billion of dollars, the greater the likelihood of overpayments. This legislation addresses this problem by requiring Federal agencies to use a financial management tool that is called recovery auditing.

Recovery auditing is used to identify overpayments due to financial system weaknesses, problems with fundamental recordkeeping and financial reporting, incomplete documentation, and other weaknesses in a financial accounting system. It has been used very successfully by the automobile, retail, and food service industries in our country for more than 30 years. It is currently employed by the majority of the Fortune 500 companies. However, only a few Federal agencies have utilized the process.

One agency that has used recovery auditing is the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, which recovered $25 million in overpayments through recovery auditing in 1998.

H.R. 1827 would require Federal agencies to conduct recovery auditing on all payments over $500 million annually on goods and services for the use or direct benefit of the agency. Recovery audits would be optional for other payment activities.

This bill provides that the contractors simply identify potential overpayments. They have no authority to make determinations or to take collective action. These functions remain at all times with the agency itself. Audits are to be structured to produce the greatest financial gain to the government and must comply with a recovery audit standard to be set forth by the director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Agencies would be authorized to conduct recovery audits in house, contract with private recovery specialists, or use any combination of the two. The agency head would have the authority to use contingency contracts, whereby a contractor would be allowed to retain a percentage of collections from the overpayments they identify during the audit. The agency head would also be free to adopt compensation arrangements other than contingency fees. The bill provides the amounts recovered will be available to pay for a recovery audit contractor or to reimburse appropriations for recovery audits incurred by the agency.

At least 50 percent of the overpayments recouped will go back to the general treasury of the government. Up to 25 percent of the overpayments recouped may be used for a management improvement program designed to prevent future overpayments and waste at the agency.

During the subcommittee markup on this bill, a number of concerns were discussed regarding reservations that the health care industry had about this bill. At that time, we, as a committee, pledged to work out a solution to those concerns before full markup. In keeping with that commitment, on November 10 the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Burton), offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute which limited this bill to direct services to the government.

It is my understanding that this substitute alleviated the concerns that were expressed by the health care industry.

Also, at the full committee I offered an amendment which the committee adopted relating to privacy protections for individually identifiable information. This amendment will provide safeguards and remedies to people who might have had their records misused by private recovery auditing firms.

Additionally, the gentleman from California (Mr. Waxman), the ranking member, offered an amendment which was also adopted by the committee which ensures that the agency head will conduct a public-private cost comparison before deciding to contract for recovery auditing services on the outside.

I appreciate the bipartisan manner that both of these amendments were negotiated under and which H.R. 1827 passed out of the committee on a voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1827 represents a significant step toward dealing with the billions of dollars in Federal overpayments that our committee discovered were made every year. I am pleased to be a cosponsor. Recovery auditing is simply good government.

I again commend the gentleman from Indiana (Chairman Horn), the gentleman from California (Mr. Waxman), and the gentleman from California (Chairman Horn) for their leadership on the bill.

I urge the House to adopt H.R. 1827.

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

Mr. Horn. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Burton).

Mr. Burton of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, as the author of the bill, I have just been informed that one of our colleagues has some minor problems with the bill. In order to accommodate him, what I would like to do, with unanimous consent of the House, is to withdraw the bill at this time, try to correct any differences that we have, and then bring the bill up later today. I think we can do that in a relatively short period of time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LaHood). The gentleman from California (Mr. Horn) needs to withdraw the motion.

Mr. Horn. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the motion to suspend the rules.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?
(3) in the second undesignated paragraph—
(A) by inserting, before the end the following:—
"and (A) share the costs of feasibility studies
and other project planning services funded
under this section; and
(B) reimburse the Trade and Development
Agency those funds provided under this sec-
tion, if the corporation or entity concerned
succeeds in project implementation.";
(c) FUNDING.—Section 661(f) of the Foreign
Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2421(f)) is amended by adding at
the end the following:—
"(1) in paragraph (1)(A) by striking
"$77,000,000," and all that follows through
"fiscal year 2000" and inserting "for every year of operation, which re-
sults approximately 13,000 jobs. This is
more than 12 million domestic jobs. Each $1
services are estimated to support more
than American businesses in the global
marketplace. U.S. exports of goods and
services are estimated to support more
than 12 million domestic jobs. Each $1
billion in U.S. goods and services sup-
ports approximately 13,000 jobs. This is
also a reality in my home State of New Jer-
sey, as well as throughout the import-
ports.
OPIC has had a positive net income for
every year of operation, which re-
serves now total more than $3 billion. Last year it earned a profit of $3.39 mil-
ion and contributes over $204 million in net positive budget authority.
Mr. Speaker, this measure is a
time to seek quick action on a
four year authorization for OPIC in case the
House adjourns for the year prior to the Sen-
ate.
There are some changes. The most impor-
tant are provisions dealing with the Inter-
national Trade Administration were removed
because of jurisdictional concerns with the
Senate Banking Committee.
But it is important to remember what the
new bill retains—four year OPIC reauthoriza-
tion; success fee language on the Trade and
Development Agency; and maintaining the ef-
forts of the 19 federal agencies involved in ex-
port promotion. All of these provisions will help
America increase U.S. exports and eliminate
government waste. I urge my colleagues to
support H.R. 3381.
Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield
myself such time as I may consume.
Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in
response to the request of the gentle-
man from New York?
There was no objection.
Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield
myself such time as I may consume.
Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in
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man from New York?
The question was taken and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed. A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR CERTAIN INSTITUTES AND SCHOOLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the Senate bill, S. 440, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 128, nays 291, not voting 14, as follows: [(Roll No. 597) YEAS—128]

[Names of Members present and not present]

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.) Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire from the majority leader the schedule for the day and perhaps the remainder of the week.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, let me advise Members that they may have received an errant incorrect message over the House beeper system. This vote is not necessarily the last vote of the day.

The House and Senate leadership are working together to try to find ways to work around a couple of particular parliamentary questions that the Senate has. At this time of the year, as Members know, in order to do the final sequence of the day, the two bodies must coordinate and must be able to move together. They have some difficulties over on the other side of the building that we are trying to work around.

So I would say to the Members, if, in fact, we are able to work through some agreements, we might be able to have one additional vote of big consequence to all of our membership later in the day, and we should also be prepared to vote again tomorrow. All of this is contingent upon how well we can negotiate agreements between leadership on both sides of the aisle in both bodies, and then get sort of key, what should I say, agreements by individual Members here and there regarding possible UCs that might be necessary to implement what it is we can agree to.

So we have 435 House Members, 100 Members of the other body that must be copacetic with whatever we can work out. We are working hard on this. We would not want any Member to feel like they lost their opportunity to be here at that magic moment when we could come to the floor with all of those people in agreement with one another.

So I would ask Members to stay close to their best information source, their