

their staffs knew they were out of a job. It is my information that a number of Republican staffers on some of the committees were not informed until just yesterday that they were out of a job because we didn't know what the staff ratios were going to be, we didn't know which people were going to have to be selected, and so just in that particular regard, they got far less notice.

I understand what the gentleman is doing here. I happen to be one of those who has been accused about not being concerned enough about staff, but the fact of the matter is, if we want small government to work well, we need to have good people to work here. I don't know why we are taking the time tonight to berate, in essence, our people, to suggest that somehow they knew this was coming.

Mr. FLAKE. I reclaim my time.

No one has berated anyone. I have worked with very, very able committee staff. Very, very able leadership staff. Also very able personal staff. That is not the point here. The point is if we want small government and we want it to work, let's not conduct it in the middle of the night on the last day of session. Let's actually come here in January and say, should we have a different severance package? Should it be different for committee staff? Should it be different for personal staff? But let's do it in the light of day. Let's do it with some kind of deliberation. That is all we are asking. No one is berating anyone's staff. No one is. That is the last thing on my mind or anyone who has spoken here.

So let's just step back. Please withdraw this resolution. Let's have a little more thought to this. I think the American people want us to deliberate. They want us to do it in the light of day, not at 11:40 at night, or 11:20 at night. We shouldn't be doing business this way.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Arizona said no one was being berated, but frankly I feel berated. This is not the middle of the night. We all know that. I never thought my fellow Republicans would accuse me of doing something in the middle of the night. I would have rather done it in the light of day but this just happened to be when it came up in the schedule.

This action, what we are doing here, does not preclude later action to take care of those problem cases in personal offices. That is beside the point. The point right now is we have a large number of committee staff who are learning fairly late in the game who it is that is being laid off; namely, those particular persons. They do not have the opportunity to suddenly rush out and find a job immediately.

Some committee chairmen have talked to me and are very concerned because they don't know whether they should use their leftover year-end

funds for this purpose. Some of them have money left. Others do not. There is a huge inequity. This is an attempt to provide an equitable severance package. A severance package is not unusual in today's world. Ford Motor Company just bought out huge numbers of employees who they just wanted to get off the payroll. It is a very common practice. We are doing the proper thing to assure that everyone is treated equally in the committee staffs that are losing their jobs.

Mr. Speaker, in the little time I have remaining, I would like to recognize the gentleman from California for a closing statement.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman has 45 seconds.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. The only thing I would suggest is please at this late hour, don't make some of our employees punching bags. I mean, the fact of the matter is some of these people just learned this week that they are not going to have employment. If you think it is an easy thing to try and find a job over the holidays, if you say come back in January, sure, let's give them more uncertainty. Let's give their families more uncertainty. Let's have them bear the burden of this.

And frankly at times we ought to be thinking of those people. I would just ask you to vote "yes" for this. Not for us, not for them, not for anybody in this House, but for the individuals who have served us well and their families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1104.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having not responded in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AUTHORITIES ACT OF 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6060) to authorize certain activities by the Department of State, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 6060

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Department of State Authorities Act of 2006".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Fraud prevention and detection account.
- Sec. 3. Education allowances.
- Sec. 4. Interference with protective functions.
- Sec. 5. Persons excused from payment of fees for execution and issuance of passports.

Sec. 6. Authority to administratively amend surcharges.

Sec. 7. Extension of privileges and immunities.

Sec. 8. Removal of contracting prohibition.

Sec. 9. Personal services contracting.

Sec. 10. Proliferation interdiction support.

Sec. 11. Safeguarding and elimination of conventional arms.

Sec. 12. Imposition of sanctions to deter the transfer of MANPADS.

Sec. 13. Additional authorities.

SEC. 2. FRAUD PREVENTION AND DETECTION ACCOUNT.

Section 286(v)(2)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(v)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by inserting "or primarily" after "exclusively"; and

(2) by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

"(ii) otherwise to prevent and detect visa fraud, including primarily fraud by applicants for visas described in subparagraph (H)(i), (H)(ii), or (L) of section 101(a)(15), in cooperation with the Secretary of Homeland Security or pursuant to the terms of a memorandum of understanding or other agreement between the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security; and"

SEC. 3. EDUCATION ALLOWANCES.

Section 5924(4) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of subparagraph (A), by inserting "United States" after "nearest";

(2) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

"(B) The travel expenses of dependents of an employee to and from a secondary or post-secondary educational institution, not to exceed one annual trip each way for each dependent, except that an allowance payment under subparagraph (A) may not be made for a dependent during the 12 months following the arrival of the dependent at the selected educational institution under authority contained in this subparagraph."; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) Allowances provided pursuant to subparagraphs (A) and (B) may include, at the election of the employee, payment or reimbursement of the costs incurred to store baggage for the employee's dependent at or in the vicinity of the dependent's school during one trip per year by the dependent between the school and the employee's duty station, except that such payment or reimbursement may not exceed the cost that the Government would incur to transport the baggage in connection with the trip, and such payment or reimbursement shall be in lieu of transportation of the baggage."

SEC. 4. INTERFERENCE WITH PROTECTIVE FUNCTIONS.

(a) OFFENSE.—Chapter 7 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 118. Interference with certain protective functions

"Any person who knowingly and willfully obstructs, resists, or interferes with a Federal law enforcement agent engaged, within the United States or the special maritime territorial jurisdiction of the United States, in the performance of the protective functions authorized under section 37 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2709) or section 103 of the Diplomatic Security Act (22 U.S.C. 4802) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

“118. Interference with certain protective functions.”.

SEC. 5. PERSONS EXCUSSED FROM PAYMENT OF FEES FOR EXECUTION AND ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS.

Section 1(a) of the Act of June 4, 1920 (22 U.S.C. 214(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “or from a widow” and inserting “from a widow”; and

(2) by inserting “; or from an individual or individuals abroad, returning to the United States, when the Secretary determines that foregoing the collection of such fee is justified for humanitarian reasons or for law enforcement purposes” after “such member” the second place it appears.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTRATIVELY AMEND SURCHARGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in fiscal year 2007 and thereafter, the Secretary of State is authorized to amend administratively the amounts of the surcharges related to consular services in support of enhanced border security (provided for in the last paragraph under the heading “DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS” under title IV of division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108-447)) that are in addition to the passport and immigrant visa fees in effect on January 1, 2004.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a) and the provision of law described in such subsection, the Secretary shall meet the following requirements:

(1) The amounts of the surcharges shall be reasonably related to the costs of providing services in connection with the activity or item for which the surcharges are charged.

(2) The aggregate amount of surcharges collected may not exceed the aggregate amount obligated and expended for the costs related to consular services in support of enhanced border security incurred in connection with the activity or item for which the surcharges are charged.

(3) A surcharge may not be collected except to the extent the surcharge will be obligated and expended to pay the costs related to consular services in support of enhanced border security incurred in connection with the activity or item for which the surcharge is charged.

(4) A surcharge shall be available for obligation and expenditure only to pay the costs related to consular services in support of enhanced border security incurred in providing services in connection with the activity or item for which the surcharge is charged.

SEC. 7. EXTENSION OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.

(a) THE AFRICAN UNION.—Section 12 of the International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288f-2) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(a)” before “The provisions”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) Under such terms and conditions as the President shall determine, consistent with the purposes of this title, the President is authorized to extend, or enter into an agreement to extend, to the African Union Mission to the United States of America, and to its members, the privileges and immunities enjoyed by diplomatic missions accredited to the United States, and by members of such missions, subject to corresponding conditions and obligations.”.

(b) THE HOLY SEE.—Under such terms and conditions as the President shall determine, the President is authorized to extend, or to enter into an agreement to extend, to the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations in New York, and to its members, the privileges and immunities enjoyed by the diplomatic missions of member states to the United Nations, and their members, subject to corresponding conditions and obligations.

SEC. 8. REMOVAL OF CONTRACTING PROHIBITION.

Section 406 of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4856) is amended by striking subsection (c).

SEC. 9. PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTING.

Section 504 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-228; 22 U.S.C. 6206 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “broadcasters, producers, and writers” and inserting “broadcasters and other broadcasting specialists”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “December 31, 2006” and inserting “December 31, 2007”.

SEC. 10. PROLIFERATION INTERDICTION SUPPORT.

(a) ASSISTANCE.—Consistent with section 583 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2349bb-2), as amended by subsection (c), the President is authorized to provide assistance to friendly foreign countries for proliferation detection and interdiction activities and for developing complementary capabilities.

(b) REPORT ON EXISTING PROLIFERATION DETECTION AND INTERDICTION ASSISTANCE.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on proliferation and interdiction assistance.

(2) CONTENT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) specify in detail, including program cost, on a country-by-country basis, the assistance being provided by the Department of State to train and equip personnel in friendly foreign countries in the detection and interdiction of proliferation-related shipments of weapons of mass destruction, related materials and means of delivery, and dual-use items of proliferation concern; and

(B) specify, on an agency-by-agency basis, funding that is being transferred by the Department of State to other executive agencies to carry out such programs.

(c) INTERDICTION ASSISTANCE AMENDMENTS.—Section 583 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2349bb-2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “should ensure that” and inserting “shall ensure that, beginning in fiscal year 2007,”;

(B) by striking “expended” and inserting “obligated”; and

(C) by striking “that originate from, and are destined for, other countries” and inserting “to non-state actors and states of proliferation concern”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(c) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—In order to promote cooperation regarding the interdiction of weapons of mass destruction and related materials and delivery systems, the President is authorized to conclude agreements, including reciprocal maritime agreements, with other countries to facilitate effective measures to prevent the transportation of such items to non-state actors and states of proliferation concern.

“(d) DETERMINATION AND NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of State shall notify the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate in writing not more than 30 days after making a determination that any friendly country has been determined to be a country eligible for priority consideration of any assistance under subsection (a). Such determination

shall set forth the reasons for such determination, and may be submitted in classified and unclassified form, as necessary.”.

SEC. 11. SAFEGUARDING AND ELIMINATION OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State is authorized to secure, remove, or eliminate stocks of man-portable air defense systems (MANPADS), small arms and light weapons, stockpiled munitions, abandoned ordnance, and other conventional weapons, including tactical missile systems (hereafter in this section referred to as “MANPADS and other conventional weapons”), as well as related equipment and facilities, located outside the United States that are determined by the Secretary to pose a proliferation threat.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The activities authorized under subsection (a) may include the following:

(1) Humanitarian demining activities.

(2) The elimination or securing of MANPADS.

(3) The elimination or securing of other conventional weapons.

(4) Assistance to countries in the safe handling and proper storage of MANPADS and other conventional weapons.

(5) Cooperative programs with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and other international organizations to assist countries in the safe handling and proper storage or elimination of MANPADS and other conventional weapons.

(6) The utilization of funds for the elimination or safeguarding of MANPADS and other conventional weapons.

(7) Activities to secure and safeguard MANPADS and other conventional weapons.

(8) Actions to ensure that equipment and funds, including security upgrades at locations for the storage or disposition of MANPADS and other conventional weapons and related equipment that are determined by the Secretary of State to pose a proliferation threat, continue to be used for authorized purposes.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the authorities of the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 12. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS TO DETER THE TRANSFER OF MANPADS.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—Congress declares that it should be the policy of the United States to hold foreign governments accountable for knowingly transferring MANPADS to state-sponsors of terrorism or terrorist organizations.

(b) DETERMINATION RELATING TO SANCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the President determines that a foreign government knowingly transfers MANPADS to a foreign government described in paragraph (2) or a terrorist organization, the President shall—

(A) submit forthwith to the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report containing such determination; and

(B) impose forthwith on the transferring foreign government the sanctions described in subsection (c).

(2) FOREIGN GOVERNMENT DESCRIBED.—A foreign government described in this paragraph is a foreign government that the Secretary of State has determined, for purposes of section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979, section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act, or any other provision of law, is a government that has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism.

(c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions referred to in subsection (b)(1)(B) are the following:

(1) Termination of United States Government assistance to the transferring foreign government under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, except that such termination shall not apply in the case of humanitarian assistance.

(2) Termination of United States Government—

(A) sales to the transferring foreign government of any defense articles, defense services, or design and construction services; and

(B) licenses for the export to the transferring foreign government of any item on the United States Munitions List.

(3) Termination of all foreign military financing for the transferring foreign government.

(d) WAIVER.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, sanctions shall not be imposed on a transferring foreign government under this section if the President determines and certifies in writing to the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate that the furnishing of the assistance, sales, licensing, or financing that would otherwise be suspended as a result of the imposition of such sanctions is important to the national security interests of the United States.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DEFENSE ARTICLE.—The term “defense article” has the meaning given the term in section 47(3) of the Arms Export Control Act.

(2) DEFENSE SERVICE.—The term “defense service” has the meaning given the term in section 47(4) of the Arms Export Control Act.

(3) DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES.—The term “design and construction services” has the meaning given the term in section 47(8) of the Arms Export Control Act.

(4) FOREIGN GOVERNMENT.—The term “foreign government” includes any agency or instrumentality of a foreign government.

(5) MANPADS.—The term “MANPADS” means—

(A) a surface-to-air missile system designed to be man-portable and carried and fired by a single individual; or

(B) any other surface-to-air missile system designed to be operated and fired by more than one individual acting as a crew and portable by several individuals.

SEC. 13. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES.

(a) WAR RESERVES STOCKPILE.—

(1) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005.—Section 12001 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108-287; 118 Stat. 1011), is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(2)(D), by striking “as of the date of enactment of this Act.”; and

(B) in subsection (d), by striking “2” and inserting “4”.

(2) FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.—Section 514(b)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321h(b)(2)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “\$100,000,000” and inserting “\$200,000,000”; and

(ii) by striking “2004 and 2005” and inserting “2007 and 2008”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “\$100,000,000” and inserting “\$200,000,000”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1)(B) takes effect on August 5, 2006.

(b) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOAN GUARANTEES.—Chapter 5 of title I of the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003 (Public Law 108-11), is amended in the item relating to “LOAN GUARANTEES TO ISRAEL” —

(1) in the matter preceding the first proviso, by striking “September 30, 2007” and inserting “September 30, 2011”; and

(2) in the second proviso, by striking “September 30, 2007” and inserting “September 30, 2011”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this legislation, the Department of State Authorities Act of 2006, contains several important provisions that will positively impact upon the safety of our country and our citizens and promote good governance.

The legislation has been worked out in a bipartisan way with my friend and colleague from California (Mr. LANTOS) and enjoys, I believe, very strong support on both sides of the aisle.

One provision, Mr. Speaker, would give the Secretary of State needed flexibility in spending fraud prevention and detection fund moneys to permit investigation of a broader array of fraud, including fraud in connection with terrorist activity. Another would allow for the waiver of fees for passports when U.S. citizens are caught in difficult situations abroad, such as those who were victims of the 2004 tsunami. A criminal provision provides for penalties when an individual interferes with a Secret Service agent protecting a foreign dignitary. And passage of the bill would give the President authorization to extend privileges and immunities to the Holy See’s Observer Mission to the United Nations and to the African Union’s newly established diplomatic mission to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the manager’s amendment would also establish the outlines of two programs under the Foreign Assistance Act. One would provide for greater international cooperation with friendly foreign governments with respect to the interdiction of dangerous cargo. The second would authorize an accelerated program to secure and eliminate particularly dangerous conventional weapons, such as man-portable air defense systems, commonly referred to as MANPADS. I would point out parenthetically that it was Colin Powell in one speech who said that the largest danger, the most acute danger to aviation, whether it be criminal or whether it be military or civilian, are these stinger-like MANPADS. They are very, very dangerous and there are hundreds of thousands of those out. They are very much in the black market. If terrorists get their hands on those, we are in serious trouble. Under the bill’s provisions, sanctions could be imposed on foreign governments who knowingly transfer such weapons to terrorists.

Finally, the bill would extend the duration of certain types of assistance we have been providing to Israel for a number of years. Specifically, the bill would extend for an additional 2 years the authorization provided in the Department of Defense Appropriations

Act of 2005 for the United States to transfer to Israel obsolete or surplus stocks in the war reserve stockpile located in Israel.

Similarly, the bill would extend for an additional 4 years a provision in the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2003 to provide loan guarantees to Israel, the authorization of which is scheduled to expire.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say briefly, I do regret that the bill does not contain an important provision for the reform of the Foreign Service compensation system, a very, very well-worked-out piece of legislation, but regrettably that was dropped from the bill.

I include an exchange of correspondence relating to this bill.

DECEMBER 8, 2006.

Hon. TOM DAVIS,

Chairman, Committee on Government Reform, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning the bill, H.R. 6060, the “Department of State Authorities Act of 2006.” The Committee on International Relations ordered the bill reported favorably on September 13, 2006.

There are certain provisions within the bill that will be considered by the House today that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Government Reform. In the interest of permitting the Committee on International Relations to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this bill, I request that your Committee waive its right to sequential referral on this matter. I understand that such a waiver only applies to this language in the bill and not to the underlying subject matter.

I appreciate your willingness to allow us to proceed. I will insert this exchange of letters into the Congressional Record during the debate on this bill.

Sincerely,

HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman.

DECEMBER 8, 2006.

Hon. HENRY J. HYDE,

Chairman, Committee on International Relations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On September 13, 2006, the Committee on International Relations ordered reported favorably to the House H.R. 6060, the “Department of State Authorities Act of 2006.” Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Government Reform on those matters in H.R. 6060 within the Committee’s jurisdiction. I am writing to confirm our mutual understanding with respect to the consideration of H.R. 6060.

In the interest of expediting the House’s consideration of H.R. 6060, the Committee on Government Reform did not request a sequential referral of the bill. However, the Committee did so only with the understanding that this procedural route will not prejudice the Committee’s jurisdictional interest and its prerogatives in this bill or similar legislation.

I request that you include our exchange of letters on this matter in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

TOM DAVIS,
Chairman.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we are considering a scaled-down State Department Authorities bill, the State Department Reform Act of 2006, authored by our distinguished vice chairman, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

This legislation, while compact, contains a number of critical authorities needed by the Secretary of State to strengthen American diplomacy.

Perhaps most importantly, Mr. Speaker, this measure would provide the Secretary of State with expanded authority to retain fees to support the vastly expanded efforts of the Department to fight visa fraud and secure America's borders.

This measure also includes enhanced law enforcement authority to improve the ability of our diplomatic security agents to protect diplomats and officials.

It also provides authority needed to set in place reciprocal agreements that will provide our diplomats assigned to represent the United States to the African Union with customary immunities.

In addition, it renews expiring contracting authority that is required to keep our Middle East broadcasting, Radio Free Asia and Voice of America programming on the air.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is strongly supported by our Secretary of State, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, who has urged us to pass it before the conclusion of the current session.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation provides some timely and critical new and expanded authorities that will strengthen U.S. diplomacy. I strongly support its passage and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

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

□ 2330

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, before yielding back, this is one of the last bills, if not the last bill, that the IR committee will consider tonight. I would just like to say as the vice chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global, Human Rights and International Relations, I would just say a brief word about our distinguished chairman, Chairman HYDE.

Mr. Speaker, the House just isn't going to be the same without HENRY HYDE, one of the rarest, most accomplished and most distinguished Members of Congress ever to serve. HENRY HYDE is a class act. He is a man of deep and abiding faith. He is generous to a fault, and he has an incisive mind that works seamlessly with his incredible sense of humor. He is a speaker of truth in a society that all too often is willing to accept cheap sophism, the plausible and the fraudulent.

He is a man who inspires and challenges all of us to look beyond surface appeal arguments, and HENRY HYDE compels us to take seriously the admonitions of holy scripture to care for the downtrodden, the vulnerable and least of our brethren. The "Almanac of American Policy" has written that HENRY HYDE is one of the most respected and intellectually honest Mem-

bers of the House and has proven himself as one of the most eloquent Members as well. His speeches, they point out, and I agree, are classics.

Mr. Speaker, in abortion debates HENRY HYDE remains the great defender of children and their moms, the champion of the most fundamental of all human rights, the right to life. Because of the Hyde amendment, countless young children and adults walk on this Earth. They have had an opportunity to prosper now, and they were spared the destruction when they were most at risk. With malice towards none, HENRY HYDE took to this microphone to politely asked us to show compassion and respect, even love for the innocent and inconvenient baby who was about to be annihilated. In one speech on the floor he pointed out how important it was to be inclusive to welcome the stranger.

As we all know, Congressman HYDE was a Congressman and is a Congressman for 32 years, chairman for 6 of Judiciary, chairman of the IR for 6 years as well. He has been a prodigious lawmaker, with uncanny skill, determination and grace. He has crafted numerous bipartisan laws and commonsense policies that have lifted people out of poverty, helped obliterate disease, criminals off the street and has been magnificent in the defense of democracy and freedom both here and overseas.

Finally, one of his many legislative accomplishments includes his authorship of the President's emergency plan for AIDS relief, PEPFAR, a 5-year \$15 billion plan to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. During those committees and debates on the floor, Chairman HYDE was persuasive and highly incisive as he compared the HIV/AIDS crisis to the bubonic plague of the 14th century, the Black Death, and challenged us to enact a comprehensive program, which we did, to rescue the sick, assist the dying and prevent the contagion spreading. Having served with this brilliant one-of-a-kind lawmaker for the past 26 years, I hope HENRY HYDE knows that I and so many others will truly miss him. He is as irreplaceable as irreplaceable can get.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my good friend from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. ROYCE. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, very briefly, I rise in support of the bill. This bill contains many important provisions affecting the State Department. I am going to confine my remarks to one section of the bill. I serve as the chairman of the Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Nonproliferation. One of the issues that the subcommittee has focused on is the threat posed by shoulder-fired missiles known as MANPADS.

These weapons in the hands of terrorists are a deadly threat to civilian aviation. Unfortunately, these weapons, manufactured in China, Bulgaria, North Korea and elsewhere are prolifer-

ating, as we heard in the hearing earlier this year. In 2002 a shoulder-fired missile was shot at an Israeli airliner in Kenya which managed to escape unscathed. Unfortunately, the potential exists for many successful attacks.

The downing of a commercial airliner would take a terrible toll in human life and be a big blow to the world economy. That is why I introduced the Shoulder-Fired Missile Threat Reduction Act of 2006, which has bipartisan support.

Key portions of this act are included in this bill that we are considering tonight. It sanctions countries that knowingly transfer these missiles to terrorist organizations or state sponsors of terrorism, such as Iran and Iran. MANPADS in the hands of terrorists is a serious threat that warrants a serious response. This bill puts producing and proliferating countries on notice. I urge its passage.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6060, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUSPENSION OF LIMITATION ON PERIOD FOR WHICH BORROWERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR GUARANTEED ASSISTANCE

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 4093) to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to extend a suspension of limitation on the period for which certain borrowers are eligible for guaranteed assistance.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 4093

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

SECTION 1. SUSPENSION OF LIMITATION ON PERIOD FOR WHICH BORROWERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR GUARANTEED ASSISTANCE.

Section 5102 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1949 note; Public Law 107-171) is amended by striking "December 31, 2006" and inserting "September 30, 2007".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members