

(Chairman POMBO) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Ranking Member RAHALL) for working with me on this important legislation. I appreciate the bipartisan support from the Committee on Resources members and the ranking member of the subcommittee, the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), in reaching a compromise that is reflected in this legislation.

The need for Congress to pass H.R. 486 arose when a munitions storage bunker was built at Holloman Air Force Base in 1997 and 1998. Holloman Air Force Base serves both the United States' and German Air Force's training and readiness functions. The Holloman air to ground training ranges consist of 1,385,262 acres, almost exclusively Federal land, and air to air training ranges providing 8,352,878 acres of air space for national security and training. The total military training routes at Holloman Air Force Base is 8,657,964. That is DOD, DOI, USDA and private lands.

Without an explosive clear zone, Holloman Air Force Base is unable to fully utilize the designed capacity of the bunker, and it adversely impacts the storage capacity of munitions required for training and operations. This directly impacts the ability of Holloman Air Force Base to fully meet its mission of training, readiness and national security as well as training our NATO partner, Germany. The cost to replace the munitions storage area is estimated by the Air Force to be a minimum of \$40 million today, and more if this bill is delayed.

The proposed explosive clear zone encroaches on private property. The Federal Government originally sought to take the private property through condemnation, leaving little choice but for the property owners to vigorously defend their property rights. This bill resolves the issue and protects both private property and the investment made by the Air Force and would simply exchange Federal lands in close proximity to ranch boundaries. This bill protects our national security, saves the taxpayers a minimum of \$40 million and protects private property and is fair to all parties concerned.

I urge my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 486.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the private landowners in this case were unable to reach an agreement with the Air Force to resolve this ongoing dispute. However, because ensuring that Holloman Air Force Base operates effectively and safely is critical to both the Air Force and the residents who live and work near the base, we

have worked closely with the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) to craft a legislative solution.

Compared to the version of this legislation introduced in the previous Congress, H.R. 486 contains a number of changes made at the request of the minority, and we appreciate the inclusion of those changes, and at this time we would not oppose the adoption of H.R. 486.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill. I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 486.

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.

WELFARE REFORM EXTENSION ACT OF 2005

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1160) to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program through June 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1160

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 "Welfare Reform Extension Act of 2005".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM THROUGH JUNE 30, 2005.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Activities authorized by part A of title IV of the Social Security Act, and by sections 510, 1108(b), and 1925 of such Act, shall continue through June 30, 2005, in the manner authorized for fiscal year 2004, notwithstanding section 1902(e)(1)(A) of such Act, and out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are hereby appropriated such sums as may be necessary for such purpose. Grants and payments may be made pursuant to this authority through the third quarter of fiscal year 2005 at the level provided for such activities through the third quarter of fiscal year 2004.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 403(a)(3)(H)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 603(a)(3)(H)(ii)) is amended by striking "March 31" and inserting "June 30".

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF THE NATIONAL RANDOM SAMPLE STUDY OF CHILD WELFARE AND CHILD WELFARE WAIVER AUTHORITY THROUGH JUNE 30, 2005.

Activities authorized by sections 429A and 1130(a) of the Social Security Act shall continue through June 30, 2005, in the manner authorized for fiscal year 2004, and out of any money in the Treasury of the United States

not otherwise appropriated, there are hereby appropriated such sums as may be necessary for such purpose. Grants and payments may be made pursuant to this authority through the third quarter of fiscal year 2005 at the level provided for such activities through the third quarter of fiscal year 2004.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1160, the Welfare Reform Extension Act of 2005. Mr. Speaker, this legislation will continue funding for the Temporary Assistance For Needy Families Program and other related programs for 3 months through June 30th, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, this is the ninth extension of these programs we have considered since their original authorization expired at the end of 2002. In 2002 and 2003, the House passed comprehensive welfare reform legislation that would promote more work, provide more child care assistance and help more low-income families become self-sufficient. Unfortunately, our friends in the Senate did not follow suit, and therefore we have been forced to mark time.

Still, we are encouraged that on March 9 the Senate Finance Committee approved a welfare reform bill and hope that this year the full Senate would pass such legislation so that we can make real progress.

It is important that we are here today to continue funding for this remarkably successful program. Since the welfare reform law was passed in 1996, the number of families receiving welfare assistance has fallen more than 60 percent. More than 1.4 million children have been lifted from poverty. However, as we have marked time with this program through a series of short-term extensions, we have seen evidence that the gains made over the years are in jeopardy.

Work among welfare recipients has declined in 3 of the last 4 years. Two million families remain dependent on government assistance, and we are not taking enough steps to strengthen families which will improve child well-being. We must do more to help strong families form and more parents go to work and achieve independence.

Mr. Speaker, on the first day of the 109th Congress I joined the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority leader, as well as the committee chairman and subcommittee chairman with jurisdiction over these programs to introduce H.R. 240, the Personal Responsibility, Work, and Family Promotion Act of 2005.

Tomorrow, the Subcommittee on Human Resources, which I chair, will

mark up this legislation, the first step in the process of again bringing it to the floor for a vote in the coming weeks. This legislation is nearly identical to the legislation this House passed in 2002 and 2003, with appropriate updates given the passage of time since the last time the House acted.

I look forward to working with all my colleagues to pass this legislation so we can get to conference and get a bill for the President's desk. House Republicans stand with President Bush and support the proposals he has championed that encourage more work and promote stronger families, and we will continue to work towards their implementation.

It is unfortunate, as I have said in the past, that we have not been able to get such comprehensive welfare legislation to the President's desk for his signature. The budgetary pressures this year are a reality we all will work to address, which may involve difficult choices in some of these areas.

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Our previous legislation ensured full funding for the TANF program while providing up to \$4 billion more for child care so more parents could go to work. With record-high Federal budget deficits, the longer we wait, the harder it will be for us to provide for this level of welfare-to-work programs.

I hope this extension is our last and by June 30 we will have sent long-term reauthorization legislation to the President. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to make this a reality. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation before us today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I support this temporary continuation of funding for TANF, Temporary Assistance For Needy Families. It also extends the Child Care Development Block Grant Program and transitional medical assistance for people who leave welfare for work. The bill extends funding for these programs for the next 3 months without any changes in current law. As the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) pointed out, this is the ninth temporary extension for TANF over the last 3 years.

I agree with those who say we should be doing much more. I think it is wrong we have not brought forward legislation that deals with the reality of what has happened in our communities over the past 3 years. We have seen a significant growth in poverty in this country, growing by 4.3 million people. In 2003 alone, almost another 800,000 children fell into poverty; yet we see no action by this body to deal with the realities in our community.

Regrettably, the long-term welfare reauthorization plan put forward by my Republican colleagues largely ignores this problem. The gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) has pointed out that TANF has been remarkably successful, using his own terms; yet the legislation they bring forward radically changes the program by putting more mandates on States and less opportunity to tailor the program to meet the needs of individual States and fails to give the resources necessary in order to accomplish the task.

Instead, they have suggested that poverty is rising because welfare recipients are not working hard enough. However, this suggestion falls flat when Members consider one basic fact: the welfare rolls have been declining as we continue to see an increase in poverty. That points out the fact that there are just no jobs available. We are going through a recession; it is not that we have welfare recipients who are failing to work. They cannot find jobs; and when they do find jobs, these jobs do not pay enough. They need job training and help to move up the economic ladder.

Mr. Speaker, we should be providing more child care assistance, more job training, and a higher minimum wage; and yet in all three of these areas, the majority and President Bush have resisted such reforms. In fact, as the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) points out, the Subcommittee on Human Resources is scheduled to mark up legislation tomorrow which is nearly identical to the same bill we have been debating for the last 3 years. In baseball, it is three strikes and you are out. Unfortunately, that does not apply here; otherwise perhaps we would finally get a bill that would be worthy of bipartisan support. We do not seem to be getting that from the majority.

While we are doing this, the other body is working on legislation, which I am happy to report. As the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) pointed out, the Senate Finance Committee has given a road map by recently reporting a bipartisan bill to improve TANF. Let me underscore that. The Senate Finance Committee reported a bipartisan bill, a bill that represents give and take among all of the Members of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, I am not thrilled by all of the provisions in the bill that was marked up, but I think it does allow us to move forward to get a bill to the President's desk. It increases access to education rather than placing new limitations on education and training. It does not double work hours for mothers with young children. It does not include an open-ended superwaiver authority that could reduce protections for food stamps and housing benefits, and includes six times as much new child care funding compared to the bill

that will be marked up tomorrow in our committee.

As I said, the Senate finance bill is far from perfect, and I hope it will improve when considered by the full Senate; but it represents a much better approach than the Republican bill in this body. I hope we can continue to work towards a long-term bill that reflects many of the improvements made in the Senate bill.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, I support this temporary extension of current law, hope we can work together, and hope we have a bill worthy of bipartisan support we can get to the President.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, in 2002 and 2003, this House passed long-term reauthorization legislation to encourage more work among welfare recipients and to provide more resources for States to assist low-income families. I am encouraged that last week the Senate Committee on Finance reported a welfare reform bill. Tomorrow, the subcommittee I chair will mark up long-term reauthorization, and it is my hope that over the next few months we can pass long-term legislation and send a bill to the President for his signature.

But until that happens, it is important that we continue these programs, so we do need to pass this bill. Therefore, I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to support the extension of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant Program through June 30, 2005.

For the ninth time since September 2002, the U.S. House today is attempting to pass another short-term extension of the nation's welfare system, by approving the Welfare Reform Extension Act of 2004 under our suspension calendar.

For the sake of the millions of families that remain in the welfare system, we need a final agreement that will help Americans achieve independence and a brighter future. While I am glad that the House Ways and Means Committee is taking action, it is still disturbing that we must continue to pass extensions rather than create a comprehensive reform that will help families for generations to come.

The 1996 welfare reform law authorized Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and related welfare programs through September 30, 2002. The House passed comprehensive welfare reauthorization bills in 2002 and 2003. The Senate's failure to approve a comprehensive reauthorization bill has forced both bodies to fund welfare programs since September 2002 through a series of short-term extensions, without any further improvements. The last short term extension from March 2004 is set to expire on June 30, 2005, until the U.S. Senate can complete its work.

Every day that passes without a comprehensive agreement means more low-income families depending on governmental assistance. It means less work and job preparation by parents. It means fewer child care and child support resources available to help families. It means more poverty. And it means more families going into debt and creating more obstacles to financial freedom. It's time to deliver on this vital legislation.

As chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I know that many of the people that will suffer from lack of comprehensive benefits are children. These children are not the ones who are making decisions for the family, but are the ones that are suffering from it. The government must step in and take a proactive role to see that such imbalances are set right. As we reauthorize TANF today, let's go one step further and create a working assistance program that has long term solutions.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1160.

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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HERGER. 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. 1160.

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

There was no objection.

AMENDING INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 PROVIDING FOR PROPER TAX TREATMENT OF CERTAIN DISASTER MITIGATION PAYMENTS

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1134) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the proper tax treatment of certain disaster mitigation payments.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1134

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PROPER TAX TREATMENT OF CERTAIN DISASTER MITIGATION PAYMENTS.

(a) QUALIFIED DISASTER MITIGATION PAYMENTS EXCLUDED FROM GROSS INCOME.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 139 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to disaster re-

lief payments) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(g) QUALIFIED DISASTER MITIGATION PAYMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Gross income shall not include any amount received as a qualified disaster mitigation payment.

“(2) QUALIFIED DISASTER MITIGATION PAYMENT DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘qualified disaster mitigation payment’ means any amount which is paid pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this subsection) or the National Flood Insurance Act (as in effect on such date) to or for the benefit of the owner of any property for hazard mitigation with respect to such property. Such term shall not include any amount received for the sale or disposition of any property.

“(3) NO INCREASE IN BASIS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, no increase in the basis or adjusted basis of any property shall result from any amount excluded under this subsection with respect to such property.

“(h) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subtitle, no deduction or credit shall be allowed (to the person for whose benefit a qualified disaster relief payment or qualified disaster mitigation payment is made) for, or by reason of, any expenditure to the extent of the amount excluded under this section with respect to such expenditure.”

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Subsection (d) of section 139 of such Code is amended by striking “a qualified disaster relief payment” and inserting “qualified disaster relief payments and qualified disaster mitigation payments”.

(B) Subsection (e) of section 139 of such Code is amended by striking “and (f)” and inserting “, (f), and (g)”.

(b) CERTAIN DISPOSITIONS OF PROPERTY UNDER HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAMS TREATED AS INVOLUNTARY CONVERSIONS.—Section 1033 of such Code (relating to involuntary conversions) is amended by redesignating subsection (k) as subsection (l) and by inserting after subsection (j) the following new subsection:

“(k) SALES OR EXCHANGES UNDER CERTAIN HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAMS.—For purposes of this subtitle, if property is sold or otherwise transferred to the Federal Government, a State or local government, or an Indian tribal government to implement hazard mitigation under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this subsection) or the National Flood Insurance Act (as in effect on such date), such sale or transfer shall be treated as an involuntary conversion to which this section applies.”

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) QUALIFIED DISASTER MITIGATION PAYMENTS.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to amounts received after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) DISPOSITIONS OF PROPERTY UNDER HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAMS.—The amendments made by subsection (b) shall apply to sales or other dispositions after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FOLEY. 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 the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

First, let me thank the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, for his consideration and expeditious handling of this bill in allowing us to bring it to the floor. I will include for the RECORD the statement of the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS), but first let me read two paragraphs which crystallize the need for the debate.

The gentleman from California states: “Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 1134 which embodies the President's budget proposal to provide tax relief to those who will and who have accepted Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster mitigation grants. The bill is necessary to promote effective use of the mitigation grants. These mitigation grants alleviate the severity of the damage caused by unpredictable but anticipated natural disasters. These grants save taxpayer dollars by reducing future Federal disaster relief payments resulting from such disasters.”

If I can read the last paragraph of the statement of the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS): “H.R. 1134 will cut taxes by \$105 million over the next decade. FEMA estimates that mitigation projects over the past several years have saved our Nation nearly \$3 billion in disaster-related costs. Clearly, when one compares the price of H.R. 1134 with what we might pay in future relief efforts, this bill is worth moving forward and passing into law.”

Mr. Speaker, I rise personally in strong support of H.R. 1134. As a member of Florida who has experienced three hurricanes which made landfall in my district and a fourth which came through the panhandle, out across North Carolina, back into the Atlantic, and made its way back to my district, my congressional district in essence suffered four disasters this past year.

I strongly support H.R. 1134 and ask and thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their help and efforts in bringing this to fruition on the floor. It is a very simple bill. It simply says those taxpayers who receive help under FEMA's hazard mitigation grant program will not be penalized under the Tax Code for receiving that help. It exempts these grants from being considered income for tax purposes.

The FEMA mitigation program has been around for 15 years. It has helped