked off the job at "Saturday Night Live"? Oh, wait, you don't have any Latino cast members.

I do seem to remember Comcast spending a lot of time on Capitol Hill when they had a merger deal with Time Warner and they wanted support from Members of Congress. Comcast said Latinos were so important to them, and they had plans to do this and that and the other thing to support the Latino and immigrant community.

What happened? The merger didn't go through, so you no longer feel the sense of corporate responsibility to the 55 million Latinos that live in the USA? Giving free airtime to people who insult and malign them is now part of your business model?

I just want to say one last thing to producer Lorne Michaels. I wonder if he had said that Canadians were rapists, murderers, and drug dealers, would you be inviting him on SNL?

Mr. Speaker, I place in the RECORD a letter that I sent NBC Comcast yesterday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, October 20, 2015.

Mr. BRIAN ROBERTS,  
Chairman/President/CEO, Comcast Corp,  
Philadelphia, PA.  
Mr. STEPHEN B. BURKE,  
President/CEO, NBCUniversal,  
New York, NY.

DEAR MESSRS. ROBERTS AND BURKE: Having Donald Trump as a guest on every news and entertainment program is one thing, but allowing him to host Saturday Night Live is another. It is a level of endorsement that says to America that every hateful and racist thing Donald Trump has said since the moment he launched his campaign is acceptable and no big deal.

Well, it is a big deal. He said Mexicans are rapists, criminals and drug-dealers, and to be clear, when he said Mexicans are those things, he was tarring all Latinos and all immigrants. His exact words were, "They're sending us not the right people. It's coming from more than Mexico. It's coming from all over South and Latin America, and it's coming probably from the Middle East."

The reaction in July from NBC was swift and clear: "Due to the recent derogatory statements by Donald Trump regarding immigrants, NBCUniversal is ending its business relationship with Mr. Trump." And NBC said, "Respect and dignity for all people are cornerstones of our values."

Serta, Macy's, NASCAR, Univision, and ESPN were among the others that also acted to dump Trump.

Three months later, because he is a ratings and comedy bonanza, Lorne Michaels and Saturday Night Live (SNL) are giving the Trump campaign 90 minutes of free network airtime.

I think I speak for a lot of Americans, especially immigrant Americans and Latino Americans, when I say that if SNL is allowed to proceed, it would be a huge corporate blunder.

When Comcast sought a merger with Time Warner, I and a lot of my Congressional Hispanic Caucus colleagues heard from you

about your commitment to the Latino community and the level of corporate responsibility you pledged to your diverse audience. I certainly hope that your commitment to “respect and dignity for all people” was not some hollow promise and is in fact a cornerstone of your values.

Please disinvite him. Make a statement: Derogatory statements of the nature trumpeted by Trump about any group disqualifies someone from hosting shows on your network. Send a message that racism is not funny and that responsibility to your viewers and the public is more important than ratings. It is a chance for your company—again—to show you are committed to your audience in more ways than just the ad revenues they provide you.

Please do the right thing and dump Trump.  
Sincerely,

LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ,  
*Member of Congress.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

#### WEST VIRGINIA'S DRUG CRISIS

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

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, President Obama is coming to West Virginia today to talk about our State's and Nation's drug crisis. What I hope he will also talk about on his visit to our capital city, Charleston, what I hope he will acknowledge, is our State's jobs crisis. West Virginia has lost good jobs: jobs in our coal mines, jobs in our schools and small businesses, jobs in our small towns and communities throughout southern West Virginia.

Regulations from the President's own Environmental Protection Agency are forcing coal mines to close. Our coal miners are out of work. Our coal families are facing an uncertain future. We have lost an estimated 43 percent of our coal jobs in just the last 6 years under this administration's policies.

Eighteen percent—18 percent—of unemployed people reported using illegal drugs. That is more than twice the number of people who used illegal drugs who were employed. The best antidrug policy is a good jobs policy.

West Virginia has the highest overdose rate in the country. We also have the highest unemployment rate in the country. Nearly every family in this State has been touched by drug abuse and, tragically, far too many families. There are those who have suffered and actually buried a loved one due to the horrible disease of addiction.

The President will announce several initiatives to help address the heroin and opioid crisis. He is going to talk about prescriber training. He is going to talk about access to naloxone, a powerful antidote to an overdose. He is going to talk about public education.

□ 1045

He is going to talk about public education. These are all excellent steps. These are actually things we already

are doing in West Virginia. We have taken great strides on many fronts, including these in West Virginia, to arrest this problem.

These proposals, however, I am afraid, do not go far enough to really make a difference and treat those battling addiction. The President needs to propose a strong plan to get people real treatment to address their addictions and become healthy and productive members of society again.

Many West Virginians who want treatment don't have anywhere to go. Those suffering from addiction are forced to leave West Virginia to find help, treatment, and their families are falling apart.

To improve West Virginia, to give West Virginians hope for a better future, to give them an alternative to destructive lifestyles, we have to get people back to work.

Mr. President, a good job solves a lot of problems.

West Virginians are a proud people. We are not asking for a handout. We want to do a full day's work for a full day's pay.

The administration is crushing West Virginia's coal miners, machinists, healthcare workers, truckers, small business owners, and Main Street.

Mr. President, if you want to help win the war on drugs, stop your war on coal. What we need is the Federal Government to get out of the way of West Virginia, and let us get back to work.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OLSON). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

#### WE CANNOT RUN THE MIDDLE EAST

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, over the past 15 years, we have had thousands of young Americans killed and thousands more maimed and trillions of U.S. taxpayer dollars spent in our failed attempts at nation building in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other parts of the Middle East.

Surely, surely, we have learned a very expensive lesson, that we cannot run the Middle East. In fact, in some ways, our good intentions have made things worse.

Now some companies and people who make money off of an interventionist foreign policy are clamoring for us to get in an even bigger way in bloody Syria.

Mr. Speaker, this is not true conservatism.

Mr. Speaker, the conservative columnist Thomas Sowell wrote recently and said: “What lessons might we learn from the whole experience of the Iraq War? If nothing else, we should never again imagine that we can engage in ‘nation-building’ in the sweeping sense that term acquired in Iraq—least of all building a democratic Arab nation in a region of the world that has never had

such a thing in a history that goes back thousands of years.”

David Keene, the conservative opinion editor of the Washington Times, wrote:

The concept of U.S. national interests was stretched beyond any rational meaning. America took on more than we could possibly handle. The result is a generation of young Americans who have never known peace; a decade in which thousands of our best have died or been maimed, with little to show for their sacrifices; our enemies have multiplied; and the national debt has skyrocketed.

Mr. Speaker, President Kennedy said in one of his most famous speeches at the University of Washington in 1961:

We must face the fact that the United States is neither omnipotent nor omniscient, that we are only 6 percent of the world's population, that we cannot impose our will on the other 94 percent of mankind, that we cannot right every wrong or reverse each adversity, and that, therefore, there cannot be an American solution to every world problem.

The only difference now, Mr. Speaker, is that we are 4 percent of the world's population instead of 6 percent that he mentioned. But I would repeat those words of President Kennedy: “We cannot right every wrong or reverse every adversity and that, therefore, there cannot be an American solution to every world problem.”

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 49 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We continue to ask Your blessing on all those who are discerning significant options about leadership here in the people's House.

You endow all Your people with gifts of various designs, meant to be used in service to others. May the pressures that come to bear not obscure honest self-reflection and evaluation of the gifts that each has to bring to the needs of this time in the people's House.

Bless all Members with a sense of their collective responsibility to our Nation and to this assembly so that the American people might look forward to the coming months with hope and a renewed respect and trust in those whom they have elected.

May all that is done today and in the days to come be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTENGER 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.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

#### UNESCO WESTERN WALL VOTE

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this morning an initiative aimed at delegitimizing Israel was defeated at UNESCO.

Abu Mazen is set to head to the U.N. Human Rights Council for an emergency meeting next week where he will surely spew more of his dangerous rhetoric and even further inflame the tensions between the Palestinians and Israelis.

The U.S. has had a clear policy of defending Israel from these biased attacks at the U.N., but recently we have seen perhaps a troubling shift in policy by the current administration.

The administration's refusal to stand publicly and firmly with Israel emboldens groups at the U.N. to push forward with these initiatives and undermines longstanding U.S. policy. If the administration won't counter these efforts at the U.N., then Congress must use every tool at our disposal to hold these agencies and Abu Mazen accountable.

Mr. Speaker, we must send a clear message to all the member states at the U.N. that Congress stands with Israel and that we will not allow these efforts to continue that seek to undermine the Jewish state, our best ally, and the U.N.

#### RHODE ISLAND WALK FOR EPILEPSY

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2015 Rhode Island Walk for Epilepsy, which will take place this Saturday, October 24, at Slater Memorial Park in Pawtucket.

One in 26 people will develop epilepsy at some point in their lifetime. Today in the United States, there are 4.3 million adults and 750,000 children who are living with epilepsy or a seizure disorder.

There is no known cure for epilepsy, and it is critical that we do more to support research that will help develop new forms of treatment for those suffering from this disease.

I want to extend my deep gratitude to everyone who has been involved in planning this year's Rhode Island Walk for Epilepsy. I want to especially recognize one of my constituents, Robbie Thorp, whom I had the opportunity to meet with in April of this year when he was selected to serve as Rhode Island's ambassador for the Kids Speak Up conference in Washington, D.C.

Robbie is an impressive young man who has already demonstrated himself to be a strong advocate for epilepsy awareness in Rhode Island.

Again, I extend my best wishes for a successful event to him and everyone taking part in this Saturday's Rhode Island Walk for Epilepsy.

#### GARLAND DENNY—A DEDICATED PATRIOT

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of my good friend, Garland Denny, a true and dedicated patriot devoted to helping veterans in need.

Mr. Denny died last week at the age of 84. During the Korean war, Mr. Denny served our country aboard the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Following a long and successful career as a structural steel draftsman, Mr. Denny spent his retirement advocating for a special postage stamp to raise money for veterans' services.

In support of Mr. Denny, 55 Members of the House and Senate joined me this summer in writing the U.S. Postmaster General urging the creation of a Stamp Out PTSD semipostal stamp to help raise money for PTSD research and treatment.

We remain committed to Mr. Denny's goal of helping veterans and overcoming the bureaucracy standing in the way. Mr. Denny reminds us that one committed American can make a big difference.

His sons, Chuck and James, have joined me today in the House Chamber and intend to carry on their father's mission. May God bless you both and your sister, Sue.

#### DEBT CEILING

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

Mr. GALLEGGO. Mr. Speaker, as Republicans bicker behind closed doors, the deadline to raise the debt limit draws closer and closer.

If we fail to act in time, interest rates will skyrocket, the dollar will plummet, and the stock market could collapse. That is unacceptable. It is time to bring this manufactured crisis to an end.

Let's not fool ourselves. Even if the Republican leadership does manage to pass a last-minute extension, the mere threat of a default will inflict real damage on the American economy. Economists tell us that the 2011 debt limit standoff cost American jobs and contributed to the downgrade of the U.S. credit rating, and we are repeating the same mistake today.

That is why the true threat to our fragile economic recovery isn't our budget deficit; it is the leadership deficit that exists within the Republican Party. Unfortunately, for conservative Republicans, irresponsibility has become a badge of honor and recklessness a source of pride.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want leadership instead of brinksmanship. They want cooperation and compromise instead of deadlock and dysfunction. Let's raise the debt ceiling and move on to the critical work of building a stronger and more prosperous Nation.

#### DEBT MANAGEMENT AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, our national debt now stands at more than \$18 trillion. If current law remains unchanged, the CBO projects Federal debt can exceed \$50 trillion in our lifetime. This cannot be sustained.

That is why I have introduced the Debt Management and Fiscal Responsibility Act. This bill provides early and clear-eyed assessment of the debt well before even reaching the statutory debt limit.

Under this bill, the Treasury Secretary would report on three items: first, the national debt and debt protection; second, debt reduction proposals; and, third, regular progress reports to Congress on debt reduction. All of this information would be made readily available to the public.

The national debt is a shared responsibility, and it will take a shared executive legislative approach to reduce it. We can no longer afford to put \$18 trillion on autopilot. Let's deal with it head-on and find a responsible measure to retire the debt before it is too late.

#### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE ELDERLY

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Social Security Administration announced that there would be no

cost of living adjustment to Social Security benefits next year.

This news has seniors in western New York worried. The price of food, housing, and health care have increased. Without a corresponding increase in benefits, seniors will be asked to do more with less.

The formula used to determine cost of living adjustments is not properly reflecting the senior economy. Seniors spend more on housing, food, and medical care and less on travel and education. That is why I support legislation to adopt a new formula, called the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly, that would give weight to price increases in housing and medical care and more accurately reflect the costs incurred by seniors.

Unless Congress acts, the incomes of 60 million Americans will be effectively reduced. That would be bad for our economy and worse for the vulnerable Americans that we are here to protect.

#### GRATEFUL RESPONSE TO SOUTH CAROLINA FLOOD

(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, despite the destruction of the thousand-year rain event flooding, it was a testament to the people of South Carolina working together. Led by Governor Nikki Haley and Adjutant General Bob Livingston, our State is a model for disaster response.

I am grateful for our State Emergency Management Division, led by Director Kim Stenson, for over 1,500 successful rescue missions and to all of our first responders for the countless rescues.

Credit is due to Director Christy Hall and the South Carolina Department of Transportation for their tireless work. During the flooding, over 500 roads and bridges were closed. I know firsthand, as the road I live on was washed out, the location of our family home for the last six generations, which was named by my grandmother.

Donations and volunteers have come from across the Nation. The Salvation Army, led by Major Roger Coulson, has provided over 50,000 meals to displaced persons in the flooding. The Red Cross, inspired by national president Gale McGovern's visit, has operated 26 shelters.

I appreciate the positive spirit of the people of South Carolina spontaneously coming together as family and neighbors before turning to government.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and the President by his actions must never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Thank you, Coach Steve Spurrier, for developing winning Gamecocks.

#### MUST-ACT DEADLINES

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, well, even some of my Republican colleagues acknowledge that there is chaos in their conference and that chaos has consequences. Governing from one manufactured crisis to another, we have piled up a whole series of must-act deadlines.

In just 8 days, the U.S. Government will default unless Congress acts. Once again, Republicans are jeopardizing the full faith and credit of the United States.

Unfortunately, that is just one of the deadlines that we face in this calendar of chaos. In just weeks, we have got to pass another budget or face another GOP-engineered shutdown.

We have to pass a highway trust fund bill. Hopefully, it is not another short-term patch but something that actually gets Americans working and rebuilds our infrastructure.

Sadly, the Export-Import Bank still sits idle. Fortunately, a handful of courageous Republicans joined all Democrats, and next week, hopefully, we will be able to get that moving again. It shouldn't take that kind of an extraordinary measure. We ought to be able to do it through the normal course of legislation.

This chaos is out of hand.

Hardworking Americans go to work every day. We need to do our job in Congress, and that is to do the business of the American people. Mr. Speaker, we have long passed time. We need to get to work.

#### SOAR ACT

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the House this week will vote on H.R. 10, the SOAR Reauthorization Act, known as the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act. This will authorize the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program for an additional 5 years.

At the core of this scholarship program is a simple premise that every American child deserves the opportunity to receive a great education. No child should be forced to attend low-performing public schools when alternatives for parents and their children are available right around the corner.

Education is essential to climbing the ladder of success in this Nation, and this bill takes a positive step forward in giving parents the ability to provide more opportunities and choices to pave the way to a better future for their children.

I urge my colleagues to support this responsible measure, and I thank Speaker BOEHNER for bringing this legislation to our floor.

#### BALANCED BUDGET PROPOSAL

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to bring responsible budgeting to our Nation's Capitol. First of all, this means funding the government every year without a shutdown, but also it means balancing the budget.

Since I have served in Congress, we have been consumed by fights over deficit reduction and budget priorities. We have gone from crisis to crisis, never coming up with a long-term plan. After the crisis is over, nothing happens.

Recently, I introduced a balanced budget amendment that would add discipline to the budget process and require the government to spend within its means. Balanced budget proposals are not new. But unlike most proposals, my amendment protects Social Security, enables long-term capital investments, and ensures that we can respond to emergencies.

In Delaware, like most States, the law requires the State to have a balanced budget. As Delaware Secretary of Finance, I helped make that happen. We should hold the Federal Government to the same standard.

If the United States is going to continue to be the strongest economy in the world, we need to address our budget deficits now. I urge my colleagues to bring order and responsibility to our budget process by passing my amendment.

□ 1215

#### NATIONAL DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, October is National Dyslexia Awareness Month. This is something that is very close to my family. My wife and I watched our daughter struggle to learn to read. She dreaded reading aloud in class, and worrying what her classmates thought affected her self-esteem.

With hard work, our daughter was able to catch up and surpass many of her classmates. Over time, she discovered her strengths in math and science, which helped her increase her confidence.

It wasn't until high school that we found out she actually has dyslexia. This diagnosis has helped her understand how her brain works and realize that her difference gives her some advantages.

We are extremely proud of how hard she has worked to overcome these challenges and not let them get in the way of her success. Mr. Speaker, it is important that we bring awareness to dyslexia and educate our communities about the impact on families.

#### NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the importance of the forest products industry as we celebrate National Forest Products Week.

In my home State of New Hampshire, we have a rich tradition of supporting working forests and recognizing the ways in which our forests contribute to our State's economic livelihood and the vitality of our rural communities.

The forest products industry employs over 7,000 Granite Staters. These men and women proudly continue our State's legacy of responsible forest stewardship. From timber production to biomass energy, our forests provide a wide range of sustainably sourced products that citizens and businesses rely on throughout our country.

My district is home to both biomass power plants and wood pellet manufacturing facilities that are important job creators in the renewable energy sector, and I am proud to serve as co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Biomass Caucus.

As part of our efforts to underscore the economic and environmental contributions to our Nation's forests, we must rededicate ourselves to preserving these treasured lands for future generations to come.

#### NDAV VETO THREAT

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

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I think this is absolutely nuts. Yesterday the House and the Senate sent the President the National Defense Authorization bill requesting his signature, which he has now threatened to veto.

I was an Air Force pilot for 14 years, and I sit on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. I understand how critical it is that our military be prepared; and to be prepared, they have to be adequately funded.

Vetoing NDAA means that we simply don't provide authorization for funding for our troops. It means we cut our military readiness. It means we can't continue our fight against ISIS. It cuts such critical programs that protect us as our missile defense program. I just simply don't understand it.

The President doesn't have any specific objections to this bill. It funds to the exact level that he has requested. By doing this, the President has ignored the primary responsibility that the Federal Government has to defend and protect the United States.

I hope that the President will not fail in that responsibility. I hope he will sign this critically important bill.

#### WE MUST TAKE ACTION ON GUN VIOLENCE

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, today marks 3 weeks since the mass shooting at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg that cost nine innocent Americans their lives. As that tragedy fades from the headlines, the daily tragedy of gun violence in America drums on.

Last week, in south Florida, Janel Hamilton was shot to death by her godmother's son while watching TV. She was 19 and dreamed of becoming a lawyer.

Last weekend, in Chicago, a 3-year-old boy named Eian Santiago was shot to death by his 6-year-old brother. They were playing cops and robbers.

Last night, in New York City, police officer Randolph Holder succumbed to a gunshot wound in the head. He was responding to gun violence in East Harlem.

In the last 96 hours alone, 91 Americans have lost their lives to gun violence. That is nearly 1 person killed by guns every hour in the United States.

The American people expect us to take action. They expect us to stand up to those who fight to prevent us from taking action; yet, hour by hour goes by in this Congress without hearings, without debate, and without action.

Mr. Speaker, I will be back next week and the week after that and the week after that. Gun violence won't stop until this Congress takes action, and neither will I.

#### OUR MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, our mental health system is abusive and neglectful to those with a serious mental illness. Worse yet, these policies disproportionately impact minorities and the poor. African Americans are 50 percent less likely to receive psychiatric treatment. Out-patient mental health spending for African Americans is 40 percent lower.

While there is an overall shortage of mental health professionals, only 3 percent of psychiatrists and 2 percent of psychologists are African American. The rate is similar for Latino mental health professionals and worse for Native Americans.

If you are a minority or low income and have a serious mental illness, you are more likely to end up in prison, where 80 percent of inmates don't receive any treatment.

If you are low income, Medicaid makes it harder for you to access inpatient mental health treatment, won't let you see two doctors on the same day, and says, you can't take the medications your doctor prescribed.

Stop this discrimination. I ask Members to cosponsor and pass the Helping Families of Mental Health Crisis Act, H.R. 2646. People with serious mental

illness can and do get better with help, but where there is no help, there is no hope.

#### IT IS TIME TO GET REAL ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, it is time to get real about gun violence in America. As the entrusted voices for millions of Americans, we have a responsibility to address gun violence. In our schools, in our movie theaters, and even in our churches the threat is ever present.

Most recently a dangerous individual went on the campus of a community college in Roseburg, Oregon, and opened fire, taking nine lives and injuring seven. My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends as they mourn.

Chris Mintz, a veteran from Randleman, North Carolina, was among those injured while rushing into the crossfire in an effort to defuse the situation. I am honored by his bravery, and I wish him a speedy and full recovery.

From Newtown to Blacksburg, to Aurora, to Charleston, these senseless shootings are becoming far too common. It is not just mass shootings that are bothersome because every day 88 people die because of gun violence. That is more than 30,000 Americans killed every year.

How many lives must be lost before we say that now is the right time to pass commonsense legislation to keep guns out of the wrong hands? We can make a difference. We must, but we must take action now.

#### PREVENTABLE CHILD AND MATERNAL DEATHS

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of our children and salute the medical researchers and the pediatricians who are seeking to find cures for debilitating and preventable childhood diseases.

The leadership of the U.S. is crucial in helping end many of these childhood and maternal deaths. That is why we have included specific provisions in 21st Century Cures for children.

Cures bring benefits. Let me give you an example: polio. In 1988, the World Health Organization had a resolution to support the worldwide eradication of polio. Through the work of American researchers, private citizens, and Rotarians, polio vaccines have nearly eradicated this scourge worldwide.

American leadership should continue to help end preventable childhood and maternal deaths.

### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK

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

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize National Forest Products Week and to acknowledge what an important role our forests play in all of our daily lives.

The Second District of Florida is home to hundreds of thousands of acres of public and private forest lands. The Apalachicola National Forest alone is nearly 1,000 square miles.

Just last week, I participated in a work day with the Nature Conservancy in the Apalachicola Forest to learn how responsible management can boost the economic and environmental value of forestland.

I am proud that north Florida forests make such an important contribution to our country's economy and our environment. We depend on wood for the structure of our homes, the paper we write on, and a million different things in between, but most significantly for the oxygen we breathe.

### FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK RECOGNITION

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today in recognition of National Forest Products Week and the men and women across our country that work in this crucial industry. Forest products have been an integral part of the North American economy even before our States were united.

From our beginnings, forest products built ships and were the main source of fuel. Through our industrialization, forest products became the foundation of our vast rail system and the media that fills our great libraries. Today so much of everything we get is shipped and contained in forest products. Forest products have always been the backbone of housing, a critical sector of our economy.

Forest products are green, renewable, and sequester carbon. We have been prolific in perfecting our conversion technologies, developing new products, and growing more timber. In fact, we have more trees today in America than in 1900.

To keep our forests healthy and our economy strong, we need to develop more markets at home and abroad for our forest products, and we need to commit more research to find cost-effective ways to utilize our woody biomass, a vast, renewable, carbon-neutral fuel source.

### IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT NEED FUNDING

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, this month all of us know that we are addressing the issue of breast cancer and cancer generally. I will proudly wear this label today for the number of people around our country and around the world that are suffering from cancer.

On Monday, I participated at Nova Southeastern University with experts in genomics and studying this issue. I learned from them that only 8 percent of grants are made from the National Institutes of Health. That is an incredible resource for all of us, and we need to be about the business of increasing the National Institutes of Health's opportunities to go forward on breast cancer.

The second part of my remarks this morning, Mr. Speaker, deals with airport workers, specifically in Fort Lauderdale and elsewhere. They are fighting for \$15 an hour. These are the people that clean up the toilets at the airport in Broward County. They are the people who carry the people on the airplane with wheelchairs. We can at least afford \$15 an hour for them.

□ 1230

### REAUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the potentially grave situation facing our Nation's security this week.

Despite the National Defense Authorization Act garnering widespread bipartisan support in both Houses of Congress, President Obama has inexplicably threatened to veto it. Our soldiers and their families deserve better than an administration that plays politics with the pay for our troops and puts our national security on the line just to prove a political point.

What I find most shocking is the President spent the last several months fighting to lift economic sanctions so that Iran's terrorist army could receive billions in aid, and now he is planning to block funding for America's military. This is unbelievable. Our soldiers deserve better. Our Nation deserves better.

America is facing increased threats from around the globe. We have soldiers fighting in Afghanistan. We have military families bravely continuing with their lives as their loved ones risk their lives for freedom.

Not only do we need to fully fund our troops, but we need to show the world that, when it comes to our defense and national security, the United States stands as one strong, unified body.

Mr. Speaker, it is time the President drops the partisan games and stands with our troops. It is time he signs the bill.

### WE ARE THE GREATEST NATION ON THE PLANET

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I feel compelled to take this opportunity to remind us how great we are as a country, but also to remind ourselves that we are as great as we are as individuals collectively that make our country so great, a country where anyone can practice whatever faith they choose to practice.

You can come to this country from whatever part of the world and start anew and perhaps reach heights that you could never dream of in other places. We still are the greatest nation on the planet.

I am compelled to say these words because far too often I see, almost everywhere I turn, where people want to leave this country. They talk about how we are not great and how we need to get back to greatness.

We have never lost that greatness. I think it is really important for us to understand, as Members of Congress, that our responsibility is to guide this country and to legislate and to make decisions, but to always keep in mind those fundamental responsibilities that we have held true for so many hundreds of years in this country and that we are blessed to be the greatest nation on the planet. The only way that we can do that is if we take our personal responsibilities to heart and exercise that every single day.

### SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DAY

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

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on Support Your Local Chamber of Commerce Day.

Livingston Parish is one of the fastest growing parishes in the State of Louisiana, and the chamber of commerce appropriately—with the extraordinary growth of this parish, we have had a growth in the businesses, the mom-and-pop businesses, and the large industrial businesses as well. Appropriately, the Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce was recognized for the Louisiana State Chamber of the Year Award for the mid-size category by the Louisiana Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

When you have a parish that grows at rapid rates, you have huge swells in population. You have all sorts of demands on infrastructure, but you have demands on the growth of the businesses as well. Particularly, the Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce was recognized in the areas of business resource and representation, community alignment, organizational excellence, and professional development.

Mr. Speaker, businesses like North Oaks Health System, Rouses Markets, Big Mike's Sports Bar and Grill, and Ferrara Fire Apparatus are all businesses that are members of the Chamber of Commerce.

Congratulations to the 500 businesses that are members of the Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce, to Wayne, April, and all the folks in Livingston Parish.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, October 21, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 21, 2015 at 9:14 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 322.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 323.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 324.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 558.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1442.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1884.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3059.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 10, SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OPPORTUNITY AND RESULTS RE- AUTHORIZATION ACT, AND PRO- VIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 692, DEFAULT PREVENTION ACT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 480 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 480

*Resolved*, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, 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. 10) to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, 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 Oversight and Government Reform. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendments recommended

by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. 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 one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 692) to ensure the payment of interest and principal of the debt of the United States. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any 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 Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit.

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 gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), 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 480 provides for consideration of H.R. 10, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act, and H.R. 692, the Default Prevention Act.

These bills are important steps forward on two issues of great importance to Americans: education and fiscal issues.

H.R. 10, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act, also known as the SOAR Reauthorization Act, would continue important funding provided to help young

students here in Washington, D.C., reach their full potential. This legislation would provide \$60 million annually for 5 years, split equally among the District's public schools, charter schools, and the District of Columbia Opportunity Scholarship Program, which enables low-income students to attend a private school that would otherwise be out of their reach.

Two amendments to the bill have been made in order for consideration, one by a Republican and another by a Democrat.

I have great confidence that the SOAR Reauthorization Act is a positive step for students in the District of Columbia and that, through its example, it will provide a model for success that could be adopted by States across the country.

The rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 692, the Default Prevention Act. As my colleagues are all aware, the Treasury Department has asserted that its ability to use extraordinary measures to avoid reaching the statutory debt limit will be exhausted in coming days, possibly by November 3.

The legislation before us is a vital step to take default off the table, should extraordinary measures be exhausted, providing certainty to financial markets and hardworking Americans that we will pay our debts and meet our obligations.

The Default Prevention Act would authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to issue debt obligations necessary to continue making principal and interest payments on our debt, and would also ensure continued access to the funds in the Social Security trust fund necessary to pay Social Security benefits in full.

Mr. Speaker, it is simply common sense that we permanently close out the possibility of default and give seniors and other Social Security beneficiaries confidence that they will continue to receive the funds they rely on.

We can protect the full faith and credit of the United States and ensure that our credit ratings and economy are not impacted by policy battles here in Congress over future spending policies.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this rule and both of the underlying bills to my colleagues for their support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding the customary 30 minutes to me for debate.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this rule, which provides for consideration of both H.R. 10, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act, and H.R. 692, the Default Prevention Act. Once again, we are playing grab bag rules, and I maintain that that is not the process of regular order.

Each time I have the privilege of managing a rule which, with only four

members of the minority on the committee, happens quite often, I find myself in the same position: frustrated with my friends, the House Republicans', complete disregard for regular order; their use of one rule to consider multiple unrelated pieces of legislation; and, most significantly, disillusioned that, in a time when so much can and must be done for the American people, we continue to spend precious time with partisan, dead-on-arrival measures.

H.R. 10 would reauthorize the Opportunity Scholarship Program through the years 2021. OSP is the only federally created and funded elementary and secondary private school voucher program in the United States.

Last night, my friend from Utah came forward and spoke, as is his responsibility. And I would just ask him, do they have the same program in Beaver, Utah, or Centerville, Utah, or Altamont?

I didn't know they had an Altamont. I come from Altamonte Springs, Florida. They spell it without the E. But they don't have this voucher program that they are trying to foist on the District of Columbia.

The program, which awards need-based scholarships to children in the District of Columbia to attend a participating private school of their choice, was created in 2004 and last reauthorized in 2011.

I would like to note from the outset that the current school voucher program is authorized through September 2016. That is almost a full year from now. Given the numerous pressing and time-sensitive matters facing this body, I can't help but feel bewildered as to why we are rushing to reauthorize D.C. school vouchers, yet we continue to ignore our Nation's crumbling infrastructure, income inequality, the need for jobs, immigration reform, the need for sensible gun control in the wake of mass shootings and countless other deaths at the instance of guns, particularly children, and our lack of a long-term budget. I continue to await a straight answer from my Republican colleagues and hope that we can get this question answered before today's debate concludes.

Now, I also want to make something clear. The members of the Washington, D.C. City Council have said that they do not want the D.C. voucher program to be reauthorized.

□ 1245

In a letter to the chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the majority of the members of the D.C. Council expressed their belief that "Federal funds should be invested in the existing public education system—both public schools and public charter schools—rather than being diverted to private schools."

They go on to describe past findings on vouchers, saying that "the evidence is clear that the use of vouchers has

had no statistically significant impact on overall student achievement in math or reading, or for students from schools in need of improvement."

Despite this very clear letter, in what I can only describe as "typical Republican fashion," this body is going full steam ahead in its efforts to impose its political will regardless.

I remind those here today and watching at home that Washington, D.C., is a Federal district. Congress maintains the power to overturn laws approved by the D.C. Council, can vote to impose laws on D.C., and gets final approval of the D.C. Council's budget.

Washington, D.C.'s Delegate to the House of Representatives, my very good friend and a mentor to all of us not only on this issue, but countless others, Ms. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, who has served in this body for 24 years, is not permitted to vote on final passage of any legislation, let alone legislation directly intended to govern the jurisdiction which she was elected to serve.

One might hope that Congress would consider the wishes of the representatives of Washington, D.C., and the nearly 660,000 residents of the District who are taxpayers without representation. But, as we see today, that simply isn't the case.

Mr. Speaker, the underlying legislation would make significant changes to the way in which the program is evaluated, and that is a problem.

In 2012, The Washington Post published an article titled "Quality Controls Lacking for D.C. Schools Accepting Federal Vouchers." The piece examined some of the schools receiving vouchers.

Among them were "a nondenominational Christian school" that "occupies a soot-stained storefront between a halal meat shop and an evening wear boutique." The school consists of two classrooms, and "students travel nearly 2 miles down Georgia Avenue to the city's Emery Recreation Center" for gym class.

Another school "follows a learning model known as 'Suggestopedia,' a philosophy of learning developed by a Bulgarian psychotherapist Georgi Lozanov that stresses learning through music, stretching, and meditation."

A third is described as "an accredited K-8 school supported by the Nation of Islam," which "occupies the second floor of a former residence east of the Anacostia River." The classrooms are described as being former bedrooms, and the only bathroom in the school was described as having "a floor blackened with dirt and a sink coated in grime. The bathtub was filled with paint cans and cleaning supplies concealed by a curtain."

With descriptions like this of schools just a few miles away from this Chamber, I would like to think we would want more evaluations on these schools, not less.

Moving on to H.R. 629, a very bogus bill that plans for the unprecedented

default on the full faith and credit of the United States, this measure is a debt prioritization bill and one that elevates the payments of debts to bondholders, including Switzerland, the Cayman Islands, and China, and they would be paid over the obligations to America's troops, veterans, seniors, and students, as well as Medicare recipients.

As Democratic members of the House Ways and Means Committee astutely put it: "Under this legislation, the effect would be to pay China"—and Japan and others—"first, and some Americans not at all."

We have been down this road before. Indeed, the debt limit standoff and government shutdown of 2013 cost an estimated 120,000 jobs and disrupted public and private credit markets so profoundly that the total estimated borrowing costs for the Federal Government, businesses, and homeowners during that crisis totaled approximately \$70 million. Defaulting on our debt is simply not an option, and H.R. 629 is, as Treasury Secretary Jack Lew put it, "default by another name."

We cannot play this game. We need to be about the business of honoring our obligations. The last time we went down this road our debt rating was lowered, and I suggest it may happen again.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART).

Mr. STEWART. I would like to thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I come from a family of educators. My father taught me in fifth grade. My brother and sister are both teachers. My wife is a teacher. One of my sons recently spent 2 years doing Teach for America in an inner-city school before he started graduate school.

Every weekend, it seemed, while he was teaching, we would hear stories and personal experiences of children who desperately needed help to get the education that they needed so they had any chance, any hope, of being successful in life.

And, finally, I am also the father of six children. I understand in a deeply personal way how important it is that we teach our children and educate our children.

This idea goes back to Jamestown, 1609, where literally for the first time in the history of the world we made a commitment that we would educate all of our children, that every village, every town, every community would educate all of our children. That is what the SOAR program is about: giving all of our children the opportunity to succeed.

So let's look at the program and see what it has accomplished. Since 2004, more than 6,000 children have had the opportunity to attend a private school of their choice. This has changed the trajectory of their lives. More than 90

percent of them now graduate from high school, compared with 58 percent throughout the rest of Washington, D.C. Eighty-eight percent of them go on to a 2- or a 4-year university. Eighty-five percent of their parents express satisfaction with this program.

Why in the world would you want to take that away? How could you not support this program? How could you not want to give these children the opportunity to succeed? Why in the world would you put the interests of unions and teachers above the interests of these children who desperately need our help?

I would ask my colleagues to support this rule and to support the underlying legislation. Give these kids an opportunity to succeed. That is all we are asking for.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, would the Chair be kind enough to tell me how much time remains for both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 20 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 25 minutes remaining.

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

Let me respond to the gentleman from Utah who spoke of his family's background and education.

Firstly, my former wife, who is now deceased, taught school for 35 years, first and second grade. My son, who has his Ph.D., as my friend's son is about the business of getting his graduate degree, worked in education, taught sixth grade for a number of years, and then recruited schoolteachers for Palm Beach County and Broward County in Florida.

The question was why would we not want to educate every child, and the gentleman referenced a period in 1609 when we certainly were not educating every child. I went to school for the first time in 1941 to a school that was built by Julius Rosenwald, and I recommend a documentary that is in the movies throughout the country now. Mr. Rosenwald, at the insistence of Booker T. Washington, built schools for Black children, 642 of them, in the South, where there were none.

My mother didn't have an opportunity to go to that school. Other people in my town never had an opportunity to get an education, and you come here and you talk about why would we not want this education.

If it is so good, then why isn't it everywhere? And why are you picking on the District of Columbia? Perhaps someone who knows that very well will be able to tell us more than myself with my passion.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), my very good friend, a member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Ms. NORTON. I thank my good friend from Florida for yielding and for his passion for our children.

Mr. Speaker, the short answer to the gentleman who wants to know why

would we want to take away vouchers from these children is that we don't want to take vouchers away from these children. We want those who are currently in the program to maintain their voucher until they graduate.

But I should caution Members on both sides about voting for \$100 million for a private school voucher program for a District that didn't ask for it while the Republican majority has pending a \$2 billion cut for K-12 education for kids in their own districts.

The irony is that, when Newt Gingrich was Speaker, he first proposed private school vouchers, but as conservative as he was, he worked with me on a home rule public charter school alternative. The D.C. Council had voted for charter schools, but there were only two or three fledgling schools and charters weren't going anywhere.

Today, Mr. Speaker, there are 115 public charter schools in the District, and the reason is that, with my support, Speaker Gingrich placed H.R. 3019 in the 1995-1996 omnibus legislation establishing the D.C. public charter school board.

Today almost half of D.C. students go to publicly accountable charter schools, and most of these schools have long waiting lists. That, my friend, is what choice looks like.

Another speaker has now stepped forward with a private school voucher program to be authorized for the third time today, although the evaluation that Congress mandated definitively shows that the program failed to meet its stated goal to help children improve.

□ 1300

Vouchers did not improve math or reading scores for the children from low-income neighborhoods in this program, and that was the reason for the bill in the first place.

In light of that failure, I offered a compromise, and the President supports it. All of the students in the current voucher program would remain until graduation, but no new students would be funded. That would mean years of private school vouchers, but only in the District of Columbia, because this Congress has just voted down similar private school vouchers for the Nation.

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

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. NORTON. That, my friends, is what compromise looks like: first, phenomenal growth of public charter schools, which are supported by both Congressional Republicans and Democrats; second, allowing all current students to remain in private voucher schools until graduation. If more compromises like this were on the floor, the majority would not be divided into multiple factions that have nothing to show for years of leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it is a big surprise to see a member of the minority opposing the provision of additional education funding to low-income students.

My colleague earlier mentioned that some members of the D.C. Council oppose H.R. 10. I would like to bring it to the attention of the House that D.C. Councilwoman Anita Bonds has asked that her name be removed from that letter, saying: "I am hopeful that many more of our neediest families have the opportunity to take advantage of the program." She knows that students in public, charter, and private schools all benefit equally from this legislation, and I welcome her support.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I want to thank the Rules Committee for reporting H.R. 692 to the floor.

This Nation now staggers under more than \$18 trillion of debt, nearly a \$7.5 trillion run up by this administration alone. The interest on that debt is one of the fastest growing components of the Federal budget. If there is ever any doubt over the security and reliability of the debt owed by this government, the interest rates that lenders charge us would quickly rise and overwhelm us.

Now, the Democrats say, well, just raise the debt limit, and, of course, we realize in this era of chronic deficit spending—establishing new records under this administration—that we have to do so. Congress alone has the power to incur debt, and the debt limit is the method by which we discharge our responsibility; but when we do so, it is also Congress' responsibility to review and revise the policies that are driving that debt.

The fundamental problem under both Democratic and Republican Congresses is that this process is fraught with controversy. The bigger the debt, the bigger the controversy; and the bigger the controversy, the more likely that credit markets are to demand higher interest payments to meet their greater risk. Given the size of our debt, that could produce an interest tidal wave that could sink our budget and our Nation along with it.

The Default Prevention Act simply provides that, if the debt limit is reached, the Treasury Secretary may continue to borrow above that limit for the sole purpose of paying principal and interest that is due. It is an absolute guarantee that the debt of the United States will be honored.

Most States have various laws to guarantee payment of their debts. In fact, a few years ago, Ben Bernanke praised these State provisions for maintaining confidence in their bonds. It amazes me that we can't all agree on this simple principle: that we should guarantee the loans made to the Federal Government. That is all this bill does.

Yet we have heard opposition from the other side, and they basically make two charges. One is that this pays foreign governments first while shorting our troops. We just heard that from the gentleman from Florida. Well, what xenophobic nonsense. The fact is most of our debt is held by Americans—often, in pension funds—so it protects Americans far more than foreign governments.

But they miss the main point. It is the Nation's credit that makes it possible to meet all of our other obligations. When you are living off your credit card, as our Nation is at the moment, you had better make your minimum payment first or you won't be able to pay all of your other bills.

In the veto threat, the President leveled the other charges we heard from the gentleman from Florida, that it is just an excuse for not paying our other bills. Well, do they actually believe that these other States that have guaranteed their sovereign debts for generations have ever used these guarantees as an excuse not to pay their other bills? On the contrary, by providing clear and unambiguous mandates to protect their credit first, they actually support and maintain their ability to pay for all of their other obligations.

So let me be crystal clear: delaying payment on any of our obligations would be unprecedented and dangerous. There is one thing, though, that could do even more damage than delaying payment on our other bills, and that is the mere threat of a default on our sovereign debt. This measure takes that threat off the table, and it ensures credit markets that their investments in the United States are as certain as anything can be in life.

A few years ago, Senator Barack Obama vigorously and forcefully opposed a debt limit sought by the Bush administration. He said it was a failure of leadership. Well, I have never equated Senator Obama's opposition to the debt limit increase as anything other than a principled and well-placed concern over the proper management of our finances. It is sad that he cannot give the opposition the same courtesy.

Mr. Speaker, we may disagree over the appropriate role of Congress in adjusting the debt limit, but at least can't we all agree that during these disputes the sovereign debt of the United States is never in doubt? That is all that this bill says; that is all that this bill does. Mr. Speaker, let's pass this rule and proceed with consideration of the bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from California referred to my comments as "xenophobic nonsense." I firmly disagree. It kind of gives xenophobia a new meaning. I merely pointed out that a large portion of our debt is held by other countries and that the legislation that he supports proposes to pay them before 80 million obligations that the Treasury Department has.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has only 8 legislative days left to protect the full faith and credit of the United States. If we defeat the previous question, I am going to offer an amendment to the rule and bring up legislation that would allow—and I would ask the gentleman from California if he would support this—a clean extension of the debt ceiling.

Mr. Speaker, 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 gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) to discuss our proposal. My friend from Vermont is a distinguished gentleman and a former Member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, let's be clear. Raising the debt ceiling has absolutely nothing to do at all with increasing government spending. It only has to do with whether America will pay its bills for obligations already incurred.

Many of those obligations, by the way, are for expenditures that I vigorously opposed: trillions of dollars on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, unpaid for, and trillions of dollars in tax cuts for the very wealthy that are unpaid for.

But the United States of America, in good times and bad, through Republican Presidents and Democratic Presidents, in Republican-led and Democratic-led Congresses, has always paid its bills—always. We have done it for two reasons.

First, it is the right thing to do. A promise made is a promise kept. An obligation incurred is an obligation honored. Mr. Speaker, a confident nation keeps its word. A confident nation pays its bills, not some of them. It pays all of them.

Second, running from our creditors, stiffing them, picking and choosing whom to pay among them is as fiscally reckless as it is dishonorable. This new theory that America can actually consider it feasible as an option to default is extremely dangerous and very costly.

Mr. Speaker, in 2011, when this tactic was first seriously considered and we came on the brink of default, it cost U.S. taxpayers \$19 billion in unnecessary interest charges. That is \$19 billion that could have been used to fix our highways or invest in scientific research, or it is \$19 billion that your side might have preferred for tax cuts, or we could have split it. But that would have been half for tax cuts and half for investment. Yet we squandered that at the expense of the American taxpayer.

The use of the debt ceiling as a tactic to get your way on another issue is

playing financial Russian roulette with America's credibility, with the well-being of the American taxpayer and the full faith and credit of the United States of America to meet all its obligations. We have maintained that bond with ourselves and our creditors for over 200 years, and this bill asks us to abandon it now.

How can it be that the party of Ronald Reagan can propose this legislation? It was Ronald Reagan who said that denigration of the full faith and credit of the United States would have substantial effects on the domestic financial markets and the value of the dollar. He is right.

How can it be the party of PAUL RYAN? The chair of our Ways and Means Committee said that just refusing to vote for the debt ceiling, I don't think that is a strategy.

Will the debt ceiling be raised? Does it have to be raised? Yes. Reagan was right then, and PAUL RYAN is right now.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out something that the proponents of this legislation would prefer to keep in the dark. The entire reason the debt ceiling must be raised now is to accommodate the budget that they passed over my strong objection on March 25, 2015. The Price budget, supported by 228 Republicans and opposed by 182 Democrats, projected an increase of our debt limit of nearly \$2 trillion. Today that bill has become due, and the folks who supported that budget are running for the hills on acting on the debt ceiling that is required to accommodate the budget that they passed.

Mr. Speaker, this House now, as a result of the will of the American people, is led by a Republican majority. It is a majority that we in the minority have an obligation to do our best to work with. However, it is a majority that is raising questions that have never been raised before.

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

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, they are using debt default and government shutdown as a tactic to get their way on an issue of concern to some of them. I admire Speaker BOEHNER that he put the country first and he put the House first in not letting this government be shut down over a real dispute on Planned Parenthood funding. But we have got to get past this, and the Republican majority has to make a decision whether it is going to govern or it is going to empower those who believe that default and shutdown are legitimate tactics to resolve legitimate debates that we have among us.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot now—we cannot ever—default on our obligations and our commitment to the American taxpayer to be fiscally responsible by paying our bills.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS).

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 10, but I wanted to clarify some of the debate that has been going on with my friend opposite, the gentleman from Florida.

Many of the concerns that he has raised have been addressed in our Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Specifically, I put forth an amendment that required strong evaluations that would evaluate the scholarship program. Additionally, the committee passed an amendment to ensure not only strong accreditation standards as well, but equally important is the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia. I have made a personal commitment to her to work on making sure that we have proper accountability with regard to this scholarship program. None of us wants to be loose with the American taxpayer dollars.

I want to also stress that this program does not decrease funding for D.C. public schools or charter schools. Indeed it is an addition to that appropriation. But it really comes down this, Mr. Speaker: it is the students that have benefited from this particular program.

I was part of a hearing that was held at Archbishop Carroll High School. When you look into the faces of those students that were given an opportunity with a scholarship to not have to go to the school because of where they live but they got a scholarship to be able to go to a private school, you look into their faces and you hear the stories of just how it has affected their families and given them hope, Mr. Speaker, it is one of those things that I think that we have to find a bipartisan solution to identify the problem areas, perhaps, that need to be addressed, but to also come alongside those parents, both fathers and mothers, who were there in the hearing who were applauding the successes of their children.

□ 1315

It is with great pride that I strongly support H.R. 10. I encourage my colleagues opposite to do the same. I am committed to working through some of those issues that they have addressed.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I am pleased to support this rule because of the underlying bill that is there.

Normally, the 10th Amendment says that education is delegated to the States. So I would be opposing anything this body does on education, except the Constitution also grants Congress the jurisdiction over the District of Columbia.

When there is a program that is a success—and this has been a success—a study by the Department of Education concluded that this D.C. Opportunity

Scholarship significantly improves students' chances of graduating from high school.

I spent 28 years as a high school teacher. In that time, I saw all sorts of wonder programs being mandated from the Federal level and the State level. The most common expression of all teachers is "This too shall pass."

But the one thing that was never mandated to us was the concept of freedom, allowing teachers to teach their specialties, allowing parents the ability of having a choice on where they sent their kids. Choice is a powerful tool.

When I was in the State legislature, I had a bill that dealt with compulsory attendance. I had a PTA mother that came up to me once and said, "I hate you and I hate your bill because, when my 17-year-old doesn't want to go to school in the morning, I want to be able to look at him and say, 'You have to go to school. It is the law.'" And I thought: Thanks a lot. That is the exact attitude I want to have from a high school junior in my class when he shows up.

You see, when kids are forced to be where they choose not to be, they are unsatisfied jerks. But kids, knowing they had a choice, they would now attend in a positive attitude, even if it was the same school.

That is what this bill tries to do. We trust choice in all sorts of behaviors. We give people choices in food, in our homes, in our energy, and all the necessities of life. So why do we limit freedom and choice in something as important as education?

Ronald Reagan once said: "Our leaders must remember that education doesn't begin with some isolated bureaucrat in Washington. It doesn't even begin with State or local officials. Education begins in the home, where it's a parental right and responsibility. Both our public and our private schools exist to aid our families in the instruction of our children, and it's time some people back in Washington stopped acting as if family wishes were only getting in the way."

I applaud Speaker BOEHNER for this bill. Speaker BOEHNER, when it comes to kids, clearly gets it, and he has been an advocate on their behalf. Kids belong to the parents, not to an educator, not to a legislator, not to a special interest group.

It is time we start trusting parents and individuals, which is why I urge support of this rule that will bring this bill, a good bill, to the floor for us to support as well.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN).

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I rise in support of the rule and urge specific passage of H.R. 10, the Scholar-

ships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act.

Over 10 years ago Congress took action to give the children of the District a hand-up through access to a quality education by creating the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship program. I was heavily involved at that time, as a Member of the House Appropriations Committee that oversaw the District's budget, and our committee provided the initial funds.

The program was the first and only initiative in America where the Federal Government provides low-income families with funds to send their children where they will have a chance to thrive—private or parochial schools—because, in some cases, some D.C. schools were not providing that opportunity. That is not all schools, but some schools.

We all know the story of some District of Columbia public schools—low graduation rates, high dropout rates, low math and reading scores—that need to do better. We can all agree that all children in the District deserve a first-class education and the lifelong benefits that come from that education, whether it be public, private, parochial, or charter.

The bill before us today will reauthorize the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship program for 5 years. By the way, the program is a huge success. Last year over 3,600 students submitted applications and the program enrolled nearly 1,500 students.

Through these scholarships, District children have flourished. In 2014, 88 percent of high school graduates who were enrolled in the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship program enrolled in 2- or 4-year colleges, a very high mark.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should listen to the voices of parents, as we did 10 years ago, who want their children to succeed, and we should continue to work to ensure that the program not only survives, but that it grows.

I commend Speaker BOEHNER for all his years of leadership on behalf of the children of Washington not only in terms of his support for this legislation, but many things he does as a private citizen.

I urge my colleagues to join in support of the rule and this legislation.

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

We should be working together to ensure that all children have the opportunity to receive a quality education and taking action to guarantee that the United States pays all of its bills on time and in full. Neither of these bills accomplish those vitally necessary goals for this great country.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" and defeat the previous question and vote "no" on the rule.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

These are crucial bills. They make significant progress on two important issues: addressing our fiscal crisis in a

responsible manner and the education of our next generation.

We cannot squander the incredible wealth this country has built over decades of hard work by the American people. The full faith and credit of the United States is not ours here, as Members of Congress. It is theirs, the American people. We are the reserve currency because individuals across the world look to us for prudent fiscal choices and rock-steady resolve in our principles and integrity.

There are few debates more contentious in this body than those over spending levels or the leverage points that our system provides to exert control over those levels.

The Default Prevention Act would enable us to continue to fight tooth and nail over the right direction for our country's finances while giving Americans and financial markets certainty that they can remain confident in the Federal Government meeting its obligations.

We can and should stay up late at night and have passionate debates in this Chamber over how to address mandatory spending, but we shouldn't allow retired and disabled Americans to stay up late at night because they fear their Social Security checks won't arrive.

The Default Prevention Act is commonsense legislation to remove catastrophe as a possibility by enabling the Secretary of the Treasury to issue debt necessary to make principal and interest payments on the national debt and pay Social Security benefits in full. It is the right first step in beginning a conversation about how to constructively address our immense fiscal challenges.

If we don't address those challenges, we will be unable to provide for other important programs, such as the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act, or SOAR Reauthorization Act, which this resolution provides for consideration of as well.

As any parent knows, the education of our children is one of our highest priorities. For far too long children in Washington, D.C., have not received the education they deserve, but have suffered from unacceptable achievement levels in graduation rates.

The SOAR Reauthorization Act continues a successful three-sector approach to improving the lives and educational outcomes of low-income students in the District. It provides \$60 million in funding for students, split equally among D.C. public schools, charter schools, and scholarships for students to attend private schools that would otherwise be out of reach.

Students receiving private school education have demonstrated higher test scores and significantly higher graduation rates, showcasing the importance of continuing students access to these institutions.

These programs are an important example of the need for innovation and experimentation in how to best reform

our educational system to benefit students, not entrenched interests.

It has been an honor for me to personally witness some of the students who have benefited from the programs included in the SOAR Reauthorization Act. After seeing the hope for the future these students have in their eyes, I cannot fathom preventing other students from receiving their own second chances.

Mr. Speaker, I believe both of these underlying bills are positive steps forward on issues of great import to our Nation, and I commend them and this rule providing for their consideration to all of my colleagues for their support.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to the Rule and the underlying bill H.R. 10, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act.

H.R. 10 would reauthorize the District of Columbia private school voucher program, the Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP), for five years through 2021.

In 2004, Congress established OSP, the first and only federally created or funded elementary and secondary private school voucher program in the United States.

In 2011, Congress reauthorized OSP through fiscal year 2016 in the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act (SOAR Act).

Under the SOAR Act, DC households with incomes that do not exceed 185 percent of the poverty line may receive an annual maximum voucher payment per student of \$8,000 for grades K–8 and \$12,000 for grades 9–12.

In addition, H.R. 10 makes a significant change to the evaluation of OSP's effectiveness.

The bill prohibits a control study group in making evaluations of the OSP and requires a less rigorous "quasi-experimental research design" than under the SOAR Act.

Since 2004, almost \$190 million has been spent on DC voucher schools. That is money that could have been spent on District public schools, which serve all students.

Instead of working on longer term solutions, such as reauthorizing ESEA, or working on job creation, the Majority is pushing its own education priorities on a local jurisdiction through this misguided legislation.

This bill pursues the wrong course by doing the following:

The voucher program is the latest Republican attack on the District of Columbia's right to self-government.

The local District government did not request this reauthorization nor did its only member of Congress, Del. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON.

If the District wants to establish a voucher program, it has the authority to do so.

Republicans have already tried to overturn DC's gun, marijuana, abortion, needle exchange, and non-discrimination laws.

They have also threatened DC's mayor with jail time over the city's marijuana law. Now they want to write education law in DC.

The bill would authorize the use of federal funds to pay for private school tuition in the District of Columbia, despite overwhelming evidence that the program, first authorized in 2004, has failed to improve student academic achievement, as measured by math and reading scores—including among the students the

program was designed to most benefit, those from low-performing public schools.

Despite having numerous states vote down efforts to implement private school voucher programs; Republicans continue to use the District of Columbia as a testing ground for their own agenda.

The bill does not recognize that 44 percent of DC public school students attend charter schools, and 75 percent of DC public school students attend out-of-boundary public schools.

Unlike private schools, traditional public and charter schools are publicly accountable and subject to all civil rights laws.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this rule and the underlying bill.

The material previously referred to by Mr. HASTINGS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 480 OFFERED BY  
MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

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

SEC. 3. 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. 3737) to responsibly pay our Nation's bills on time by temporarily extending the public debt limit, 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 Ways and Means. 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. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 3737.

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 offered 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.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1937, NATIONAL STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS PRODUCTION ACT OF 2015

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 481 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 481

*Resolved*, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, 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. 1937) to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness. 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 Natural Resources. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments 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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the good gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), 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

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

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

There was no objection.

□ 1330

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, just yesterday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule for House Resolution 481, providing for the consideration of an important piece of legislation—H.R. 1937, the National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act of 2015.

This rule provides for the consideration of H.R. 1937 under a structured rule, with five amendments made in

order, four of which, I might point out, were offered by Democratic Members of this body. Therefore, this rule provides for a balanced, deliberative, and open debate if we focus our remarks on the merits of the National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act and don't go off on unnecessary tangents.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support both House Resolution 481 and the underlying bill, H.R. 1937. I would like to congratulate the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI) for sponsoring this legislation, and I would also like to thank the gentleman from Utah, Chairman ROB BISHOP, for his leadership on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, this rule will allow us to consider the National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act, an important bill that will streamline our country's mine permitting processes to remove unnecessary and burdensome bureaucratic hurdles, which can delay some mining activities and projects by up to a decade—10 years—which is an outrageous amount of time that is indicative of the problem we seek to address here today.

The permitting system the Federal Government currently uses to provide for the extraction of rare earth minerals in the U.S. is outdated, unproductive, and, more often than not, hinders our ability to extract these critical resources. This red tape has a devastating impact on communities across the country and in the West, particularly, that rely on the ability to obtain and develop these minerals for economic growth and our Nation's security.

Our country is blessed with a myriad of rare earth minerals that are increasingly used to manufacture high-tech equipment as well as many other everyday applications and products. Many countries around the world are already working to improve their infrastructure, providing the United States with an exceptional opportunity to play a major role in the growing minerals marketplace by supplying foreign countries and businesses, as well as domestic companies, with the resources necessary to remain competitive in the international economy. However, a lack of communication between local, State, and Federal permitting agencies exists, and it creates a bureaucratic backlog of applications that delays mining activity by approximately, like I said, 7 to 10 years, which, if not addressed, will impede the ability of U.S. mineral companies to increase their share of the global marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, due to onerous government red tape, the frivolous lawsuits that result, and a burdensome permitting process, good-paying jobs in the United States mining industry have moved overseas and have put domestic manufacturing jobs at the mercy of our foreign competitors. H.R. 1937 would fix

our outdated and uncertain bureaucratic permitting system, which negatively impacts investment in our economy by discouraging domestic companies from extracting and developing these critical minerals.

This is especially unfortunate given that we have only begun to scratch the surface of what we can potentially develop from our abundant natural resources, which have played such a critical role in making the U.S. a leading world economy and industrial power. Our Nation has vast energy potential from sources such as coal, oil shale, and natural gas, as well as numerous critical minerals that we should be developing. Yet the development of our domestic minerals resources has been obstructed time and time again under this administration, which, unfortunately, places the political goals of special interests over the welfare and well-being of hardworking Americans.

Mr. Speaker, simply put, the Federal Government should promote investments in the U.S. and in American companies by creating a regulatory framework that encourages the safe development of domestic resources. If we are going to address the growing mineral trade imbalance—with more U.S. mining jobs moving overseas and higher energy and commodity prices here at home—we must first put a stop to the bureaucratic delays that are at the root of the problem.

This legislation does just that by telling Federal agencies to make a decision about whether a project should move forward or not—a simple “yes” or “no”—and do it in a timely manner. Give people certainty. We have streamlined and improved this process for other domestic industries, and it is now time to do it for our rare earth minerals sector, which is responsible for some of the highest paying middle class jobs across the country. It is illogical and irrational that red tape and delayed permit approvals can lead to 10 years of deliberation over whether or not to approve a mining permit or project. Actually, it borders on insanity.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good, straightforward rule, allowing for the consideration of an important piece of legislation that will provide the U.S. with a unique opportunity to tap into the growing global marketplace for rare earth minerals by supplying both foreign and domestic companies with the resources they need to remain competitive.

Mr. Speaker, I support the rule’s adoption, and I urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the underlying bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I thank the gentleman for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule and the underlying bill—the so-called Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act.

My colleague from Washington mentioned what is not being discussed here today. Again, to be clear, it feels like we are at Groundhog Day here. We have 8 legislative days until we hit the debt limit and default on our Nation’s debt. In 6 legislative days, the Federal transportation authorization will expire. In 22 legislative days, we will be on the brink of yet another government shutdown. To a certain extent, I feel like we are fiddling while Rome burns. Here we are, talking about an issue which, I am sure, deserves its day in the Sun. I will talk about some of the deficiencies in this bill, but we are tackling a recycled bill that in similar form has already passed this body and that doesn’t address any of these urgent deadline items that we are actually facing.

In fact, as I travel across my district in Colorado, I don’t hear a lot of my constituents crying out for access to sand and clay. I do hear them saying, “Don’t default on the national debt.” “Do something about the budget.” “Make sure that we prevent another government shutdown.” Yet all of those deadlines are looming while we are fiddling here with other bills that aren’t going anywhere and aren’t becoming law and have already passed this body in similar form. So, for the fourth time in three Congresses, we are going to consider a nearly identical measure that the Republicans have brought to the floor despite the Senate’s unwillingness to pick it up and the President’s opposition.

The so-called Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act promotes industry interests over the American people’s health and welfare. The biggest conceptual problem with it is the definition that it gives of “strategic and critical minerals.” The bill not only expands the mining companies’ ability to mine on public lands for minerals like gold and copper, but also materials that one would think, by no stretch of common sense, are rare, like sand and clay.

If we include sand from the beach or from my kids’ sandbox as a mineral of critical development and if we include the gravel from my driveway as a mineral of critical development, I am not sure what we are excluding. I think this applies to almost everything. In fact, I am not even sure how we are even saying the term “critical and strategic” can even apply here when we are talking about sand and gravel and some of the most common natural resources that we have.

This bill permits nearly all mining operations to circumvent the important public health and environmental review processes that are required under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Instead of maintaining a reasonable threshold to ensure that we focus on resources and developing resources that are actually critical for our defense or for our economy, this bill expands our definition of “strategic and

critical,” effectively making it worthless. By including everything and by saying everything is strategic and critical, you are effectively saying that nothing is strategic and critical. That is what this bill does while we are 8 days from hitting the debt limit, while we are 6 days from expiring on the Federal transportation authorization.

By the way, I have to talk about how these “days” work because we are 8 days from the debt limit and 6 days from the transportation authorization. Those aren’t real days that Americans know. That is because the Republicans always send this Congress on vacation nearly every week. So it might be 6 legislative days. I think it is, actually, 15 or 20 days, but Congress isn’t working for most of those. While these deadlines tick, Members of Congress are actually at home most of the time because the Republican leadership won’t let us work. They won’t let us come here. They are adjourning the session. That is why, when something is 20 days off, we are sounding alarm bells, saying it is 6 days off—because they are only letting us work 6 of those 20 days. I would be happy to show up for the other 14, Mr. Speaker, but you wouldn’t be here to gavel us into session.

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, a point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. POLIS. What would happen if I showed up and you were not here to gavel us down into session?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will not respond to a hypothetical question.

Mr. POLIS. Maybe we will just have to try that sometime when we are 2 or 3 days from the expiration of our transportation funding or from defaulting on our national debt. I will be happy to come here to an empty Chamber.

I recall one time, Mr. Speaker, when you and the Republican majority accidentally left the cameras on, and our Democratic whip, STENY HOYER, was on the floor, demanding why we couldn’t bring up a bill. Maybe, if I am here and if you are not here, Mr. Speaker, we can get those C-SPAN cameras turned on when we are 2 or 3 days from a deadline so that the American people understand this funny math, where somehow 20 days is only 6 legislative days because you don’t let us work the other 14, when hardworking Americans have to go to work every day to support their families.

This bill’s impacts are far reaching. As drafted, it makes the term “critical and strategic” meaningless. The legislation would increase the pollution of our water resources for States dealing with extreme drought conditions and deadly blazes. The last thing we need is to jeopardize our already scarce sources of water. We can’t afford to do any more harm to the quality of our limited water supplies and to risk the jobs that are created across the West

through outdoor recreation, leisure, and agriculture.

Why the House Republicans see a need for legislation to further promote mining interests at the expense of public health continues to be mystifying. The industry already has free rein to extract mineral resources. Under the antiquated 1872 mining law, Federal land managers are actually barred from denying hard rock mining proposals. The Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service have almost never denied a large mining process. Why exempt them further from all environmental review for sand and gravel, which aren't even rare elements?

This bill fails to update the antiquated legal framework. It fails to address the reforms needed. It fails to protect our environment. It doesn't change the fact that mining companies currently enjoy—guess what, Mr. Speaker. What do you think—a 3 percent royalty rate? What do they pay—a 2 percent royalty rate? Do they pay a 1 percent royalty rate? No. They pay a zero percent royalty rate on Federal land. This bill fails to address that. It doesn't change the fact that mining companies have left an estimated half a million mines. That is nearly one for every person in my district, Mr. Speaker. Half a million mines all across the country have been abandoned, most of which are in dire need of cleanup or restoration, which this bill fails to address.

I had the opportunity to introduce a bill with Ranking Member GRIJALVA earlier this year that would have addressed many of these ongoing failures in mining accountability, but it hasn't been brought up before the committee. Instead, legislation like this, the so-called Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act, is rocketed to the floor even though it has passed four times in the last three sessions.

Instead of confronting real challenges facing our economy, facing American families, we continue to line the pockets of the mining industry, which already has one of the fattest profit margins of any, while risking the health of the American people and exploiting our natural resources without adequate return and royalties to the taxpayers, who own our public lands.

I oppose the rule and the underlying bill.

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1345

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

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up legislation that would permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Land and Water Conservation

Fund supports the protection of public lands and waters, such as natural parks, forests, and recreation areas.

Many conservation organizations from my district and nationally have been in to meet with me on this important topic, and I know they have reached out to other Members on the Hill as well.

Mr. Speaker, 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 gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, the Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act—again, it is hard to say that name with a straight face when they are defining strategic and critical minerals in such a broad way that it involves basically the dirt under our feet, the sand under our feet, the gravel in our drive. When you define something like that and try to mean everything, you wind up meaning nothing.

Rather than actually doing something to protect minerals that are critical for our defense, for our economy, this bill waters that down by expanding this access to sand and dirt and gravel, maximizing mining companies' profits at the expense of our health, our water, our land, and our natural resources.

Furthermore, the underlying bill would damage our economy by placing the use of the mining industry above the many other important economic uses of our public lands. I will give you some examples. How about hunting? angling? hiking? biking? These are the economic drivers in my district, Mr. Speaker.

If we didn't have an environmental review process and large gravel pits and silver mines were put in place with wild abandon, we would lose jobs. We would lose most jobs in Eagle and Summit Counties which relate to the tourism industry. The beautiful, pristine, outdoor public lands that attract visitors from across the country—probably from your district, Mr. Speaker—Vail, Breckenridge, Winter Park, and Rocky Mountain National Park, we would love to have you; but you better come quickly before this bill becomes law, because there won't be much to see if it does.

When visiting my constituents in Colorado this summer, expanding mining access was not one of the issues that they brought up. In fact, they asked me to ensure that mining companies are held accountable to greater levels of accountability and transparency. They asked me to develop environmental safeguards to make sure that disasters and tragedies don't occur and that abandoned mines are cleaned up and that our extraction industry can be done in a thoughtful way, and to make sure it doesn't destroy jobs by conflicting with other

higher and better economic uses of some parcels of public land.

Look, Members on both sides of the aisle support the development of rare earth and critical mineral policy. There is no disagreement about that. I would be happy to work with my colleague, Mr. Speaker, from Washington State and others on putting together a commonsense bill that defines rare earth and critical minerals in a commonsense way. Not the dirt beneath our feet, not the sand in my kid's sandbox, but in a commonsense way where we look at the needs of industry, our supply, we define it, and we come up with a targeted access plan, including access to our public lands in appropriate ways, that is expedited for national priority items. That is not what this bill does.

We could work together, Mr. Speaker. And this body needs to work together, not just on this bill, but to avoid defaulting on our national debt, to continue to fund our highways and infrastructure, in fact, to keep government open. We might only have 11 legislative days to try to keep government open.

By the way, I think that is 30-some actual days for most Americans, Mr. Speaker. As we talked about, you won't be here, Mr. Speaker. If there is a way that I can be here and advance an agenda of keeping government open, I would be happy to, but I am afraid it requires a Speaker to gavel us in.

Now, there are bills that seek to balance the challenges of mining with its impact on surrounding communities, but, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues weren't interested in discussing those. Instead we are discussing a recycled bill for the fourth time that would eliminate environmental review, allow for the unfettered mining of public lands, define critical minerals in such a way that it means the dirt between your toes and the sand in your kid's sandbox. It would likely not be brought up by the Senate and dead on arrival at the President's desk.

This is a job-destroying bill that the American people are not even asking Congress to take up. It takes a simple concept—preserving access to critical resources, which would have strong bipartisan support—and contorts it into a divisive job-destroying, health-destroying, commonsense-defying issue that doesn't appear anywhere on the priority list of struggling families across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" and defeat the previous question and to vote "no" on the rule.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 481 is a fair rule allowing for balanced, deliberative, and open debate, just as my colleague is asking, as well as numerous amendment opportunities from both parties.

It provides for the consideration of a bill that is critical to the economic

well-being of mining communities across the country, which are reeling from the continual impacts of Federal regulation and the bureaucratic permitting process we have in place.

This regulatory environment has led to lost jobs and wages in the mining industry, ultimately hurting the middle class families that many of these rules and regulations claim they are intended to protect.

H.R. 1937 streamlines our country's mine permitting process by removing unnecessary and onerous hurdles, which can lead to decades-long delays for mining activities and projects. The current Federal permitting system for the extraction of rare earth minerals is outdated, unproductive, and often impedes our ability to extract these critical minerals.

You know, our country is blessed with a myriad of rare earth minerals, but this Federal red tape has had a devastating impact on the mining communities in our country whose livelihoods depend on the ability to obtain and develop these resources.

We must stop punishing middle class Americans with these heavyhanded and poorly considered regulations that more often than not have unintended consequences and serious negative economic impacts.

Mr. Speaker, already many countries around the world are looking to improve their infrastructure, which provides the U.S. with the unique opportunity to tap into this growing global market. Due to strong international demand for rare earth minerals, allowing for greater development of domestic resources also creates a unique opportunity to further American trade relationships and decrease our trade deficit.

Additionally, by increasing the available supply of these rare earth minerals, manufacturing companies will be able to more efficiently produce their products, which could reduce consumer costs and open the door to greater innovation. Further, our outdated permitting system negatively impacts investment in our economy that hinders our ability to take on this expanded role in the global marketplace for these mineral resources.

The Federal Government should be promoting investment in the U.S. by creating a regulatory framework that encourages the safe development of domestic resources. If we want to address the growing minerals trade imbalance, as we see more and more U.S. mining jobs moving overseas and higher energy and commodity prices here at home, then we must fix these delays which are at the root of the problem.

Mr. Speaker, this rule allows for consideration of an important piece of legislation that will address the burdensome permitting and regulatory hurdles that are harmful to this vital industry. Yet, while this legislation allows for greater utilization of domestic resources, it also maintains important environmental safeguards designed to

ensure the health of our constituents and ecosystems, striking an important balance that has been absent far too long.

While my colleague from Colorado and I may have a few differences of opinion, I firmly believe this rule and the underlying bill are strong measures that are critically important to our country's future, both for my State as well as his and many, many others in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I support the rule's adoption, and I urge my colleague to support House Resolution 481, and the underlying bill.

The material previously referred to by Mr. POLIS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 481 OFFERED BY  
MR. POLIS OF COLORADO

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

SEC. 2. 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. 1814) to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund. 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 Natural Resources. 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. 3. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 1814.

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 offered 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.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. 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.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on H. Res. 480;

Adoption of H. Res. 480, if ordered;  
Ordering the previous question on H. Res. 481; and

Adoption of H. Res. 481, if ordered.  
The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

**PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 10, SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OPPORTUNITY AND RESULTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 692, DEFAULT PREVENTION ACT**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 480) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 10) to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 692) to ensure the payment of interest and principal of the debt of the United States, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 241, nays 181, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 553]

**YEAS—241**

Abraham DeSantis Huizenga (MI)  
Aderholt DesJarlais Hultgren  
Allen Diaz-Balart Hunter  
Amash Dold Hurd (TX)  
Amodoi Donovan Hurt (VA)  
Babin Duffy Issa  
Barletta Duncan (SC) Jenkins (KS)  
Barr Duncan (TN) Jenkins (WV)  
Barton Ellmers (NC) Johnson (OH)  
Benishek Emmer (MN) Johnson, Sam  
Bilirakis Farenthold Jolly  
Bishop (MI) Fincher Jones  
Bishop (UT) Fitzpatrick Jordan  
Black Fleischmann Joyce  
Blackburn Fleming Katko  
Blum Flores Kelly (MS)  
Bost Forbes Kelly (PA)  
Boustany Fortenberry King (IA)  
Brady (TX) Foxx King (NY)  
Bridenstine Franks (AZ) Kinzinger (IL)  
Brooks (AL) Frelinghuysen Kline  
Brooks (IN) Garrett Knight  
Buchanan Gibbons Labrador  
Bucshon Gibson LaHood  
Burgess Gohmert LaMalfa  
Byrne Gosar Lamborn  
Calvert Granger Lance  
Carter (GA) Graves (GA) Latta  
Carter (TX) Graves (LA) LoBiondo  
Chabot Graves (MO) Love  
Chaffetz Griffith Lucas  
Clawson (FL) Grothman Luetkemeyer  
Coffman Guinta Lummis  
Cole Guthrie MacArthur  
Collins (GA) Hanna Marchant  
Collins (NY) Hardy Marino  
Conaway Harper Massie  
Cook Harris McCarthy  
Costello (PA) Hartzler McCaul  
Cramer Heck (NV) McClintock  
Crawford Hensarling McHenry  
Crenshaw Herrera Beutler McKinley  
Culberson Hice, Jody B. McMorris  
Curbelo (FL) Hill Rodgers  
Davis, Rodney Holding McSally  
Denham Hudson Meadows  
Dent Huelskamp Meehan

Messer Rigell Stutzman  
Mica Roby Thompson (PA)  
Miller (FL) Roe (TN) Thornberry  
Miller (MI) Rogers (AL) Tiberi  
Moolenaar Rogers (KY) Tipton  
Mooney (WV) Rohrabacher Trott  
Mullin Rokita Turner  
Mulvaney Rooney (FL) Upton  
Murphy (PA) Ros-Lehtinen Valadao  
Neugebauer Roskam Wagner  
Newhouse Ross Walberg  
Noem Rothfus Walden  
Nugent Rouzer Walker  
Nunes Royce Walorski  
Olson Russell Walters, Mimi  
Palazzo Ryan (WI) Weber (TX)  
Palmer Salmon Webster (FL)  
Paulsen Sanford Wenstrup  
Pearce Scalise Westerman  
Perry Schweikert Westmoreland  
Pittenger Scott, Austin Whitfield  
Pitts Sensenbrenner Williams  
Poe (TX) Sessions Wilson (SC)  
Poliquin Shimkus Wittman  
Pompeo Shuster Womack  
Posey Simpson Woodall  
Price, Tom Smith (MO) Yoder  
Ratcliffe Smith (NE) Yoho  
Reed Smith (NJ) Young (AK)  
Reichert Smith (TX) Young (IA)  
Renacci Stefanik Zeldin  
Ribble Stewart  
Rice (SC) Stivers

**NAYS—181**

Adams Frankel (FL)  
Aguilar Fudge  
Ashford Gabbard  
Bass Gallego  
Beatty Garamendi  
Becerra Graham  
Bera Green, Al  
Beyer Green, Gene  
Bishop (GA) Grijalva  
Blumenauer Gutiérrez  
Bonamici Hahn  
Boyle, Brendan Hastings  
F. Heck (WA)  
Brady (PA) Higgins  
Brown (FL) Himes  
Brownley (CA) Hinojosa  
Bustos Honda  
Butterfield Hoyer  
Capps Huffman  
Capuano Israel  
Cárdenas Jackson Lee  
Carney Jeffries  
Carson (IN) Johnson (GA)  
Cartwright Johnson, E. B.  
Castor (FL) Kaptur  
Castro (TX) Keating  
Chu, Judy Kennedy  
Cicilline Kildeer  
Clark (MA) Kilmer  
Clarke (NY) Kind  
Clay Kirkpatrick  
Cleaver Kuster  
Cohen Langevin  
Connolly Larsen (WA)  
Conyers Lawrence  
Cooper Lee  
Costa Levin  
Courtney Lewis  
Crowley Lieu, Ted  
Cuellar Lipinski  
Cummings Loeb sack  
Davis (CA) Lofgren  
Davis, Danny Lowenthal  
DeFazio Lowey  
DeGette Lujan Grisham  
Delaney (NM)  
DeLauro Lujan, Ben Ray  
DeBene (NM)  
DeSaulnier Lynch  
Deutch Maloney  
Dingell Carolyn  
Doggett Maloney, Sean  
Doyle, Michael Matsui  
F. McCollum  
Duckworth McDermott  
Edwards McGovern  
Ellison McNeerney  
Engel Meeks  
Eshoo Meng  
Esty Moore  
Farr Moulton  
Fattah Murphy (FL)  
Foster Nadler

Thompson (PA) Buck  
Thornberry Kelly (IL)  
Tiberi Larson (CT)  
Tipton Loudermilk  
Trott Young (IN)

**NOT VOTING—12**

Grayson Payne  
Rice (NY)  
Larson (CT) Wilson (FL)  
Loudermilk Young (IN)

□ 1422

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ changed her vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. COFFMAN 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. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on October 21, 2015—I was not present for rollcall vote 553. If I had been present for this vote, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall vote 553.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). The question is on the resolution.

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

**RECORDED VOTE**

Mr. HASTINGS. 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—aye 245, noes 182, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 554]

**AYES—245**

Abraham Diaz-Balart Jenkins (KS)  
Aderholt Dold Jenkins (WV)  
Allen Donovan Johnson (OH)  
Amash Duffy Johnson, Sam  
Amodoi Duncan (SC) Jolly  
Babin Duncan (TN) Jones  
Barletta Ellmers (NC) Jordan  
Barr Emmer (MN) Joyce  
Barton Farenthold Katko  
Benishek Fincher Kelly (MS)  
Bilirakis Fitzpatrick Kelly (PA)  
Bishop (MI) Bishop (MI) Fleischmann  
Bishop (UT) Bishop (UT) Fleming King (IA)  
Black Black King (NY)  
Blackburn Forbes Kinzinger (IL)  
Blum Fortenberry Kline  
Bost Foxx Knight  
Boustany Franks (AZ) Labrador  
Brady (TX) Frelinghuysen LaHood  
Bridenstine Garrett Lamborn  
Brooks (AL) Gibbons Lance  
Brooks (IN) Gibbons Latta  
Buchanan Gohmert LoBiondo  
Bucshon Goodlatte Long  
Burgess Gosar Loudermilk  
Byrne Granger Love  
Calvert Burgess Lucas  
Carter (GA) Byrnes Luetkemeyer  
Carter (TX) Calvert Graves (MO)  
Chabot Carter (GA) Griffith MacArthur  
Chaffetz Carter (TX) Grothman Marchant  
Clawson (FL) Chabot Guinta Marino  
Coffman Chaffetz Guthrie Massie  
Cole Clawson (FL) Hanna McCarthy  
Collins (GA) Coffman Hardy McCaul  
Collins (NY) Cole Harper McClintock  
Conaway Harris McHenry  
Cook Hartzler McKinley  
Costello (PA) Comstock Heck (NV) McMorris  
Cramer Hensarling Rodgers  
Crawford Hensarling Herrera Beutler  
Crenshaw Herrera Beutler McSally  
Culberson Hice, Jody B. Meadows  
Curbelo (FL) Hill Meehan  
Davis, Rodney Holding Messer  
Denham Hudson Mica  
Dent Huelskamp Miller (FL)  
DeSantis Huelskamp Miller (MI)  
DesJarlais Issa Mulvaney  
Issa Murphy (PA)

Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nugent  
Nunes  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Paulsen  
Pearce  
Perry  
Pittenger  
Pitts  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price, Tom  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Ribble  
Rice (SC)  
Rigell  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher

NOES—182

Adams  
Aguilar  
Ashford  
Bass  
Beatty  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan F.  
Brady (PA)  
Brown (FL)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cárdenas  
Carney  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Clever  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Courtney  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael F.  
Duckworth  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Esty  
Farr  
Fattah  
Foster  
Frankel (FL)

Rokita  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Royce  
Russell  
Ryan (WI)  
Salmon  
Sanford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Stefanik  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Stutzman  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry

Tiberi  
Tipton  
Trott  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

Becerra  
Clyburn  
Gowdy

NOT VOTING—7  
Grayson  
Kelly (IL)  
Payne

Pelosi

Massie  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McSally  
Meadows  
Meehan  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Mullin  
Mulvaney  
Murphy (PA)  
Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nugent  
Nunes  
Olson  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Paulsen  
Pearce  
Perry  
Pittenger  
Pitts  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin  
Pompeo  
Posey

Price, Tom  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Ribble  
Rice (SC)  
Rigell  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Royce  
Russell  
Ryan (WI)  
Salmon  
Sanford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)

Stefanik  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Stutzman  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tipton  
Trott  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Weber (TX)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

NAYS—184

Adams  
Aguilar  
Ashford  
Bass  
Beatty  
Becerra  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan F.  
Brady (PA)  
Brown (FL)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cárdenas  
Carney  
Cartwright  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Clever  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Courtney  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael F.  
Duckworth  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Esty  
Farr

Fattah  
Foster  
Frankel (FL)  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Graham  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Gutiérrez  
Hahn  
Hastings  
Heck (WA)  
Higgins  
Himes  
Hinojosa  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Huffman  
Israel  
Jackson Lee  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Kuster  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loeback  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowey  
Lujan Grisham (NM)  
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)  
Lynch  
Maloney, Carolyn  
Maloney, Sean  
Matsui  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Moore  
Moulton  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler

McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Moore  
Moulton  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Nolan  
Norcross  
O'Rourke  
Pallone  
Pascrell  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Polis  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Sanchez, Linda T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schradler  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Sherman  
Sinema  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Smith (WA)  
Speier  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Tsongas  
Van Hollen  
Vargas  
Veasey

□ 1430  
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.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1937, NATIONAL STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS PRODUCTION ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 481) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1937) to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to more efficiently develop domestic sources of the minerals and mineral materials of strategic and critical importance to United States economic and national security and manufacturing competitiveness, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 243, nays 184, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 555]  
YEAS—243

Abraham  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Amash  
Amodei  
Babin  
Barletta  
Barr  
Barton  
Benishek  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (MI)  
Black  
Blackburn  
Blum  
Bost  
Boustany  
Brady (TX)  
Brat  
Bridenstine  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Buchanan  
Bucshon  
Burgess  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Chabot  
Chaffetz  
Clawson (FL)  
Coffman  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)  
Walz  
Comstock  
Conaway  
Cook  
Costello (PA)  
Cramer  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Culberson

Curbelo (FL)  
Davis, Rodney  
Denham  
Dent  
DeSantis  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Dold  
Donovan  
Duffy  
Duncan (SC)  
Duncan (TN)  
Ellmers (NC)  
Emmer (MN)  
Farenthold  
Fincher  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fleming  
Flores  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Foxx  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Garrett  
Gibbs  
Gibson  
Gohmert  
Goodlatte  
Gosar  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guinta  
Guthrie  
Hanna  
Hardy  
Harper  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Heck (NV)

Hensarling  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice, Jody B.  
Hill  
Holding  
Hudson  
Huelskamp  
Huizenga (MI)  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Hurt (VA)  
Issa  
Jenkins (KS)  
Jenkins (WV)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jolly  
Jones  
Jordan  
Joyce  
Katko  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger (IL)  
Kline  
Knight  
Labrador  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Latta  
LoBiondo  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lummis  
MacArthur  
Marchant  
Marino

Adams  
Aguilar  
Ashford  
Bass  
Beatty  
Becerra  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan F.  
Brady (PA)  
Brown (FL)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cárdenas  
Carney  
Cartwright  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Clever  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Courtney  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael F.  
Duckworth  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Esty  
Farr

Fattah  
Foster  
Frankel (FL)  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Graham  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Gutiérrez  
Hahn  
Hastings  
Higgins  
Himes  
Hinojosa  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Huffman  
Israel  
Jackson Lee  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Kuster  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loeback  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowey  
Lujan Grisham (NM)  
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)  
Lynch  
Maloney, Carolyn  
Maloney, Sean  
Matsui  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern

McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Moore  
Moulton  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Nolan  
Norcross  
O'Rourke  
Pallone  
Pascrell  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Polis  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Sanchez, Linda T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schradler  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Sherman  
Sinema  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Smith (WA)  
Speier  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Tsongas  
Van Hollen  
Vargas  
Veasey

Vela Wasserman Welch  
 Velázquez Schultz Wilson (FL)  
 Visclosky Waters, Maxine Yarmuth  
 Walz Watson Coleman

NOT VOTING—7

Bishop (UT) Gowdy Webster (FL)  
 Clyburn Kelly (IL)  
 DeFazio Payne

□ 1437

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 244, noes 185, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 556]

AYES—244

Abraham Fitzpatrick Latta  
 Aderholt Fleischmann LoBiondo  
 Allen Fleming Long  
 Amash Flores Loudermilk  
 Amodei Forbes Love  
 Babin Fortenberry Lucas  
 Barletta Fox Luetkemeyer  
 Barr Franks (AZ) Lummis  
 Barton Frelinghuysen MacArthur  
 Benishek Garrett Marchant  
 Bilirakis Gibbs Marino  
 Bishop (MI) Gibson Massie  
 Bishop (UT) Gohmert McCarthy  
 Black Goodlatte McCaul  
 Blackburn Gosar McClintock  
 Blum Granger McHenry  
 Bost Graves (GA) McKinley  
 Boustany Graves (LA) McMorris  
 Brady (TX) Graves (MO) Rodgers  
 Brat Griffith McSally  
 Bridenstine Grothman Meadows  
 Brooks (AL) Guinta Meehan  
 Brooks (IN) Guthrie Messer  
 Buchanan Hanna Mica  
 Buck Hardy Miller (FL)  
 Bucshon Harper Miller (MI)  
 Burgess Harris Moolenaar  
 Byrne Hartzler Mooney (WV)  
 Calvert Heck (NV) Mullin  
 Carter (GA) Hensarling Mulvaney  
 Carter (TX) Herrera Beutler Murphy (PA)  
 Chabot Hice, Jody B. Neugebauer  
 Chaffetz Hill Newhouse  
 Clawson (FL) Holding Noem  
 Coffman Hudson Nugent  
 Cole Huelskamp Nunes  
 Collins (GA) Huizenga (MI) Olson  
 Collins (NY) Hultgren Palazzo  
 Comstock Hunter Palmer  
 Conaway Hurd (TX) Paulsen  
 Cook Hurt (VA) Pearce  
 Costello (PA) Issa Perry  
 Cramer Jenkins (KS) Pittenger  
 Crawford Jenkins (WV) Pitts  
 Crenshaw Johnson, Sam Poe (TX)  
 Culbertson Jolly Poliquin  
 Curbelo (FL) Jones Pompeo  
 Davis, Rodney Jordan Posey  
 Denham Joyce Price, Tom  
 Dent Katko Ratcliffe  
 DeSantis Kelly (MS) Reed  
 DesJarlais Kelly (PA) Reichert  
 Diaz-Balart King (IA) Renacci  
 Dold King (NY) Ribble  
 Donovan Kinzinger (IL) Rice (SC)  
 Duffy Kline Rigell  
 Duncan (SC) Knight Roby  
 Duncan (TN) Labrador Roe (TN)  
 Ellmers (NC) LaHood Rogers (AL)  
 Emmer (MN) LaMalfa Rogers (KY)  
 Farenthold Lamborn Rohrabacher  
 Fincher Lance Rokita

Rooney (FL) Smith (NE)  
 Ros-Lehtinen Smith (NJ)  
 Roskam Smith (TX)  
 Ross Stefanik  
 Rothfus Stewart  
 Rouzer Stivers  
 Royce Stutzman  
 Russell Thompson (PA)  
 Ryan (WI) Thornberry  
 Salmon Tiberi  
 Sanford Tipton  
 Scalise Trott  
 Schweikert Turner  
 Scott, Austin Upton  
 Sensenbrenner Valadao  
 Sessions Wagner  
 Shimkus Walberg  
 Shuster Walden  
 Simpson Walker  
 Smith (MO) Walorski

NOES—185

Adams Fudge Napolitano  
 Aguilar Gabbard Neal  
 Ashford Gallego Nolan  
 Bass Garamendi Norcross  
 Beatty Graham O'Rourke  
 Becerra Grayson Pallone  
 Bera Green, Al Pascrell  
 Beyer Green, Gene Pelosi  
 Bishop (GA) Grijalva Perlmutter  
 Blumenauer Gutiérrez Peters  
 Bonamici Hahn Peterson  
 Boyle, Brendan Hastings Pingree  
 F. Heck (WA) Pocan  
 Brady (PA) Higgins Polis  
 Brown (FL) Himes Price (NC)  
 Brownley (CA) Hinojosa Quigley  
 Bustos Honda Rangel  
 Butterfield Hoyer Rice (NY)  
 Capps Huffman Richmond  
 Capuano Israel Roybal-Allard  
 Cárdenas Jackson Lee Ruiz  
 Carney Jeffries Ruppertsberger  
 Carson (IN) Johnson (GA) Rush  
 Cartwright Johnson, E. B. Ryan (OH)  
 Castor (FL) Kaptur Sánchez, Linda  
 Castro (TX) Keating Kennedy T.  
 Chu, Judy Kennedy Sanchez, Loretta  
 Cicilline Kildee Sarbanes  
 Clark (MA) Kilmer Schakowsky  
 Clarke (NY) Kind Schiff  
 Clay Kirkpatrick Schrader  
 Cleaver Kuster Scott (VA)  
 Cohen Langevin Scott, David  
 Connolly Larsen (WA) Serrano  
 Conyers Larson (CT) Sewell (AL)  
 Cooper Sherman  
 Costa Lee Sinema  
 Courtney Lewis Sires  
 Crowley Lieu, Ted Slaughter  
 Cuellar Lipinski Smith (WA)  
 Cummings Speier  
 Davis (CA) Loebsack Swalwell (CA)  
 Davis, Danny Lofgren Takai  
 DeFazio Lowenthal Takano  
 DeGette Lowey Thompson (CA)  
 Delaney Lujan Grisham Thompson (MS)  
 DeLauro (NM) Titus  
 DeLujan, Ben Ray Tonko  
 DeSaulnier (NM) Torres  
 Dingell Lynch Tsongas  
 Doggett Maloney, Van Hollen  
 Doyle, Michael Carolyn Vargas  
 F. Maloney, Sean Veasey  
 Duckworth Matsui Vela  
 Edwards McCollum Velázquez  
 Ellison McDermott Visclosky  
 Engel McGovern Walz  
 Eshoo McNerney Wasserman  
 Esty Meeks Schultz  
 Farr Meng Waters, Maxine  
 Fattah Moore Watson Coleman  
 Foster Moulton Welch  
 Frankel (FL) Murphy (FL) Wilson (FL)  
 Nadler Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—5

Clyburn Johnson (OH) Payne  
 Gowdy Kelly (IL)

□ 1445

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.

PERMISSION TO POSTPONE PROCEEDINGS ON MOTION TO RECOMMIT ON H.R. 10, SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OPPORTUNITY AND RESULTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT, OR H.R. 692, DEFAULT PREVENTION ACT

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the question of adopting a motion to recommit on H.R. 10 or H.R. 692 may be subject to postponement as though under clause 8 of rule XX.

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

There was no objection.

DEFAULT PREVENTION ACT

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 480, I call up the bill (H.R. 692) to ensure the payment of interest and principal of the debt of the United States, 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 480, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 692

*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 “Default Prevention Act”.

SEC. 2. PAYMENT OF PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON PUBLIC DEBT AND SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUNDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the event that the debt of the United States Government, as defined in section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, reaches the statutory limit, the Secretary of the Treasury shall, in addition to any other authority provided by law, issue obligations under chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code, to pay with legal tender, and solely for the purpose of paying, the principal and interest on obligations of the United States described in subsection (b) after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) OBLIGATIONS DESCRIBED.—For purposes of this subsection, obligations described in this subsection are obligations which are—

- (1) held by the public, or
- (2) held by the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

(c) PROHIBITION ON COMPENSATION FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—None of the obligations issued under subsection (a) may be used to pay compensation for Members of Congress.

(d) OBLIGATIONS EXEMPT FROM PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT.—Obligations issued under subsection (a) shall not be taken into account in applying the limitation in section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, to the extent that such obligation would otherwise cause the limitation in section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, to be exceeded.

(e) REPORT ON CERTAIN ACTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If, after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury exercises his authority under subsection (a), the Secretary shall thereafter submit a report each week the authority is in use providing an accounting relating to—

(A) the principal on mature obligations and interest that is due or accrued of the United States, and

(B) any obligations issued pursuant to subsection (a).

(2) SUBMISSION.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 692, the Default Prevention Act, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, if you want to guarantee that the United States will never default, then you should vote for this bill. If you want to protect working families from the consequences of default, then you should vote for this bill. If you want to make sure that seniors get every dime of their Social Security, then vote for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, this bill does not raise the debt limit, but it eliminates the threat of default. The full faith and credit of our country is too important to put at risk. What this bill says is very simple. It says that we will never fail to pay our debts. That is just it. That is all it does. It is just paying our debts.

We know the consequences of default. We know it would shake the world's confidence in us. We know that it could freeze up credit across this country. That is why with this bill, we are taking default off the table. It is common sense.

I want to thank Mr. McCLINTOCK for developing this legislation, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield the remainder of my time to the gentleman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) and ask unanimous consent that she be able to control the time from here on.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, let me just say at the beginning what needs to be said at the end. This doesn't take default off the table. This is an effort to obscure the reality. It does not take default off in any meaningful way.

Default by any other name is default, and essentially what this bill does is to address part of the problem but leave the rest of it very much outstanding and very much there. This bill plays

with fire. This bill essentially—essentially—attacks the credit of the United States of America.

The Republicans are at it once again. In 2011, they played with it, they played with fire, and America was burned. The stock market plunged. The S&P downgraded for the first time in history the credit of this country. It lowered private pension balances. It essentially increased the cost of mortgages for people in this country. That wasn't enough. That in 2013 the Republicans played with fire and shut down the government. We lost 120,000 jobs. We slowed GDP growth, and there was an increase of \$70 million in terms of the cost of financing debt.

So what is this really all about? What it is about is paying China and other foreign governments first and essentially putting at risk millions of Americans. So I just want to refer to who is at risk here. Who would be subject to default?

Payments and benefits to 1.4 million Active-Duty troops, their pay is at risk; benefits to almost 4 million disabled veterans; payment for health care for 5.9 million veterans; education assistance for over 1 million; and loan support for homes for over 500,000 or 600,000 veterans. And then payments to small businesses would be put at risk, payments to physicians under Medicare, payments to 30 million-plus kids in terms of their meals, and payments to hundreds of thousands of grantees of NIH.

So, Mr. Speaker, that is really what this is all about. Nine percent of the expenditures of this country are going to be safeguarded, mostly for foreign investors, and 30 percent in terms of Social Security payments. That means 60 percent would be at risk, 60 percent of the 80 to 100 million payments each month.

So, essentially, what the Republicans are doing is creating, here, a camouflage. But the problem with it is that it is so transparent. It might be as a purpose to try to find a few more votes on the Republican side, but when the camouflage is so obvious, I don't think it will work.

The administration has stated its position. That position is very clear, and I want to read from this Statement of Administration Policy. I quote the last paragraph:

The President will not tolerate political gamesmanship, which caused the Nation's credit rating to be downgraded in 2011 and proved harmful to both the United States and the global economy. For this reason, if the President is presented with legislation that would result in the Congress' choosing to default on our obligations and imperil the full faith and credit of the United States, he would veto it.

So this bill cannot become law. So why do it? Why not simply face up to the need to address the full faith and credit of the United States? I think the answer is this isn't policy, this is a ploy, and ploys should not be used putting at risk the full faith and credit of the United States and payments at risk

for millions and millions of Americans. That is really what this is all about.

This is irresponsible. This is indefensible. The only possible reason for passing a bill that can't go anywhere is maybe to pick up a few votes here. That is irresponsible in terms of the full faith and credit of this beloved country of ours.

So, Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge strong opposition to this. When this came up once before, I think every Democrat voted "no"—every Democrat. So we are supposed to be kind of in a new era talking about bipartisanship. We are supposed to be, once again, thinking maybe we can act together. Instead, what we have here is a bill by Republicans essentially acting alone. It is a serious mistake.

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

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. McCLINTOCK), the author of the legislation.

Mr. McCLINTOCK. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, this bill simply guarantees that the sovereign debt of the United States will be paid in full and on time—period. How could that possibly be controversial? Yet in today's political environment, it is.

The sovereign debt of the United States is what makes it possible for us to pay all of our other obligations in this era of chronic deficit spending that we are now in. This bill provides an absolute guarantee of that credit.

Although the Constitution explicitly commands that the public debt of the United States is not to be questioned, it provides no practical mechanism to achieve this aim. This bill provides that mechanism. It says that, whenever we reach the debt limit, the Treasury Secretary can continue to borrow to pay interest and principal on the debt.

It amazes me that many of our friends on the other side of the aisle support loan guarantees to foreign corporations and to special interest groups, but they are unwilling to guarantee the loans to our own government.

Mr. Speaker, the national debt is now larger than the entire economy. It has doubled in the last decade. The interest on that debt is the fastest growing component of the Federal budget. It threatens to exceed our entire defense budget in just 8 years.

If there is ever any doubt over the security and reliability of the debt owed by this government, the rates we pay to service our debt would quickly rise and sink our country in a tidal wave of red ink.

Now, this is not a substitute for raising the debt limit. We all recognize that in this era of chronic deficit spending under this administration that is going to have to happen. We have a responsibility to raise the debt limit, but we also have a responsibility

to review the policies that are driving that debt.

□ 1500

The Default Prevention Act says loudly and clearly to the world that, no matter how much we may differ and quarrel here in Washington, the sovereign debt of this Nation is guaranteed and that their loans to it are absolutely safe.

We hear the charge that this would pay debts owed to foreign governments before paying our own troops. Actually, more than half of our debt is held by Americans, often in American pension funds. China holds just 7 percent. But whether our loans come from China or from Charleston, without the Nation's credit, we cannot pay our troops or meet all of our other obligations.

Opponents charge that this is an excuse not to pay our other debts. Well, what nonsense. This maintains the credit that is necessary to pay our other debts.

Most States guarantee that their sovereign debt will be secure and they have done so for generations. Do our friends actually suggest that any of these States has ever used these guarantees as an excuse not to pay their other bills? On the contrary, by protecting their credit first, they actually support and maintain their ability to pay for all of their other obligations.

The President contends that this is tantamount to a family saying it would make its house payment, but not its car payment. I sure hope he is getting better economic advice than that.

But let's continue the analogy. If the family is living on its credit cards, as we are as a Nation, it had better make the minimum payment on its credit card first or it won't be able to pay all the rest of its bills.

And when that family has to increase its credit limit because it is not spending within its means, it had better have a serious conversation about what is driving its debt and what to do about it.

Principled disputes over how the debt limit is addressed are going to happen from time to time. Just a few years ago then-Senator Barack Obama vigorously opposed an increase in the debt limit sought by the Bush administration.

When these controversies erupt, as they inevitably do in a free society, it is imperative that credit markets are supremely confident that their loans to the United States are secure.

Providing such a guarantee would prevent a future debt crisis and give Congress the calm it needs to negotiate the changes that must be made to bring our debt under control as we authorize still more debt.

The voices in opposition to this bill are the same voices that have cheered the most profligate spending and borrowing binge in the history of this Nation. It is time that we managed our affairs responsibly, and guaranteeing our debt is an important step in doing so.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

The gentleman says we are going to raise the debt limit. Raise it. Get a bill here that raises it. And then this political game will be totally unnecessary. Raise it. Where is the bill?

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL).

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

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, my colleagues, the last few days in New York people have been asking me: Do you really think PAUL RYAN is going to become Speaker of the House? I said: No. They said: Why? Don't you believe he is intelligent, smart, dedicated? I said: That is just the problem. I can't find anyone that I know and like that is more conservative than PAUL RYAN. PAUL RYAN, if he were to become Speaker, would be saying to the Republicans: I cannot accept this responsibility unless you respect the integrity of the United States of America. They said: Well, Charlie, what does that mean? I said: Well, PAUL RYAN wouldn't allow us to go into default. PAUL RYAN would support increasing the debt ceiling. PAUL RYAN would recognize that we need our infrastructure, we need our jobs, we need education. They said: Well, what is the difference with that? I said: If PAUL RYAN were to get these type of commitments from the Republican Party, Speaker BOEHNER never would have left, MCCARTHY never would have left.

So what are we going through today? Well, PAUL RYAN knows that this is not going to become law. Why? Because it doesn't make any sense.

It is almost like if you were in a corporation—since we are using analogies—and they say: We promise you you are not going to go bankrupt. You say: Well, how are you going to do that, since the only people that you have to pay are those you borrowed money from? Well, what about the cost of manufacturers? What about the salaries of the workers? What about the health benefits? What about the other things that make America great? Well, we didn't say that we are going to protect you for that. But just for the principal and the interest that you have to pay, you protect it.

This doesn't make any sense at all. But since it is going to be vetoed, this must mean something to those people that, when you say government, they get angry, when you say Obama, they see red, when you find cooperation with Democrats, they say that you are not faithful to the Republic.

So I don't know who these people are. We don't see them. They don't talk this way. But someone that can believe that just paying off debt, foreign and domestic, and not taking care of our veterans, not taking care of our military, not taking care of our health concern—if you really think that these things are just going to be forgotten, these are not the principles that PAUL RYAN believes in.

So, if this passes, if it is vetoed, can't we try to believe that, if you really want to have a Republican Speaker, take this garbage off the table, say you are going to cooperate for our country? This is more important than Republicans and Democrats.

We are talking about the prestige, the full faith and credit of the United States of America. People don't ask whether you are Republican or Democrat. They just want to know are you going to pay your debts.

I thank you for this opportunity.

And, PAUL, if they don't want you as Speaker, we will keep you as our chairman.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROKITA).

Mr. ROKITA. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman.

I rise today in simple, but strong, support for H.R. 692, the Default Prevention Act.

This commonsense bill makes clear that the United States and those who vote on the floor of this Chamber prioritize our debt and our Social Security payments over our reckless government and otherwise irresponsible spending.

With this bill, we take the hysteria out of our spending debate and codify the integrity of our Nation's full faith and credit. And I would say, Madam Speaker, that those that appear to oppose this bill really and truly at the end of the day need the hysteria that surrounds this issue to not go away simply so political points around this issue can continue to be made.

Now, here is a real scary point, not political at all. Today, as we stand here, our national debt stands in excess of \$18 trillion. Yet, according to the Congressional Budget Office, government revenues were \$3.25 trillion for fiscal year 2015 alone.

With \$3.25 trillion revenue coming in, ladies and gentlemen, we do not have a revenue problem. But with \$18 trillion in debt, we certainly have a spending problem. We must get to the root of it, and this bill is a responsible step forward.

It is a responsible step forward because it truly takes the politics of this debt and this hysteria off the table so that we can see as American people and as a Congress so that we can be exposed to the problems so that we can face it and, ultimately, so that we can solve it.

That is what we came to Washington to do. I think a little bit all of us did. For me, it is the majority of why I came to Washington, so that our tough decisions can be faced, met, resolved, and we can ultimately reduce this debt so that our children and grandchildren in the here and now and yet to come don't have to be the first and second generations in American history that are left worse off.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, it is now my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to

the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), our Whip.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I have been here for some period of time, and I have heard a lot about caucuses. But I would like to see us do what the gentleman from Indiana says, although I disagree with him on his conclusion.

I would like to see the formation of a responsibility caucus, a caucus that is honest with the American people, that doesn't pretend that this debt limit vote is a real vote.

It is a real vote when you cut revenues by hundreds of billions of dollars and don't pay for it. And if you think that that does not up the debt and somehow pays for it, you haven't been around for the last 35 years watching.

The responsibility caucus would say to the American people: If we bought it, we are going to pay for it. Whether it was Social Security, Medicare, an aircraft carrier, roads and bridges, whatever it was, we will pay for it.

But one of the first things our Republican friends did was they negated pay-for, and they certainly wouldn't have it apply to tax cuts. Almost every responsible economist I have talked with says there is no way you can do this without effectively having default.

Because if you prioritize debt, by definition, what you are saying is there are some debts we will not pay. As soon as you say that, you have defaulted. You may not default to a bond owner, but you have defaulted on an obligation of the most creditworthy nation on Earth, the United States of America.

This is a game. It is an irresponsible game. It is a game unworthy of responsible representatives. Of course we are going to pay our debts. We are America. When we say of course we are going to pay our debts, it means that we will pay our debts.

In order to do that, you need to put the debt limit. If you don't want the debt limit to go higher, stop buying things or pay for things or do both.

I urge my colleagues to reject this irresponsible charade that is a pretense of fiscal responsibility, not a reality. This is not worthy of this Congress or the American people. It is clear that this House has been a deeply divided House and a dysfunctional House for a number of months now, indeed, for a number of years.

I understand that there are some people who demand legislation like this that won't go anywhere and really won't do anything, and it will put the credit of the United States at further risk. Let us reject this charade.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I come today to the House as a supporter of the Default Prevention Act. Right now our Nation stands at over \$18 trillion in debt, a number simply too large to comprehend.

As the House, we have an obligation to the American people to rein in out-

of-control Federal spending and put our economy on a sustainable path forward.

However, while House Republicans will continue to act to reduce our national debt and restore fiscal responsibility to the Federal Government, we cannot put the full faith and credit of the United States Government at risk.

The Default Prevention Act ensures that we will continue to pay our existing debt obligations providing the economic security and certainty that our economy needs.

This legislation does not allow for an increase in the debt limit. It simply allows us to satisfy our existing debt obligations and avoid default, even if we reach the debt ceiling.

This bill also protects Social Security beneficiaries and Americans with disabilities by ensuring that their benefits will continue to be paid on time. Hardworking Americans deserve to have their benefits protected, and this bill does just that. This legislation is a commonsense measure that protects Americans' credit and integrity.

I urge all Members of the House to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA), our caucus chair.

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding.

1.4 million troops, 4 million disabled veterans, more than 30 million children who participate on a daily basis in school lunch programs, and small businesses all over the country are some of the Americans who will pay the price if Republicans refuse to authorize our government to pay all its bills.

□ 1515

There are only 8 legislative days left for Congress to avoid defaulting on paying America's financial bills. Yet, our House Republican colleagues show no signs of putting serious business first and trying to work with their Democratic colleagues to pay our Nation's bills on time and in full. This bill isn't a solution. It is a sham.

First, it instructs our government to pay foreign creditors ahead of paying our troops or paying our veterans, who have honorably served our country and have earned their benefits.

Second, our Republican colleagues propose under this bill to borrow new money to pay for previously borrowed money and to say that the previously borrowed money won't count on the books. Borrowing money off the books to cover debt sounds a lot like a Ponzi scheme.

This is simply default by another name, bringing our economy closer to the brink. Maybe some people in this Chamber have forgotten 2011. When the Republicans brought us to the brink of default in 2011, the stock market plunged and the S&P downgraded our credit rating for the first time in our Nation's history.

In 2013, our Republican colleagues proposed default threats, and the government shutdown that followed cost us 120,000 jobs and \$24 billion in slow GDP growth just as the economy was taking hold.

The Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary Lew, said in a letter last week: "There is no way to predict the irreparable damage that default would have on global financial markets and the American people."

Madam Speaker, you wouldn't constantly run your small business on the edge of default. So why would Republicans try to run the largest economy in the world this way?

We need to move forward. We have 8 days. Let us defeat this bill and get our real work done.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD).

Mr. SANFORD. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, my colleague from Maryland made the comment just a moment ago of the "responsibility caucus," that he would like to see more of that.

What I would submit to everybody in this Chamber is that, ultimately, what my colleague from California's bill is all about is, indeed, just that because, if you think about it, we really are living in an age of default.

Laurence Kotlikoff, from Boston University, has said that, in a thing called generational accounting, the imputed cost of governing—the imputed cost for a child born in America today in terms of future costs all in—is about 80 percent.

Eighty percent is not all that far from a thing called slavery if you have to be indentured to the Federal Government for the preponderance of your life and your life's work. What this is ultimately about is defusing that bomb.

Erskine Bowles was the former Chief of Staff to President Clinton. He ran a commission that looked at the way our Federal Government spent money. He said that what we have before us is the most predictable financial crisis in the history of man and that it is but 10 years off—roughly, 10 years off.

So, as we have a legitimate debate—and we will have a legitimate debate between Republicans and Democrats and Independents and all of us as Americans in where we go next—what this does is defuse that bomb of a train wreck with regard to international and national credit markets as we have that debate, and that is a very good thing.

This bill is about drawing a line as we have deadlines that come and go with this debate. It is about a tug of war that is taking place, and it is about saying let's step back and not risk credit markets and what might happen next on that front.

Secondly, it is about simple priorities. In a family's budget, they differentiate between the mortgage budget and the movie budget. Not all government expenditure is equal.

There is a whole host of programs in the Federal Government that make a lot of sense and some, frankly, that don't, some that add a lot of value and some that add a little bit of value. For us to say, "I will tell you what. As we go through those deliberations, let's back up and protect the financial creditworthiness of the United States Government," it is, ultimately, a real step of responsibility.

I commend my colleague from California for offering this bill. I thank him for his work to defuse a ticking time bomb in the debate that will take place—a ticking time bomb that will go on, nonetheless, with regard to what happens next with regard to the national debt.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), another distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, here we go again. We are only weeks from defaulting on our debt, and this bill does nothing to deal with that. The bill before us today is, essentially, a plan for defaulting on our obligations.

As my friend said, the Republican gentleman from Louisiana, all this does is prioritize our debt. If you are prioritizing your debt, by definition, you are defaulting. You are not paying your bills.

This would prioritize our repayment, putting our veterans, small businesses, and our first responders behind foreign governments in regard to receiving the payment that is due to them.

We have to pay our bills. We cannot go down this road again. We have seen this movie before, and it is not going to change. The last time we came close to defaulting on our debt, the results were terrible. In 1 month, job growth dropped by more than 130,000 jobs. The S&P 500 tanked by nearly 20 percent, and our credit rating was downgraded for the first time in history.

No one knows for sure what the full extent of the damage to the economy would be if we were to default on our debt. But, as Chairman RYAN said earlier, we know that it would "freeze up our economy"—higher interest rates for mortgages on auto loans, student loans, and credit cards; higher interest rates and less access to business loans needed to finance payrolls, building inventories, or to invest in equipment and construction; families' retirement savings in 401(k)'s dropping as the stock market tanks; almost 4 million veterans not receiving disability benefits; and doctors, medical providers, and hospitals not getting their pay.

The debt limit is not something to play around with. We simply need to pay our bills. Vote a resounding "no" on this bill, and let's pay our bills.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), our whip.

Mr. SCALISE. I thank the gentleman from Kansas for yielding.

I want to thank my friend from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for bringing this bill forward.

Madam Speaker, the Default Prevention Act takes off the table the ability for any President to use the debt ceiling as an opportunity to threaten default on the credit of the United States of America.

If you think about this, we are talking about whether or not the United States is going to pay its bills. This should be something that the President—any President—should understand as a basic responsibility of his duty in office whether or not Congress can come to an agreement with the President on the debt ceiling, which, by the way, should be something the Speaker, the majority leader, and the President are directly engaged in.

The fact that the President walked away from talks on negotiations on the debt ceiling tells you that he is not taking this in the serious way that he should. In fact, it also proves that the President wants to use the debt ceiling to threaten the default of the United States. That is irresponsible of any President. No President should have the option of defaulting or of even threatening default, and this bill takes default off the table as an option.

Now, why would the President be opposed to that?

I think it answers itself, Madam Speaker, because the President wants to threaten default and have that as a political weapon to try to scare the markets and to try to scare our seniors, who, by the way, are the largest holders of debt. Seniors shouldn't have to worry about whether or not that debt would be paid. Any creditor shouldn't be worried.

If the United States is going to borrow money, we should first focus on getting to a balanced budget, which this President is opposed to. Once we get to a balanced budget, we should also be focused on making sure we are paying the debts that were incurred.

The fact that the President wants to threaten default as an option shouldn't be available. This bill takes default off the table, and it makes the focus really clear that the United States is going to live within its means, uphold its obligations, and then go and focus on attacking the real root problems that got us into this debt in the first place.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this piece of legislation. Let's send it over to the Senate, where they should pass it on to the President.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for a unanimous consent request.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the ranking member.

Madam Speaker, I rise to oppose H.R. 692, for we should pay our debts. This bill is called the Pay China First Act.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to speak on H.R. 692, the so-called "Default Prevention Act of 2015," which would result in the Congress refusing to pay the financial obligations it has already incurred.

This bill, which ought to be called the "Pay China First Act," is virtually-identical to the one House Republicans brought to the floor in May 2013, which House Democrats unanimously opposed and which wasted time and taxpayer money on its consideration before pushing the nation to the brink of default just a few months later.

American families do not get to choose which bills to pay and which ones to ignore; neither can the United States Congress without putting the nation into default for the first time in its history.

In 1789, Alexander Hamilton, the nation's first and greatest Treasury Secretary, understood that the path to American prosperity and greatness lay in its creditworthiness which provided the affordable access to capital needed to fund internal improvements and economic growth.

The nation's creditworthiness was one of its most important national assets and according to Hamilton: "the proper funding of the present debt, will render it a national blessing."

But to maintain this blessing, or to "render public credit immortal," Hamilton understood that it was necessary that: "the creation of debt should always be accompanied with the means of extinguishment."

In other words, to retain and enjoy the prosperity that flows from good credit, it is necessary for a nation to pay its bills.

H.R. 692 threatens the full faith and credit of the United States, costs American jobs, hurt businesses of all sizes, and does irreparable damage to the economy.

It is important to note that under the economic stewardship of the Obama Administration, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed above 17,000 for the first time ever, and unemployment has fallen to 5.1 percent, the lowest since the Clinton Administration.

Madam Speaker, obligations not guaranteed by H.R. 692, and therefore in danger of not being paid on a daily basis, include pay for active-duty military, veterans benefits, Medicare and Medicaid payments, and payments to small businesses.

In short, H.R. 692 is simply default by another name.

Americans want a clean debt limit increase, which Congress has been done numerous times and was the normal process until 2011 when the House Republicans hijacked the process in a futile and quixotic effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

H.R. 692 reflects a House Republican governing philosophy that puts ideology over progress and partisan showmanship over common-sense legislating.

Madam Speaker, we cannot continue to hold our nation hostage, punishing the recipients of Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare who depend upon their benefits for economic survival.

That is why I support a long-term increase in the debt limit that would provide economic stability to consumers, businesses, and financial organizations and certainty to capital markets.

In contrast, the bill before us, H.R. 692, is merely a short-term measure with unnecessary complications, needlessly perpetuating uncertainty in the nation's fiscal system, and favors the Chinese government over Americans.

My colleagues want to buy time so that they can figure out how to squeeze the American taxpayer even more by devising bone-crunching cuts and slashes to entitlement programs as opposed to sitting down and working with Democrats to come up with reasonable budget reforms which do not hurt seniors or the , disadvantaged.

Madam Speaker, Social Security is currently the only source of income for nearly two-thirds of older American households receiving benefits, and roughly one-third of those households depend on Social Security for nearly all of their income.

Half of those 65 and older have annual incomes below \$18,500, and many older Americans have experienced recent and significant losses in retirement savings, pensions, and home values.

Today, every dollar of the average Social Security retirement benefit of about \$14,800 is absolutely critical to the typical beneficiary.

Contrary to some claims, Social Security is not the cause of our nation's deficit problem.

Not only does the program operate independently, but it is prohibited from borrowing.

Social Security must pay all benefits from its own trust fund.

If there are insufficient funds to pay out full benefits, benefits are automatically reduced to the level supported by the program's own revenues.

Instead of short-term management of self-inflicted fiscal crises, it is incumbent upon us on both sides of the aisle to find the common ground needed to put the nation on a sounder fiscal path.

If President Obama has made clear that he remains willing to work with both parties in Congress to budget responsibly and to achieve additional deficit reduction consistent with the principles of balance, shared growth, and shared opportunity.

But, as of today Madam Speaker, Congress has only two options—raise the debt ceiling to allow the Treasury to pay the nation's bills, or refuse to do so and have the nation default for the first time in history.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against H.R. 692.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), another very distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you.

Madam Speaker, I am listening to my friend from Louisiana rewrite history.

It is not the President who is threatening to default on the national debt. It is the Republican Congress that is refusing to do what was granted to every President in the past—Republican or Democrat—which is to deal with raising the debt ceiling, which is, after all, money we have already spent, money that they approved.

They have been in charge for the last 5 years. The notion that we can somehow distinguish the semantics of this proposal, distinguishing between sovereign debt and the rest of the 80 mil-

lion transactions that the Treasury makes every day, is lunacy.

If you disagree with our protections to seniors, veterans, the military, Medicare, Medicaid, the FBI, food safety, cut them, but you don't. You nibble away at them. You have never offered a balanced budget when you have been in charge. We had balanced budgets when President Clinton was President. Thank you very much. Unless you assure everyone, nobody is protected.

As for the notion somehow that the President walked away from the negotiations with Simpson-Bowles, where was PAUL RYAN? I like PAUL RYAN. PAUL RYAN refused to embrace Simpson-Bowles' proposals. They cannot pass their vision. They want to blame the President and the American people.

I would respectfully suggest that we ought to reject this fig leaf and get down to business: raise the debt ceiling as we have done repeatedly in the past for Presidents, whether they are Republicans or Democrats, get past the rhetoric, and then deal with structural issues going forward.

Let's rebuild and renew America. Let's raise the gas tax so we can deal with our crumbling infrastructure, something that Ronald Reagan did in 1982, when we faced a deficit in the highway trust fund then.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. There are simple, commonsense solutions, by the way, that are supported by the U.S. Chamber and the AFL-CIO, truckers and AAA, business, government, to be able to get the country moving again, to repair crumbling infrastructure, and not add to the deficit. One simple, little step—something we could do—not deal with goofy legislation like is offered today.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, we are asked: Why don't you just raise the debt limit?

Let me again make this very clear.

As long as we spend more than we take in, we have a responsibility to raise the debt limit. Republicans acknowledge that responsibility. Democrats acknowledge that responsibility.

Yet, with that responsibility comes a concomitant duty to review the policies that are driving that debt. The Republicans acknowledge this responsibility. The Democrats do not. That is the fine point of the matter.

That is a policy debate, and it is controversial, but that controversy should not roil credit markets and threaten to increase the cost of our borrowing.

Given the size of the debt that we are carrying—and this administration has nearly doubled it by its policies—even a small increase in interest rates could mean a catastrophic increase in inter-

est payments, and those increased interest payments in the tens—possibly, hundreds—of billions of dollars would come at the cost of every other program that the Democrats cherish.

We keep hearing about the S&P downgrading our credit rating in 2011. Let me remind them that, for months prior to that downgrade, the S&P demanded that we reduce our 10-year projected deficit by at least \$4 trillion or they would downgrade our sovereign debt. We ultimately only reduced it by \$1.2 trillion because of the voices that we now hear raised against this bill, and the S&P followed through on that threat.

□ 1530

My Democratic colleagues are right, a threat not to pay interest and principal on our debt is the biggest threat to our credit. That is precisely the threat this bill takes off the table by guaranteeing our sovereign debt.

My friends are correct that failure to pay our other bills would be a very bad thing, and it is much to be avoided. There is no dispute in that.

As long as the debt limit has to be increased, there is going to be controversy; and that controversy, whether during Republican or Democratic Congresses or Republican or Democratic administrations, must not be allowed to provoke an increase in borrowing costs because we have frightened credit markets.

This is not a threat to default. It is a promise not to default on the sovereign debt that we use to fund everything else that we do. My friends on the left make no distinction between sovereign debt and our other obligations. That may explain some of the reasons we are in the mess we are in.

The fact is our sovereign debt is what makes it possible to pay for our other obligations as long as we continue to spend beyond our means. This measure guarantees the sovereign debt.

The policies advocated by the opponents of this motion are precisely the policies that have caused our country to wander now through 7 years down a dark road of debt, doubt, despair, and economic malaise.

It is time for a new morning in America, and that begins with guaranteeing the sovereign debt of this Nation. I ask for your support for this bill.

Mr. LEVIN. Could I ask the Speaker how much time is remaining on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 10 minutes remaining, and the gentlewoman from Kansas has 13½ minutes remaining.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND), another distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, this unquestionably is one of the most dangerous bills that we will be considering in this session of Congress because this gives this body permission, for the very first time in our Nation's history, to default on our financial obligations.

They claim that they are splitting the baby here by paying bondholders only. One of the largest bondholders we have, of course, is China, so this is a pay China first bill.

I have a feeling that the financial markets, the investors, and the credit rating agencies will view this for what it is however: a default is a default is a default.

A great nation like the United States of America should pay our bills. We should pay our bills.

Now, no one can stand here or sit here today with complete certainty and tell us what the market reaction would be if we start defaulting on any financial obligations we have as a nation, and that is really the point. Why would we even take that chance? Why would we take a chance of a downgrade to our credit, of an increase in interest rates which would impact everyone, from small businesses to families to farmers? It would drive up borrowing costs, which would act as a brake on economic activity and the job growth we have right now because we have never done this before. That is the danger that this legislation sets up.

If my friends on the other side are so concerned about debt and overspending, then perhaps they ought not have supported legislation this year alone—bills that they have passed—that would increase our national debt by \$1.5 trillion over the next 10 years because you refused to pay for the tax cuts or the spending increases that were in that legislation through offsets in the budget. That may come as news or surprise to the other side, but the Congressional Budget Office score is \$1.5 trillion of new debt over 10 years based on legislation you supported: repealing SGR, \$141 billion; permanent expensing, \$380 billion; get rid of the estate tax, another \$180 billion, and others. It adds up to 1.5.

So if there is so much concern about excess spending and debt and what it is doing to our economy, then maybe we ought to look at ourselves first and the action that is being taken on this House floor.

We should not go down this path. We should stop creating the uncertainty and dysfunction coming out of Washington and give the economy a chance to recover.

I encourage my colleagues to reject this legislation.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), vice chair of our Caucus.

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Pay China First Act. We should call it, in my opinion, Put America Last Act because that is exactly what this does. This bill will codify into law a new law. It will ensure U.S. taxpayers are forced to pay China and other regimes as well as foreign banks first. That means we

will pay China before we pay veterans, before we pay for Medicare to cover our seniors, and before we pay our enlisted troops bravely serving overseas. It means we are going to pay these guys before we pay these guys. We are going to pay these guys before we pay these guys.

Even Chairman RYAN, in a memo to House Republican colleagues, acknowledges that, in fact, China and other foreign debt holders will be paid before Medicare, before our elderly receive their checks, and before our troops receive their salaries.

This whole bill is a sign of misplaced priorities. There are countless issues that Americans have called on us to address that we need to tackle to ensure this country remains healthy and strong, yet this is a bill the Republicans have chosen to bring to the floor. This is a bill that you have chosen to bring to the floor.

At least now we know. We know this Congress is not serious about paying our Nation's bills because, under this bill, we resort to having the U.S. file, in essence, a bankruptcy. Filing for bankruptcy and walking away from debt obligations may work for Donald Trump, but it doesn't work for middle class Americans. Average Americans who work hard to pay their bills and live up to their financial obligations—and that includes American veterans and seniors—the Republicans would have waiting in line for their VA benefits behind Chinese bankers.

I cannot support a measure that puts China above our veterans, above our seniors, and above our servicemembers.

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

Mr. LEVIN. I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, if you ask the American people, "Who should be paid first, these guys or these guys?" I suggest they would agree with us. These guys should get paid first.

Oppose this Pay China First Act, and let's keep America first.

Let me also add this, Madam Speaker.

Have you ever heard of dine and ditch? This is the biggest dine and ditch I have ever heard of. When I was a kid, some of my friends wanted to go to restaurants, eat as much as they could, and then run out before they paid their bill, and I would never let them do that. I felt it was immoral. That is exactly what we are suggesting we do today.

Who got stuck paying for that bill? The waitress. Who is the waitress in this case? The American people. The American people, they get stuck when you dine and ditch on them. Even suggesting for a moment that we may not pay our debt and that we may default sends the wrong message to America. It sends the wrong message to the world.

Defeat this measure.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), another very distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Pay China First Act. I am truly shocked that the Republican leadership is advancing a bill that approves America defaulting on its debt.

This is a dangerous action that jeopardizes the full faith and credit of our Nation. It also jeopardizes the well-being of millions of our most vulnerable citizens.

I cannot support a bill that would tell my constituents that repaying our debt to foreign countries is more important than paying their salaries for military service or providing them disability benefits or providing them student loans.

How can I tell small businesses in Illinois that repaying our debt to a foreign government is more important than paying them for providing goods and services to our government? How can I tell Illinois doctors and hospitals that we can pay China for lending us money, but we cannot pay them for taking care of our elderly?

The Council of Economic Advisers estimated that the 2013 debt limit stand-off and shutdown cost us 120,000 jobs, and the GAO estimated that it resulted in \$70 million in increased borrowing cost on securities issued during the last crisis.

The 2013 debt limit fiasco already damaged our economic recovery, yet the Republican leadership insists yet again on a path to harm our national economy and well-being simply for political posturing.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this shameful bill that says that debt to foreign countries is more important than our citizens.

We should protect our economy. Pass a clean bill to raise our debt ceiling.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I know that this great Hall has become a national gallery for hyperbole, but I think the opponents of this measure have taken it to a whole new level. Pay China first, what xenophobic nonsense.

China holds about 7 percent of our debt. Most of our debt is owed to Americans, much of it in pension funds and debts to Social Security pensioners.

If we don't maintain our credit, we can't meet any of our other obligations, including our troops in the field. And if there is even a suggestion that our sovereign debt is not absolutely secure, we could see a spike in interest costs that will take money away from the very programs that the Democrats say they are trying to defend. That is the reality of it.

This is a question over whether we should guarantee the sovereign debt of the United States, and I would ask

again: Why is it and how is it that my friends on the Democratic side of the aisle can get wildly enthusiastic about taxpayers being forced to guarantee loans to foreign corporations, foreign governments, or domestic special interests and yet not be willing to guarantee the full faith and credit of the United States simply by allowing the Treasury Secretary to continue to borrow to meet our interest and principal payments if we should ever reach a point where the debt limit has been reached?

It is the debate over the debt limit that tends to roil markets. We are going to meet our debt obligations, but that debate that is required to review the policies that are driving our debt is what roils those markets.

This calms that debate. This assures everyone who makes loans to the Federal Government that their loans are secure. This keeps our interest costs down, and it guarantees the credit of the United States that is necessary to meet all of our other obligations.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, as I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, this is an amazing debate. The gentleman from California talks about guaranteeing. So you guarantee payments to foreign debt holders. You won't guarantee payments to our veterans or to kids with school lunches. You won't guarantee payments to people who are doing medical research. You won't guarantee that.

So here is the problem: you are proceeding on a very partisan basis on a bill that is going nowhere.

You say we need to raise the debt ceiling. We will, and we are going to do it long before there is any consideration of the details about which you speak.

□ 1545

You talk about the need to control spending. We are going to pass a debt ceiling. The disturbing thing is you come here on a partisan basis when there is a crying need for bipartisanship. The only way the debt ceiling can be raised is bipartisan, and you come here today strictly partisan.

That is a bad omen because, in addition to the debt ceiling, there is the continuing resolution. We have also the Medicare premium issue that looms in a few days. We have a highway bill that looms in a few days. The only way they are going to be resolved is on a bipartisan basis. You come here with a bill that won't get, I think, a single Democratic vote, and you know it, and yet your leadership sanctions you to do this.

What does that mean for the future? It is deeply troubling. This is demagoguery. It is an effort maybe to gain a few more Republican votes, but this is too important for that. It is not policy, as I said before. It is a ploy. When

it comes to issues like this, it should be beyond that kind of gamesmanship.

In this sense, it is kind of sad you are doing this. It raises questions as to where your leadership is going to take this institution in the future, when already on your side the public has such deep disbelief in what you are doing. It is too late to ask you to pull back. I urged that to your leadership some time ago. I guess we are going to go forth. It is a frightful mistake to be doing it this way.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members that remarks in debate must be addressed to the Chair and not to others in the second person.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Congress still has a great deal of work to do to rein in spending. While conversations to reduce Federal spending continue, we must also continue to pay down our existing debt. The Default Prevention Act before us today provides a responsible way to deal with our debt crisis and protect the full faith and credit of the United States.

As we all know, if the U.S. defaulted on a debt payment, it would do serious harm to the economy and to the hard-working Americans who make this country great. This bill ensures that, even if the debt limit is reached, the U.S. Treasury would not default on our existing obligations to pay down the debt.

Again, this legislation does not increase the debt limit. Instead, it actually prevents Treasury from issuing new debt to pay for any new spending unless Congress passes a law to increase the debt limit, a conversation for another day.

This bill, guaranteeing our debt, makes it possible to pay all the bills that the minority claims to want paid. This bill takes the important step of ensuring that Social Security benefits are paid in full and on time. This legislation is a commonsense measure that will protect our Nation's credit and integrity.

Once again, I strongly urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I stand in opposition to H.R. 692, the so-called Default Prevention Act.

Raising the national debt limit is a basic responsibility of government which ensures America will be able to pay its bills. If we do not raise the debt limit, our nation will default for the first time in its history. Americans' retirement savings will plunge, and interest rates for mortgages, student loans, credit cards, and car payments will skyrocket.

That is why the American people and the American economy need a clean debt limit extension bill that meets all of our financial obligations, not just a few of them. Sadly, the Majority party's Default Prevention Act does not meet this basic standard.

Their bill would guarantee payments above the debt limit to bond holders in China and other foreign countries, without consideration for meeting our obligations to the American people, including troops, veterans, and small businesses. That is irresponsible and wrong.

Taking care of our veterans, troops, and small businesses should be our priority, not guaranteeing payments to China and our other bond holders. This legislation is the Majority's cynical attempt to pass a debt limit bill and say the House is being responsible. The truth is it is not an honest attempt to address the debt limit. The Majority's bill is a sham. Our nation will be in default if we miss any payment for any reason. And the Majority knows the bill will not become law, because the President will veto it if it reaches his desk.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this pointless Default Prevention Act, and-pass a clean debt limit extension bill that fulfills our obligations to the American people, avoids economic catastrophe, and truly honors the full faith and credit of the United States.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 480, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

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.

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.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

#### QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 3116) to extend by 15 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. 3. REPORT ON DATA SECURITY PROCEDURES OF THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.**

(a) REVIEW.—The Secretary of Commerce shall conduct a review of the data security procedures

of the Bureau of the Census, including such procedures that have been implemented since the data breaches of systems of the Office of Personnel Management were announced in 2015.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report on the review required by subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) identify all information systems of the Bureau of the Census that contain sensitive information;

(B) described any actions carried out by the Secretary of Commerce or the Director of the Bureau of the Census to secure sensitive information that have been implemented since the data breaches of systems of the Office of Personnel Management were announced in 2015;

(C) identify any known data breaches of information systems of the Bureau of the Census that contain sensitive information; and

(D) identify whether the Bureau of the Census stores any information that, if combined with other such information, would comprise classified information.

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

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

There was no objection.

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

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to submit for the RECORD a letter from John Thompson, Director of the Census Bureau, to Chairman MCCAUL, myself, and others, indicating the Bureau will comply with FISMA when developing the report required by H.R. 3116 and will continue to work with the Secretary of Homeland Security and others to secure the Bureau's network.

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

There was no objection.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS ADMINISTRATION, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU,

Washington, DC, October 20, 2015.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL, Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This correspondence is regarding the U.S. Census Bureau's compliance with the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) and the provisions of Senate Amendment (S. Admt.) 2710 to H.R. 3116. The Census Bureau is compliant at this time with the requirements of FISMA, and is working with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide information on the data security procedures required by S. Admt. 2710.

We have implemented a formal risk management program in accordance with the Na-

tional Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication 800-37r1. All of the FISMA reportable systems supporting the Census Bureau are continually assessed per this guidance and all have a current Authorization to Operate. In addition, the Census Bureau is currently behind a Managed Trusted Internet Protocol Service (MTIPS) provider and is protected by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Einstein 1 and 2, which looks at network flow information and network intrusion detection. The Census Bureau is engaged with DHS and MTIPS provider to move behind Einstein 3 Accelerated (E3A) as soon as the DHS and our MTIPS say they are ready. This will give us the added cybersecurity analysis, situational awareness and security response capabilities for DHS to augment our efforts.

The Census Bureau also is actively engaged with the Department of Commerce to implement Phase 2C of the Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation (CDM) program by the end of calendar year 2016. This will provide us the capability to identify cybersecurity risks more efficiently and prioritize the risks based on potential impacts. The initial meeting with DHS and the service provider took place on October 15, 2015. The Census Bureau reports regularly on this and other aspects of its cybersecurity program to the Department of Commerce, Office of Management and Budget, and DHS.

Please know that the security of our respondents' information is paramount at the Census Bureau. We take seriously our responsibility to honor privacy and protect confidentiality. We will continue to work with the Department of Commerce and DHS to implement effective data security procedures and ensure compliance with FISMA requirements.

Thank you.

JOHN H. THOMPSON,  
Director.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OPPORTUNITY AND RESULTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 10.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 480 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 10.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1552

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 10) to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes, with Mr. HOLDING in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 10, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results, or SOAR, Reauthorization Act.

The SOAR Reauthorization Act continues the three-sector approach to education within the District of Columbia. This approach gives equal funding to D.C. Public Schools, D.C. Public Charter Schools, and the Opportunity Scholarship Program, often referred to as the OSP.

The OSP gives scholarships to children in low-income families to attend a private school so that those children can experience a quality education. The average OSP family makes less than \$22,000 per year. These scholarships allow families to place their children in learning-rich environments.

District of Columbia Public Schools rank at the top in spending per student, but are near the bottom in academic performance. The Opportunity Scholarship Program gives these students the education they deserve so they can pursue the American Dream.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 10 works not only to provide scholarships to students who need them the most, but also to improve the current state of public school and public charter school education. This bill authorizes equal funding for D.C. Public Schools and for D.C. Public Charter Schools in addition to the Opportunity scholarships.

My friends across the aisle claim that the SOAR Act takes money away from public education. However, that is quite the opposite. The SOAR Act increases funding for public education in the District of Columbia.

In fact, since the three-sector approach has been in effect, D.C. Public Schools and D.C. Public Charter Schools have received a combined \$435 million in Federal funding for school improvement.

Mr. Chairman, the District of Columbia schools would not have received these funds had it not been for the OSP and this three-sector approach. Now we are debating reauthorizing this approach and giving \$20 million annually to each sector for 5 years, \$300 million across 5 years for D.C. education.

It is hard to imagine how anyone who advocates for public education would oppose such an approach that has poured millions of dollars into the D.C. public education system, particularly since the OSP is getting a great return on its investment and is producing results. The OSP produces \$2.62 in benefits for every dollar spent on the program, according to a study conducted by one of the program's evaluators.

Mr. Chairman, you would be hard pressed to find another government program that generates this sort of result and bang for your buck. We are talking about a 162 percent return on investment here, an investment that has not taken one dime from public education.

Mr. Chairman, it is good stuff. We talk about how to keep this program going because it is really affecting real people and real lives. We talk about the individual students and their families, but it is also borne out in the statistics.

The Opportunity Scholarship students are averaging a 90 percent graduation rate—90 percent—compared to D.C. Public Schools, which was roughly less than a 60 percent graduation rate in 2013 and 2014.

Further, some 88 percent of the Opportunity Scholarship participants enroll in college. Not only are they graduating high school at record levels above and beyond what is happening in public schools, but they are also going on to higher education.

These children, though, are more than a graduation statistic. Their individual lives have been forever changed because of the OSP.

I want to remind our colleagues about Joseph Kelley's son, Rashawn Williams. He had fallen behind in every single subject. His father had to get the courts involved to ensure that his school was following its requirements pursuant to Rashawn's individual education plan. Mr. Kelley was able to get Rashawn a scholarship through the Opportunity Scholarship Program and has said: "I truly shudder to think where my son would be today without it."

Mr. Chairman, the OSP is changing outcomes for the least advantaged. The program places kids in safer high-quality schools that allow them to receive a good education. It brings funding to all sectors of education in D.C. to improve education opportunities for all.

Mr. Chairman, it is important to note that the bill requires all participating Opportunity Scholarship schools to be accredited. The accreditation standards give the taxpayer—and, more importantly, Opportunity Scholarship families—assurances that District students are receiving the education they deserve.

The Opportunity Scholarship currently limits entrance based on a control group for an evaluation study. H.R. 10 removes this arbitrary requirement, instituting a new study to track the results of the Opportunity Scholarships. Removing this barrier to entry increases access to the program and means more families can be afforded quality education for their children.

Mr. Chairman, we had the opportunity to debate this bill in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and I appreciate the perspectives heard from both sides. We had a good, productive field hearing.

I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the Speaker of the

House, our friend and colleague, for authoring this legislation. He has poured his heart and soul out, trying to do what he can do to help these young children. It has had a very positive effect on so many lives and in future generations. It is something we can all be proud about.

He has worked tirelessly to bring opportunity to students within the District of Columbia, and he will be remembered by this body for his effort to bring a quality education to all. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to give students in the District of Columbia the opportunity for a quality education by reauthorizing a program that actually works and produces results. It affects real lives. It is called the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act. I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I didn't really expect to be on the floor this afternoon managing this bill. Ironically, I was scheduled to host a briefing today for Members and staff on the constitutionality of the District of Columbia statehood bill, where I was going to show a 17-minute HBO "Last Week Tonight" clip from John Oliver that lampoons the Congress for denying District residents their voting rights, budget and legislative autonomy, and statehood.

Instead, here I am on the floor in a virtual reality show not speaking about the right to self-government, but fighting this latest attempt by the Republican Congress to impose its ideology on D.C. residents.

□ 1600

I ask to include the D.C. Council's letter opposing this bill in the RECORD.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

Washington, DC, October 8, 2015.

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ,

Chairperson, Committee on Oversight & Government Reform, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

CHAIRPERSON CHAFFETZ: We write as locally elected officials to express our opposition to renewed efforts to expand a federally funded school voucher program in the District of Columbia. We appreciate your interest in providing support to public education in the District. We strongly believe, however, that federal funds should be invested in the existing public education system—both public schools and public charter schools—rather than being diverted to private schools.

We support the decision by Congress and the President several years ago to phase out the voucher program. Multiple U.S. Department of Education reports indicate that the program has not lived up to the promises made by proponents. These studies along with two troubling Government Accountability Office reports have also revealed that many of the students participating in the voucher program attend private schools with fewer resources and lower standards than our public schools. The evidence is clear that the use of vouchers has had no statistically sig-

nificant impact on overall student achievement in math or reading, or for students from schools in need of improvement.

We have serious concerns about using government funds to send our students to private schools that do not have to adhere to the same standards and accountability as do public and public charter schools. For example, private religious schools, which 80% of students with vouchers attend, operate outside the non-discrimination provisions of the D.C. Human Rights Act. Moreover, the voucher proposal is inequitable: if fully funded, the authorization would provide many more dollars per student for vouchers than is allocated per student in public schools and public charter schools.

Although we believe that students who are already receiving a voucher should have the opportunity to maintain and use that voucher through graduation from high school, we do not support expansion of the program to new students. The District devotes considerable funds to public education, and our local policies promote choice for parents. Indeed, over the past decade the quality of public education in D.C. has increased, as a result of reforms and targeted investment. Families can choose from an array of educational institutions based on publicly available performance metrics, both within the D.C. Public Schools system and among the myriad public charter schools. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has called the progress of D.C. Public Schools "remarkable", while the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools has ranked the District's charter sector as the best in the country.

Despite such ample evidence that the Congressionally imposed voucher program is ineffective, while D.C. public schools improve every year, some members of Congress continue to see our city as their personal petri dish. It is insulting to our constituents, who vote for us but not for any voting member of Congress, that some of your colleagues push their personal agendas on D.C. in a way they could never do in their home states. Attacking D.C. home rule, including any expansion of the voucher program, is irresponsible governing on the part of Congress.

We call on you to respect the wishes of the District's elected officials on the quintessentially local matter of education as you consider this issue.

Sincerely,

David Grosso, DC Council, At-Large, Chairperson Committee on Education; Charles Allen, DC Council, Ward 6, Member, Committee on Education; LaRuby May, DC Council, Ward 8; Elissa Silverman, DC Council, At-Large; Anita Bonds, DC Council, At-Large, Member, Committee on Education; Yvette Alexander, DC Council, Ward 7, Member, Committee on Education; Brianne Nadeau, DC Council, Ward 1; Jack Evans, DC Council, Ward 2.

Ms. NORTON. Yet, Mr. Chairman, I have sought a compromise that should be acceptable to Republicans, as it is to President Obama.

We support, and I repeat, we support allowing our current D.C. voucher students to remain in the program until graduation. That ensures D.C. would have voucher students for many years to come.

That is the kind of sensible compromise that Congress must get back to or be content with the label "least productive Congress," as it has come to be known each year under this majority.

This bill goes beyond the compromise, we have offered, by seeking to admit new students as well. We are here so that Speaker JOHN BOEHNER has a capstone to his own political career. The D.C. voucher program is his pet project, not D.C.'s. The Speaker has introduced only two bills this Congress: a bill on the Iran nuclear agreement and this bill.

Even if Members do not respect D.C.'s right to self-government, they should at least care whether the program improves achievement, which was the stated reason for vouchers in the first place. Far from helping students, however, the program has demonstrably failed.

According to the congressionally mandated evaluation of the program's effectiveness, this program, these vouchers, have failed to improve academic achievement, as measured by objective math and reading testing scores.

Most importantly, the program has not had significant impacts—that is also from the congressionally mandated evaluation—has not had “significant impacts” on the achievement of students whom the program was designed to most benefit: those who previously attended low-performing public schools.

The majority cites improved high school graduation rates. However, the evaluation did not examine dropout rates or the rigor of the schools' curriculum or graduation requirements.

The majority also cites high college attendance rates. However, the evaluation did not measure college attendance rates.

Even if the program were successful, Mr. Chairman, it would still not be needed, at least in the District of Columbia, which has perhaps the most robust public school choice program in the country. Almost 50 percent of our public school students attend charter schools, which the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools ranked as the strongest in the Nation. In addition, 75 percent of public school students in the District attend out-of-boundary schools. What D.C. has developed amounts to a model choice education program.

Moreover, the D.C. public schools have made some of the most impressive improvements in the country, by any measure, spurred by competition from the rapidly growing D.C. charter schools, not from the small number of voucher schools. In fact, a 2013 assessment of D.C. public schools indicated that the District had made the greatest improvement of any urban school district in the Nation.

D.C. charter schools have even higher educational achievement and attainment than D.C. public schools. D.C. charter schools outperform D.C. public schools across traditionally disadvantaged groups, including African Americans and low-income students, and have a higher percentage of such students, precisely the students the

voucher program was ostensibly designed to serve.

Greater confidence in D.C.'s public schools is also clear. D.C. public school enrollment has increased for 7 consecutive years, right alongside the very large number of charter schools.

If Congress wants to support D.C. students, we ask that you support our home rule public choice, not impose yours. Any new funding for education in the District should reinforce the hard work of our city, our parents, and our residents, who have shown the Nation how to build a fully accountable public school choice program. D.C. residents, not unaccountable Members of Congress, know best what our children need and how to govern our own affairs.

During this debate, Mr. Chairman, we will consider an amendment I have offered to restore the scientific integrity of the program's evaluation, one like the evaluation Congress has always mandated, and another to crack down on so-called voucher mills.

Given that the Speaker's bill will surely pass, I want to work with Members who support vouchers to ensure that our voucher students attend high-quality schools, like our accredited Catholic and other parochial schools, not fly-by-night, often storefront schools in low-income neighborhoods that were opened only after the voucher program was created to get access to unrestricted Federal funds.

I appreciate that the majority indicated in committee and on the floor that they also want to prevent voucher mills. I look forward to continuing to work with them as this bill moves forward to protect our families from voucher mills.

Under the Home Rule Act of 1973, Congress gave the District authority to establish its own education system; and unlike some other local jurisdictions, D.C. has never created a voucher program. Instead, like many D.C. bills in Congress, this bill seeks to impose a program on the District that does not have national support.

Just think of it. Only 3 months ago, both the House and Senate defeated Republican national private voucher amendments on the floor. Members reject private school vouchers for their own constituents but want to impose them on mine. No wonder.

Since 1970, every single referendum to establish State-funded vouchers or tuition tax credits has failed, and by large margins. Now the majority wants to do to the District what it would not dare do at home. The recent vote to deny voucher funding on a national level shows where Republicans really stand.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. I thank the chairman for this opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, I come to the floor today, after looking in the eyes of the

kids, students, their parents, eyes filled with hope and opportunity and success.

I come to the floor today to add my support for H.R. 10, the SOAR Reauthorization Act, because it works. This legislation will ensure the continuation of the successful D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, which was established by Congress in 2004, to provide eligible low-income families in the District of Columbia with the opportunity to attend the school of their choice.

Innovative programs like the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program are necessary to fix our broken educational system and prepare our children for the 21st century workforce, and I am confident that any of my colleagues would oppose a program that provides students with an opportunity for a better education, especially one that has been an unqualified success.

On average, students in the Opportunity Scholarship Program have a graduation rate of 90 percent, well above the national average, as well as D.C.'s overall graduation rate of 58 percent. These students continue to succeed in their pursuit of higher education, with 88 percent of the graduates going on to attend a 2- or 4-year college or university.

While the benefits to D.C. children are clear, the program also plays an important role in empowering parents to make the best choice for their kids and engaging them in their educational and academic progress. A recent survey of parents found that 85 percent of parents are happy with their child's current Opportunity Scholarship Program school.

H.R. 10 has garnered the support from a wide array of stakeholders. Just yesterday, in an op-ed entitled “A Misguided Attack on D.C.'s Needy Students,” The Washington Post editorial board defended the SOAR Act and wrote in support of reauthorizing the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, noting that over 6,100 children have benefited from the program, while thousands more are on waiting lists.

The Washington Post also notes that nearly 75 percent of D.C. residents support the program, which has provided more than \$600 million in funding for traditional public schools, charter public schools, and the voucher program.

It is important to note, Mr. Chairman, that this bill does not take any funding away from D.C. public schools. In fact, the legislation authorizes equal funding to public schools, charter schools, and scholarships.

With an average family income of less than \$22,000 for participating families, this program really is a lifeline for low-income D.C. families, offering students up to \$1,572 to pay for tuition, fees, and transportation. Why, Mr. Chairman, would any of us want to prohibit these students and families from opportunity and success?

This is a hand up to the American Dream. Ensuring our children have access to the best possible education

should not be a partisan issue, and receiving a quality education should not be limited to people of means.

I urge my colleagues to continue supporting this program and pass H.R. 10. It is the right thing to do. Let's do it for the kids.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I simply want to say, once again, that no child currently enrolled in the program under the compromise that I have offered would be stricken from the program and all current voucher students could stay until graduation. It is new students that we object to, given the evaluation that shows that the program had not met its goal, which was to improve reading and math scores. By contrast, we have had improvement in reading and math scores both in the D.C. public schools and the D.C. charter schools.

Also, Mr. Chairman, there is no waiting list for vouchers in the District of Columbia. However, there are long waiting lists for our charter schools, and now, even for some public schools.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN).

□ 1615

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. I thank the gentlewoman from D.C.

Mr. Chair, it is extremely unfortunate that we are here yet again debating legislation that would interfere with the ability of D.C. residents to make decisions for themselves. So far this Congress, the House has attempted to block laws that would protect District women's reproductive rights and reform Washington's drug laws. And now we are asked to continue a failed private school voucher program, a program that a majority of the D.C. Council opposes and on which they are not even consulted, a program that D.C.'s own longtime Congresswoman opposes.

I am shocked at the arrogance of this body to set aside the will of the citizens of the District of Columbia so fleetingly. It is disgraceful that in this building, a symbol of our democracy, we impose such policies on a city that does not even get a vote on these decisions.

Additionally, I oppose this bill because it weakens D.C.'s public school system. Instead of taking public dollars to outsource our children's education to private schools, we should be focusing on truly reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. We need an updated ESEA that strengthens public schools for all our children and prepares students for the globally competitive world we live in.

Education should be the great equalizer, and every student should have access to the best education, regardless of their ZIP Code or their socioeconomic status. There are public schools in this country that are among the very best in the world. I am proud that several of them are in my district.

Mr. Chair, we know that public schools can work when we properly

support them; but, unfortunately, for certain communities, far too many schools continue to struggle due to lack of resources on one hand and relentless attempts to undermine them on the other. Private vouchers only further perpetuate these inequities by siphoning additional resources for few students while leaving the rest behind in underfunded public schools.

In our global economy, it is more essential than ever that every child receives a quality education. To do that, our public schools need adequate resources. Diverting public money to private and parochial schools only worsens the problem.

I support access to a world-class public education for all students; but too often, the majority in this body undercut that goal, whether through the so-called Student Success Act that leaves students in a lurch or today's SOAR bill that sorely misses the point.

I urge my colleagues to listen to the people of the District of Columbia and their elected representative, Ms. NORTON. Most importantly, listen to the teachers and the parents who oppose this bill, and reject this legislation.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER), the chairman of the Republican Policy Committee.

Mr. MESSER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise in support today of H.R. 10, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act.

I want to commend Speaker BOEHNER for introducing this important legislation and thank him for a lifetime of extraordinary leadership on this issue. Throughout his speakership and under his leadership as a former chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Speaker BOEHNER improved educational opportunities for all students. Literally thousands of kids have access to the American Dream because of his dedication to the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program. As chairman of the Congressional School Choice Caucus, I was honored to have Speaker BOEHNER keynote a rally earlier this year with hundreds of Opportunity Scholarship recipients.

I have to tell you, I am amazed at some of the rhetoric that I have been hearing today, talking about it is disgraceful that this legislation is before you.

I will tell you what is disgraceful. It is disgraceful that any child in America has to go to a terrible school, and it is disgraceful that anyone would say that we should do anything but make sure that every one of these kids has an opportunity to go somewhere where they will have a chance to succeed.

Every child deserves equal access to a great education. Lots of kids have great public school options in America. Other families can afford to send their kids to private school if they don't have a great public school option. This

debate today is about what we do for those who don't.

Unfortunately, too many kids in our country have their destiny determined by their ZIP Code. These children are stuck in poorly performing schools, and their parents feel powerless to do anything about it.

That is why education choice and the Opportunity Scholarship Program matter. Programs like D.C. OSP allow parents to choose the best educational environment for their child. The freedom provided by school choice levels the playing field and helps ensure all children have a chance to succeed.

This legislation will continue to bring greater educational opportunities to the most underprivileged students in the District of Columbia, and it takes zero—let me repeat that—zero dollars away from D.C. Public Schools. Because of this legislation, more than 6,000 students have had the opportunity to attend a great school. Even better, an incredible 90 percent of D.C. OSP students graduate from high school. The D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program is clearly a success and needs to continue.

Mr. Chair, I hope for a day when we will be talking about even bolder proposals on this floor, because the truth is we already have school choice in America if you can afford it. The only real question is: What are we going to do for everybody else?

Our Founding Fathers wrote in the Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal and endowed with certain unalienable rights. In modern America, the pursuit of happiness comes on the back of a quality education.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chair, I want to remind the gentleman that the \$100 million doesn't come out of the air, that this majority is cutting \$2 billion from K-12. Most of our children are K-12. That money has to come from somewhere. We know it comes from education funds.

I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 10, legislation that would reauthorize the D.C. private school voucher program.

This bill prioritizes an ideological agenda over the rights of D.C. residents to self-govern and, more importantly, over the rights of all students to get a quality education.

In study after study, the voucher program has failed to show any meaningful improvement in student achievement, safety, satisfaction, motivation, or engagement; yet since 2003, it has received nearly \$190 million while failing to adhere to basic accountability standards.

Its funding should be dedicated to improving our underfunded and underresourced public school system, a school system that is required by law to serve all students.

Unlike public schools, private schools receiving voucher students have no requirement to serve all students. Specifically, they are able to—and do—reject students based on prior academic achievement, language ability, socioeconomic background, and other discriminatory factors.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. POE of Texas). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. NORTON. I am pleased to yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. TAKANO. Many do not offer the necessary services for students with disabilities.

It is a mistake to continue funding a program that fails to serve all students, damages the public school system, and disregards the District's right to choose its own education policy.

I thank the gentlewoman from D.C. for yielding me the time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time each side has.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Utah has 17 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from the District of Columbia has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, I love America. America should be number one, and America's capital should be number one.

I love to talk to immigrants who do so much of the work in our Capital City. They all know America is great. They gush about how anybody can work in America and realize the American Dream.

But when I ask about their kids and where they go to school, they almost uniformly send their kids to Maryland or Virginia schools. Even immigrants who can barely speak English and come from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Eritrea, or Nigeria know that D.C. schools mean stay away. How embarrassing for our country that new immigrants who barely speak English view our Nation's Capital schools with contempt.

Finally, President Obama, we love you and Michelle for the love you show your daughters. You show your love for your daughters by spending some of your substantial salary to keep your daughters out of the D.C. Public Schools. Please, President Obama, show a little love for the children who don't have such wealthy parents and sign the SOAR Act.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chair, I just want to tell the gentleman that the so-called immigrants that he speaks to who send their children to schools in Maryland and Virginia live in Maryland and Virginia. Eighty percent of the jobs in the District of Columbia go to people who live in the suburbs.

As to the schools in the District of Columbia, as I have indicated, there are waiting lines to get into almost all the charter schools, and the D.C. public

schools have improved so much that some of them also have waiting lines.

I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), our very distinguished ranking member.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia for yielding and for her leadership.

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 10. We have been told that the purpose of this bill is to help all D.C. children get a better education. I strongly support that objective, but this bill does not do that.

Let me be crystal clear: public funds should support public education. But this bill proposes to spend more than \$100 million over 5 years to fund vouchers to send public school students in the District of Columbia to private schools while House Republicans are proposing to cut \$2 billion from public K–12 education nationally.

Coming from the city of Baltimore, I understand firsthand the complexities of turning around struggling inner-city schools. Almost 10 years ago, I became deeply involved in improving one of my own neighborhood schools—and I am still involved in that—the Maritime Industries Academy High School.

It takes vision, commitment, accountability, and, yes, resources to begin the process of turning troubled schools around. However, it is impossible to turn around public schools if we divert public resources to private schools.

Put simply, H.R. 10 attempts to help a few students at the expense of the vast majority of the District's children.

By dividing the funding it would provide among D.C.'s public schools, public charter schools, and private school vouchers, H.R. 10 provides a third of its total funding to a tiny fraction of the District's students. Specifically, the bill would fund vouchers to enable only 1,442 students—a tiny fraction of the District's 47,548 students—to attend private schools.

The lack of equity is stunning. Our focus should be on maximizing the impact of the Federal Government's limited resources to serve all of the District's students.

Since this bill last passed in 2011 over my strong objection and along party lines, studies of the program have demonstrated that the use of a voucher had no effect on academic achievement, as measured by math and reading scores, school safety, student satisfaction with their school, or motivation and engagement.

Previous studies of this program show that 50 percent of the students from the first two cohorts of the D.C. voucher program eventually dropped out of the program. Students in the program are also less likely to attend a school that offers support programs for those that are academically challenged or have learning difficulties.

In addition, this bill is a direct assault on D.C.'s home rule that was

rushed through our committee shortly after Speaker BOEHNER announced his retirement, and the bill is not supported by D.C.'s elected representative in Congress or a majority of the D.C. City Council.

So all the rhetoric justifying massive cuts to education funding—all the talk about budget constraints, about tightening our belts, and about making sacrifices—all that goes out the window when Republicans want to give \$100 million in taxpayer funds to private schools.

□ 1630

As a graduate of public schools and a longtime advocate of quality public education, I believe our highest priority must be to use limited taxpayer dollars to support programs that will truly meet the educational needs of all of our children. This bill does not do that. I urge our colleagues to reject H.R. 10.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE), the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman CHAFFETZ for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 10, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act. It is a bill to continue the popular and successful D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program.

This program is based on the simple notion that every child deserves an excellent education regardless of the family's background, income, or ZIP Code. The program provides scholarships to students in low-income families so they can escape underperforming schools and receive the quality education they need to excel both in the classroom and later in life. Our investment in this effort is paying off.

Last year, 90 percent of 12th graders who received a D.C. Opportunity scholarship graduated from a high-quality school, and 88 percent went on to pursue a college degree. What is more, when asked if they were satisfied with the child's education, 85 percent of the parents responded "yes." It is no wonder every year the demand for scholarships far exceeds the number of scholarships available. These positive results also explain why this important program has long enjoyed bipartisan support.

Of course, there are some who don't believe these vulnerable families deserve the opportunity to do what is best for their children's education. At a time when this administration has spent billions of dollars pushing its own pet projects and priorities, it has routinely put this modest, successful program on the chopping block. Fortunately, Mr. Chairman, a majority in Congress has continued to stand by these students and families by continuing to support the program, and Speaker JOHN BOEHNER has always stood at the forefront of those efforts.

Few have fought harder or longer for the educational opportunities of D.C. students than Speaker BOEHNER. In fact, throughout his more than 20 years in public office, JOHN BOEHNER has been a tireless champion for families who simply want the opportunity—any opportunity—for their children to receive a quality education. The D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program began under his leadership. Thanks to his efforts, this initiative has made a positive difference in the lives of thousands of students across the District. This act reflects his continued commitment to these families. More importantly, it reaffirms a bipartisan commitment to the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program and the D.C. schoolchildren it serves.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to help more low-income students and support this legislation.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this morning, a Member said that a letter had come from a member of the city council, Anita Bonds, asking that her name be removed from the letter sent by the council, the majority of the council, saying that they opposed reauthorization of this bill. That member has since called me. She writes:

“Dear Member of Congress,

“Due to some confusion about my position on the District of Columbia voucher bill (H.R. 10), I want to make my position clear. I oppose this bill, and I intend to remain a signatory of the letter previously acknowledged that seven of my colleagues on the D.C. Council and I sent to Chairman Jason Chaffetz dated October 8, 2015, in opposition to the bill.”

Signed, Councilmember At-large, Anita Bonds.

Mr. Chairman, I submit her letter for the RECORD.

COUNCIL OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,  
Washington, DC, October 21, 2015.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS, Due to some confusion about my position on the District of Columbia school voucher bill (H.R. 10), I want to make my position clear. I oppose this bill, and I intend to remain a signatory of the letter previously acknowledged that seven of my colleagues on the D.C. Council and I sent to Chairman Jason Chaffetz dated October 8, 2015, in opposition to the bill.

Sincerely,

ANITA BONDS.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER.)

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support today of H.R. 10, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act. In the 10 months that I have been here, one of the neat things that I have experienced is when we participated in a site visit with the Oversight and Government Reform Committee under Chairman CHAFFETZ earlier this year and had a firsthand opportunity to interact with the kids and families about the success of the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program.

I was recently reminded just a couple weeks ago when I was sitting in the hearing seeing the families, seeing the moms who were just beaming with pride about their children having this special opportunity. In the 2013 and 2014 school year, the Opportunity Scholarship Program had a graduation rate of 89 percent, which is astonishing compared to the D.C. Public Schools graduation rate of 58 percent.

As a former minister, I have taken groups in the heart of the inner cities, places like New York and Baltimore. Specifically, in Cleveland, there is a school there called Sunbeam Elementary School. Thieves had stolen the copper off the weathervane, the school was filthy, and there was a metal detector for an elementary school. We brought in a team of 60 or 65 people and refurbished the school and did our best. But do you know what? That was only a temporary fix. The SOAR Act is a fix that lasts for a lifetime. It gives scholarships to children in low-income D.C. families to attend a private school. This piece of legislation also allows parents the opportunity to provide a quality education for their children.

I believe that education will only be successful if two foundational truths are rediscovered: first, that parents know what is best for their child, and they should have the freedom to pursue the path that works for them; secondly, and finally, States must stand up to the Federal Government to reclaim their freedom to educate their children.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, once again, let's get this straight. The control study did not evaluate college attendance. It was not a part of the study. Now, it did evaluate graduation rates. Mr. Chairman, what it did not evaluate was dropout rates.

Private schools are notorious for sending back to the District of Columbia children who they think are not doing well or they are not acting as they think they should act. Unless we had those figures, we would have no idea what the graduation rates were, because the graduation rates are those who were left in the school and did not get sent back.

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I am pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY.)

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 10.

Now, why would I rise in support of this? If you hear the rhetoric from the other side, you are saying this is not a program that works; but if you compare the results, it does work. When you just hear that only 55 percent of people in D.C. Public Schools graduate from high school and yet if they have an opportunity to go to this other school, 89 percent graduate, my good-

ness, what more do you need to understand?

Look, it is very evident about what is going on here. If you want our children to succeed, if you want our children to excel, and if you want America to be able to compete worldwide, then education is the answer. The true issue here is a moral issue and a civil rights issue.

I really believe that President Obama, in 2008, was on to something. This is what the President said:

The single most important factor in determining student achievement is not the color of their skin, it is not where they come from, it is not their parents or how much money their parents have. It is who their teacher is.

Mr. Chairman, if there is one thing that has made this country exceptional, it is that we have allowed everyone the opportunity to rise from whatever level they started at to whatever level they can achieve. It is only possible through education. This program works.

Mr. Chairman, \$60 million is going to be equally divided between the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, D.C. Public Schools, and the D.C. Public Charter Schools. When we give this money to the parents of these children, when they get a chance to see their children excel, when they get a chance to see their children grow, and when they see a chance for their children to have great success, how can we sit in America's House and debate about is this really what it is all about?

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, Members can keep repeating all they want to figures that have come from the air. The only thing evaluated by the congressionally mandated evaluation was the test scores. Our public school students and our charter school students have to take these tests. These children took these tests.

Our public school students are doing better—not nearly as good as they should—and so are our charter schools. In fact, our charter schools are doing even better than our public school students, and these students didn't move at all. That is what the congressionally mandated study showed.

As to civil rights, these schools are exempted from many of the civil rights laws, and for that reason, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the NAACP, and a number of organizations wrote opposing reauthorization of this bill.

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD.)

Mr. SANFORD. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I think that there is one fundamental question in this debate, and that is: Should a child be trapped in a school that traps them? Should a child be trapped in a school

that, for whatever reason, isn't working for them but would forever limit their capacity and their potential in life? To me, that is what H.R. 10 is all about.

I think it is important to remember that 98 percent of the kids that have entered this program have come from schools that were not performing; and in that regard, this is simply a way out, it is a hand up. I think it fundamentally recognizes that dignity and worth that comes with giving somebody a choice.

I think it is something that every human being wants, which is simply a choice. I think it is a recognition of the fact that one size never fits all, that God makes us all different, and therefore a plethora of different choices is vital in the marketplace.

Finally, it is recognition of the fact that the marketplace has the ability to create choices that might take forever in other systems, time that these kids do not have. I would ask that we refocus on the kids.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I don't know about other Members' districts, but I challenge Members to meet what the District of Columbia has done to keep students from being trapped in bad schools.

In your districts, can 75 percent of the children choose to go to a better performing district? They can in mine.

In your district, are there 110 publicly accountable charter schools as an alternative to your own traditional public schools? There are in mine.

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROKITA).

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for his leadership in bringing this excellent bill to the floor. This bill—of which, in full disclosure, I am an original cosponsor of—will continue to promote school choice and provide Opportunity scholarships to D.C. students that are most in need, while also expanding D.C. Public Charter Schools, therefore providing more opportunities for Washington students to excel and set themselves up for productive and successful lives.

Now, to date, the Opportunity Scholarship Program has been an educational lifeline for more than 6,000 children from very low-income D.C. families, and more than 16,000 have applied to participate since the 2004-05 school year. Quite simply put, this program works.

It is no secret I am a big proponent of school choice. As chairman of the Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee, I have heard about the challenges many students in schools are facing, and I firmly believe that when parents have a choice, kids have a chance. This program, which has helped pave the way for others like it across the country,

gives that chance, and it creates a healthy competition that causes all schools to improve, therefore helping all students, even those who aren't in the program.

As I have seen in my home State of Indiana and across this great country touring schools and visiting classrooms, Opportunity scholarships provide students a hand up in improving their lives, their family's lives, and their communities. That is why we have a moral obligation to pass this legislation and why I urge my colleagues to join me and join the others here on the floor in reauthorizing the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program.

Mr. Chairman, a great education is a great equalizer. It opens doors to unlimited possibilities and provides students the tools that they need to succeed in life.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1645

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act.

Speaker BOEHNER led the Nation over 10 years ago when he provided flexibility to Washington, D.C., children and their parents through School Choice. I believe that School Choice is paramount to increasing educational gains for all children, but especially our Nation's students who are most in need.

The SOAR Act gives scholarships to low-income students to attend a private school, providing them an opportunity to access a quality education that would otherwise be out of reach.

School Choice has proven to be successful in Washington, D.C., as students using their scholarships have a 90 percent graduation rate compared to the 58 percent graduation rate for D.C. public schools in 2013 and 2014.

We heard today that these statistics have been questioned, and we hope that the public schools are improving. But with this act would they actually be improving?

I encourage my colleagues to stand up for School Choice by supporting the SOAR Act.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would draw our Members' attention to the editorial board comments from yesterday. This is from the Washington Post: A misguided attack on D.C.'s needy students.

I want to remind people, as they did in this document here in this editorial, that eight council members seem unaware that the program was established in 2004 at the initiation of the

then-D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams, who was also supported by the chairman of the Council's Education Committee, and it has produced results.

The graduation rates are amazingly good, at roughly 90 percent, compared to D.C. public schools that are less than 60 percent. I think that is strong evidence that it is a winner, that it does provide a good opportunity for people, and that it should be reauthorized.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time each side has remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Utah has 6 minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from the District of Columbia has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the author of this piece of legislation and the distinguished Speaker of the House.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Chairman, let me thank my colleague for yielding, and thank all my colleagues who are supporting this legislation today.

Many of us remember the story of "The Little Engine That Could." What happened was that the train full of toys wanted to get over the mountain to get to the kids on the other side. The big engine said: No, I cannot. The rusty old engine said: No, I cannot. But the little engine says: I'm not very big, but I think I can. I think I can.

Well, from the beginning, the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program has been the little engine that could. We started this back in 2003 with the help of D.C.'s Mayor at the time, Anthony Williams, and D.C. councilman Kevin Chavous.

For years the government was promising the Moon to D.C. families and spending the Moon, essentially, but nothing changed. So we said: If we are going to support public schools and charter schools, let's also give low-income families the chance to apply for scholarships to attend the school of their choice. Let's give them that power.

Because if you have got the resources, you already have school choice. You can send your kids to whatever school you want to send them to. You can move from the neighborhood you are in to where they have got a better school. But if you are poor and you are stuck in a bad neighborhood and your child doesn't have that chance or, frankly, any chance, they are just dead in the water.

Well, the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program has been that little lifeline that could. All told, 6,100 students have escaped underperforming schools. In that time, the program has received some 16,000 applications. Last spring 90 percent of 12th graders using the Opportunity scholarships graduated and

88 percent enrolled in a 2- or 4-year college. Of the 1,400 students in the program this year, 87.4 percent would have been in a school that the government has identified as in need of improvement.

These are the kind of results parents dream of for their kids. And while it is my name on the bill, the best champions of this program are some of the most fearless kids you will ever see.

Not only did they have to overcome the doubts of the education establishment, they also had to withstand efforts by some of the most powerful people in this city to kill this program.

So today I am asking each of you to support H.R. 10, which reauthorizes this program for another 5 years. Here is why. Yes, this issue is personal to me and has been for a long time. But, frankly, it ought to be personal to every single Member of this body.

Those of us who work here, who make a good living here, owe something to the kids in this town. We owe these kids a fighting chance at success.

So what I am asking you to do today is help these kids get over the mountain. Help us keep building the movement that could. Vote for H.R. 10.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Speaker has said that, without this program, these children would have been in bad neighborhood schools. Well, I think it must be noted that the District of Columbia has done more to make sure that those children are not trapped in such schools than any district I have yet read about or heard of.

I have noted that 75 percent—that means the overwhelming number—of children stuck in neighborhood schools that they believe are not good schools go to the other side of town, if necessary, to a better school. Far from being trapped, they are encouraged to choose a better school. And I have also cited the 110 charter schools that increase their choices.

And, Mr. Chairman, I want you to know that many of the voucher parents whom I have met with—after all, they are my constituents—have said to me that they tried to get into one of our charter schools, but the waiting lists were too long, which is why they went to the voucher schools.

Now, isn't it interesting that the voucher schools have no waiting list, but the D.C. charter schools and many of our public schools have waiting lists, so much so that D.C. has had to combine the public schools and the charter schools on one list in a lottery so that families can choose which school to go to.

How many Members on that side of the aisle have a lottery that lets the children, the parents, choose the best school for them to go to? Do not dare tell me that the District of Columbia leaves children trapped in failing schools. It has gone out of its way to do just the opposite.

And what does it get for it? The imposition by this body of yet another al-

ternative. It is true that, a former mayor, who himself went to Catholic schools, said he was for vouchers. Well, Mr. Chairman, I ask you, then, since the District of Columbia has control of its own education apparatus, why hasn't the District of Columbia set up its own voucher schools? Some other districts have done that. Because the majority, they don't prefer vouchers, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from the District of Columbia has 2 minutes remaining.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, there are many reasons why I oppose this bill. First, it has failed the goal that the Congress gave it. Bring these children's test scores up. The public schools have brought their test scores up. The public charter schools have done even better in bringing their test scores up. These children's test scores have not risen.

Moreover, I can't fail to note how recently the majority has cut K-12 by \$2 billion while taking \$100 million out of, obviously, education funds to fund a private school voucher bill.

Mr. Chairman, not everybody on my side of the aisle is for public charter schools, but I have supported public charter schools because my own constituents wanted and needed a way out of neighborhood schools very often.

Yet, even though I come to this floor with home rule choices, this body is insisting on its choices, knowing full well that nobody in the District of Columbia can vote against their choices.

And it says to the District of Columbia residents: No matter what you do, people, no matter how good your choices are, no matter how much you meet the standards we often talk about when it comes to choice, you, who have no vote on this floor, who will not vote on this bill when the bell rings in a few minutes, must do what we say.

That, my good friends, is not a chapter in democracy. It shows once again that Republican do whatever they care to do to the District of Columbia, even when they reject the same choice for their own constituents, and vote down for their constituents what they now impose on mine. Just a few months ago, the House and Senate voted down vouchers, but today—today—they will vote to impose these same vouchers on the District of Columbia.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to correct the record there. I think, obviously, somebody misspoke. The House did not vote on vouchers in this Congress. That is not what has happened.

Mr. Chairman, I insert into the RECORD the letter we got from 500 families, D.C. residents, urging us in the adoption of this.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, October 20, 2015.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES: We are a large and diverse number of parents of children attend-

ing various schools within the District of Columbia. We write to urge your support of the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act (SOAR) (H.R. 10).

The SOAR Act is bipartisan legislation which ensures our rights as parents to choose the best public, charter or private school for our children. It not only provides up to \$20 million for Opportunity Scholarships for low-income families to attend private schools, but also authorizes an additional \$40 million per year for public and charter schools in the District of Columbia. This three-sector initiative provides opportunities for all our children to succeed!

Nearly 6,200 children from very low-income families in the city have attended private schools through the Opportunity Scholarship Program over the past eleven years—88% coming from areas zoned for schools in need of improvement and 97% African-American or Hispanic. These students graduate at rates 30 points higher than the city's public schools and have a near 90 percent college enrollment rate. These are proven results!

The SOAR Act is an example of what works in education. When we can choose the best public, charter, or private school for our children, there are not only more opportunities to engage in their education, but also for them to achieve greater academic excellence. These outcomes strengthen the city's education system as a whole.

We believe that maintaining and fully funding all educational options are critically important for the city's families, especially low-income families served by the Opportunity Scholarship Program. No child should be denied a safe, quality education because of their family income or zip code.

We therefore urge you to support the swift passage of the SOAR Act.

Sincerely,

Ms. Nichelle Cluff, Mrs. Ifeyinwa Ikoli, Ms. Stephanie Montgomery, Ms. Mary Montgomery, Ms. Nina Harris, Ms. Eboni Purvis, Ms. Juliette Randolph, Ms. Ashley Adams, Ms. Naa Borle Sakeyfi, Mrs. Mariama Bah, Ms. Mia Wilson, Mrs. Sherri Calhoun, Ms. Lamonica Jeffrey, Mr. Darrell Cousar, Mr. James Calhoun, Mr. Andrew Cyr, Ms. Kayann McCalla, Mrs. Aldrina Cabrera, Ms. Kiana Wright, Ms. Albertine Cole.

Ms. Dianna Coley, Ms. Tonya Carter, Ms. Giovanna Grayson, Ms. Luciana Udeozor, Ms. Andrea Davis, Mrs. Obiagel nuel-Ejiofor, Mr. Emmanuel Ejiofor, Mr. Rogers Ferguson, Mr. Girma Mihretu, Ms. Molita Gaskins, Ms. Latoya Myers, Ms. Djenane Jeanty, Ms. Keona Lewis, Mrs. Nicole Knott, Mr. Rudy Knott, Mr. Hanna Boku, Mr. Rashawn McCain, Ms. Ann Mmayie, Ms. Rita Pineda, Mr. Okechukwu Mbarah.

Mr. Carlings McPhail, Ms. Ann Meruh, Ms. Shantel Powell-Morgan, Mrs. Marguerita Ramos, Mrs. Muanza Sangamay, Ms. Felicia Thomas, Ms. Sydney Williams, Ms. Caren Kirkland, Mrs. Temitope Tayo, Mr. Anthony Ugorji, Ms. Natasha Tutt, Ms. Dina Bayou, Ms. Natasha Tutt, Mr. Calvin Wright, Mrs. Julia Ugorji, Mrs. Chinwe Mbarah, Mr. Souleymane Bah, Julie McLaughlin, Sheila Martinez, Susan Morais.

Joan Sapienza, Eddie Donahue, Joseph Yohe, Carter Jefferson, Vincent Browning, Jonathan Bender, Peter Frantz, Ellen Graper, Elizabeth LeBras, Kiandra Willis, Robert McKeon, Marcela Price Souaya, Stephen Lennon, Aleasa Chiles-Feggins, Sally Leakamariam, Juleanna Glover, Christopher Reiter, Cristina Khalaf, Tom Shea, Sean Vincent.

Karen Brennan, Ceci Smith, Adrienne Vincent, Pedro Smith, Donna Gibson, Colleen Cavanagh, Chris Long, Aleasa Chiles-Feggins, Mariela Alardon-Yohe, Jennifer Browning, Philippa Bender, Melanie Jefferson, Veronica Nyhan Jones, Michael

Truscott, Eavan O'Halloran, Sakinah Dupree, Morris Redd, Ron Josey, Susana Ramos-Izquierdo, Aimee Donahue.

Marisse Rovira, Linda Girardi, Sharlene Mentor, Lisa Richa, James McLaughlin, Glenda Morales, Samuel Parker III, Clarence Jones, Leyla Y. Teos, Mavian Nouget, Kip Ross, Beatriz Lopez, Charles Malloy, Steve Trynosky, Carlos Aquino, Yanira Reyes, Nelly Romero, Sandra Huerta, Eboni Curry, Amanda Lawrence.

Laura Hernandez, Mogus Meles, Danielle Aguirre, Julie Corsig, Andy Corsig, Alan Joaquin, Stephen Connors, Colton Campbell, Amy Dean, Flavio Cumpiano, John Menditto, Michelle Theic, Liza Figueroa, Shenelle Henry, Glenda Urquilla, Kelly Brown, Maria Granados, Catie Malloy, Ingrid Mejia, Jill Trynosky.

Marlene Aquino, Roselia Gonzalez, Nubia Easil, Jessica Martinez, Beatriz Jansen, Juan Carlos Acajalon Mendez, Betiel Zekarias, Maria Torres, Carrie Hillegass, Mike Hillegass, Barbara Richitt, Victoria Connors, Kiandra Willis, Marilyn Campbell, Bob Dean, Felice Goodwin, Shanti Stanton, Molly Robert, Jen MacLennan, Michael Grady.

Sharon Blume, Brendan O'Brien, Kenia Reyes, Salvador Hernandez, Rob Grabarz, Bentley Storm, Molly Bruno, Jennifer Leonard, Geoff Morrell, Christy Reap, Genet Demisse, Javier Aguirre, Neil McGrail, Kai Schmitz, Jimmy Kemp, Kathy Hagerup, Stephanie McGovern, Yohannes Z. Hadgu, Thomas Fitton, Melinda Johnson.

Theresa Nahazar, Ann McAllister, Dan Goodwin, Daphne de Souza, Darren MacLennan, Alexandra Walsh, Andrew Blume, Greg Talbot, Darren Jansen, Susan Tanis, Sarah Grabarz, Ashley Storm, Jaclyn Madden, Barton Leonard, Ann Morrell, Pat Reap, Jana Patterson, Barbara Swaboda, Stephanie McGrail, Adriana Schmitz.

Susan Kemp, Brian Crowley, John McGovern, Michael Scanlon, Kelly Fitton, Bassam Khalaf, John Nahazar, John McAllister, Marc Sozio, Tyson Redpath, Laverne Lightbourne, Nick Milano, Trisha Corcoran, Eleanor Hopkins, Liza Lindenbergh, Katie Krantz, John Morrissey, Joe Patterson, Chima Oluigbo, Sonia Cruz.

Mercedes Rubio, Eddie Donahue, Gilbert Richa, Nick Saunders, Stephen Sexton, Thomas Faust, Meg Molloy, Michelle Wolf, Bruce Cormier, Ryan Angier, Jen Rowan, Lauren Buckley, Collin Cullen, Mary Santiviago, Kelly Sozio, Renee Redpath, Kevin Madden, Susan Milano, Joe Corcoran, Mary Glaser McCahan.

Kate McAuliffe, Meg Knight, Ann Morrissey, Courtney Knowles, Nnenna Oluigbo, Robert Cruz-Reyes, Lydia Dolan, Lauren Lennon, Tom Knight, Joe Beemsterboer, Sarah Sexton, Larisa Faust, Jim Molloy, Kristin Lindquist, Sarah Cormier, Katreena Vigil Pineda, Mike Rowan, Mark Buckley, Brenda Cullen, Sergio Santiviago, Gary Fabiano.

Rene McGuffin, Jorge Costa, Meghan Deerin, Kelly Stanton, Art Frye, John McGill, Mike Bruno, Matt Ritz, Margaret Bond, Billy MacArtee, Anthony Puglisi, Monica Micklos, Tim Yost, Ray Powers, Chris Dolan, Darrell Clark, Chris Connolly, Joni Veith, Courtney Taylor, Athena Meyers.

Joshua Corless, Allison Sheedy, Robin Barth, Sam Depoy, Jung Kang, Connie Fabiano, David McGuffin, Michelle Costa, JB Deerin, Mike Stanton, Barbara Frye, Stephanie McGill, Anne Zorc, Erin Ritz, Chris Delaney, Elena MacArtee, Laura Puglisi, Jeff Micklos, Liz Yost, Tom Hohman.

Desiree Gabbidon, Yves Clark, Michelle Connolly, Tom Veith, Jay Taylor, Greg Meyers, Shannon Corless, Stefan Hagerup, Woo Lee, Marty Depoy, Stephanie O'Leary, Susan

O'Keefe, Luwam Berhane, Patti Exposito, Michael Henry, Dan Hickey, Carmen Burducea, Joseph Finnegan, Michael Hyatte, Peter Komives.

Eric Stogoski, Fred Dombo, Dave Madden, Justin Glasgow, Bernardo Ahlbom, Mark Emery, Doug Skomy, Stephen Grimberg, Brendan Delaney, John DiMartino, Jeffrey MacKinnon, Hirut Teklu, Erika Lopez-Padilla, Michelle Marshall, Abebe Kebede, Shayla Mack, Tesfaye Bune, Michael O'Keefe, Daniel McCahan, Lorenzo Exposito.

Sarah Henry, Stephanie Hickey, Radu Burducea, Elizabeth Finnegan, Theresa Hyatte, Irina Komives, Julia Stogoski, Michelle Dombo, Lisa Madden, Megan Glasgow, Tatiana Ahlbom, Celina Emery, Mary Skorny, Christina Grimberg, Celine Delaney, Ginny Treanor, Gail MacKinnon, Mekuria Gebremichael Bint, Renee Lopez-Padilla, Emebet Worku.

Charlotte Crawford, Solomon Meshesha, Etsegent Demissie, Sri Winarti, Denisha Dempster, Demssie Gebremedhin, Alembanchi Taye, Tezita Woldegebriel, Tesfaye Abebu Bune, Magie Maling, Jessica Cabrera, LaShawn Debnam, Barbara Destry, Jaanai Johnson, Hewan Abera, Siddiq Anderson, Markina Bailey, Odessa Brown, Rosa Caiza Maldonado, Sharon Coffey.

Dianna Coley, Felicia Dyson, Ruth Fekadu, Dana Grinage, Sandra Hall, Lalkia Harris, Shirlene Jackson, Francine Johnson, Nicole Johnson, Rajeev Burks, Mohamad Nugroho, Woinishet Gelete, Johnny Kassa, Cynthia Downes, Genet Tirkssso, Wosen Admasu, Sara Caceres, Johanna Rizo Martinez, Nikita Pray, Estela Arellano.

Sagrario Agaton, Mary Addae, Ruth Barnwell, Meka Burch, Sherri Calhoun, Catrice Coleman, Barbara Cunningham, Lashawn Durant, Moanick Fenner, Michelle Glover, Carmen Hall-Ali, Deborah Jackson, Darlene Johnson, Denise Johnson, Wendy Jones, Michael Jones, Alfreda Judd, Lynetta McClam, Adrienne Miles, Claudia Moreno.

Pauline Murray, Brigitta Nyahn, Naha Poindexter, Erin Skinner, Felicia Thomas, Sharon Waller, Lanita Wood, Ms. Myeshia Johnson, Ms. Venete Eason, Ms. Kanita Washington, Mrs. Barbara Graham, Sophie Alozie, Blanca Magarin, Jeanine Henderson-Lebbie, William Walker, IV, Tigestu Zewdie, Sydonie Fisher, William James, Akwilina Perry, Monalisa Reno.

Zakia Williams, Shonta Jones, Pamela Matthews, Cecilia Mensah, Tonya Moore, Priscilla Moultrie, Carolina Novoa, Deborah M. Parker, Michelle Roberts, Sandra Stackhouse, Leslie Void, Varnell Washington, Ms. Kitty Dawson, Ms. Mia Butler, Ms. Tiana Robinson, Mrs. Jill Gelman, Nejat Teman, Nathaniel Garbla, Tefaye Tamire, Patrice Aubrey.

Fatmatta Kamara, Stephon Knox, Dwishnicka Randolph, Nicole Wood, Erica Iweanoge, Amanda Brown-Parks, James Parker, Teata Sanders, Samora St. Firmin, Dionne Clemons, Vernessa Perry, Donald Matthews, Tashana Ellis, Donita Adams, Caroline Beruchan, Steven Garrison, Ms. Holly Destry, Ms. Victoria Heimbald, Mr. Solomon Weldegebriel, Ms. Jamil Rasberry.

Anne Hedian, Atchoi Osekre-Bond, Margie Bacon, Jill Wright, Cathy Falk, Chanda Foreman, Colleen Scheidel, Kenny Stack, Juliette Randolph, Barbara Andercheck, Indra Thomas, Dog Harvey, Darah Tracy, Ginger Beverly, Tonya Wright, Brandon Winder, Antilecia O'Neal, Uanna Ferguson, Aster Robi, Bernadette Aniekwe.

Patrice Davis, Ms. Maria del Carmen Reyes, Ms. Ingrid Lucas, Ms. Stephanie Goodloe, Mrs. Helen Andemariam, Michael Thomasian, Neslyn Moore, Judy Steele, Kathleen Downey, Judith Home, Niamh O'Mahoney, Arleen Hall, Bobby Rienzo, Te-

resa Fitzgerald, LaShawne Thomas, Sarah Kane, Frank Washington, Mary Ann Welter, Shawn Hunter, Leslie Sherrill.

Donise Yeager, Keyana Caroline, Sandra Gray, Latasha Monnique Jones Ward, Anthony Speight, Deborah B. Jones, Kim Atwater, Alvena P. Toland, Loretta Henry, Marilyn Sharpe, Davon Wilson, Sherry Bryant, Elroy Black, Lisa Newman, Shakia Henderson, Octavia Powell, Anita M. Harris, Krestin Clay, Laneka Brakett, Ana Acedo-Garcia.

Garry Jones, John Wallace, Nakeisha Thompson, Donald Lampkins, Renard Hawkins, Tammy Williams, Tynisha Dunn, Jovanna Bailey, Latasha Johon, Bobby Perry, Shalita Knight, Keyana Howard, Kenneth Meredith, Calep Epps, Ty'ron Byers, Chase Blakney, Curtis Watts, Kishara Odom, Jeffrey Corry, Antonia Payne.

Denise L. Lowery, Stephanie Payner, Tanya Lambricht, Elaine E. Harris, Elbert Laker, Ryan Storr, Sylvester Bynum, Lavelle Lamb, Dominique Johnson, Paulette Willims, Martasha Fermine, Oyhani Williams, Nasir McKeiver, Kenneth Wood, Neta Vaught, Mary Joyner, Michelle L. McIntyre, Kaitlin Gallagher, Will E. Henderson, Jeanette Hubbard, Ontavia Lynch, Tasha McKenzie, James R. Wills, Jr.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I also introduce into the RECORD The Washington Post editorial from yesterday, "A Misguided Attack on D.C.'s Needy Students," actually supporting this.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 20, 2015]

A MISGUIDED ATTACK ON D.C.'S NEEDEY STUDENTS

(By Editorial Board)

Is the federally funded scholarship program for poor D.C. families being forced on an unwilling city? It is safe to say that thousands of D.C. parents whose children are on the waiting list for a scholarship do not think so. Nor, we would venture, do the 6,100 children, predominantly minorities, who have used the scholarships to attend private schools. For that matter, students in the city's public schools who have benefited from the infusion of federal dollars that has accompanied the voucher program probably would not embrace the argument either.

So whom do members of the D.C. Council think they are helping as they urge Congress to kill this program?

Fortunately, it does not appear that the council members will succeed in inflicting this wound on their city. Congress appears poised to reauthorize the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, which provides needy students with up to \$12,572 to pay for tuition, fees and transportation to a school of their choice. The average family income for participating families is less than \$22,000. A bill extending the program for five years and championed by outgoing House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) is set for a floor vote Wednesday, while a bipartisan group of senators has filed a companion bill that would continue the program through 2025.

Seeking to derail those efforts, a misguided majority of the D.C. Council, undoubtedly egged on by Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) and other voucher critics, wrote a letter to Congress objecting to what they portrayed as an intrusion into local affairs. These eight council members seemed unaware that the program was established in 2004 at the initiation of Anthony Williams (D), then D.C.'s mayor, and with the strong support of Kevin Chavous (D), then chair of the council's Education Committee. Likewise, they were unmoved by polling that has shown 74 percent of D.C. residents support

the voucher program, which, despite the specious claims of critics, has improved outcomes for its students without taking a dime from regular public schools.

Indeed, the three-sector federal approach has brought more than \$600 million to D.C. schools, with traditional public schools receiving \$239 million, charter public schools \$195 million and the voucher program \$183 million. At stake for fiscal 2016 is an additional \$45 million. It is fantasy to think there would be additional monies absent vouchers.

School reform has brought improvement throughout the system. Yet, many parents still lack the choices and the access to high-quality education that city politicians take for granted for their own families. We credit D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson (D) and council members Vincent B. Orange (D-At Large), Mary M. Cheh (D-Ward 3), Brandon T. Todd (D-Ward 4) and Kenyan R. McDuffie (D-Ward 5) for not seeking to deprive those parents of choice, and we hope their eight colleagues will rethink their position and put constituents' welfare over misguided ideology.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, the bottom line is this program produces results. I like the variety of choices. And the Delegate has been a real champion for charter schools, and I applaud her for that, I support her in that. But the reality is the scholarships that we are talking about here, the Opportunity scholarships, have yielded the best results with nearly 90 percent graduation rates and roughly 88 percent of the people then going on to college. Those are amazing statistics.

But I have heard a lot of derogatory comments. I have heard everything from misguided, idiotic, disgraceful, weakens, underfunded. Underfunded? Underfunded? That is offensive to us from Utah. We happen to have the lowest per pupil funding in the entire United States. We are not proud of that fact. But the reality is we get roughly \$6,500 per student, where in Washington, D.C. you get about \$19,500 per student. It is not even close. And yet here we are championing and trying to help give more money, more resources, to what are underperforming students and giving them more choices.

I guess one of the things you should consider is if the Congress does support this bill, does pass this bill, it is appropriated, would anybody on the Democratic side of the aisle actually recommend that the city not take the money?

□ 1700

If it is so idiotic, if it is so awful, if it is so derogatory, if it is so negative, then why not cut it off right now? See, they want to continue to allow it to happen for those who have scholarships now because they know it is working, and they could never look those parents in the eye and take it away; but they are going to deny that choice to future generations where we know there has been demonstrable success.

So I am proud of Speaker BOEHNER and what he has done to champion this bill. I think it is a good bill. With that, I urge the adoption of this bill.

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, today, I will vote against H.R. 10, which would continue a flawed program that pursues a partisan ideology at the expense of a child's quality education.

This bill would reauthorize Washington, D.C.'s private school voucher program, the only program in the country using federal money to send children to private and religious schools. The SOAR voucher program was a five year pilot set to expire in 2008. Despite four studies by the Department of Education and two General Accountability Office (GAO) reports concluding that the program wasn't working, Republicans in Congress are doubling down by allowing taxpayer dollars to prop up unaccredited, and even unsafe, schools. The last thing we need, as our students fall further behind their international peers, are voucher schools operating in relative isolation, free of oversight for curriculum, quality or management.

SOAR is the only program of its kind for a reason—there's no way our states would tolerate such nonsense. Sadly, because D.C. has not been freed from the partisan grips of Congress, it has become commonplace to see House Republicans impose their politics on D.C., despite widespread citizen and local government objection, from women's health care to marijuana reform to street design. There's justification for a program that funnels millions of dollars into a program shown to be ineffective and strongly opposed by the people that should matter—the parents, the educators, and taxpayers who support the system.

Worse, the SOAR Act strips students of constitutional protections of civil rights: federal funds can flow to schools that do not meet the federal standards to prevent discrimination against disabled persons, persons of color, persons of a religious group, women, or any other protected class. The SOAR Act is a sad step backward for education policy, civil rights, and good governance, and I strongly oppose it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak in opposition to H.R. 10, the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act.

H.R. 10 would reauthorize the District of Columbia private school voucher program, the Opportunity Scholarship Program (OSP), for five years through 2021.

H.R. 10 would reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, which provides Federal support for improving traditional public schools in the District of Columbia (D.C.), expanding and improving high-quality D.C. public charter schools, and offering private school vouchers to a limited number of students.

The Obama Administration continues to strongly oppose the private school vouchers program within this legislation, known as the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program.

Members of the House should respect the self determination of the residents of DC by not forcing education policy onto children or their families at taxpayer expense.

Rigorous evaluation over several years demonstrates that D.C. vouchers have not yielded statistically significant improvements in student achievement by scholarship recipients compared to other students not receiving vouchers.

In addition, H.R. 10 would extend this voucher program to a new population of students previously attending private schools.

Instead of using Federal resources to support a handful of students in private schools, the Federal Government should focus its attention and available resources on improving the quality of public schools for all students.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this bill.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

The amendments recommended by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform printed in the bill are adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read.

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

H.R. 10

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES IN ACT.**

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act” or the “SOAR Reauthorization Act”.

(b) REFERENCES IN ACT.—Whenever in this Act an amendment is expressed in terms of an amendment to or repeal of a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to that section or other provision of the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act (division C of Public Law 112–10; sec. 38–1853.01 et seq., D.C. Official Code).

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Parents are best equipped to make decisions for their children, including the educational setting that will best serve the interests and educational needs of their children.

(2) In 1995, Congress passed the DC School Reform Act, which granted the District of Columbia the authority to create public charter schools and gave parents greater educational options for their children.

(3) In 2003, in partnership with the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the chairman of the DC Council Education Committee, and community activists, Congress passed the DC School Choice Incentive Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–199; 118 Stat. 126), to provide opportunity scholarships to parents of students in the District of Columbia to enable them to pursue a high-quality education at a private elementary or secondary school of their choice.

(4) The DC Opportunity Scholarship Program (DC OSP) was part of a comprehensive three-part funding arrangement that provided additional funds for both the District of Columbia public schools and public charter schools of the District of Columbia. The intent behind the additional resources was to ensure both District of Columbia public and charter schools continued to improve.

(5) In 2011, Congress enacted the three-part funding arrangement when it reauthorized the DC OSP and passed the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results (SOAR) Act (division C of Public Law 112–10) with bipartisan support.

(6) While the National Center for Education Statistics indicates that per pupil expenditure for public schools in the District of Columbia is the highest in the United States, performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) continues to be near the bottom of the country when examining scores in mathematics and reading

for fourth and eighth grades. When Congress passed the DC School Choice Incentive Act of 2003, students in the District of Columbia ranked 52 out of 52 States (including the Department of Defense schools). Since that time, the District of Columbia has made significant gains in mathematics and reading. However, students in the District of Columbia still rank in the bottom three States out of 52 States. According to the 2013 fourth grade math NAEP results, 34 percent of students are below basic, 38 percent are at basic, and 28 percent are at proficient or advanced. The 2013 fourth grade reading results found that 50 percent of fourth grade students in the District of Columbia are at or below basic, 27 percent are at basic, and 23 percent are proficient or advanced.

(7) Since the inception of the DC OSP, there has been strong demand for the program by parents and the citizens of the District of Columbia. In fact, 74 percent of District of Columbia residents support continuing the program (based on the Lester & Associates February 2011 Poll).

(8) Since the program's inception, parental satisfaction has remained high. The program has also been found to result in significantly higher graduation rates for those students who have received and used their opportunity scholarships.

(9) The DC OSP offers low-income families in the District of Columbia important educational alternatives while public schools are improved. The program should continue to be reauthorized as part of a three-part comprehensive funding strategy for the District of Columbia school system providing equal funding for public schools, public charter schools, and opportunity scholarships for students to attend private schools.

(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to amend the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act to provide low-income parents residing in the District of Columbia with expanded educational opportunities for enrolling their children in other schools in the District of Columbia, and provide resources to support educational reforms for District of Columbia Public Schools and District of Columbia public charter schools.

### SEC. 3. PROHIBITING IMPOSITION OF LIMITS ON TYPES OF ELIGIBLE STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM.

Section 3004(a) (sec. 38–1853.04(a), D.C. Official Code) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) PROHIBITING IMPOSITION OF LIMITS ON ELIGIBLE STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program under this division, the Secretary may not limit the number of eligible students receiving scholarships under section 3007(a), and may not prevent otherwise eligible students from participating in the program under this Act, on any of the following grounds:

“(i) The type of school the student previously attended.

“(ii) Whether or not the student previously received a scholarship or participated in the program.

“(iii) Whether or not the student was a member of the control group used by the Institute of Education Sciences to carry out previous evaluations of the program under section 3009.

“(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) may be construed to waive the requirement under section 3005(b)(1)(B) that the entity carrying out the program under this Act must carry out a random selection process which gives weight to the priorities described in section 3006 if more eligible students seek admission in the program than the program can accommodate.”

### SEC. 4. REQUIRING ELIGIBLE ENTITIES TO UTILIZE INTERNAL FISCAL AND QUALITY CONTROLS.

Section 3005(b)(1) (sec. 38–1853.05(b)(1), D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (K); and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(M) how the entity will ensure that it utilizes internal fiscal and quality controls; and”.

### SEC. 5. CLARIFICATION OF PRIORITIES FOR AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS TO DETERMINING ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.

Section 3006(1) (sec. 38–1853.06(1), D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring under section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6316)” and inserting “identified as a low-achieving school according to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education of the District of Columbia”; and

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting the following: “, or whether such students have, in the past, attended a private school.”.

### SEC. 6. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AND ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.

(a) CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS; COMPLIANCE WITH REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 3007(a)(4) (sec. 38–1853.07(a)(4), D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (E);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (F) and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(G) conducts criminal background checks on school employees who have direct and unsupervised interaction with students; and

“(H) complies with all requests for data and information regarding the reporting requirements described in section 3010.”.

(b) ACCREDITATION.—Section 3007(a) (sec. 38–1853.07(a), D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “paragraphs (2) and (3)” and inserting “paragraphs (2), (3), and (5)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds provided under this division for opportunity scholarships may be used by an eligible student to enroll in a participating private school unless one of the following applies:

“(i) In the case of a school that, as of the date of enactment of the SOAR Reauthorization Act, is a participating school, the school is provisionally or fully accredited by an accrediting body described in subparagraphs (A) through (G) of section 2202(16) of the District of Columbia School Reform Act of 1995 (sec. 38–1802.02(16)(A–G), D.C. Official Code), or by any other accrediting body determined appropriate by the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent for Schools for the purposes of accrediting an elementary or secondary school.

“(ii) In the case of a school that, as of the date before the date of enactment of the SOAR Reauthorization Act, is a participating school but does not meet the requirements of clause (i)—

“(I) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of such Act, the school is pursuing full accreditation by an accrediting body described in clause (i); and

“(II) not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of such Act, the school meets the requirements of clause (i), except that an eligible entity may extend this deadline for a single 1-year period if the school provides

the eligible entity with evidence from such an accrediting body that the school's application for accreditation is in process and that the school will be awarded accreditation before the end of such period.

“(iii) In the case of a school that, as of the date of enactment of the SOAR Reauthorization Act, is not a participating school, the school meets the requirements of clause (i) or, if it does not meet the requirements of clause (i)—

“(I) at the time the school notifies an eligible entity that it seeks to be a participating school, the school is actively pursuing full accreditation by an accrediting body described in clause (i);

“(II) not later than 5 years after the school notifies an eligible entity that it seeks to be a participating school, the school meets the requirements of clause (i), except that an eligible entity may extend this deadline for a single 1-year period if the school provides the eligible entity with evidence from such an accrediting body that the school's application for accreditation is in process and that the school will be awarded accreditation before the end of such period; and

“(III) the school meets all of the other requirements for participating schools under this Act.

“(B) REPORTS TO ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of the SOAR Reauthorization Act, each participating school shall submit to the eligible entity a certification that the school has been fully or provisionally accredited in accordance with subparagraph (A), or has been granted an extension by the eligible entity in accordance with subparagraph (A)(ii)(II).

“(C) ASSISTING STUDENTS IN ENROLLING IN OTHER SCHOOLS.—If a participating school fails to meet the requirements of subparagraph (A), the eligible entity shall assist the parents of the eligible students who attend the school in identifying, applying to, and enrolling in another participating school under this Act.”.

(c) USE OF FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES AND PARENTAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 3007 (sec. 38–1853.07, D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (b) and (c) and inserting the following:

“(b) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES AND PARENTAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall make \$2,000,000 of the amount provided under the grant each year available to an eligible entity receiving a grant under section 3004(a) to cover the following expenses:

“(1) The administrative expenses of carrying out its program under this Act during the year, including—

“(A) determining the eligibility of students to participate;

“(B) selecting the eligible students to receive scholarships;

“(C) determining the amount of the scholarships and issuing the scholarships to eligible students;

“(D) compiling and maintaining financial and programmatic records; and

“(E) conducting site visits as described in section 3005(b)(1)(1).

“(2) The expenses of educating parents about the entity's program under this Act, and assisting parents through the application process under this Act, including—

“(A) providing information about the program and the participating schools to parents of eligible students;

“(B) providing funds to assist parents of students in meeting expenses that might otherwise preclude the participation of eligible students in the program; and

“(C) streamlining the application process for parents.”; and

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(d) CLARIFICATION OF USE OF FUNDS FOR STUDENT ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE.—Section

3007(c) (sec. 38-1853.07(c), D.C. Official Code), as redesignated by subsection (c)(2), is amended by striking “identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring under section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6316)” and inserting “identified as a low-achieving school according to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education of the District of Columbia”.

(e) PERMITTING USE OF FUNDS REMAINING UNOBLIGATED FROM PREVIOUS FISCAL YEARS.—Section 3007 (sec. 38-1853.07, D.C. Official Code), as amended by this section, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) PERMITTING USE OF FUNDS REMAINING UNOBLIGATED FROM PREVIOUS FISCAL YEARS.—To the extent that any funds appropriated for the opportunity scholarship program under this Act for any fiscal year (including a fiscal year occurring prior to the enactment of this subsection) remain unobligated at the end of the fiscal year, the Secretary shall make such funds available during the next fiscal year and (if still unobligated as of the end of that fiscal year) any subsequent fiscal year for scholarships for eligible students, except that an eligible entity may use not more than 5 percent of the funds for administrative expenses, parental assistance, and tutoring, in addition to the amounts appropriated for such purposes under section 3007(b) and (c).”

#### SEC. 7. PROGRAM EVALUATION.

(a) REVISION OF EVALUATION PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3009(a) (sec. 38-1853.09(a), D.C. Official Code) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—  
“(1) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY AND THE MAYOR.—The Secretary and the Mayor of the District of Columbia shall—

“(A) jointly enter into an agreement with the Institute of Education Sciences of the Department of Education to evaluate annually the opportunity scholarship program under this Act;

“(B) jointly enter into an agreement to monitor and evaluate the use of funds authorized and appropriated for the District of Columbia Public Schools and the District of Columbia public charter schools under this Act; and

“(C) make the evaluations described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) public in accordance with subsection (c).

“(2) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary, through a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement, shall—

“(A) ensure that the evaluation under paragraph (1)(A)—

“(i) is conducted using an acceptable quasi-experimental research design for determining the effectiveness of the opportunity scholarship program under this Act which does not use a control study group consisting of students who applied for but who did not receive opportunity scholarships; and

“(ii) addresses the issues described in paragraph (4); and

“(B) disseminate information on the impact of the program—

“(i) in increasing academic achievement and educational attainment of participating eligible students; and

“(ii) on students and schools in the District of Columbia.

“(3) DUTIES OF THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES.—The Institute of Education Sciences of the Department of Education shall—

“(A) assess participating eligible students in each of the grades 3 through 8, as well as one of the grades in the high school level, by supervising the administration of the same reading and math assessment used by the

District of Columbia Public Schools to comply with section 1111(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b));

“(B) measure the academic achievement of all participating students in the grades described in subparagraph (A); and

“(C) work with the eligible entities to ensure that the parents of each student who receives a scholarship under this Act agree to permit the student to participate in the evaluations and assessments carried out by the Institute under this subsection.

“(4) ISSUES TO BE EVALUATED.—The issues to be evaluated under paragraph (1)(A) shall include the following:

“(A) A comparison of the academic achievement of participating eligible students in the measurements described in paragraph (3) to the academic achievement of a comparison group of students with similar backgrounds in the District of Columbia Public Schools.

“(B) The success of the program under this Act in expanding choice options for parents of participating eligible students and increasing the satisfaction of such parents and students with their choice.

“(C) The reasons parents of participating eligible students choose for their children to participate in the program, including important characteristics for selecting schools.

“(D) A comparison of the retention rates, high school graduation rates, college enrollment rates, college persistence rates, and college graduation rates of participating eligible students with the rates of students in the comparison group described in subparagraph (A).

“(E) A comparison of the college enrollment rates, college persistence rates, and college graduation rates of students who participated in the program in 2004, 2005, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 as the result of winning the Opportunity Scholarship Program lottery with the rates of students who entered but did not win such lottery in those years and who, as a result, served as the control group for previous evaluations of the program under this Act.

“(F) A comparison of the safety of the schools attended by participating eligible students and the schools in the District of Columbia attended by students in the comparison group described in subparagraph (A), based on the perceptions of the students and parents.

“(G) Such other issues with respect to participating eligible students as the Secretary considers appropriate for inclusion in the evaluation, such as the impact of the program on public elementary schools and secondary schools in the District of Columbia.

“(5) PROHIBITING DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any disclosure of personally identifiable information shall be in compliance with section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (commonly known as the ‘Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974’) (20 U.S.C. 1232g).

“(B) STUDENTS NOT ATTENDING PUBLIC SCHOOLS.—With respect to any student who is not attending a public elementary school or secondary school, personally identifiable information may not be disclosed outside of the group of individuals carrying out the evaluation for such student or the group of individuals providing information for carrying out the evaluation of such student, other than to the parents of such student.”

(2) TRANSITION FROM CURRENT EVALUATION.—The Secretary of Education shall terminate the current evaluations conducted under section 3009(a) of the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act (sec. 38-1853.09, D.C. Official Code), as in effect prior to the date of enactment of this Act, after obtain-

ing data for the 2015-2016 school year, and shall submit the reports required with respect to the evaluations in accordance with section 3009(b) of such Act. Effective with respect to the 2016-2017 school year, the Secretary shall conduct new evaluations in accordance with the provisions of section 3009(a) of such Act as amended by this Act, and as a component of the new evaluations, the Secretary shall continue to monitor and evaluate the students who were evaluated in the most recent evaluation under such section prior to the enactment of this Act, along with their corresponding test scores and other information.

(b) DUTY OF MAYOR TO ENSURE INSTITUTE HAS ALL INFORMATION NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT EVALUATIONS.—Section 3011(a)(1) (sec. 38-1853.11(a)(1), D.C. Official Code) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) INFORMATION NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT EVALUATIONS.—Ensure that all District of Columbia public schools and District of Columbia public charter schools make available to the Institute of Education Sciences of the Department of Education all of the information the Institute requires to carry out the assessments and perform the evaluations required under section 3009(a).”

#### SEC. 8. FUNDING FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.

(a) MANDATORY WITHHOLDING OF FUNDS FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CONDITIONS.—Section 3011(b) (sec. 38-1853.11(b), D.C. Official Code) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) ENFORCEMENT.—If, after reasonable notice and an opportunity for a hearing, the Secretary determines that the Mayor has failed to comply with any of the requirements of subsection (a), the Secretary may withhold from the Mayor, in whole or in part—

“(1) the funds otherwise authorized to be appropriated under section 3014(a)(2), if the failure to comply relates to the District of Columbia public schools;

“(2) the funds otherwise authorized to be appropriated under section 3014(a)(3), if the failure to comply relates to the District of Columbia public charter schools; or

“(3) the funds otherwise authorized to be appropriated under both section 3014(a)(2) and section 3014(a)(3), if the failure relates to both the District of Columbia public schools and the District of Columbia public charter schools.”

(b) RULES FOR USE OF FUNDS PROVIDED FOR SUPPORT OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.—Section 3011 (sec. 38-1853.11, D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

“(c) SPECIFIC RULES REGARDING FUNDS PROVIDED FOR SUPPORT OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.—The following rules shall apply with respect to the funds provided under this Act for the support of District of Columbia public charter schools:

“(1) The Secretary may direct the funds provided for any fiscal year, or any portion thereof, to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education of the District of Columbia (OSSE).

“(2) The OSSE may transfer the funds to subgrantees who are specific District of Columbia public charter schools or networks of such schools or who are District of Columbia-based non-profit organizations with experience in successfully providing support or assistance to District of Columbia public charter schools or networks of schools.

“(3) The funds shall be available to any District of Columbia public charter school in good standing with the District of Columbia Charter School Board (Board), and the OSSE and Board may not restrict the availability

of the funds to certain types of schools on the basis of the school's location, governing body, or any other characteristic."

**SEC. 9. REVISION OF CURRENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.**

The Secretary of Education and the Mayor of the District of Columbia shall revise the memorandum of understanding which is in effect under section 3012(d) of the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act (sec. 38-1853.12(d), D.C. Official Code) as of the day before the date of the enactment of this Act to address the following:

(1) The amendments made by this Act.

(2) The need to ensure that participating schools under such Act meet fire code standards and maintain certificates of occupancy.

(3) The need to ensure that District of Columbia public schools and District of Columbia public charter schools meet the requirements under such Act to comply with all reasonable requests for information necessary to carry out the evaluations required under section 3009(a) of such Act.

**SEC. 10. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

Section 3014(a) (sec. 38-1853.14(a), D.C. Official Code) is amended by striking "each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years" and inserting "each of the 9 succeeding fiscal years".

**SEC. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to school year 2016-2017 and each succeeding school year.

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in House Report 114-300. Each further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. CHAFFETZ

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 114-300.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 9, beginning line 5, strike "identified as a low-achieving school according to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education of the District of Columbia" and insert "identified as one of the lowest-performing schools under the District of Columbia's accountability system".

Page 10, beginning line 25, strike ", or by any other accrediting body determined appropriate by the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent for Schools for the purpose of accrediting an elementary or secondary school".

Page 16, beginning line 7, strike "identified as a low-achieving school according to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education of the District of Columbia" and insert "identified as one of the lowest-performing schools under the District of Columbia's accountability system".

Page 18, line 10, strike "evaluate" and insert "report on".

Page 21, line 12, strike "A comparison of" and insert "A report on".

Page 21, line 18, strike "with the rates" and insert "as well as the rates".

Page 21, line 22, after the period add the following: "Nothing in this subparagraph may be construed to waive section 3004(a)(3)(A)(iii) with respect to any such student."

Page 25, beginning line 20, strike "may direct the funds provided for any fiscal year, or any portion thereof," and insert "shall direct the funds provided for any fiscal year".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 480, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, the manager's amendment that I am offering makes small technical changes to the bill.

First, the amendment substitutes the term "low achieving schools" for "lowest performing schools," which corresponds to the language used by the District of Columbia on this topic.

Second, the amendment makes clear that the Secretary of Education and the Mayor of the District of Columbia will monitor and report on the use of funds authorized by this bill.

Third, the amendment clarifies reporting requirements in the bill to protect students against arbitrary exclusion from the program.

Finally, the amendment requires the Secretary of Education to direct funding for public charter schools to the District's Office of the State Superintendent of Education.

Mr. Chairman, this is a good amendment that reflects the ongoing conversations with the District of Columbia regarding this bill. I urge its adoption.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment, although I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana). Without objection, the gentleman from the District of Columbia is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, I actually agree with the chairman, and the chairman has consulted with us on these changes, which are technical in nature.

I do not oppose this amendment. Indeed, I want to thank our chairman for working with us before this committee markup on this bill on some additional technical changes.

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate working with the Delegate. It is a good working relationship. We have our opposition from time to time, but she did work with us in this way, and I appreciate her support of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. NORTON

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 114-300.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end of section 6 the following new subsection:

(f) LIMIT ON PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL STUDENT POPULATION OF SCHOOL WHO RECEIVE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS.—Section 3007(a) (sec. 38-1853.07(a), D.C. Official Code), as amended by subsection (b), is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "paragraphs (2), (3), and (5)" and inserting "paragraphs (2), (3), (5), and (6)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(6) LIMIT ON PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL STUDENT POPULATION RECEIVING OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds provided under this Act for opportunity scholarships may be used by an eligible student to enroll in a participating school for a school year unless the school certifies to the eligible entity that, for the school year, the number of students enrolled in the school who receive opportunity scholarships under this Act does not exceed the number of students enrolled in the school who do not receive opportunity scholarships under this Act.

"(B) EXCEPTIONS.—In determining the number of students enrolled in a school who receive opportunity scholarships under this Act for a school year under subparagraph (A), there shall be excluded any student who was receiving an opportunity scholarship as of the date of the enactment of the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Reauthorization Act and any student who is the sibling of a student who was receiving an opportunity scholarship as of the date of the enactment of such Act."

Page 18, strike line 23 and all that follows through page 19, line 5 and insert the following:

"(i) is conducted using the strongest possible research design for determining the effectiveness of the opportunity scholarship program under this Act; and"

Page 20, strike lines 4 through 9 and insert the following:

"(C) work with the eligible entities to ensure that the parents of each student who applies for a scholarship under this Act (regardless of whether the student receives the scholarship) and the parents of each student participating in the scholarship program under this Act, agree that the student will participate, if requested by the Institute, in the measurements given annually by the Institute for the period for which the student applied for or received the scholarship, respectively, except that nothing in this subparagraph shall affect a student's priority for an opportunity scholarship as provided under section 3006."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 480, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Speaker's voucher bill is sure to pass, and I am sure it is offered with the best of intentions. Therefore, I want to work with him and with Members and with those in the Senate who support vouchers to provide much-needed oversight for the millions in

Federal dollars in this bill. It is in that spirit that I offer a two-part amendment, and both parts are entirely consistent with the underlying bill.

The Government Accountability Office, the GAO, said in 2007 and again in 2013 that the voucher program lacks quality control, transparency, and information.

In response, the first part of my amendment restores the scientific integrity of the program's evaluation, copied from prior authorizations of this bill, and the second prohibits voucher mills, not our accredited Catholic schools, which are attended by most of our children, but their competition for vouchers—a small, but significant, number of private schools that would not exist but for this Federal funding.

First, my amendment restores the evaluation of the program's effectiveness that Congress has required since the program was created in 2004—and I am quoting from Congress—"to be conducted using the strongest possible research design."

In contrast, this bill requires the evaluation to be conducted using "an acceptable quasi-experimental research design that actually prohibits the more scientific randomized controlled trial Congress mandated in prior authorizations."

Yet the congressionally mandated evaluation said that randomized controlled trials "are especially important in the context of School Choice because families wanting to apply for a Choice program may have educational goals and aspirations that differ from the average family's."

I appreciate that this bill requires for the first time that schools be accredited, but it gives unaccredited schools 5 years, along with the grace period of a year, to become accredited.

This time frame is so long that it would allow existing and new unaccredited schools to accept voucher students well into the decade. The 50 percent cap that my amendment proposes at least would ensure that voucher schools would ultimately be eliminated.

For example, the GAO found that six participating voucher schools had more than 80 percent of their enrollment from voucher students. A Washington Post investigation found one school where voucher students comprised 93 percent of the total.

The majority concedes that there is a need for the ongoing evaluation of the program's effectiveness by requiring a study of this bill, but after the mandated study showed that vouchers did not improve student achievement, the majority took care of that by watering down the mandated evaluation.

The second part of my amendment prohibits fly-by-night, often storefront school voucher bills by eliminating the percentage of voucher students in the school to 50 percent of the school's total enrollment. No current voucher student or sibling would be affected by the cap.

My amendment would disqualify so-called voucher mills, a small, but significant, number of schools that cannot survive without government funding, most of which sprang up in low-income neighborhoods after the program was created to get unrestricted Federal funds.

Why should the major recipients of voucher funds—our fully accredited Catholic schools or other parochial and private schools—have to share the available funding with voucher mills of low quality? The way to eliminate these unaccredited schools, which are unworthy of our students, is to require that their enrollment not consist primarily of voucher students.

Mr. Chairman, I ask that the Post's investigation, entitled, "Quality controls lacking for D.C. schools accepting Federal vouchers," be included in the RECORD.

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 17, 2012]

QUALITY CONTROLS LACKING FOR D.C. SCHOOLS ACCEPTING FEDERAL VOUCHERS

(By Lyndsey Layton and Emma Brown)

Congress created the nation's only federally funded school voucher program in the District to give the city's poorest children a chance at a better education than their neighborhood schools offer.

But a Washington Post review found that hundreds of students use their voucher dollars to attend schools that are unaccredited or are in unconventional settings, such as a family-run K-12 school operating out of a storefront, a Nation of Islam school based in a converted Deanwood residence, and a school built around the philosophy of a Bulgarian psychotherapist.

At a time when public schools face increasing demands for accountability and transparency, the 52 D.C. private schools that receive millions of federal voucher dollars are subject to few quality controls and offer widely disparate experiences, the Post found.

Some of these schools are heavily dependent on tax dollars, with more than 90 percent of their students paying with federal vouchers.

Yet the government has no say over curriculum, quality or management. And parents trying to select a school have little independent information, relying mostly on marketing from the schools.

The director of the nonprofit organization that manages the D.C. vouchers on behalf of the federal government calls quality control "a blind spot."

"We've raised the question of quality oversight of the program as sort of a dead zone, a blind spot," said Ed Davies, interim executive director of the D.C. Children and Youth Investment Trust Corp. "Currently, we don't have that authority. It doesn't exist."

Republicans in Congress established the D.C. voucher program eight years ago to demonstrate the school-choice concepts that the party has been espousing since the 1950s. Vouchers were once thought to be moribund, but came roaring to life in 2010 in states where Republicans took control. Fourteen states have created voucher programs or expanded existing ones in recent years.

Some states, such as Wisconsin, now include middle-class families in their voucher programs. Other states, including Virginia, have begun indirectly steering public dollars to private schools by offering tax credits to those who donate to scholarship funds.

In some cases, the public has pushed back against the idea of routing state dollars from public to private schools. Legal challenges

are pending in Colorado and Indiana. In the November elections, Florida voters rejected a ballot amendment that would have permitted tax dollars to flow to religious institutions, including parochial schools. That would have enabled the state to revive a voucher program that had been declared unconstitutional in 2006 by its highest court. Yet Florida continues to offer vouchers for disabled students who want to attend private schools and awards tax credits to corporations that donate to private-school scholarship programs.

In the District, it's clear that vouchers have provided many children with an education at well-established private schools that otherwise would have been out of reach, and their parents rave about the opportunity. Of the 1,584 District students now receiving vouchers, more than half attend Catholic schools and a handful are enrolled at prestigious independent schools such as Sidwell Friends, where President Obama sends his daughters.

But the most comprehensive study of the D.C. program found "no conclusive evidence" that the vouchers improved math and reading test scores for those students who left their public schools.

The study, released by the U.S. Department of Education in 2010, found that voucher students were more likely to graduate than peers without vouchers, based on data collected from families. And parents reported that their children were safer attending the private schools, though the students themselves perceived no difference.

Congress set aside \$20 million for the D.C. voucher program this year. Since 2004, the federal government has appropriated \$133 million for the program.

Private schools that participate in the D.C. program don't have to disclose the number of voucher students they enroll or how much public money they receive, and many declined to release such information to The Post.

While public schools must report test scores and take action when they don't meet goals, private schools participating in the D.C. voucher program are insulated from such interference.

The schools must administer a single standardized test, but can choose the type. Those scores are not made public, and schools can stay in the voucher program no matter how their students fare.

Schools that accept vouchers are required to hold a certificate of occupancy and employ teachers who are college graduates, but they do not have to be accredited. The Post found that at least eight of the 52 schools are not accredited.

Parents, not the government, should determine a school's quality, according to Kevin Smith, a spokesman for House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio), a proud product of Catholic schools who designed the voucher program. "Our belief is that parents—when provided appropriate information—will select the best learning environment for their children," he wrote in an e-mail.

At Archbishop Carroll High School, where 40 percent of students receive vouchers, principal Mary Elizabeth Blaufuss agrees. "The question is, to what extent do we trust parents to make educational decisions for their kids?" she said.

Santa Carballo knew little about the Academia de la Recta Porta before enrolling her daughter, Emma, through the voucher program. She chose it because it was across the street from the Catholic school for boys that her son attends, also with a voucher, and it seemed better than a neighborhood public school that has failed for years to meet achievement targets.

"This is private, it's good," said Carballo, an immigrant from El Salvador who works

as a waitress and struggles with English. "It's more intelligent. And it's religious, it's good. I'm so happy."

A nondenominational Christian school, the Academia charges \$7,100 a year and occupies a soot-stained storefront between a halal meat shop and an evening wear boutique on a busy stretch of Georgia Avenue NW near the Maryland line.

The K-12 school consists of two classrooms. A drum set and keyboard are stowed in a corner for music class; for gym, students travel nearly two miles down Georgia Avenue to the city's Emery Recreation Center.

Annette and Reginald Miles founded the unaccredited school 13 years ago. He is the pastor of the associated church, she is the school director, their daughter is a teacher and their grandson is a student.

Annette Miles declined to say how many of her 70 students receive vouchers. If the program were to end, the Academia would "have to stretch with fundraising" to continue operating, she said.

To be eligible for a voucher, families must qualify for food stamps or meet other income requirements.

Through the D.C. program, the federal government pays about \$8,000 a year for each elementary school student and \$12,000 for high schoolers. That's less than the \$18,000 a year it costs to educate one child in the D.C. Public Schools. Many of the participating private schools do not offer costly services for children with disabilities, who make up about 18 percent of the DCPS school population.

The voucher payments are enough to cover tuition at most Catholic schools, which enroll about 52 percent of D.C. voucher students. But they pay only a fraction of costs at elite institutions such as the Sheridan School in Northwest D.C., where charges can reach about \$30,000 a year.

Tiblez Berhane has a daughter in eighth grade who is attending Sheridan with a voucher and financial aid from the school. "It's wonderful," said Berhane, an immigrant from Eritrea who works in a day-care center. "We could never afford this."

While Sheridan, Sidwell Friends and the Washington International School each have one voucher student, the Academy for Ideal Education depends almost entirely on the federal program.

Founder Paulette Jones-Imaan created the school more than two decades ago, aiming to provide a nurturing environment with small classes and a learning model known as "Suggestopedia," a philosophy of learning developed by Bulgarian psychotherapist Georgi Lozanov that stresses learning through music, stretching and meditation. Jones-Imaan melds that philosophy with an African-flavored approach that includes students addressing teachers as "Mama" and "Baba," honorifics meaning mother and father.

Jones-Imaan also founded a K-12 public charter school, Ideal Academy, based on the same educational philosophy, in 1999. She served on the board for more than a decade.

But the charter school ran into trouble. Last year, the D.C. Public Charter School Board threatened to close it because of chronic poor performance. Ideal Academy agreed to shutter its high school, which had a particularly poor record, in order to keep its lower grades open. The preschool-8th grade Ideal Academy was classified as "inadequate" this year by the city's charter officials, which means it could be closed if it doesn't improve.

Meanwhile, the private Academy for Ideal Education continues on. More than 90 percent of its approximately 60 students are paying the \$11,400 tuition with vouchers, Jones-Imaan said. "If this program were to end, this school would end," she said.

While some schools have libraries, art studios and athletic fields, the Muhammad University of Islam occupies the second floor of a former residence east of the Anacostia River. The unaccredited K-8 school is supported by the Nation of Islam, according to director Stephanie Muhammad.

Parents choose the school because of its small classes, safety and strict discipline, she said.

About one-third of the 55 students hold vouchers. Few of the others can afford the \$5,335 annual tuition, Muhammad said. They are asked to help defray tuition by raising funds. Last month, they sold pizzas. This month, it's coffee and tea.

The classrooms are small, located in what were perhaps once bedrooms. On the walls are posters of Louis Farrakhan, the controversial leader of the Nation of Islam.

On a recent visit, the only bathroom in the school had a floor blackened with dirt and a sink coated in grime. The bathtub was filled with paint cans and cleaning supplies concealed by a curtain.

Muhammad said in a subsequent interview that the bathroom is used only in emergencies, and students typically use a restroom on the floor below in a day-care center that she had previously described as unrelated to the school.

Kevin P. Chavous, a former D.C. Council member and now a senior adviser to American Federation for Children, which lobbies for voucher programs nationwide, said schools receiving public funds should meet quality standards. But supporters of the D.C. program have been focused on overcoming political challenges, he said.

"There should be some accountability measures in all these programs," Chavous said. "Our biggest challenge has been the constant threats to shut this down before we can even measure the schools."

Since Congress created the voucher program in 2004, Boehner and Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman (I-Conn.) have regularly wrestled with Democrats over its fate. Republicans and Lieberman want to expand the program; Democrats want to phase it out.

"Our goal is to provide a quality education to all children—not just a few—which is why the Obama administration does not believe vouchers are the answer to America's educational challenges," said Justin Hamilton, a spokesman for Education Secretary Arne Duncan.

Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D) and D.C. Mayor Vincent C. Gray (D) also are opposed to the voucher program, saying public dollars should go toward improving public schools where they can help the most students.

Still, the program has offered some children a crucial path out of troubled city schools.

Ophelia Johnson and her daughters were homeless when she learned about the voucher program. She obtained vouchers for both her daughters and enrolled them at the Calvary Christian Academy, which she credits with providing her children a secure, caring and consistent environment as she pulled her life together.

"It's wonderful," Johnson said about the voucher program that allowed her daughters to attend the academy. "The atmosphere, the education, and it's also a Christian school. They taught my girls."

Now, Johnson is employed, newly remarried and living with her daughters in a condominium on Capitol Hill. Her older daughter, Tabitha, is applying to colleges.

"She'll be the first to go in the family," Johnson said, pride in her voice.

Ms. NORTON. The Federal vouchers give these schools the Federal Govern-

ment's seal of approval. Considering that the purpose of the voucher program is to improve student achievement, voucher bills are inconsistent with the congressional intent and should not be enabled with Federal funds or get the Federal imprimatur.

I appreciate that the majority indicated in committee and also on this floor that they, too, oppose voucher mills and are willing to work with me on this issue. I hope to continue to work with the majority as the bill moves forward in order to eliminate voucher bills, which surely no Member supports.

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentlewoman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Chairman, this is the same amendment that Delegate NORTON offered to the bill during markup, but it was rejected by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

The amendment would cap the enrollment of OSP students, the Opportunity Scholarship Program, at 50 percent of the school's population without affecting current voucher students or siblings. The amendment would also restore the randomized controlled study requirement.

Mr. Chairman, this program is about opportunity and choice. Parents should be able to choose the best schools for their children, and private schools should have the flexibility to determine whether or not to enroll OSP students.

I understand the Delegate's concern that students maintain quality standards. In fact, I share it. That is why H.R. 10 requires participating OSP schools to achieve accreditation no later than 5 years after the passage of the act. This is a more effective way to ensure the quality than by arbitrarily excluding students from the program.

Mr. Chairman, the accreditation process required by H.R. 10 will ensure education and administrative quality control. The process will help weed out poor performers from this program without setting a cap on OSP student enrollment.

As for the return to the control group evaluation, this is unnecessary for the OSP. The OSP has been rigorously evaluated using the Gold Standard since 2003, and it has demonstrated positive results. The Gold Standard Evaluation, using a randomized controlled evaluation, deliberately limits participation in the program.

Under this evaluation method, some student applicants received scholarships while other student applicants were placed in a control group that did not receive scholarships. Given the OSP's proven success under this standard, it is time to allow as many students to receive scholarships as funding permits.

Mr. Chairman, it is important to note that the bill does not forsake evaluation. Instead, the bill requires the OSP students' performance base to be compared to that of students of similar backgrounds of the D.C. public schools. The evaluation method means no more students will be barred from a good education through OSP for the sake of the experiment.

Mr. Chairman, on average, 2.5 students apply for each scholarship that is ultimately awarded. We should be focused on meeting the demand for access to a good education rather than arbitrarily limiting students' ability to succeed.

I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment, which would unnecessarily exclude children from the educational opportunities they desire and deserve.

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

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. ALLEN). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

The amendment was rejected.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana) having assumed the chair, Mr. ALLEN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 480, he reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with a further amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I am opposed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Scott of Virginia moves to recommit the bill H.R. 10 to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Add at the end of section 6 the following new subsection:

(f) REQUIRING PROTECTION OF STUDENTS AND APPLICANTS UNDER CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS.—Sec-

tion 3008 (sec. 38-1853.08, D.C. Official Code) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) REQUIRING PROTECTION OF STUDENTS AND APPLICANTS UNDER CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS.—In addition to meeting the requirements of subsection (a), an eligible entity or a school may not participate in the opportunity scholarship program under this Act unless the eligible entity or school certifies to the Secretary that the eligible entity or school will provide each student who applies for or receives an opportunity scholarship under this Act with all of the applicable protections available under each of the following laws:

“(1) Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000c et seq.).

“(2) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.).

“(3) Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.).

“(4) The Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

“(5) The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.).

“(6) The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.).

“(7) The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.).

“(8) The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).”

□ 1715

Mr. CHAFFETZ (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 Utah?

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Clerk will continue to read.

The Clerk continued to read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage as amended.

I rise to speak in support of the Democratic motion to recommit that would protect the civil rights of students at schools that receive vouchers by requiring the schools to certify that they provide each student with all applicable civil rights protections.

The D.C. voucher program calls into question multiple Federal civil rights protections and turns a blind eye to the government-funded discrimination. For example, religious schools that accept vouchers are permitted to discriminate on the basis of religion in hiring, a violation of traditional principles prohibiting discrimination based on religion when using Federal money.

The fact is that most religious schools are part of a ministry of the sponsoring church, and these schools either cannot or will not separate the religious content from their academic programs. So it is impossible to prevent a publicly funded voucher program for paying for these institutions' religious activities and education.

Furthermore, schools that accept vouchers are allowed to discriminate

based on gender in admissions, a violation of the principles of title IX.

In addition to the discrimination based on religion or sex, the D.C. voucher program also raises serious concerns about the civil rights of students with disabilities. IDEA requires that schools that receive Federal IDEA funds provide appropriate education to all students with disabilities, but at least one study found that the schools that accept D.C. vouchers serve students with disabilities at a much lower rate than public schools.

Failing to meet the needs of students with disabilities is just one of the shortcomings of the D.C. voucher program, but another issue is the performance of the school. A 2010 Department of Education report concluded that the use of a voucher had no statistically significant impact on overall student achievement in math or reading.

Additional studies found that students from schools in need of improvement have shown no improvement in math or reading due to the voucher program. Furthermore, participating in the voucher program had no impact on student safety, satisfaction, motivation, or engagement.

Mr. Speaker, many of those who actually won a voucher cannot use them because the voucher does not cover the full cost of attending a private or religious school. As a result, many who win a voucher find that they cannot use it because they can't afford the remaining cost of the education. So studies have confirmed that fewer than 25 percent of the students who use the vouchers are from schools that were “in need of improvement.”

The D.C. voucher program fails on all counts. It violates principles of traditional civil rights laws, it makes no improvement on student achievement, and it fails to reach the very children it was designed to help.

Our public schools need more funding, not less. Rather than funnel taxpayer funding to private or religious schools that lack civil rights protections and fail to meet the goals of helping the right students, we should focus our efforts on initiatives that will result in overall improvement of the educational system for all of our students.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support our children by supporting this motion to recommit.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Utah is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, as I said before, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia is one of my favorite people in this body. I have the greatest respect. His perspective is one that I often share.

I would just highlight for this body here, because I do urge a “no” vote on this motion to recommit, that we had a field hearing in May. We have had good debate. We had a good markup.

We had always projected to move this bill in the fall. I think it is time to bring up this bill. So we have never had this issue ever brought to my attention as chairman of the committee.

I would also highlight that section 3008, Nondiscrimination and Other Requirements for Participating Schools—I will read just point A.

“In General.—An eligible entity or school participating in any program under this division shall not discriminate against program participants or applicants on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, or sex.”

I do look forward to working with the gentleman and anybody else on these issues moving forward, but I would urge a “no” vote on the motion to recommit.

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 yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the order of the House of today, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Passage of H.R. 692;

The motion to recommit on H.R. 10; and

Passage of H.R. 10, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

DEFAULT PREVENTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 692) to ensure the payment of interest and principal of the debt of the United States, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 235, nays 194, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 557]

YEAS—235

Abraham	Babin	Benishek
Aderholt	Barletta	Bilirakis
Allen	Barr	Bishop (MI)
Amodei	Barton	Black

Blackburn	Hensarling	Pompeo	Fudge	LoBiondo	Roybal-Allard
Blum	Herrera Beutler	Posey	Gabbard	Loeb	Ruiz
Bost	Hice, Jody B.	Price, Tom	Gallego	Lofgren	Ruppersberger
Boustany	Hill	Ratcliffe	Garamendi	Lowenthal	Rush
Brady (TX)	Holding	Reed	Gibson	Lowe	Ryan (OH)
Brat	Hudson	Reichert	Graham	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Sánchez, Linda T.
Bridenstine	Huelskamp	Renacci	Grayson	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Sanchez, Loretta
Brooks (AL)	Huizenga (MI)	Ribble	Green, Al	Lynch	Sarbanes
Brooks (IN)	Hultgren	Rice (SC)	Green, Gene	MacArthur	Schakowsky
Buchanan	Hunter	Rigell	Grijalva	Maloney	Schiff
Buck	Hurd (TX)	Roby	Gutiérrez	Hahn	Schrader
Bucshon	Hurt (VA)	Roe (TN)	Honda	Hanna	Scott (VA)
Burgess	Issa	Rogers (AL)	Hoyer	Hastings	Scott, David
Byrne	Jenkins (KS)	Rogers (KY)	Heck (WA)	Heck (WA)	Serrano
Calvert	Jenkins (WV)	Rohrabacher	Higgins	Himes	Sewell (AL)
Carter (GA)	Johnson (OH)	Rokita	Hines	McCollum	Sherman
Carter (TX)	Johnson, Sam	Rooney (FL)	Hinojosa	McDermott	Sinema
Chabot	Jolly	Ros-Lehtinen	Honda	McGovern	Sires
Chaffetz	Jordan	Ross	Hoyer	McNerney	Slaughter
Clawson (FL)	Joyce	Rothfus	Huffman	Meeks	Smith (WA)
Coffman	Katko	Rouzer	Israel	Meng	Speier
Cole	Kelly (MS)	Royce	Jackson Lee	Moore	Swalwell (CA)
Collins (GA)	Kelly (PA)	Russell	Jeffries	Moulton	Takai
Collins (NY)	King (IA)	Ryan (WI)	Johnson (GA)	Murphy (FL)	Takano
Comstock	King (IA)	Salmon	Johnson, E. B.	Nadler	Thompson (CA)
Comstock	Kinzinger (IL)	Sanford	Jones	Napolitano	Thompson (MS)
Conaway	Kliene	Scalise	Kaptur	Neal	Titus
Cook	Knight	Schweikert	Keating	Nolan	Tonko
Costello (PA)	Labrador	Scott, Austin	Kennedy	Norcross	Torres
Cramer	LaHood	Sensenbrenner	Kildee	O'Rourke	Tsongas
Crawford	LaMalfa	Sessions	Kilmer	Pallone	Van Hollen
Crenshaw	Lamborn	Shimkus	Kind	Pascarella	Vargas
Culberson	Lance	Shuster	King (NY)	Pelosi	Veasey
Curbelo (FL)	Latta	Simpson	Kirkpatrick	Perlmutter	Vela
Davis, Rodney	Long	Smith (MO)	Kuster	Peters	Velázquez
Denham	Loudermilk	Smith (NE)	Langevin	Peterson	Visclosky
DesJarlais	Love	Smith (NJ)	Larsen (WA)	Pingree	Walz
Dold	Lucas	Smith (TX)	Larson (CT)	Polis	Wasserman
Diaz-Balart	Luetkemeyer	Stefanik	Lawrence	Price (NC)	Schultz
Dold	Lummis	Stewart	Lee	Quigley	Waters, Maxine
Donovan	Marchant	Stivers	Levin	Rangel	Watson Coleman
Duffy	Marino	Stutzman	Lewis	Rice (NY)	Welch
Duncan (SC)	McCarthy	Thompson (PA)	Lieu, Ted	Richmond	Wilson (FL)
Duncan (TN)	McCaul	Thornberry	Lipinski		Yarmuth
Ellmers (NC)	McClintock	Tiberi			
Emmer (MN)	McHenry	Tipton			
Farenthold	McKinley	Trott			
Fincher	McMorris	Turner			
Fitzpatrick	Rodgers	Upton			
Fleischmann	McSally	Valadao			
Fleming	Meadows	Wagner			
Flores	Meehan	Walberg			
Forbes	Messer	Walden			
Fortenberry	Mica	Walker			
Fox	Miller (FL)	Walorski			
Franks (AZ)	Miller (MI)	Walters, Mimi			
Frelinghuysen	Moolenaar	Weber (TX)			
Garrett	Mooney (WV)	Webster (FL)			
Gibbs	Mullin	Wenstrup			
Gohmert	Mulvaney	Westerman			
Goodlatte	Murphy (PA)	Westmoreland			
Gosar	Neugebauer	Whitfield			
Gowdy	Newhouse	Williams			
Granger	Noem	Wilson (SC)			
Graves (GA)	Nugent	Wittman			
Graves (LA)	Nunes	Womack			
Graves (MO)	Olson	Woodall			
Griffith	Palazzo	Yoder			
Grothman	Palmer	Yoho			
Guinta	Paulsen	Young (AK)			
Guthrie	Pearce	Young (IA)			
Hardy	Perry	Young (IN)			
Harper	Pittenger	Zeldin			
Harris	Pitts	Zinke			
Hartzler	Poe (TX)				
Heck (NV)	Poliquin				

NAYS—194

Adams	Carney	Davis, Danny
Aguilar	Carson (IN)	DeFazio
Amash	Cartwright	DeGette
Ashford	Castor (FL)	Delaney
Bass	Castro (TX)	DeLauro
Beatty	Chu, Judy	DelBene
Becerra	Cicilline	Dent
Bera	Clark (MA)	DeSaulnier
Beyer	Clarke (NY)	Deutch
Bishop (GA)	Clay	Dingell
Blumenauer	Cleaver	Doggett
Bonamici	Clyburn	Doyle, Michael F.
Boyle, Brendan F.	Cohen	Duckworth
Brady (PA)	Connolly	Edwards
Brown (FL)	Conyers	Ellison
Brownley (CA)	Cooper	Engel
Bustos	Costa	Eshoo
Butterfield	Courtney	Esty
Capps	Crowley	Farr
Capuano	Cuellar	Foster
Cardenas	Cummings	Frankel (FL)
	Davis (CA)	

NOT VOTING—5

Bishop (UT)	Kelly (IL)	Roskam
Fattah	Payne	

□ 1751

Mrs. LAWRENCE and Ms. KUSTER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 557, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OPPORTUNITY AND RESULTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 10) to reauthorize the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act, and for other purposes, offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 185, nays 242, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 558]

YEAS—185

Adams Fudge Napolitano  
 Aguilar Gabbard Neal  
 Ashford Gallego Nolan  
 Bass Garamendi Norcross  
 Beatty Graham O'Rourke  
 Becerra Grayson Pallone  
 Bera Green, Al Pascrell  
 Beyer Green, Gene Pelosi  
 Bishop (GA) Grijalva Perlmutter  
 Blumenauer Gutiérrez  
 Bonamici Hahn Peters  
 Boyle, Brendan Hastings Peterson  
 F. Heck (WA) Pingree  
 Brady (PA) Higgins Pocan  
 Brown (FL) Himes Polis  
 Brownley (CA) Hinojosa Price (NC)  
 Bustos Honda Quigley  
 Butterfield Hoyer Rangel  
 Capps Huffman Rice (NY)  
 Capuano Israel Richmond  
 Cárdenas Jackson Lee Roybal-Allard  
 Carney Jeffries Ruiz  
 Carson (IN) Johnson (GA) Ruffersberger  
 Cartwright Johnson, E. B. Rush  
 Castor (FL) Kaptur Ryan (OH)  
 Castro (TX) Keating Sánchez, Linda  
 Chu, Judy Kennedy T.  
 Cicilline Kildee Sanchez, Loretta  
 Clark (MA) Kilmer Sarbanes  
 Clarke (NY) Kind Schakowsky  
 Clay Kirkpatrick Schiff  
 Cleaver Kuster Schrader  
 Clyburn Langevin Scott (VA)  
 Cohen Larsen (WA) Scott, David  
 Connolly Larson (CT) Serrano  
 Conyers Sherman Sewell (AL)  
 Cooper Lee Lawrence  
 Costa Levin Sinema  
 Courtney Lewis Sires  
 Crowley Lieu, Ted Slaughter  
 Cuellar Lipinski Smith (WA)  
 Cummings Loebsock Speier  
 Davis (CA) Takai Swallow (CA)  
 Davis, Danny Takano  
 DeFazio Lowey McCarthy  
 DeGette Lujan Grisham McCaul  
 Delaney (NM) Thompson (MS)  
 DeLauro Lujan, Ben Ray Titus  
 DelBene (NM) Tonko  
 DeSaulnier Lynch Torres  
 Deutch Maloney Tsongas  
 Dingell Carolyn Van Hollen  
 Doggett Maloney, Sean Vargas  
 Doyle, Michael Matsui Veasey  
 F. McCollum  
 Duckworth McDermott  
 Edwards McGovern  
 Ellison McNerney  
 Engel Meeks  
 Eshoo Meng  
 Esty Moore  
 Farr Moulton  
 Foster Murphy (FL)  
 Frankel (FL) Nadler

NAYS—242

Abraham Chabot Fitzpatrick  
 Aderholt Chaffetz Fleischmann  
 Allen Clawson (FL) Fleming  
 Amash Coffman Flores  
 Amodei Cole Forbes  
 Babin Collins (NY) Fortenberry  
 Barletta Comstock Foxx  
 Barr Conaway Franks (AZ)  
 Barton Cook Frelinghuysen  
 Benishek Costello (PA) Garrett  
 Bilirakis Cramer Gibbs  
 Bishop (MI) Crawford Gibson  
 Bishop (UT) Crenshaw Gohmert  
 Black Culbertson Goodlatte  
 Blackburn Curbelo (FL) Gosar  
 Blum Davis, Rodney Gowdy  
 Bost Denham Granger  
 Boustany Dent Graves (GA)  
 Brady (TX) DeSantis Graves (LA)  
 Brat DesJarlais Graves (MO)  
 Bridenstine Diaz-Balart Griffith  
 Brooks (AL) Dold Grothman  
 Brooks (IN) Donovan Guinta  
 Buck Duffy Guthrie  
 Buechon Duncan (SC) Hanna  
 Burgess Duncan (TN) Harper  
 Byrne Ellmers (NC) Harris  
 Calvert Emmer (MN) Hartzler  
 Carter (GA) Farenthold Heck (NV)  
 Carter (TX) Fincher

Hensarling Rodgers  
 Herrera Beutler McMorris  
 Hice, Jody B. McSally  
 Hill Meadows  
 Holding Meehan  
 Hudson Messer  
 Huelskamp Mica  
 Huizenga (MI) Miller (FL)  
 Hultgren Miller (MI)  
 Hunter Mooleenaar  
 Hurd (TX) Mooney (WV)  
 Hurt (VA) Mullin  
 Issa Mulvaney  
 Jenkins (KS) Murphy (PA)  
 Jenkins (WV) Neugebauer  
 Johnson (OH) Newhouse  
 Johnson, Sam Noem  
 Jolly Nugent  
 Jones Nunes  
 Jordan Olson  
 Joyce Palazzo  
 Katko Palmer  
 Kelly (MS) Paulsen  
 Kelly (PA) Pearce  
 King (IA) Perry  
 King (NY) Pittenger  
 King (NY) Pitts  
 Kinzinger (IL) Kline  
 Kline Knight  
 Knight Poe (TX)  
 Labrador Poliquin  
 LaHood Pompeo  
 LaMalfa LaHood  
 LaMalfa Price, Tom  
 Lamborn Ratcliffe  
 Lance Reed  
 Latta Reichert  
 LObiondo Renacci  
 Long Ribble  
 Loudermilk Rice (SC)  
 Love Rigell  
 Lucas Roby  
 Luetkemeyer Roe (TN)  
 Lummis Rogers (AL)  
 MacArthur Rogers (KY)  
 Marchant Rohrabacher  
 Marino Rokita  
 Massie Rooney (FL)  
 McCarthy Ros-Lehtinen  
 McCaul Roskam  
 McClintock Ross  
 McHenry Rothfus  
 McKinley Rouzer

NOT VOTING—7

Buchanan Kelly (IL)  
 Collins (GA) Payne  
 Fattah Russell

□ 1759

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.

Ms. NORTON. 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 240, nays 191, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 559]

YEAS—240

Abraham Boustany Clawson (FL)  
 Aderholt Brady (TX) Coffman  
 Allen Brat Cole  
 Amash Bridenstine Collins (GA)  
 Amodei Brooks (AL) Collins (NY)  
 Babin Brooks (IN) Comstock  
 Barletta Buchanan Conaway  
 Barr Buck Cook  
 Barton Buechon Cramer  
 Benishek Burgess Crawford  
 Bilirakis Byrne  
 Bishop (MI) Calvert  
 Bishop (UT) Carter (GA)  
 Black Carter (TX)  
 Blackburn Chabot  
 Blum Chaffetz

Dent  
 DeSantis  
 DesJarlais  
 Diaz-Balart  
 Donovan  
 Duffy  
 Duncan (SC)  
 Duncan (TN)  
 Ellmers (NC)  
 Emmer (MN)  
 Farenthold  
 Fincher  
 Fitzpatrick  
 Fleischmann  
 Fleming  
 Flores  
 Forbes  
 Fortenberry  
 Foxx  
 Franks (AZ)  
 Frelinghuysen  
 Gibbs  
 Gibson  
 Gohmert  
 Goodlatte  
 Gosar  
 Gowdy  
 Granger  
 Graves (GA)  
 Posey  
 Graves (LA)  
 Grothman  
 Guinta  
 Guthrie  
 Hanna  
 Hardy  
 Harper  
 Harris  
 Hartzler  
 Heck (NV)  
 Hensarling  
 Herrera Beutler  
 Hice, Jody B.  
 Hill  
 Holding  
 Hudson  
 Huelskamp  
 Huizenga (MI)  
 Hultgren  
 Hunter  
 Hurd (TX)  
 Hurt (VA)  
 Issa  
 Jenkins (KS)  
 Jenkins (WV)  
 Johnson (OH)  
 Johnson, Sam  
 Jolly  
 Jones  
 Jordan  
 Joyce  
 Katko  
 Kelly (MS)  
 Kelly (PA)  
 King (IA)

NAYS—191

Adams  
 Aguilar  
 Ashford  
 Bass  
 Beatty  
 Becerra  
 Bera  
 Beyer  
 Bishop (GA)  
 Blumenauer  
 Bonamici  
 Bost  
 Boyle, Brendan  
 F.  
 Brady (PA)  
 Brown (FL)  
 Brownley (CA)  
 Bustos  
 Butterfield  
 Capps  
 Capuano  
 Cárdenas  
 Carney  
 Carson (IN)  
 Cartwright  
 Castor (FL)  
 Castro (TX)  
 Chu, Judy  
 Cicilline  
 Clark (MA)  
 Clarke (NY)  
 Clay  
 Cleaver  
 Clyburn  
 Cohen  
 Connolly  
 Conyers  
 Cooper  
 Costa  
 Costello (PA)  
 Courtney  
 Crowley  
 Cuellar  
 Cummings  
 Davis (CA)  
 Davis, Danny  
 DeFazio  
 DeGette  
 DeLauro  
 DelBene  
 DeSaulnier  
 Deutch  
 Dingell  
 Doggett  
 Dold  
 Donovan  
 Doyle, Michael  
 F.  
 Duckworth  
 Edwards  
 Ellison  
 Engel  
 Eshoo  
 Esty  
 Farr  
 Foster  
 Frankel (FL)  
 Fudge  
 Gabbard  
 Gallego  
 Garamendi  
 Graham  
 Graves (MO)  
 Grayson  
 Green, Al  
 Green, Gene  
 Griffith  
 Grijalva  
 Gutiérrez  
 Hahn  
 Hastings  
 Heck (WA)  
 Higgins  
 Himes  
 Hinojosa  
 Honda  
 Hoyer  
 Huffman  
 Israel  
 Jackson Lee  
 Jeffries  
 Johnson (GA)  
 Johnson, E. B.  
 Kaptur  
 Keating  
 Kennedy  
 Kildee

Kilmer	Murphy (FL)	Scott (VA)
Kind	Nadler	Scott, David
Kirkpatrick	Napolitano	Serrano
Kuster	Neal	Sewell (AL)
Langevin	Nolan	Sherman
Larsen (WA)	Norcross	Simpson
Larson (CT)	O'Rourke	Sinema
Lawrence	Pallone	Sires
Lee	Pascrell	Slaughter
Levin	Pelosi	Smith (WA)
Lewis	Perlmutter	Speier
Lieu, Ted	Peters	Swalwell (CA)
LoBiondo	Peterson	Takai
Loeback	Pingree	Takano
Lofgren	Pocan	Thompson (CA)
Lowenthal	Polis	Thompson (MS)
Lowe	Price (NC)	Titus
Lujan Grisham	Quigley	Tonko
(NM)	Rangel	Torres
Luján, Ben Ray	Reichert	Tsongas
(NM)	Rice (NY)	Van Hollen
Lynch	Richmond	Vargas
Maloney,	Roybal-Allard	Veasey
Carolyn	Ruiz	Vela
Maloney, Sean	Ruppersberger	Velázquez
Matsui	Rush	Visclosky
McCollum	Ryan (OH)	Walz
McDermott	Sánchez, Linda	Wasserman
McGovern	T.	Schultz
McNerney	Sanchez, Loretta	Waters, Maxine
Meeks	Sarbanes	Watson Coleman
Meng	Schakowsky	Welch
Moore	Schiff	Wilson (FL)
Moulton	Schrader	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—3

Fattah	Kelly (IL)	Payne
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□ 1807

So the bill was passed.  
 The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.  
 A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MAKING IN ORDER CONSIDERATION OF VETO MESSAGE ON H.R. 1735

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that if a veto message on H.R. 1735 is laid before the House, then after the message is read and the objections of the President are spread at large upon the Journal, further consideration of the veto message and the bill shall be postponed until the legislative day of Thursday, November 5, 2015; and that on that legislative day, the House shall proceed to the constitutional question of reconsideration and dispose of such question without intervening motion.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken tomorrow.

AMENDING TITLE XI OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (S. 1362) to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to clarify waiver authority regarding programs of all-inclusive care for the elderly (PACE programs).

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1362

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

SECTION 1. CLARIFICATION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY REGARDING PACE PROGRAMS.

Subsection (d)(1) of section 1115A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315a) is amended by striking “and 1903(m)(2)(A)(iii)” and inserting “1903(m)(2)(A)(iii), and 1934 (other than subsections (b)(1)(A) and (c)(5) of such section)”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1362 currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for S. 1362, the PACE Innovation Act of 2015.

The companion bill in the House, H.R. 3243, was introduced by my longtime colleague and a real champion for the elderly and the frail, CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey.

This legislation is a commonsense, bipartisan approach to increasing flexibility in our healthcare system.

PACE, or the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, is an integrated care program that provides hands-on, long-term care and support to beneficiaries who need an institutional level of care but continue to live at home. Many of these beneficiaries are dual eligible, or eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid.

Hardworking Americans who care for these beneficiaries and want to keep their loved ones at home have relied on this program for well over a decade, as the program has now expanded to 32 States.

There are two programs currently operating back in Texas, and I am looking forward to monitoring the program's continued success back home.

However, currently, the PACE model is limited to seniors who meet a specific list of criteria, Federal and State, for needing a nursing home level of care. The PACE Innovation Act would allow Medicare to test the PACE benefit on other vulnerable populations.

With the popularity and success of the PACE program, it is clear that, to live up to its full potential nationally, other populations should be targeted to benefit from comprehensive PACE models.

These beneficiaries are some of our Nation's most vulnerable, who, along with their families, have chosen not to enter into full-time nursing home care at a facility.

Studies have shown that people receiving care from PACE organizations have better outcomes and less hospitalizations and, more importantly, have more time to spend with their families in their own homes—and that is key.

The PACE Innovation Act is revenue-neutral and widely supported.

I would like to thank fellow Ways and Means Committee members CHARLES BOUSTANY, MIKE KELLY, LYNN JENKINS, EARL BLUMENAUER, BILL PASCRELL, BILL MCDERMOTT, and RICHARD NEAL for their strong support of this effort and encourage that the whole House vote to pass S. 1362 under suspension of the rules and send it to the President's desk.

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

□ 1815

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments from my friend from Texas. Mr. Speaker, there is occasionally a little bit of controversy around the House, a modest amount of disagreement, and, of course, that is just in the Republican conference. There are lots of things that get the spotlight.

But I appreciate the leadership of my friend with our Health Subcommittee on Ways and Means for there are things below the radar screen where we have been working in a thoughtful and bipartisan way to try and see if we can thread the needle on a number of these things that don't have to cost a lot of money, and they enable us to be able to refine healthcare opportunities.

One of the biggest accomplishments of the session was getting the SGR monkey off our back to deal with the sustainable growth rate in a bipartisan fashion, and there have been, I want to say, about 12 bills that have moved out of our Health Subcommittee that deal with initiatives going forward.

What my friend from Texas said about the PACE Act is absolutely true. This is an opportunity for us to take a proven set of techniques to help seniors who want to stay at home, who do not want to be in nursing facilities, being able to give them the flexible needs in terms of services, and it works.

I represent a program in Portland, Oregon, Providence ElderPlace. It serves over 1,000 Oregonians. It has got a solid track record. It has costs that are lower than average if they were Medicaid beneficiaries. In some States, these savings can be nearly 30 percent.

There are opportunities here to be able to give better ongoing service. The hospital readmission rate, for example, the program I mentioned in Oregon, is far under the national average of 15.2 percent. It is about half that rate.

This simply extends this opportunity to a broader range of beneficiaries, people who have complex health conditions, but who are younger, for instance. They are no less deserving of this opportunity. I am absolutely convinced that the results will be every bit as strong.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate having this bill move forward, and I appreciate the advocacy of my friend, Mr. SMITH from New Jersey. We seem to find a variety of things to work on together in this Congress, and there is nothing that I think is more important and is going to have more long-term impact for people who are quite vulnerable. It is going to save the Federal Government money while it provides better outcomes for patients and for their families.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time urging strong support from my colleagues.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am really proud to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), a real champion for the elderly and the fragile who has really been a leader for so many years on this key issue.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me thank KEVIN BRADY, the chairman, for his extraordinary leadership on this and so many other issues, and Mr. BLUMENAUER, with whom we have worked together to build a strong bipartisan push for this piece of legislation.

I do rise in strong support for passage of S. 1362, the PACE Innovation Act. Identical to the companion bill that I introduced along with Mr. BLUMENAUER, this bill will provide PACE programs with flexibility to bring a proven model of care to new populations. The program for all-inclusive care for the elderly, or PACE, is a widely popular program serving over 30,000 seniors around the country.

For those unfamiliar with PACE, the program delivers the entire range of medical and long-term services, including medical care and prescription drug services, physical or occupational therapy, day or respite care, and medical specialties such as dentistry, optometry, and podiatry.

Currently, eligibility for PACE is limited to those aged 55 and over who meet State-specified criteria for needing nursing home-level care. This program will provide wellness and keeps people in their homes. It is already doing it. Now more people will benefit from it. It improves outcomes. And this is all for people who otherwise would be paying catastrophic costs for nursing home care.

Mr. Speaker, PACE has seen a significant growth in recent years, including a 30 percent increase in the number

of people receiving services over the last 3 years alone.

PACE has a proven track record in my own State of New Jersey where programs currently serve roughly 900 seniors throughout the State.

Just last week, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to attend the grand opening and ribbon cutting of a new PACE program in Monmouth County, and it is New Jersey's fifth program.

When I first heard about PACE, I worked hard to bring this valuable program to my State back in 2009. Even though it was around before that, it was one of the best kept secrets around.

They then formed the first PACE program called LIFE, Living Independently for Elderly, at St. Francis Medical Center in the Trenton and Hamilton area. I have visited St. Francis LIFE often since and on its fifth anniversary was overwhelmed by the appreciation of seniors and their families for the program's ability to raise or maintain their quality of life.

The limits, however, and operational restrictions placed on PACE do not allow these programs to serve many others in need. Chronological age should not be the determinant.

If somebody is disabled and could use and should use a nursing home and is eligible, this gives another option to the family to keep them at home. The legislation will allow CMS to establish pilot programs and waive restrictions and test how to best deliver results for new populations.

As Tim Clontz, the chairman of the National PACE Association's Public Policy Committee, testified before the Health Subcommittee on the Energy and Commerce Committee, he told stories about a man named Jim G., a 54-year-old man with early-onset Alzheimer's disease.

He was hospitalized for a lung infection and, as a result, stayed home alone during the day, where he was isolated and struggled with activities of daily living, such as personal grooming, household chores, and child care.

His wife quit her job to care for him full time, but his needs were more than she could handle. He was permanently placed in a memory care unit, and since PACE was not an option for Jim—remember, he is 54 years old—his wife is crowd-sourcing to try to pay his medical care. This heartbreaking story could have been eliminated.

I also chair the Alzheimer's Caucus, Mr. Speaker, here in the House, and I can tell you there are many patients with early onset who could benefit and benefit in a very, very significant way with this change in law.

I look forward to the President's signature. Again, I want to thank you, Kevin, for your leadership and your very distinguished staff.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close just by saying, again, I express my appreciation to the chairman and to Mr. SMITH for moving this forward.

We find that the evaluations of the PACE program have proven that participants experience better health outcomes, fewer unmet needs, less pain, less likelihood of depression, and fewer hospitalizations and nursing home admissions.

There are people out there now, if we make this change, that are ready to extend this higher quality of care for very deserving, needy, and vulnerable people who are younger than the threshold 55 years of age.

Mr. Speaker, I urge we vote tonight, enact it into law, and let these people get to work serving these people in a new and profoundly improved way.

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank again these champions, Mr. SMITH and Mr. BLUMENAUER, for coming together on a very important program that makes so much sense.

This is our mom or our dad, our loved one who wants to get care, but doesn't want to be in that nursing home. It is good for them, it is great for the family, and it is good for the taxpayers.

It just makes common sense. Having this strong, bipartisan support for this bill I think is every reason for it to pass through this House, to be signed by the President, and be expanded all across America.

So, Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support for the PACE Innovation Act and urge its passage. With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COSTELLO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1362.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN OR IN RELATION TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114-69)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to

the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, is to continue in effect beyond October 27, 2015.

The situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has been marked by widespread violence and atrocities that continue to threaten regional stability, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13413 with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

BARACK OBAMA,  
THE WHITE HOUSE, *October 21, 2015.*

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE  
EVENTS SURROUNDING THE 2012  
TERRORIST ATTACK IN  
BENGAZI

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Select Committee on Benghazi will hold hearings certain to drive congressional approval ratings to new lows. The majority leader, the leader of the Republicans, and the New York Republican, Mr. HANNA, and former Republican Committee staffers have all confessed that the purpose of this committee is no governmental purpose, but the political purpose of driving down Secretary Clinton's approval ratings and political prospects. And for that, we have spent 4.5 million taxpayer dollars.

Even before those admissions, it was apparent that that was the purpose of this committee. They have held four hearings in 17 months and developed nothing of significance. They have abandoned plans to have hearings with top intelligence and defense officials. They have done nothing up until now. Yet, tomorrow, they are set to spend 8 hours grilling one woman.

Nothing about the tragedy in Benghazi has been revealed by this committee, and nothing will be revealed tomorrow. All this committee has done is focus on what has been referred to as Secretary Clinton's damn emails.

Look at the rules that bind Congress on emails. We are free to use any server. We are free to keep and delete or to take the emails with us.

We have got an 8 percent approval rating. It is going down tomorrow as a result of what the Benghazi Committee plans to do.

TRINIDAD GARZA EARLY COLLEGE  
HIGH SCHOOL NAMED NATIONAL  
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the faculty, staff, and students of Trinidad Garza Early College High School at Mountain View for being named a 2015 National Blue Ribbon School.

For the last 33 years, the Department of Education has recognized superior schools for their academic achievement, their progress in closing achievement gaps, and for demonstrating that all students can achieve high levels of success.

Nominated by top education officials in Texas, Trini Garza is one of 335 schools across the country being recognized as a 2015 Blue Ribbon School and one of 28 such schools in the great State of Texas.

As a dual-degree school, Trinity Garza has made it a priority to make students college ready, life ready, and career ready.

I am proud to represent a school that has truly excelled since opening in 2006. Trini Garza, along with 334 other schools, will be recognized at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on November 9 and 10.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Trini Garza Early College High School on this important accomplishment.

□ 1830

ADDRESS THE DEBT LIMIT AND  
REACH A BIPARTISAN BUDGET  
AGREEMENT

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, there are just 9 more legislative days to act fully to protect the full faith and credit of the United States before November 3 in order to prevent the risk of a first ever U.S. default.

We know that a default is not what the American people want. It could shatter retirement savings and send interest rates for mortgages, student loans, credit cards, and car payments soaring. We know that even a threat of default has serious consequences.

We have experienced a downgrading in our credit before because our friends on the other side of the aisle—Republicans—took us to the catastrophic brink. And then, of course, we realized that what we did today, Pay China First Act, does not help the American people.

If we continue on this pathway, we will impact 1.4 million Active-Duty troops by not paying our debt, 4.1 million disabled veterans who served their country with honor by not paying our debt, 2.3 million veterans who receive home purchasing assistance by not paying our debt, American small busi-

nesses that sell goods and services to the government and most doctors and hospitals that treat the 53.8 million Medicare patients around the country by not paying our debt.

We cannot hold the United States hostage or our credit hostage. It is time to address in a fair and reasonable manner the debt of the United States, which is the people of the United States. Get rid of sequester, follow our responsibilities, and pay our bills so that we can help those veterans who need help.

Mr. Speaker, once again House Republicans are putting the narrow partisan interests of their right-wing base ahead of addressing the real challenges and problems facing the American people.

Congress has only 10 legislative days to act to fully protect the full faith and credit of the United States before November 3, in order to prevent the risk of a first-ever U.S. default.

A default would shatter retirement savings and send interest rates for mortgages, student loans, credit cards and car payments soaring.

We know that even the threat of default has serious consequences: plummeting consumer confidence, and drastic slowdowns in job creation and economic growth.

Instead of taking the threat of catastrophic default off the table, this week, Republicans are bringing forward a bill that would give priority to bondholders from China and other foreign nations would be paid first.

This bill, more accurately described as the "Pay China First Act," puts payments to Americans at risk, including those to: 1. 1.4 million active duty troops; 2. 4.1 million disabled veterans who served their country with honor; 3. 2.3 million veterans who receive home purchasing assistance; 4. American small businesses that sell goods and services to the government; 5. Doctors and hospitals that treat the 53.8 million Medicare patients around the country.

The credit rating of the United States is not a hostage to serve Republicans' toxic special interest ideology.

Republicans should bring forward a clean bill to honor the full faith and credit of the United States immediately.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have wasted enormous amount of time on irresponsible, futile, and reckless diversions such as trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act, defund Planned Parenthood, and use the Benghazi Select Committee as an adjunct of the Republican National Committee to engage in partisan attacks on the leading candidate for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination.

Because so much time has been wasted on these frivolous issues, we now have the following critical deadlines staring us in the face:

1. October 29: Highway & Transit Trust Fund expires, endangering good paying jobs and critical construction projects throughout America;

2. November 3: Deadline to raise debt ceiling to protect full faith and credit of the United States.

3. December 11: Deadline to pass a funding bill that keeps the government open.

Americans are already paying a heavy price for House Republicans' legislative mismanagement.

Earlier this summer, Republicans shut down the Export-Import Bank for the first time in its 81-year history.

The Bank provides critical financing assistance—at no cost to taxpayers—to small, medium, and large-sized U.S. businesses that helps them create jobs here at home and sell their products overseas.

Just two months after the Bank shut down, companies across the country are already feeling negative impacts on their ability to compete in the global marketplace.

House Republicans also let the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) expire on September 30.

Created in 1965, it is one of the nation's most successful conservation programs.

The LWCF uses a small percentage of revenue from offshore oil and gas drilling to invest in public lands and local recreation projects, and helps to support more than 6 million U.S. jobs connected with outdoor recreation.

Mr. Speaker, I renew my call that all Members of the House and Senate work together and address the real problems and challenges facing the American people and to work with the President to reach agreement on an appropriate budget framework that ends sequestration but does not harm our economy or require draconian cuts to middle-class priorities.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF DON EDWARDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LOFGREN. 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 the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the California Democratic congressional delegation to honor the life of Don Edwards, who passed away earlier this month at the age of 100 in his home in Carmel.

Congressman Don Edwards was someone I was proud to know for many years. He was born in San Jose, California, in 1915, growing up on South 13th Street. Living in San Jose at an idyllic time, he took the trolley to play golf as a young man, attended public schools in San Jose, received his bachelor's degree from Stanford University, where he later studied law, and was admitted to the Bar Association of California in 1940.

He became an FBI agent during the Depression. He used to talk about his service as an FBI agent, which he jokingly referred to as "long hours looking for auto thieves in Indianapolis." But, in fact, he served with great distinction in the FBI, and he went on to serve in the United States Navy as an intelligence officer and a gunnery officer in World War II.

He was first elected to represent what was then California's Ninth Con-

gressional District in 1962, and he served for 32 years, until January 3, 1995.

I remember the first time I saw Congressman Don Edwards. It was before he was a Congressman. He was giving a speech in Mitchell Park in Palo Alto, California. I was just out of elementary school, and I remember how impressed I was and inspired I was by his words. He, in turn, had been inspired by President Kennedy to run for Congress, and he was successfully elected that year.

Over the years, he represented such communities as San Jose, Gilroy, Morgan Hill, parts of Milpitas, Fremont, and Union City. He served on the Judiciary Committee and served as chairman of the House Subcommittee on Civil Liberties and Civil Rights for 23 years. He also sat on the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Now, Congressman Don Edwards was one of the foremost defenders of civil liberties in Congress. In the 1970s, along with Senator Frank Church and his committee, they exposed the pervasive abuses of civil liberties in J. Edgar Hoover's COINTELPRO, which monitored, infiltrated, and disrupted entirely lawful civil rights and antiwar organizations; and his stature as a former FBI agent really allowed him to be effective in this role.

In his first year in the House, he voted to abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee, and he was involved every year. In fact, I helped him in the early seventies in trying to abolish HUAC. He finally succeeded in 1975. He was involved in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He was a dignified and important member of the House Judiciary Committee during the consideration of the impeachment of Richard Nixon. And he was known throughout the country as somebody who stood up for the Constitution.

Earlier today, former Congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzman came on the floor, and we were talking about former Members' right to be present on the floor, but they do not have the right to address the Congress as a former Member. She wanted everyone to know that she was so proud that she was able to serve with Congressman Edwards on the Judiciary Committee, and she is not alone where people were able to serve with him.

His contributions will live on for many generations, as demonstrated by the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildfire Refuge, which was the first urban wildfire refuge in the United States. I remember he used to call the chairman of the committee in the seventies every single morning, saying, "Where is my wildfire refuge?" because such endangered species as the California Clapper Rail and the salt marsh harvest mouse were on the verge of extinction, and now they are not because of his work.

As I said, he was a stalwart defender of the Constitution, a tireless advocate for the rights of women, and was

known as the "Father of the Equal Rights Amendment," which he introduced every year.

Congressman Edwards was also known as a champion of civil rights. After becoming chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, then known as Subcommittee Number 4, he managed the Equal Rights Amendment on the House floor in 1971, the extension of the Voting Rights Act in 1982, and all other civil rights bills of the era.

Now, outside of Congress, he took part in civil rights marches in the South. His son Len was a Freedom Rider, and he joined Len Edwards during the Mississippi Summer. He visited Dr. Martin Luther King when Dr. King was imprisoned in the Birmingham, Alabama, jail. And Don Edwards spoke out against apartheid while visiting South Africa.

Congressman Don Edwards had a long, fulfilling life, and part of that fulfillment was his marriage to Edie Wilkie Edwards until her death in April of 2011. She and he were very involved in a group that no longer is active in the House called Members of Congress for Peace Through Law because they were people who believed that we could have a peaceful world, and the route to peace was the rule of law.

Congressman Edwards is survived by four sons, Len Edwards, Samuel, Bruce, and Thomas, as well as four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He died peacefully and with a great deal of grace. According to his son Len Edwards: "He died as he lived, an elegant man."

He leaves a legacy of supporting civil rights, advocating for those less fortunate in our society, and as being a strong defender of our Constitution. In fact, in his district, they used to call him not the Congressman from the Tenth Congressional District, but the Congressman from the Constitution.

I am fortunate that when I graduated from college in 1970 and I came to Washington without a job, I walked into his office and he hired me. I worked for him for nearly 9 years, both here in Washington and in his district in San Jose. He helped me enormously by giving me time off to take exams while I was taking my law school classes. He helped me and mentored me, and I feel a great debt of gratitude to him personally for all he did to help me, but mainly to inspire me and a whole generation of Americans to believe in their country and to believe in their Constitution and to believe in the rule of law and civil rights.

With that, I yield to the gentleman from California, (Mr. FARR), my colleague.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. LOFGREN for yielding, the chair of our wonderful California delegation, the largest Democratic delegation in Congress.

When I arrived in Congress in a special election in 1993, Don Edwards was

the dean, the chair of the Democratic delegation, the same delegation that his former employee, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, now holds. He was the father figure for all of us from California, and I think of this entire Congress when you look at his remarkable record.

It is ironic that Don Edwards grew up in a Republican family in the Stanford area in Santa Clara Valley, attended Stanford University, was captain of the golf team, did very well in golf, and so much so that the district that I represent every year hosts what was formerly known as the Bing Crosby Clambake, now the AT&T Pro-Am Golf Tournament. And Don Edwards told me that he carried his pro, he got a better score than his pro, and they won the tournament the first Clambake at Pebble Beach.

He soon became president of the Young Republicans. He quickly thereafter left the Young Republicans and became a very, very liberal Democrat. I asked him once as he retired, as Congresswoman LOFGREN said, to Carmel, California—he retired to a home right next to the home that I grew up in and my sister still lives in, so we had many, many nights with him and Edie discussing politics, and I once asked him: What made you become a Democrat? He said: Well, you know, Sam, after I got out of Stanford, I was in the FBI right after law school, and after I knew what the government could do to you through the FBI, I decided that I better be on the other side to protect the rights of individuals.

He then became a Navy intelligence officer. One of the things that happened when he left the FBI—he was no fan of the head of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover—he asked Congress to audit the FBI. Well, the FBI had never been audited. All of the seizure of the equipment and goods and things that they had taken in the arrest were used to support them internally, and people thought that there might be some foul play there. Because he asked for that audit, he was on their blacklist. A former FBI agent knew a little bit too much about what was going on inside the FBI and with J. Edgar Hoover.

As a Member of Congress—it is really interesting. He got elected when John F. Kennedy was President, and he left Congress when Bill Clinton was President, so all of those President's between Kennedy and Clinton, Don Edwards had served with. If anybody, he was probably the most dapper, best dressed, politest, nicest human being on this floor.

He had great friends on the Republican side of the aisle, even though he was such a liberal Member of the Democratic Party. One of his friends was Hamilton Fish from New York. They worked together on many of these remarkable acts: the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the rogue Voting Rights Act of 1965. He became chair of the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, and he managed the

equal rights amendment on the House floor. He was a constitutional civil rights-human rights expert and passionate about his feelings of the law to protect people.

When Don and Edie retired to Carmel, California, they brought with them a lot of their friends from Washington, and in his home State of California, we used to have wonderful dinner parties together. He was still a member of Cypress Point Golf Club, a very exclusive golf club. In fact, he was the longest surviving member of that club.

□ 1845

Unfortunately, Edie predeceased him—his wonderful wife for many years, whom we all loved—and we were saddened about her development of lung cancer, and she died.

Don wanted to have a memorial service for her at a local church and then the reception at the Cypress Point Country Club, one of the most conservative golf clubs in the United States. Don was very proud after the church service to have invited everybody, and he proudly stated that this was the largest collection of Democrats that had ever been at the Cypress Point Country Club.

He had a great sense of humor, lots of friends. He was a remarkable human being who was able to work across the aisle, something we miss today. With that, he was able to accomplish some of the greatest laws of this country in the modern era.

He was a good friend of Republicans and Democrats, but, most of all, he was the friend of the animals and of the people who could not speak for themselves. We will sorely miss this great man, who served this great institution for a long, long time.

My wife sends all her best. She was at his bedside when he died, and she was part of his caretaking team. We will have services for him in Carmel this Sunday, and there will be services in the San Jose area and future services here in Washington.

So I just stand tonight to give you my thoughts on my relationship with a great man, Don Edwards, who championed civil rights and died at the age of 100.

Ms. LOFGREN. Thank you, SAM FARR.

I now yield to the gentlewoman from San Francisco, California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Thank you very much, Congressman ZOE LOFGREN, the chair of the House Democrats of California, for calling us together in a Special Order to honor a truly great man.

I want to associate myself with the remarks that have gone before and to say to SAM FARR: Thank you to you and to Sharyr for the love and affection and care that you gave not only to Don Edwards, but to Edie Wilkie, for such a long time. We all talked about how much we loved them. You were there for them all the time, and we are completely, entirely, in your debt. Thank you for the love that you gave them.

Thank you again, ZOE LOFGREN and the entire California delegation, for orchestrating this Special Order hour.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, we honor an august statesman who labored with dignity, led with integrity, and lived with courage, William Donlon—otherwise known as “Don Edwards”—who passed away last month at the age of 100.

His life was a gift to the Nation. He protected our communities through his service as an FBI agent. He protected our country through his service in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He moved our country forward through his service as a U.S. Congressman.

Service. Leadership. Patriotism. Don Edwards.

Don reminded us that how we live our values matters; so he fought for fair pay, becoming the “Father of the Equal Rights Amendment.” He stood with the Freedom Riders at a time when they were written off as troublemakers and agitators. He championed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and fought to protect freedom of speech. He spoke up for workers, for our environment, for the resources needed to improve our country, and for future generations.

As chair of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights for more than 20 years, Don became the “conscience of the Congress” and strived to ensure that all Americans enjoyed equality of opportunity.

He took great pride in the fact that he was the floor leader for the Equal Rights Amendment, that he managed that bill. During his 32 years in the House, Congressman Edwards helped change the course of history. So significant was his leadership.

Oddly enough, Don won his first election to any office in 1950 when he was elected president of the California Young Republicans. Throughout his life, Don's ability to respect all viewpoints made him a remarkable leader who was respected by Members on both sides of the aisle. When he was 88 years old, Don reminded us that the world works better when we get along, and that is what we owe everybody.

In California, we hold a special place of honor for Congressman Edwards, the long-time dean of the California Democratic delegation. The beautiful, pristine Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge serves as a tribute to his efforts to preserve our environment and our ideals for future generations.

In fact, he, as a modern-day man and as a Member of Congress, with his love of nature and all living things, was probably as close to a model of St. Francis of Assisi as we have ever seen—Don Edwards, a gentle, beautiful man.

Don Edwards never stopped serving our country, and his achievements will stand forever as a living monument to his determined vision and legendary ability. But it wasn't just about that. It is how he encouraged others.

I can tell you, when I came to Congress 28 years ago, there were only 23

women in the House out of 435—12 Democrats, 11 Republicans. To say that we weren't always paid full attention to sounds almost like complaining, but it was a fact. Nobody ever asked, "What do you think?" to any of the women Members. I mean, we made our voices heard, of course, but nobody ever asked, "What do you think?" except Don Edwards.

Don Edwards would ask, "What do you think of this?" to each of us, especially when he was dealing with issues that related directly to us. But even well beyond that, whether we were talking about national security, economic growth—whatever the subject—Don would always ask us, "What do you think?"

I can remember hearing him ask, "Nancy, what do you think?"

And I said, "Don, do you know how unusual that is, to hear you say that?"

And he would ask, "Why do you say that?"

And I said, "Because not many people around here, of the four hundred and something versus the 23, come up and ask the few women who are here what we think."

But he was always about encouraging people to reach their fulfillment and to see what their contribution could do for the common good.

Sadly, we lost Edie Wilkie a few years ago. As SAM FARR mentioned, she predeceased Don by a number of years. He worshiped Edie, and they were a real team for equality, for peace, for disarmament, for protecting the environment, for promoting opportunity and fairness. They were such a team.

So I hope it is a comfort now to his children and to his grandchildren—to all he loved—that so many people throughout the world and, certainly, in our country mourn the loss of a consummate public servant, a proud Californian, and a proud American.

May his legacy long endure in this House, and may it challenge all of us to do more and to do better on behalf of America's working families.

Thank you again, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, for bringing us together.

Ms. LOFGREN. Thank you, Madam Leader.

It is wonderful for those who served with Don Edwards, for those who knew him by reputation, and for those who worked for him to—

Ms. PELOSI. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. LOFGREN. I yield to the gentlewoman.

Ms. PELOSI. I would like to say how proud he was and thrilled he was that Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN was going to succeed him in the Congress. He made that well known to all of us. So his service continues his leadership in your excellent service and leadership in the Congress.

Ms. LOFGREN. Thank you, Madam Leader.

Now I turn to my colleague from California who was able to serve with Congressman Edwards for the first 2

years of her service here in the Congress, Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO.

Ms. ESHOO. I thank the gentlewoman from California, the chair of the California Democratic delegation, and my dear friend and colleague.

Mr. Speaker, it is really, I think, bittersweet this evening because we loved Congressman Don Edwards so much, and it is hard to imagine the world without him.

He was the kind of human being that you wanted to have live forever. Instead, his contributions to our Nation, to the State of California, to his community are a record that will be revered for generations and generations and generations to come.

There is a lot that has already been said about Don, beautiful things that have been said about Don, how he graduated from Stanford University and Stanford Law School, how he began his professional career as an FBI agent, and how he joined the Navy as an intelligence officer.

So he served our country in many different roles, and, of course, the crown of his public service career was right here in the House of the people, the House of Representatives. He was a small-business man in a business that his father owned and that he became a part of during the 1950s, and then, of course, he was elected as a Democrat.

In fact, I still have in my office an invitation that Don had sent out. I think it must have been for some fundraiser that he had had, but the cover of that invitation has Don Edwards standing next to a very young President of the United States, John F. Kennedy.

Young children and those who helped elect John F. Kennedy and anyone else who comes through my office very often remark about the picture. It is something that I cherish, that my staff cherishes, and my constituents do.

It has been said that he was elected to be the president of the California Young Republicans. That is a very prestigious organization, and I can just see Don, elegant in every way.

He dressed magnificently. He had the most beautiful posture. The way he carried himself, he almost kind of glided down the hall.

But he had a deep sense of humility about him. We talk about his greatness and his goodness, and he was never one to want to be served. His joy was in serving. And so he had more than a healthy dose of humility about him.

Don Edwards had an eloquence about him that ran as deep as his beliefs. In my lifetime, he had two great love affairs. One was Edie, and the other was the Constitution. He loved the flag.

He understood that that was a symbol of our country, but he knew that the Constitution, our Constitution, was the soul of our Nation, and that is where he embedded himself—in the Constitution and in the subcommittee that did its work to always reinforce and establish the constitutionality and make the Constitution live for people who it had not touched yet.

If there is anything that would be noble, I think that that is, and the record that he built was one where he was the foremost champion of civil rights, having drafted every civil rights bill in the House of Representatives for two decades. What a record. What a magnificent record.

He loved his community. I remember when he announced that he was retiring. He thanked his constituents for the patience that they had extended to him because, I think, many times in the debate about what is constitutional and how to extend rights to people, it is not always very popular in the beginning.

We love our history once it has been made, but we struggle very hard and don't always recognize the opportunity at hand in that history is being made. In his gentle, elegant way, he thanked his constituents for the patience that they had had with him in that they had stayed with him so that he could do the work that he did on their behalf.

□ 1900

He famously said, in the 1982 extension of the Voting Rights Act: "If you can't vote, you are not a real citizen." So he understood where the nub of the dignity of citizenship rested: voting. I don't think he could really comprehend why the Voting Rights Act is not being brought up today so that we can all vote on it and improve what is so essential in the life of the citizens of our country.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that Congressman Edwards would be very proud of his colleagues in the California Democratic delegation today, starting with our chair, ZOE LOFGREN, who not only worked side by side with him, but now chairs our delegation.

The values that he carried, the values that he loved and that he made so real and shared with everyone in the House, whether colleagues agreed or disagreed with him, they drew a great sense of joy from him because they knew the love of our Constitution and of our country that he carried, and so they respected him. What he carried and did here, I think he would be very proud of his fellow Californians for carrying those traditions on.

I want to pay tribute especially to Shary Farr, Congressman SAM FARR's wife. As I said to Shary, because she was there when Don took his last breath, I feel that we were all there with him because she was. She did so much in seeing to the great care that was given to him until he took his last breath.

There is a poet that wrote: And so he passed on, and all the trumpets sounded on the other side.

God bless you, Don Edwards, for what you gave and created for our country. We bless your name, and we thank you for your service. It is an honor to honor you. We love the Edwards family, and we always will.

Ms. LOFGREN. Thank you, Congresswoman ESHOO.

You know, it is a small community that we have in Santa Clara County, even though we have millions of people who live in the region.

After Don Edwards was elected, there was a young mayor called Norm Mineta who wanted to run for Congress. We went to the max trying to help Norm Mineta trying to be elected to Congress, and he ultimately was.

Later, Norm Mineta helped a young fellow to the max get elected, and we were so proud that that young legislator was also successful in being elected to Congress, actually in the seat that overlapped that was formerly Norm Mineta's seat.

I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA), my colleague in Santa Clara County and also southern Alameda County.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN. I just want to thank her for putting this event together this evening.

Tonight, we heard many words described by folks who have known Don Edwards personally in work and part of his life. We are here tonight to honor my friend Congressman Don Edwards.

Also, a native San Jose, Don was really a true statesman, the likes of which you don't find often these days. Today, we work to further the modern progressive agenda that he believed in. Our work would not be possible without standing on the shoulders of giants such as Don Edwards who came before us. Don was one of those people that I stood upon his shoulders.

When I first ran for Congress, I went to him and I asked for his advice, because I never had the opportunity to work him. I did work with his sons, and one especially, Len Edwards, who was a judge.

As a school person, I could see the kind of impact that Don has had on his son, Len Edwards, who was a judge. Len was the kind of guy that extended himself, also, as did his dad. He used to run truancy court in the school site that I was a principal of, which is really unique. And this is the kind of legacy that Don Edwards has left behind, a uniqueness of the kind of person that he was.

Don was never afraid to take a stand if he knew it to be right. At every turn, he stood up for what he believed in.

When I ran for Congress, I asked him for his advice, and he just very comfortably looked at me and said: Just do the right thing.

I think that, here in Congress, we often are challenged to do the right thing and not the political thing. Sometimes to do the right thing means to stand in the face of popular winds, knowing that you are doing the right thing in spite of the fact that other folks, other dynamics are trying to move the ship in another direction.

He was the kind of person that was really a stalwart, a true champion of civil and constitutional rights in his nearly three decades in Congress. In 1963, in his first year in Congress, he

voted to abolish the House Committee on Un-American Activities. He went on to be the champion of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. And as early as 1972, he was effectively working to protect our environment, authoring a bill to establish the National Wildlife Refuge in San Francisco Bay.

Although he was a self-described liberal Democrat, Congressman Edwards consistently worked across the aisle, including the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 and the Civil Rights Act of 1991, which bolstered employees' rights.

Because of his fearlessness, today we are able to work for more progressive change. Because of his leadership and his modeling, I have been able to use him as my compass in making the right decisions and understanding, to do the right thing. We have to stand up to fear-mongering and seek to ensure that all people are free of fear from bullying, persecution, racism, and sexism. We talk today about equality for women and the need for equal pay for equal work.

As an educator myself and a principal for over 30 years, I am really grateful for the legacy that Don left in the field of education. Himself a product of California public schools, he started the conversation that I now proudly bring my voice to, and that is the need to preserve the civil and constitutional rights for all people.

I know that he agreed that education is also a civil right, and we must find a path to a quality education that is equitable for each and every child.

I thank my friend and colleague, Congresswoman LOFGREN, for hosting this Special Order. It has been said that her experiences and her life experiences are entwined with Congressman Don Edwards. She knew Don better than most of us. Not only was she one of his staffers, but she went on to hold his seat in Congress, as it was said before.

I think that Don would look upon her work and her leadership and her stalwartness and say she is doing the right thing, she is doing it the right way, and she is a person of conscience. I think that would make him very proud.

Not long ago, I was incredibly honored to have someone tell me that I come from a place of fairness and equality. That is our area. That is the area that all of us represent: Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO, ZOE LOFGREN, Leader PELOSI, myself, and others.

Congresswoman LOFGREN has said once that Congressman Edwards had a tremendous sense of fair play, and it is my hope that, together, my colleagues and I can honor his legacy not just tonight, but as we approach our work. When we stand up for religious liberties, true equality for women, for American workers, I think Don might look down and smile upon the kind of work that we are attempting to do.

I learned one thing also from Don Edwards: the importance of giving voice to those who don't have one.

It was mentioned that Norm Mineta was one of the folks that Don Edwards has maxed out for. When Norm Mineta was leading the effort to pass the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, Don Edwards was right there with him to make sure that the mistake that this country had foisted upon Americans of Japanese descent in 1942 was recognized. Because of his work and his leadership, along with Norm Mineta, they were able to be successful in the 100th Congress passing H.R. 442, which was signed into law by President Reagan.

That was done because there was an intense understanding of the Constitution and the violation of the Constitution back in 1942 that our government had consciously foisted upon 120,000 members of its own country. That effort took over 10 years here in Congress. So it is persistence and an understanding that to do the right thing, sometimes it takes persistence and educating other people who would not otherwise have thought about what happened in 1942.

So I am here because of that work. I am here because of that tremendous effort to make sure that people of different backgrounds, although they may look different, have different religions, different upbringing, different language, different culture, different foods, that they also are accepted as Americans. He gave a voice to us, and that voice allowed us to be able to become participating Members of this Congress.

So, in that modeling, when folks in my own district come up to me and say, we know that you didn't have a voice and someone gave you a voice afterwards, we need a voice in Congress also, that sort of led me to understand and to move in the same direction that Don Edwards would want us to and to be a voice for those who don't have a voice.

For the Ethiopian community, we became a voice. For the Sikh community, we became a voice. For the Muslim community, we became a voice. For those who have been bullied day in and day out because of who they are, we became a voice. This is the legacy that Don Edwards has left with us, and it is an unfinished business that we need to continue to move forward on. It was because of his consciousness, his leadership, his firm belief in doing the right thing in every instance, in spite of the fact that it may not be popular at the moment but it is constitutional, that we continue to move forward.

So I just want to end with thanking my friend, Congresswoman LOFGREN, for hosting this hour. I am truly honored and privileged to stand here today and pay tribute to the long legacy of our friend, Don Edwards.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman HONDA for that statement and for his leadership in following the example of Don Edwards.

You know, when Don Edwards announced he was going to retire after 32 years in Congress, I called him—actually, I heard a rumor—and I begged

him not to do it, that we needed him in Congress.

He said, there are some new guys on the Judiciary Committee. You don't have to worry about civil rights and civil liberties because they are in good hands, and one of those people was BOBBY SCOTT.

I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

□ 1915

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for giving me the opportunity to speak in honor of the recently departed Congressman William Donlon "Don" Edwards, a civil rights champion, supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment, defender of the Constitution.

I am proud to say that, as a freshman in Congress, I had the honor to serve with Congressman Edwards on the Committee on the Judiciary. I would just like to say a few words about his work on that committee.

Congressman Edwards was the living embodiment of the phrase "Equal Justice Under Law," the words etched above the main entrance of the United States Supreme Court Building. When he arrived to Congress in 1963, he noted: "11 States in the Old South practiced apartheid. There was a House Un-American Activities Committee. And the FBI was out of control threatening individual liberties."

As a freshman, he wasted no time adapting to his new role in Congress because he recalled that, when he arrived on Capitol Hill, "Black people couldn't vote in large parts of the country, and if they did, they'd get hanged."

After visiting the American South where his son Leonard worked to register African Americans to vote, he wrote a letter to Dr. Martin Luther King, telling him that he understood "the absolute necessity for the immediate passage" of the Civil Rights Act, and he told Dr. King that "we stand ready to support your efforts here in Washington." With that, he proceeded to work to secure the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

He rose quickly to the rank of chairman of the House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights in 1971. In that capacity, he took on major issues, such as the Equal Rights Amendment, which fell just three States short of ratification.

Congressman Edwards said, "It is the irresistible impulse of government to assume more power. My role has been to say no." That statement perfectly captures his drive to eliminate the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1975 and his disapproval of President Nixon's unauthorized use of government agencies to harass political opponents.

Congressman Edwards worked tirelessly to gain the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, the Fair Housing Amendments Act, and the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

He successfully fought to extend the Voting Rights Act in 1982 over the objections of President Reagan, who wanted to end the Justice Department's preclearance power. At the time, Congressman Edwards said simply, "If you can't vote, you are not a real citizen."

Unfortunately, in 2013, the Supreme Court essentially struck down the Justice Department's preclearance powers under the Voting Rights Act in the *Shelby County v. Holder* decision.

When Congressman Edwards retired in 1994, the late Republican Congressman and former chair of the House Committee on the Judiciary, Henry Hyde, said this of Congressman Edwards: "He is relentlessly liberal, but that's not a vice. The battle for the fullest expression of civil liberties is losing a general, not a foot soldier."

Mr. Speaker, I was honored to serve, although briefly, with this great general who battled for equal justice and equal rights.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman SCOTT for those wonderful words.

We have quite a number of California Members as well as others who have asked for their statements to be put in the RECORD, as our time is expiring at this point, but I just would like to make a couple of final comments.

We have talked about Don Edwards' legislative record, but it really was rooted in his values. He was someone who cared about people who didn't have enough, and when he rewrote the Bankruptcy Act, he was thinking about working people who couldn't actually make ends meet.

When the service workers in the House were laid off every time the House recessed and without any ability to actually have a paycheck, the one person they sought for help was Congressman Don Edwards.

I remember lobbyists came in to lobby in favor of discrimination against women, and I was on his staff. He said, "Well, let me call in the young lawyer I rely on for this." When I walked in, that was sort of the end of the conversation.

He lived a long time. He changed this world for the better. We loved him greatly. The fact that so many people went out to California to help him—former staffers, people like Jim Copeland and Debbie McFarland, who actually went out to make sure he had what he needed—was a tribute to the kind of person he was.

As has been mentioned, he was very liberal, but he got along with people who were very conservative. I remember he and Henry Hyde, as ranking member, got along quite well and had a great deal of respect for each other.

At this point, I would just like to say that we miss Don Edwards. We honor his life and contributions. We know that we cannot mourn him. For his 100 years, he made a difference, he made our country better, and we love him for it.

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

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Congressman Don Edwards, a champion for civil rights, a defender of civil liberties, and a tireless advocate for the residents of California.

Congressman Edwards dedicated his life to public service, from serving as a naval officer during World War II, to his time at the FBI, to his decades of work in the House of Representatives on behalf of his constituents.

Through all of the phases of his life he remained true to his principles, fighting for underserved and underrepresented communities no matter what the cost.

A San Jose native and graduate of Stanford University, Congressman Edwards entered the House of Representatives in 1962, ultimately participating in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In the following decades, the Congressman diligently defended, and led efforts to preserve, this critical legislation so that all Americans can today better exercise their Constitutional rights. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights in the House Judiciary Committee he was dedicated to increasing legal protections for women and minorities. His work to level the playing field continued with his leadership in the House Judiciary Committee on the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which ensured that citizens with disabilities have access to the same opportunities as all Americans.

Congressman Don Edwards was also instrumental in preserving some of our greatest national treasures in California. In the early 1970s, Congressman Edwards was one of the key leaders in the creation of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, which was later named in his honor in 1995. His dedication to environmental protection, specifically preserving urban wetlands, will ensure that generations to come will enjoy California's beautiful landscape.

During his 32 years in the House of Representatives and as the dean of the California Democratic delegation, Congressman Edwards was always guided by a sense of justice and fairness; earning the respect of his colleagues and working with both parties to get things done for the people of California and the citizens of our great nation. His legacy will continue to serve as an example for us all in Congress and he will be greatly missed.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of former Congressman Don Edwards, a man this body remembers as a champion for civil rights and American workers, and I remember as a kind and compassionate mentor.

With civility and dignity, Congressman Edwards fought the most important civil rights battles of our generation. He challenged discrimination against African-Americans, women, people with disabilities, and others seeking equal protection under the law.

He was also a strong defender of free speech and a fierce advocate for the environment, well before protecting the environment was a common or popular cause.

Congressman Edwards fought for the little guy and everyone knew it. In fact, when Congress would routinely fire all the food service workers on Capitol Hill as a quick fix to budget issues, the workers would appeal to the Congressman from California to stand up for

them—even though he wasn't on the committee that made the decision.

He truly was the conscience of the Congress.

My most vivid memory of Congressman Edwards was in 1992, when I narrowly lost my first race for the House. He was the dean of the California delegation at the time, and I was attending the orientation for new Members of Congress, not knowing whether I would ultimately be elected.

In those moments of great anxiety, he showed me great kindness. He walked with me, distracted me from the election news and demonstrated the class and sincerity that he was known for.

Congressman Edwards had a tremendous impact on me and many other people across the country. His legacy is a reminder of Congress' capacity to do great things.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3762, RESTORING AMERICANS' HEALTHCARE FREEDOM RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2015; WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(A) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RULES; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-303) on the resolution (H. Res. 483) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3762) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 2002 of the concurrent resolution on the budg-

et for fiscal year 2016; waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, October 22, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the third quarter of 2015, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2015

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. John Moolenaar .....	9/23	9/23	Cuba .....						(3)		
Committee total .....											

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.  
<sup>3</sup> Military air transportation.

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR, Oct. 5, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2015

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. <input type="checkbox"/>											

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ROB BISHOP, Chairman, Oct. 7, 2015.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2015

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Louise Slaughter .....	*									253.96	253.96
Rose Laughlin .....	*									253.96	253.96
Hon. James McGovern .....	6/27	6/28	Kuwait .....		105.00		(3)				105.00
	6/28	6/29	Iraq .....		11.00		(3)				11.00
	6/29	6/30	Jordan .....		191.00			(3)			191.00
	6/30	7/2	Turkey .....		178.00			(3)			178.00
Committee total .....					485.00					507.92	992.92

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.  
<sup>3</sup> Military air transportation.  
 \* Travel Cancellation.

HON. PETE SESSIONS, Chairman, Oct. 6, 2015.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3216. A letter from the Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Depart-

ment of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-formula Federal Assistance Programs — Specific Administrative Provisions for the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Grants Program (RIN: 0524-AA65) received October 19, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-

121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

3217. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Infant Formula: The Addition of Minimum and Maximum Levels of Selenium to Infant

Formula and Related Labeling Requirements; Confirmation of Effective Date [Docket No.: FDA-2013-N-0067] received October 19, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3218. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.1216 of the Commission's Rules Related to Broadcast License-Conducted Contests [MB Docket No.: 14-226] [RM-11684] received October 19, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3219. A letter from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3220. A letter from the Assistant Director, Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3221. A letter from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3222. A letter from the Assistant Director, Senior Executive Management Office, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-277; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3223. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Alaska; Hunting and Trapping in National Preserves [NPS-AKRO-18755; PPAKAKROZ5, PPMRLE1Y.L00000] (RIN: 1024-AE21) received October 19, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3224. A letter from the General Counsel, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — List of Pro Bono Legal Service Providers for Individuals in Immigration Proceedings [EOIR Docket No.: 164P; A.G. Order No.: 3565-2015] (RIN: 1125-AA62) received October 19, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3225. A letter from the General Counsel, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Separate Representation for Custody and Bond Proceedings [EOIR Docket No.: 181; AG Order No.: 3563-2015] (RIN: 1125-AA78) received October 19, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3226. A letter from the Principal Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Administrative Wage Garnishment Procedures (RIN: 1290-AA27) received October 19, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3227. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Temporary Agricultural Employment of H-2A Foreign Workers in the Herding or Production of Livestock on the Range in the United States (RIN: 1205-AB70) received October 19, 2015, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3228. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled "Recovery Auditing in Medicare for Fiscal Year 2014", in accordance with Sec. 1893(h) of the Social Security Act; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. MILLER of Florida: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 1384. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law (Rept. 114-302). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WOODALL: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 483. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3762) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 2002 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2016; waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (Rept. 114-303). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 3776. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. RIGELL:

H.R. 3777. A bill to provide for relief from sequester under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and offsets to such relief through reforms in certain revenue and direct spending programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Budget, Energy and Commerce, the Judiciary, Education and the Workforce, Oversight and Government Reform, Homeland Security, Financial Services, and 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. DUFFY (for himself and Mr. RIBBLE):

H.R. 3778. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to vehicle weight limitations for certain logging vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. VALADAO (for himself, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. COOK, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. JONES, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. DENHAM, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H.R. 3779. A bill to restrict the inclusion of social security account numbers on docu-

ments sent by mail by the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. KING of Iowa (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. ZINKE):

H.R. 3780. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to sunset certain penalties relating to meaningful electronic health records use by Medicare eligible professionals and hospitals, and for other purposes; 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 Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Ms. BASS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 3781. A bill to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to invest in funding prevention and family services to help keep children safe and supported at home with their families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. MOORE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 3782. A bill to amend the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 to eliminate the use of valid court orders to secure lockup of status offenders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 3783. A bill to provide definitions of terms and services related to community-based gang intervention to ensure that funding for such intervention is utilized in a cost-effective manner and that community-based agencies are held accountable for providing holistic, integrated intervention services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CARNEY (for himself, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H.R. 3784. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to establish an Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation and a Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Committee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 3785. A bill to prohibit Executive agencies from using the derogatory term "alien" to refer to an individual who is not a citizen or national of the United States, to amend chapter 1 of title 1, United States Code, to establish a uniform definition for the term "foreign national", and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 3786. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Truth in Lending Act to clarify the application of prepayment amounts on student loans; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on 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. DESAULNIER (for himself, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mr. CRAWFORD):

H.R. 3787. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to improve public understanding of how transportation investments are made by public agencies through establishing greater transparency and accountability processes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ELLISON (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 3788. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to develop performance measures for assessing transportation connectivity and accessibility for highway and public transportation systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GUINTA:

H.R. 3789. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish a memorial headstone or marker to commemorate an eligible individual whose remains are identified and available but the location of the gravesite is unknown; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 3790. A bill to improve science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. LOVE (for herself and Mr. LUETKEMEYER):

H.R. 3791. A bill to raise the consolidated assets threshold under the small bank holding company policy statement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. MOORE:

H.R. 3792. A bill to assist young adults with obtaining or regaining driver's licenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida (for himself, Mr. DEUTCH, and Ms. BONAMICI):

H.R. 3793. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide equal treatment of LGBT older individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ROSS (for himself and Mr. PERLMUTTER):

H.R. 3794. A bill to amend the Liability Risk Retention Act of 1986 to expand the types of commercial insurance authorized for risk retention groups serving nonprofit organizations and educational institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio:

H.R. 3795. A bill to improve certain provisions relating to charter schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. WALKER:

H.R. 3796. A bill to amend section 232 of the National Housing Act to provide that nursing homes receiving low ratings for purposes of the Medicare or Medicaid programs are ineligible for mortgage insurance under such section, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H. Res. 484. A resolution congratulating the Government and people of the Republic of Turkey as they celebrate Republic Day, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. COOK, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. PERRY, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. SALMON, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. ZINKE, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. DOLD, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. ROUZER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. DENT, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. KATKO, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. MACARTHUR):

H. Res. 485. A resolution expressing solidarity with the people of Israel in the wake of recent terrorist attacks and condemning the Palestinian Authority for inciting an atmosphere of violence; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

#### 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. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 3776.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution:

"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."

Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution:

"No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law; and a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time."

By Mr. RIGELL:

H.R. 3777.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 11: "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."

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: "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. DUFFY:

H.R. 3778.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. VALADAO:

H.R. 3779.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 3780.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 3781.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CARDENAS:

H.R. 3782.

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. CARDENAS:

H.R. 3783.

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. CARNEY:

H.R. 3784.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, the Taxing and Spending Clause: "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 . . ."

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 3785.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS

CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . 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 Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 3786.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 3787.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mr. ELLISON:

H.R. 3788.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States, which states:

The Congress shall have the power 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. GUINTA:

H.R. 3789.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause XVIII—The Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying in to execution the foregoing powers and all other powers vested . . .

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 3790.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. LOVE:

H.R. 3791.

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.”

By Ms. MOORE:

H.R. 3792.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 3793.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 3794.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Clause 3.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio:

H.R. 3795.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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. WALKER:

H.R. 3796.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Sec. 8, Cl. 1, 3, and 18 of the United States Constitution.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 169: Mr. MCKINLEY and Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.

H.R. 224: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. HAHN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. KEATING, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SIRES, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 226: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.

H.R. 290: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 309: Ms. LEE.

H.R. 343: Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. POLIQUIN.

H.R. 379: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 425: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 532: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 542: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 556: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 581: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 592: Ms. MCSALLY and Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 703: Mr. HOLDING.

H.R. 731: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 746: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 775: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 814: Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 836: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 842: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 850: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 870: Mr. CROWLEY and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 921: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 938: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 953: Ms. LEE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 985: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 989: Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 1019: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1061: Ms. LEE and Mr. ASHFORD.

H.R. 1062: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 1090: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 1178: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 1185: Mr. DOLD.

H.R. 1211: Ms. TSONGAS and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 1220: Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. COLE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MACARTHUR, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. REED, Ms. ESTY, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. BASS, and Mr. ROSKAM.

H.R. 1258: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 1266: Mr. ZINKE.

H.R. 1301: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. MACARTHUR.

H.R. 1309: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H.R. 1312: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania and Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.R. 1343: Mrs. DAVIS of California and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 1384: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia and Mr. SHUSTER.

H.R. 1388: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.

H.R. 1401: Mr. KEATING, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. ROSKAM.

H.R. 1430: Mr. HOLDING.

H.R. 1453: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 1457: Mr. PITTS.

H.R. 1475: Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. COOK, and Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 1542: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 1567: Mr. JOLLY, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 1651: Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 1680: Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 1692: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 1726: Mr. RANGEL and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1733: Ms. NORTON and Mr. PITTS.

H.R. 1737: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. MARINO, and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.

H.R. 1747: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 1758: Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 1761: Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 1769: Mr. LUCAS and Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 1786: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. HECK of Washington, and Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 1793: Mr. ZINKE and Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 1834: Mr. ROONEY of Florida.

H.R. 1855: Mr. HECK of Washington and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 1858: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1901: Mr. LABRADOR.

H.R. 1933: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 1941: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 1942: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. NEAL, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 1943: Mr. VISLOSKEY.

H.R. 1964: Mr. DENT, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 1966: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 1974: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 2050: Ms. MOORE, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 2090: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 2121: Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. WILLIAMS, and Mr. PITTENGER.

H.R. 2156: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 2205: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 2209: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. PITTENGER, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 2224: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 2257: Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 2260: Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 2287: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 2293: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. NEAL, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. VELA, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 2380: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2406: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 2494: Mrs. LOVE and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 2530: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 2536: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 2546: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 2566: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 2588: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 2590: Mr. ASHFORD.

H.R. 2597: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 2612: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 2613: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 2646: Mr. ZINKE, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 2654: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 2689: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 2710: Mr. ALLEN and Mr. LABRADOR.

H.R. 2726: Mr. DONOVAN.

H.R. 2738: Ms. ESTY.

H.R. 2753: Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 2759: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 2799: Mr. STUTZMAN and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 2805: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 2823: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 2844: Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 2847: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 2849: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 2858: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 2903: Mr. COLLINS of New York.

H.R. 2911: Mr. WELCH, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BARLETTA, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. YODER.

H.R. 2939: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 2944: Mr. DOLD and Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 2957: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 2994: Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 3024: Mrs. NOEM and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 3026: Mr. NUNES.

H.R. 3033: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3051: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 3064: Ms. DUCKWORTH.

H.R. 3067: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 3094: Mr. MICA.

H.R. 3126: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 3137: Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 3150: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3180: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 3190: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 3193: Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 3201: Mr. CURBELO of Florida and Mr. BECERRA.

H.R. 3226: Ms. NORTON and Mr. LANCE.

- H.R. 3229: Mrs. HARTZLER.  
 H.R. 3235: Mr. LYNCH and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.  
 H.R. 3255: Mr. BOST and Mr. HURD of Texas.  
 H.R. 3296: Mr. ADERHOLT.  
 H.R. 3299: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California and Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.  
 H.R. 3314: Mrs. BLACK, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.  
 H.R. 3326: Mr. CARNEY and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.  
 H.R. 3351: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
 H.R. 3355: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.  
 H.R. 3364: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico and Mr. VEASEY.  
 H.R. 3378: Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
 H.R. 3381: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.  
 H.R. 3395: Mr. DESAULNIER and Mr. KEATING.  
 H.R. 3411: Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mr. SERRANO.  
 H.R. 3423: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. ISRAEL.  
 H.R. 3427: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.  
 H.R. 3455: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 3459: Mr. WOMACK and Mr. HOLDING.  
 H.R. 3471: Mr. COOK, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. ENGEL.  
 H.R. 3473: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 3484: Mr. KNIGHT, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Ms. HAHN.  
 H.R. 3488: Mr. LABRADOR.
- H.R. 3516: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BOST, Mr. HARDY, and Mr. BENISHEK.  
 H.R. 3537: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.  
 H.R. 3539: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. DOLD.  
 H.R. 3549: Mr. KIND.  
 H.R. 3558: Mr. CONYERS.  
 H.R. 3573: Mr. LATTA.  
 H.R. 3618: Mr. MARCHANT.  
 H.R. 3626: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.  
 H.R. 3632: Mr. ELLISON and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.  
 H.R. 3655: Mr. LUCAS.  
 H.R. 3659: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.  
 H.R. 3661: Mr. POLIQUIN.  
 H.R. 3666: Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. ISRAEL.  
 H.R. 3683: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. HUFFMAN.  
 H.R. 3686: Mr. KLINE.  
 H.R. 3692: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. COSTA.  
 H.R. 3696: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CUELLAR, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. SIRES, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LOEBSSACK, and Mr. GRAYSON.  
 H.R. 3699: Mr. LUCAS.  
 H.R. 3709: Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. HASTINGS.  
 H.R. 3711: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. PETERS.  
 H.R. 3726: Mr. ROUZER.  
 H.R. 3733: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.  
 H.R. 3740: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.  
 H.R. 3743: Mr. FARENTHOLD.  
 H.R. 3756: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. HONDA, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. POLIQUIN.  
 H.J. Res. 29: Mr. JOLLY.  
 H.J. Res. 67: Mr. LUCAS.
- H.J. Res. 68: Mr. LUCAS.  
 H. Con. Res. 17: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mrs. ROBY, and Mr. DONOVAN.  
 H. Con. Res. 40: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Ms. GABBARD.  
 H. Con. Res. 75: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. TONKO, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. LEE, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. NEAL, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.  
 H. Con. Res. 80: Ms. CLARKE of New York.  
 H. Res. 28: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.  
 H. Res. 54: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. ZINKE.  
 H. Res. 110: Mr. ISRAEL.  
 H. Res. 293: Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. LATTA, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. DENT, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.  
 H. Res. 393: Mr. FATTAH, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. COHEN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. WELCH.  
 H. Res. 416: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. CALVERT.  
 H. Res. 417: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.  
 H. Res. 428: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. DESAULNIER.  
 H. Res. 433: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
 H. Res. 443: Ms. DUCKWORTH.  
 H. Res. 445: Mrs. BUSTOS and Ms. BONAMICI.  
 H. Res. 471: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. TAKAI, and Mr. TAKANO.  
 H. Res. 475: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.  
 H. Res. 479: Mr. KING of New York.