

operational plans developed by Federal agencies with responsibilities under the National Response Plan to address preparedness and deployment of dental resources.

This bill was drafted to ensure that Congress was not being prescriptive as to how the Department of Health and Human Services or the Department of Homeland Security should plan for medical emergencies. The bill provides these Departments increased flexibility to utilize additional professional expertise and capacity, if they feel it is appropriate. This is just common sense. The fact that today the Department of Homeland Security could not talk to a dental school where it is decided it would be an ideal place to stockpile materials like vaccines but could if it was a medical school is just absurd.

If these facilities can aid our national defense, or if dentists want to be included in our Nation's post-disaster response, the fact that the government felt constrained to include them is a gross oversight that this bill corrects. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to include in the RECORD an exchange of letters between Chairman WAXMAN of my committee and Chairman OBERSTAR of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee that pertains to this legislation.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE

Washington, DC, September 28, 2010.

Hon. HENRY A. WAXMAN,  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,  
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington,  
DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WAXMAN: I write to you regarding H.R. 903, the "Dental Emergency Responder Act of 2009".

H.R. 903 contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. However, I agree to waive consideration of this bill with the mutual understanding that my decision to forgo a sequential referral of the bill does not waive, reduce, or otherwise affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure over H.R. 903.

Further, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation on provisions of the bill that are within the Committee's jurisdiction. I ask for your commitment to support any request by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the appointment of conferees on H.R. 903 or similar legislation.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's jurisdictional interest in the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure in the House.

I look forward to working with you as we prepare to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,  
Washington, DC, September 28, 2010.

Hon. JAMES L. OBERSTAR,  
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OBERSTAR: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 903, the "Dental Emergency Responder Act." The Committee on Energy and Commerce recognizes that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has a jurisdictional interest in H.R. 903, and I appreciate your effort to facilitate consideration of this bill.

I also concur with you that forgoing action on the bill does not in any way prejudice the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future, and I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include our letters on H.R. 903 in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Again, I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and I look forward to working with the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

HENRY A. WAXMAN,  
Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 903, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 2250

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### POSSIBLE LEGISLATION FOR CONSIDERATION DURING LAME DUCK SESSION OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is always an honor to be here. We have had quite a day of different suspension bills. It has been an interesting day all

the way around. Also I was honored to have a visit from the new president of Baylor University, a man named President Ken Starr. I think he will do a great deal of good for Baylor University. In fact, I am wearing a green and gold tie in his honor and in honor of the school where I got my law degree.

A lot has been going on. We haven't had time to take up the issue of extending the current tax rates for another year so businesses could be sure about what is going to be happening, so they could go ahead and make plans, go ahead and make those additional hires, take those folks off the unemployment rolls because they would finally know what the future holds in the way of taxes. But that was not to be. No, instead we have taken up 85, reduced by one, 84 suspension bills, all done today in a bipartisan manner. And it does bring to the fore the question as to why couldn't we do the same thing in a bipartisan way to help the economy?

We are hearing over and over from business people, there is so much uncertainty. If we are really going to have this massive tax increase come January 1, we have got to hunker down and get ready. We may have to let some more people go so we can pay the additional tax burden that the Federal Government is going to lay on us.

They made clear if we are going to pass what the well-respected on both sides of the aisle former chairman of Energy and Commerce, Mr. DINGELL, called not just a tax, but a great big tax, the crap-and-trade bill, if that is still looming out there, then that is a potential albatross around the neck of employers. They need to move forward. But Mr. DINGELL is exactly right; it is a great big tax. It is still looming out there. It is still a threat to be taken up in a lame duck session.

In fact, the lame duck session, after the election in November, could be devastating to our economy, as if we haven't already done enough. We have got not only the crap-and-trade bill looming and being threatened as a potential lame duck session bill in which Members of Congress would be asked to vote who had already lost their jobs on election day, but we got other bills hanging out there that some have said they would like to see come up during a lame duck session.

One such bill is on the other side of the aisle affectionately known as "card check," which is really intriguing. Card check is quite a misnomer, because it would provide for the elimination of secret ballots in union elections, in deciding whether a group were to go union or not.

I was intrigued. In the last Congress we were voting on card check, and the majority leader of the House of Representatives, the Honorable STENY HOYER, came down this aisle right over here. And I was standing over there,