

We have another provision in this bill which is going to make it even more difficult for House Members to retain our staff, because it will be much easier for the Senate to entice staffers to come to work for them, all because of a provision in this bill. There is a provision in this bill that enables the employees of the other body and CBO to begin a student loan repayment program.

Now, I have nothing against that, but the problem is that that will not happen in the House of Representatives because we have not had the proper authorizations approved by the committee of jurisdiction in this House. That means that there will be yet another recruiting tool that will enable the Senate to entice our staffers away to work in the Senate. We cannot function as effectively as the People's House ought to function if we are essentially advised by people who have very short tenure in their jobs before they either move over to the Senate to get much better pay or before they go downtown to get much better pay than they can get working in either the Senate or the House.

I would urge everyone with the appropriate responsibilities in this House to recognize that this provision in this bill today will add to our difficulties in retaining quality staff and attracting quality staff in competition with the other body, and I would urge them to take the appropriate action so that we will be able to compete with the other body on an even footing. I think we owe that to the people we represent and to the people who work for us.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, we have had an opportunity to hear several speakers who have talked about some very important aspects of what this legislative appropriations bill does. We have also heard some of the perhaps downsides or fallacies.

I, like the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), wish to express confidence in the men and women who come to Washington, D.C., who work for the legislative branch. They work tirelessly. They are people who are up till late at night. They are people who care deeply about not only the success of the House of Representatives and the people who work here but also the institution. It is my hope that in the coming years we will be able to further work on issues related to employment, issues related to pay, issues related to student loans.

But I would add an overriding remark, and that is that I believe that this institution and body is well served by the men and women who are here. And we have not only respect for them, but we also give them our gratitude

and our thanks; and that goes for all the people who are living through some very difficult times now, when we have some offices closed, when we have some uncertain times that we are dealing with. And I think that they should hear, just as the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL) have stated, that we are proud of the men and women who work here, the police who protect us, and the people who day-to-day come into contact with us, including those people who serve in our cafeterias and other avenues to support this institution.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good conference report which we have been discussing. It is one which responds to the critical needs of the first branch of our government, which is the legislative branch. Adopting this rule will allow us to consider this important conference report and send it quickly to the President for his signature. I urge a "yes" vote on the rule and adoption of this must-do piece of legislation.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule for the Legislative Branch Conference Report. I commend the conferees for their work in preparing this report. The report includes important provisions that have a beneficial impact on the entire Washington, D.C. region and improve the quality of life for the thousands of men and women working on Capitol Hill.

I came to Congress to promote more livable communities with the Federal Government being a better partner to make our families safe, healthy and economically secure. An important part of making those communities livable is ensuring that people have choices about where they live, work, and how they travel.

During these troubled times that have fallen upon us since September 11, it is easy to lose sight of the essential daily items that improve quality of life. I commend my colleagues for moving forward on key provisions that will strengthen communities and give employees improved choices on how they live and work.

These livability provisions include the full funding of an increase in the allowable amount to \$65 for Legislative Branch employees participating in the transit benefit program. In addition to this important provision, language is also included to update bike facilities here on the Hill including providing new, more secure bike lockers for those Representatives and staff who bike to work, and to study alternatives for a staff fitness center.

These types of provisions that improve quality of life for employees and the livability of the communities in which they live is an important step in making America stronger and more resilient no matter the disconcerting circumstances at hand.

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

The previous question was ordered.

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

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

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

□ 1630

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, and the Chair's prior announcement, the Chair will now put each question on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the following order:

On approving the Journal, de novo;

Conference report on H.R. 2590, by the yeas and nays; and

House Resolution 273, de novo.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for the third electronic vote in this series.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of the Chair's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

This will be a 15-minute vote followed by a second 15-minute vote followed by a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 374, nays 39, answered "present" 1, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 412]

YEAS—374

Abercrombie	Bentsen	Boucher
Ackerman	Bereuter	Boyd
Akin	Berkley	Brady (TX)
Allen	Berman	Brown (FL)
Baca	Berry	Brown (SC)
Baker	Biggert	Bryant
Baldacci	Bilirakis	Burr
Baldwin	Bishop	Burton
Ballenger	Blagojevich	Buyer
Barcia	Blumenauer	Callahan
Barr	Boehlert	Calvert
Barrett	Boehner	Camp
Bartlett	Bonilla	Cannon
Barton	Bonior	Cantor
Bass	Bono	Capito
Becerra	Boswell	Capps

Cardin
Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
Collins
Combust
Condit
Conyers
Cooksey
Coyne
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal
DeLauro
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Frank
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Graves
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutierrez
Hall (OH)
Hall (TX)
Hansen
Harman
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Herger
Hill
Hilleary
Hinchee
Hinojosa
Hobson

Hoefel
Hoekstra
Holden
Honda
Hooley
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inslee
Isakson
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kerns
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kleczka
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Largent
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Luther
Lynch
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Mascara
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Millender-
McDonald
Miller, Dan
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Miller, Jeff
Mink
Mollohan

Moore
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Murray
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pascarell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrock
Scott
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Akin
Shows
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm

Stump
Sununu
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Thune
Thurman
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney

Toomey
Towns
Traficant
Turner
Upton
Velázquez
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins (OK)
Watson (CA)
Watt (NC)
Waxman

Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

Crowley
Cubin
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
English
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Finer
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Frank
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillman
Gonzalez
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Green (TX)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hansen
Harman
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hilliard
Hinchee
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoefel
Hoekstra
Holden
Horn
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Isakson
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur

Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kilpatrick
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kleczka
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaFalce
LaHood
Lampson
Largent
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Lucas (OK)
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Mascara
Matsui
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stenholm
Stupak
Sununu
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Traficant
Udall (CO)
Upton
Northup
Norwood
Velázquez
Visclosky
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Pombo
Pomeroy
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam

Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reyes
Reynolds
Riley
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Rothman
Roukema
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Ryan (WI)
Sabo
Sanchez
Sanders
Sawyer
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schrock
Scott
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stenholm
Stupak
Sununu
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Traficant
Udall (CO)
Upton
Northup
Norwood
Velázquez
Visclosky
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Pombo
Pomeroy
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam

NAYS—39

Aderholt
Baird
Borski
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Capuano
Costello
Crane
DeFazio
English
Finer
Gutknecht
Hastings (FL)

Hefley
Hilliard
Holt
Kucinich
Larsen (WA)
Lewis (GA)
LoBiondo
McDermott
Moran (KS)
Oberstar
Pallone
Peterson (MN)
Ramstad

Sabo
Sanchez
Schaffer
Strickland
Stupak
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Visclosky
Waters
Weller
Wicker

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Tancredo

NOT VOTING—18

Andrews
Armey
Bachus
Blunt
Cox
Cubin

DeGette
DeLay
Dreier
Dunn
Granger
Lantos

McCrary
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Sweeney
Thompson (MS)
Watts (OK)

□ 1654

So the Journal was approved.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2590,
TREASURY AND GENERAL GOV-
ERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2002

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). The pending business is the question of agreeing to the conference report on the bill, H.R. 2590, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 339, nays 85, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 413]
YEAS—339

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Allen
Armey
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldacci
Ballenger
Barr
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Becerra
Bentsen
Bereuter
Berman
Biggert

Bilirakis
Bishop
Blagojevich
Blunt
Boehler
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonior
Bono
Borski
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (FL)
Brown (SC)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Callahan

Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Cardin
Castle
Chambliss
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Collins
Combust
Condit
Conyers
Cooksey
Cox
Coyne
Cramer
Crenshaw

Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal
DeLauro
DeLay
DeMint
Diaz-Balart
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
English
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Finer
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fossella
Frank
Frelinghuysen
Frost
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gephardt
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillman
Gonzalez
Gordon
Goss
Graham
Green (TX)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall (OH)
Hansen
Harman
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hilliard
Hinchee
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoefel
Hoekstra
Holden
Horn
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Isakson
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur