

the Department of Labor issued a "Training and Employment Guidance Letter" that unilaterally changed the eligibility criteria for Title V. Instead of discounting certain forms of income like veterans' compensation, Social Security Disability Insurance, unemployment compensation, and a portion of traditional Social Security benefits, the new regulation mandated inclusion of that income, thus making fewer seniors eligible for vital services.

It would be inconsistent to state that the program targets persons with greatest economic need and persons who are disabled, and then use their Social Security income or disability benefits to exclude them from participation. It would also be a mistake to hold someone's service in the Armed Forces against them in determining their eligibility for employment assistance. The amendment that I offered in the Education and the Workforce Committee restores the eligibility criteria to the pre-2005 levels, and it was unanimously agreed to. I thank Chairman MCKEON and the rest of the committee for their help and cooperation on this issue.

Further I have advocated for Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities, NORCs, to be included in the legislation. NORCs supported by the older Americans act would provide technical assistance to target supportive services to assist the millions of older adults living in naturally occurring retirement communities throughout the country to maintain their independence and quality of life.

NORC supportive service programs are intended to increase efficiencies in the delivery of services to large populations of older adults living on their own and to reduce redundancies in the delivery of those services. They are also intended to empower older adults, and the communities within which they live, to determine the types of programs and services that they wish to receive—thus building supportive and responsive communities.

For millions of older adults, NORCs are becoming the retirement homes of choice and necessity. According to AARP, upwards of one-third of the older adult population is living in a NORC setting. With the retirement of the baby boomers only a few years away, and, according to AARP, the intention of Americans 45 and older to age in place in similar fashion, we can expect NORC and NORC-like communities to grow in abundance.

I am pleased the bill authorizes the Assistant Secretary to support efforts underway to develop innovative models providing for the efficient delivery of services to communities where older individuals are aging in place such as NORCs.

Mr. Speaker, the Seniors Independence Act of 2006 reauthorizes vital services for some of the most vulnerable Americans, and those in greatest need. I rise in support of this legislation and I urge its passage by this body.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of the reauthorization of the Older American Act of 2006. For the past 40 years, millions of senior citizens have benefited from the support and nutritional services provided by this law which promotes the dignity and independence of older people and meet the challenges associated with the aging.

Seniors are the fastest growing population group in the United States. In 2000, there were an estimated 35 million people age 65 and older, representing about 13 percent of

the population. It is predicted that by 2030, this number will double to 70 million people; and about 20 percent, or 1 in 5 Americans, will be age 65 and older. According to the New York State Office for the Aging, the 60 and older population will grow by 40 percent over the next 30 years due, in large part, to the influx of baby boomers. As the elderly population increases, more services will be required to ensure their independence.

I will continue to ensure that necessary funds are allocated, so that New York is not penalized because of the redistribution of funds to "high growth" States. We must not allow meals and services to be taken away from elderly people in one State to give to elderly people in another State.

I hope my colleagues will join me in preserving this much-needed program for American seniors everywhere.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the following correspondence between Chairman BILL THOMAS of the Committee on Ways and Means and myself.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2006.

Hon. HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,
Chairman, Committee on Education and the Workforce, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCKEON: I am writing in regard to H.R. 6197, the "Older Americans Act Amendments of 2006," which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce and is scheduled for floor consideration on Thursday, September 28, 2006.

As you know, the Committee on Ways and Means has jurisdiction over matters concerning the Social Security Act. Section 203 of the bill impacts the Social Security Administration and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and thus falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. However, in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 6197, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2006.

Chairman BILL THOMAS,
Committee on Ways and Means, Longworth HOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you for your recent letter regarding the consideration of H.R. 6197, the "Older Americans Act Amendments of 2006, Section 203 of the bill establishes the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Aging to improve coordination among agencies with responsibility for programs and services for older individuals. The coordinating committee impacts the Social Security Administration and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and thus falls within the shared jurisdiction of our two committees.

I appreciate your assistance in expediting the consideration of this bill and your willingness to forgo action on this bill. I agree that this procedure in no way diminishes or alters the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Ways and Means and I support your request for conferees on those provi-

sions within your committee's jurisdiction. Finally, I will include your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 6197 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON,
Chairman.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6197.

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. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 6197.

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

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5825, ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. PUTNAM (during consideration of H.R. 6197), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-696) on the resolution (H. Res. 1052) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5825) to update the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 4954, SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR EVERY PORT ACT

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 4954) to improve maritime and cargo security through advanced layered defenses, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

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

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF MISSISSIPPI

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Thompson of Mississippi moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 4954 be instructed to agree to the