I proudly say that the flag of California has a bear on it because we are the last frontier, and the strength of the bear represents the strength of our State. Also, current Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is one of those who serves under the California flag, and he has his star on the Walk of Fame.

So I am so proud that the flag that the Speaker stands in front of in this Chamber and that adorns this Chamber is the flag that we celebrate. Every single American and every single person who lives in our country pays homage to our flag by flying it high.

I again urge all of my colleagues, Madam Speaker, to join me in supporting this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

All right. Now, this bill is actually something I can get excited about and that I'm sure we can be in unison on. So I hope Chairman TOWNS, wherever he might be, hears that loud and clear.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1429, celebrating the symbol of the United States flag and supporting the goals and ideals of Flag Day.

The American flag has been our national symbol for 233 years, and it remains a symbol of freedom wherever it is flown. Since 1777, when the Second Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes, our flag has stood for liberty and justice.

Flag Day was first celebrated throughout the country in 1885, as one early supporter, Bernard Cigrand, a Wisconsin schoolteacher, wanted June 14 to be known as ''Flag Birthday.'' The idea quickly caught on, and many people wanted to participate. In 1894, the Governor of New York asked that all public buildings fly the flag on June 14 to begin observing Flag Day. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Flag Day as a national celebration. However, the holiday was not officially recognized until 1949 when President Harry Truman signed the National Flag Day bill.

Since the beginning of our Republic, Americans have flown the flag to show their appreciation and pride for this great Nation. Every day, Americans pledge their allegiance to the flag, and our troops carry the flag as they defend the liberties for which it stands. On Flag Day, we remember the importance of our oldest national symbols, and we reflect on the loss of loved ones who died in defense of our Nation.

Let us pledge allegiance to this flag, to declare our patriotism and to raise its colors high to express our pride and respect for the American way of life and for the freedom that it represents.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Madam 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1429.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1430

GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY, EFFECTIVENESS, AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2010

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2142) to require the review of Government programs at least once every 5 years for purposes of assessing their performance and improving their operations, and to establish the Performance Improvement Council, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2142

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 ''Government Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Performance Improvement Act of 2010''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.
Sec. 3. Agency defined.
Sec. 4. Sense of Congress regarding the need for increased consultation between Congress and Federal agencies on performance management issues.
Sec. 5. Performance assessments.
Sec. 6. Strategic planning amendments.
Sec. 7. Improving Government performance.
Sec. 8. Assessments and reports.
Sec. 9. Additions to performance plan.
Sec. 10. Savings.
Sec. 11. Funding.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Weaknesses in established management processes pertaining to the use of information about the performance of Federal agencies undermine the confidence of the American people in the Government and reduce the Federal Government's ability to adequately address public needs.

(2) To restore the confidence of the American people in its Government and to increase the Federal Government's ability to adequately address vital public needs, the Federal Government must continually seek to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability of Federal programs.

(3) With the passage of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, Congress directed the executive branch to seek improvements in the performance and accountability of Federal programs by having agencies focus on strategic objectives and annual results.

(4) The requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 have produced an infrastructure of outcome-oriented strategic plans, performance measures, and accountability reporting that serve as a solid foundation for agencies working with Congress to achieve long-term strategic goals and improve the performance of Federal programs; use of those plans and reports to improve outcomes has, however, been limited.

(5) Congressional policy making, spending decisions, and program oversight have been handicapped by insufficient attention to program performance and results.

(6) While improvements have been made in the development of outcome-oriented strategic plans, performance measures, and accountability reporting for individual programs, progress is still needed to ensure that agency leaders, employees, and delivery partners regularly use performance information to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of government operations and to communicate performance information coherently and candidly to inform congressional decision-making in conducting program authorization, appropriation, and oversight.

(7) Regular performance assessments, complemented by periodic assessments of Federal programs, provide critical information on whether programs are achieving specific performance objectives, help Congress and the executive branch identify the most pressing policy and program issues, and determine if specific legislative, operational, financial, or strategic reforms are needed to increase program effectiveness and efficiency.

(8) Programs performing similar or duplicative functions within a single agency or across multiple agencies should be identified and their performance and results shared among all such programs to improve coordination or possible consolidation and, ultimately, performance and results.

(9) The performance reporting requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, along with individual performance and accountability reporting requirements contained in legislation, are in some cases redundant, and steps should be taken to eliminate duplicative performance policies and to streamline outdated and unused reports.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as follows:

(1) To improve the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 by implementing performance assessment processes that seek to assess Federal programs on a periodic basis with a particular focus on the following:

(A) Identification by agency leaders of clear priorities and setting of outcome-focused, measurable, ambitious targets for those priorities.

(B) Regular goal-focused, data driven performance assessments to measure progress and adjust strategies.

(C) Accountability expectations that encourage managers to innovate, informed by evidence and analysis of experience.

(D) Transparent, coherent, and candid communication of results.

(2) To use relevant performance and related information to help agencies make informed management decisions, improve the effectiveness of agency and program operations (particularly for those programs, projects, and activities that are deemed poorly performing), and submit funding requests based on evidence and other relevant information.

(3) To provide congressional policy makers with information needed to conduct more effective oversight and assist in the improvement of agency operations, and to make performance-informed and results-based authorization and appropriation decisions that improve the effectiveness of program operations.

(4) To establish the Performance Improvement Council as a body that will assist in the development of performance measurement and management standards and assessment methodologies, identify best practices in Federal performance management, facilitate the exchange of information among agencies on these practices, and collaborate on and strengthen the effectiveness of agency performance improvement efforts.

(5) To establish agency performance improvement officers to institutionalize and enhance the strategic and performance management activities of Federal agencies.

SEC. 3. AGENCY DEFINED.

In this Act, the term ''agency'' means an executive agency as defined in section 306 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE NEED FOR INCREASED CONSULTATION BETWEEN CONGRESS AND FEDERAL AGENCIES ON PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES.

It is the sense of Congress that the head of each Federal agency should make every effort to consult with the committees with jurisdiction over the agency and other interested members of Congress each fiscal year regarding the performance plan and priorities of the agency (required by sections 1115 and 1120 of title 31, United States Code).

SEC. 5. PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS.—Chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 1120. Performance assessments

''(a) IDENTIFICATION OF HIGH-PRIORITY PERFORMANCE GOALS.—For the purpose of improving agency performance, the head of each Federal agency, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall identify near-term and long-term high-priority goals for purposes of this section. In identifying such goals, the head of the agency shall—

''(1) rely on the agency's mission, strategic plan and objectives, and statutory directives;

''(2) consult with Congress, including each appropriate committee of Congress;

''(3) select goals that—

''(A) clearly identify agency priorities and have performance outcomes that can be clearly and objectively assessed and measured;

''(B) are ambitious targets that have high direct value to the public;

''(C) involve indicators for which the agency can collect reliable and timely data that may be used in performance assessments to measure progress and adjust strategies; and

''(D) involve multiple programs, including programs within and across multiple agencies that are performing similar functions, serve similar populations, have similar purposes, or share common objectives, for purposes of identifying common challenges, exemplary goals and practices, common measures of performance, and potential opportunities for more effective and efficient means of achieving goals, including through the integration and consolidation of Federal functions; and

''(4) with respect to a subcomponent of the agency, ensure the goals are consistent with the goals of the entire agency.

''(b) PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS.—The head of each Federal agency, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall, not less often than quarterly for high-priority goals identified in subsection (a), and on a semi-annual basis for performance goals established pursuant to section 1115(a)(1) of this title—

''(1) assess progress toward achieving the goals identified under subsection (a) and toward achieving the annual performance goals for each program activity established pursuant to section 1115(a)(1) of this title;

''(2) assess whether relevant agency programs and initiatives are contributing as expected toward the goals identified under subsection (a) and the annual performance goals for each program activity established pursuant to section 1115(a)(1) of this title; and

''(3) identify prospects and strategies for performance improvement, including any needed changes to agency programs or initiatives.

''(c) PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting an assessment of agency progress toward achieving the goals identified under subsection (a) and toward achieving the annual performance goals for each program activity established pursuant to section 1115(a)(1) of this title, the head of a Federal agency, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall—

''(1) coordinate with relevant personnel within and outside the agency who contribute to the accomplishment of the goals; and

''(2) encourage innovation and hold leaders and managers accountable for effective and efficient implementation based on evidence and continuing analysis of experience.

''(d) TRANSPARENCY OF GOALS AND PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall—

''(1) make available, as part of the President's budget submission and through the Office of Management and Budget website and other relevant websites, and provide to the congressional committees described in subsection (i)—

''(A) a list of goals identified under subsection (a) and reviewed by the Director;

''(B) consistent with section 1115 of this title, annual goals defined by objectively measurable outcomes for each program administered in whole or in part by the agency;

''(C) the methods that will be used to make progress toward achieving the goals identified under subparagraphs (A) and (B);

''(D) the expected contribution that different agency programs and initiatives will make toward achieving the goals identified under subparagraphs (A) and (B) and the expected timeline for achieving those goals; and

''(E) the approach that will be used by agencies to assess progress toward achieving the goals identified under subparagraphs (A) and (B);

''(2) provide a mechanism for interested persons, including the general public and members and committees of Congress, to submit comments on the goals being assessed under subsection (a) and the annual performance goals for each program activity established pursuant to section 1115(a)(1) of this title and the methods that will be used to make progress toward achieving those goals;

''(3) provide a mechanism for agency delivery to and consideration of comments provided under paragraph (2) by each relevant agency and adjustment of goals under subsection (a) and the annual performance goals for each program activity established pursuant to section 1115(a)(1) of this title based on the comments, with approval of the Director; and

''(4) make available through the Office of Management and Budget website a summary of comments received under paragraph (2), any adjustment of goals under paragraph (3), and any changes to goals required by the Office of Management and Budget.

''(e) TRANSPARENCY OF PERFORMANCE RESULTS.—(1) The head of an agency shall ensure that all results of the assessments conducted under this section by the agency during a fiscal year shall be readily accessible to and easily found on the Internet by the public and members and committees of Congress in a searchable, machine readable format, in accordance with guidance provided by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget that ensures such information is provided in a way that presents a coherent picture of the performance of Federal agencies. At a minimum, the results of the assessments conducted under this section shall be available on the website of the Office of Management and Budget and also may be made available on any other website considered appropriate by the agency or the Director. The Director shall also notify the appropriate committees of Congress when quarterly assessments become available on the Internet.

''(2) The performance information related to the assessments of goals in this section and section 1115 of this title shall—

''(A) include—

''(i) a brief summary of the problem or opportunity being addressed and reasons for identifying these agency goals as well as key findings of the assessments;

''(ii) a list of each program and agency contributing to achievement of the goal and the time frame for such contributions;

''(iii) an assessment of the quality of the performance measures, and the extent to which necessary performance data are collected;

''(iv) a description of how leaders and managers are held accountable for achieving program results, and the extent to which strong financial management tools are in place;

''(v) contextual indicators that provide a sense of external factors that can influence performance trends related to key outcomes;

''(vi) as appropriate, indicators that provide information about the population being served and to the extent possible, the impact on disadvantaged and minority communities and individuals;

''(vii) factors affecting the performance of programs, projects, and activities and how they are impeding or contributing to failures or successes of the programs, projects, and activities, and the reasons for any substantial variation from the targeted level of achievement of the goals;

''(viii) the process used by the agency to assess progress made toward achieving the goals; and

''(ix) such other items and adjustments as may be specified by the Director;

''(B) describe the extent to which any trends, developments, or emerging conditions affect the need to change the mission of programs being carried out to achieve the goal;

''(C) identify, as part of any performance assessment, practices that resulted in positive outcomes, and the key reasons why such practices resulted in positive outcomes; and

''(D) include recommendations for actions to improve results, including opportunities that might exist for the coordination, consolidation, or integration of programs to improve service or generate cost savings.

''(3) The head of each agency shall—

''(A) use, as necessary and appropriate, a variety of assessment methods to support performance assessments, including methods contained in reports from evaluation centers, in assessments by States, and in available Federal program assessments;

''(B) maintain an archive of information required to be disclosed under this section

that is, to the maximum extent practicable, readily available, accessible, and easily found by the public; and

''(C) consider the relevant comments submitted under subsection (d)(2).

''(f) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—(1) With respect to performance assessments conducted during a fiscal year that contain classified information, the President shall submit—

''(A) each quarterly performance assessment (including the classified information), to the appropriate committees of Congress; and

''(B) an appendix containing a list of each affected goal and the committees to which a copy of the performance assessment was submitted under subparagraph (A), to the congressional committees described in subsection (i).

''(2) Upon request from a congressional committee described in subsection (i), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide to the Committee a copy of—

''(A) any performance assessment described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) (including any assessment not listed in any appendix submitted under subparagraph (B) of such paragraph); and

''(B) any appendix described in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1).

''(3) In this subsection, the term 'classified information' refers to matters described in section 552(b)(1)(A) of title 5.

''(g) INHERENTLY GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS.—The functions and activities authorized or required by this section shall be considered inherently governmental functions and shall be performed only by Federal employees.

''(h) REPORT STREAMLINING.—To eliminate redundancy, the head of an agency may determine each year, subject to the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and provided that it meets the requirements of this section and sections 1115, 1116, 1117, 1121, and the first 9703 of this title, that the performance information provided to the public on the Internet is sufficient to meet the planning and reporting requirements of such sections.

''(i) CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The congressional committees described in this subsection are the following:

''(1) The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

''(2) The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

''(3) The Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

''(4) The Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

''(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) AGENCY PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OFFICER.—The term 'agency performance improvement officer' means a senior executive of an agency who is designated by the head of the agency, and reports to the head of the agency, the agency Deputy Secretary, or such other agency official designated by the head of the agency, to carry out the requirements of this section.

''(2) PERFORMANCE INFORMATION.—The term 'performance information' means the results of assessments conducted under this section.

''(k) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring the head of an agency to perform impact evaluations that estimate quantitatively, for one or more variables, the effect a program or policy had compared to what may have otherwise happened.''.

(b) PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN EVALUATING SENIOR EXECUTIVES.—Section 4313 of title 5, United States Code, is amended (in the matter before paragraph (1)) by striking ''organizational performance,'' and inserting the following: ''organizational performance (including such reviews of agency performance, conducted under section 1120 of title 31, as are relevant),''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''1120. Performance assessments.''.

SEC. 6. STRATEGIC PLANNING AMENDMENTS.

(a) CHANGE IN DEADLINE FOR STRATEGIC PLAN.—Subsection (a) of section 306 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''No later than September 30, 1997,'' and inserting ''Not later than September 30 of the second year following a year in which an election for President occurs, beginning with September 30, 2010,''.

(b) CHANGE IN PERIOD OF COVERAGE OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—Subsection (b) of section 306 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(b) Each strategic plan shall cover the four-year period beginning on October 1 of the second year following a year in which an election for President occurs.''.

SEC. 7. IMPROVING GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE.

(a) IMPROVING GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE.—Chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, as amended by section 5, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 1121. Improving Government performance

''(a) DUTIES OF AGENCY PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OFFICERS.—Subject to the direction of the head of the agency, each agency performance improvement officer shall—

''(1) advise and assist the head of the executive agency and other agency officials to ensure that the mission of the executive agency is achieved through performance planning, measurement, analysis, and regular assessment of progress, including the requirements of this section and sections 1115, 1116, 1117, 1120, and the first 9703 of this title and section 306 of title 5;

''(2) advise the head of the agency on the selection of agency goals, including opportunities to collaborate with other agencies on common goals, and on whether—

''(A) the performance targets required under section 1115 of this title and the strategic plans required under section 306 of title 5 are—

''(i) sufficiently aggressive toward full achievement of the purposes of the agency; and

''(ii) realistic in light of authority and resources provided for operations; and

''(B) means for measurement of progress toward achievement of the goals are sufficiently rigorous, aligned to outcomes, useful, and accurate as appropriate to the intended use of the measures;

''(3) support the head of the agency, agency Deputy Secretary, or such other agency senior official designated by the head of the agency in the conduct of at least quarterly performance assessments, while strengthening the performance management activities of the entire agency (including subcomponents) through at least quarterly performance assessments to—

''(A) assess progress toward achievement of the goals administered in whole or in part by the agency, as well as any goals common to that agency and other agencies;

''(B) identify factors affecting progress and benchmarking comparisons;

''(C) consider actions to improve the performance and efficiency of programs, projects, and activities; and

''(D) hold leaders and managers accountable for effective and efficient implementation and for adjusting agency actions based on evolving evidence;

''(4) assist the head of the agency in the development and use within the agency of performance measures in personnel performance appraisals, and, as appropriate, other agency personnel and planning processes and assessments;

''(5) assist the head of the agency in overseeing the implementation required under section 1120 of this title;

''(6) ensure that agency progress toward achievement of all goals is communicated to leaders, managers, and employees in the agency and Congress, and made public on the Internet; and

''(7) provide training for agency managers, program directors, supervisors, and employees on how to use performance targets, measure key performance indicators, assess programs, and analyze data to improve performance.

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL.—

''(1) There is established in the executive branch a Performance Improvement Council.

''(2) The Performance Improvement Council shall consist exclusively of—

''(A) the Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget, who shall serve as Chair;

''(B) such agency performance improvement officers as determined appropriate by the Chair; and

''(C) such other permanent employees of an agency as determined appropriate by the Chair in consultation with the agency concerned.

''(3) The Chair or the Chair's designee shall convene and preside at the meetings of the Performance Improvement Council, determine its agenda, direct its work, and establish and direct subgroups of the Performance Improvement Council, as appropriate to deal with particular subject matters.

''(4) To assist in implementing the requirements of sections 1105, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1120, and the first 9703 of this title and section 306 of title 5, the Performance Improvement Council shall—

''(A) develop and submit to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, or when appropriate to the President through the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, at times and in such formats as the Chair may specify, recommendations concerning—

''(i) performance management policies and requirements;

''(ii) criteria for assessment of program, project, and activity performance; and

''(iii) how the goals required by section 1120(a) of this title can inform the Federal Government performance plan required by section 1105(a)(28) of this title, and lead to improved results from and interagency coordination of programs that perform similar functions;

''(B) facilitate the exchange among agencies of information on performance management, including strategic and annual planning and reporting, to accelerate improvements in performance;

''(C) monitor the performance assessment process required under section 1120 of this title;

''(D) facilitate keeping members and committees of Congress and the public informed, and with such assistance of heads of agencies and agency performance improvement officers as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget may require, provide members and committees of Congress and the public with information on the Internet on how well each agency performs and that serves as a comprehensive source of information on—

''(i) agency strategic plans;

''(ii) annual performance plans and annual performance reports;

''(iii) performance information required under section 1120 (d) of this title;

''(iv) the status of the implementation of performance assessments required under section 1120 of this title;

''(v) relevant impact and process assessments; and

''(vi) consistent with the direction of the head of the agency concerned after consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, any publicly available reports by the agency's Inspector General concerning agency program performance;

''(E) monitor implementation by agencies of the policy set forth in sections 1115, 1116, 1117, 1120, and the first 9703 of this title and section 306 of title 5 and report thereon from time to time as appropriate to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, or when appropriate to the President through the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, at such times and in such formats as the Chair may specify, together with any recommendations of the Council for more effective implementation of such policy;

''(F) obtain information and advice, as appropriate, in a manner that seeks individual advice and does not involve collective judgment or consensus advice or deliberation, from—

''(i) State, local, territorial, and tribal officials;

''(ii) representatives of entities or other individuals; and

''(iii) members and committees of Congress;

''(G) coordinate with other interagency management councils; and

''(H) make recommendations to Congress on duplicative, unused, or outdated performance policies or reporting requirements.

''(5)(A) The Administrator of General Services shall provide administrative and other support for the Council to implement this section.

''(B) The heads of agencies shall provide, as appropriate and to the extent permitted by law, such information and assistance as the Chair may request to implement this section.

''(c) ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL.—The Council—

''(1) shall develop a website for Federal agency performance information;

''(2) shall link program performance information to program spending information on the website www.USASpending.gov; and

''(3) shall submit a report to Congress on the feasibility of creating a single web-based platform for all Government spending information and all program performance information.''.

(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall prescribe guidance to implement the requirements of section 1120 and 1121 of title 31, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(c) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 1115(g) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking ''1119'' and inserting ''1121''.

(2) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''1121. Improving Government performance.''.

SEC. 8. ASSESSMENTS AND REPORTS.

(a) ASSESSMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—No less frequently than the first, third, and fifth year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and thereafter every three years and at such other times as may be requested by Congress, the Comptroller General of the United States shall assess the implementation of this Act by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the agencies described in section 901(b) of title 31, United States Code, with emphasis on the matters specified in paragraph (2).

(2) MATTERS TO BE ASSESSED.—The matters to be assessed under paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to the fiscal year covered by the assessment:

(A) Whether the selection of goals, identified pursuant to section 1120(a) of title 31, United States Code, as added by section 5, and established pursuant to section 1115 of such title, is tied to performance outcomes that can be objectively assessed and measured and have a high direct value to the public.

(B) The use of agency performance goals and measures and program assessments to improve performance and ensure taxpayer dollars are spent in an efficient and effective manner, including the need to streamline or enhance Federal programs or initiatives to maximize the likelihood of accomplishing such performance goals.

(C) The use of agency performance goals, identified pursuant to section 1120(a) of title 31, United States Code, as added by section 5, and established pursuant to section 1115 of such title, and measures to clearly communicate performance priorities and results to the public.

(D) How any revision of goals, identified pursuant to section 1120(a) of title 31, United States Code, as added by section 5, and established pursuant to section 1115 of such title, has contributed to the effectiveness of agency and program performance.

(E) The tracking of program performance toward achieving identified goals and the contribution of such tracking to agency performance improvement.

(F) The use of input from Congress and the public in the assessment of programs and in the identification and assessment of goals.

(G) The use of the archive of information referred to in section 1120(e)(3)(B) of title 31, United States Code, to create a coherent, longitudinal picture of the performance of agencies and programs over time.

(H) Best practices of agencies.

(I) Whether the annual performance plan established pursuant to section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, conforms with the requirements for such plans described in paragraphs (1) through (11) of section 1115(a) of such title.

(J) The progress each agency has made in achieving the goals identified pursuant to section 1120(a) of title 31, United States Code, as added by section 5, and established pursuant to section 1115 of such title.

(b) REPORTS.—The Comptroller General shall consult with the Inspectors General when evaluating program and agency performance and shall submit to Congress a report on the results of each assessment conducted under subsection (a). The report shall include a list of recommendations on ways to improve the performance assessment and communication process and the operations of agency performance improvement officers and the Performance Improvement Council.

(c) EFFECTIVENESS ASSESSMENT.—With respect to the assessment conducted under subsection (a) in the third year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall include in the report relating to such assessment submitted to Congress under this section the following:

(1) an assessment of the effectiveness of this Act, and the amendments made by this Act;

(2) the impact of this Act on sections 1115, 1116, 1117, and the first 9703 of title 31, United States Code, and section 306 of title 5, United States Code; and

(3) any recommendations for improving the effectiveness of sections 1115, 1116, 1117, and the first 9703 of title 31, United States Code, and section 306 of title 5, United States Code and reducing duplication.

SEC. 9. ADDITIONS TO PERFORMANCE PLAN.

Section 1115(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking ''and'';

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following new paragraphs:

''(7) describe the existence and current scope of the problem that the program is intended to address, defined as an outcome that addresses the needs of the American people, not an input (such as staffing or resources expended) or an intermediate goal (such as teachers or police hired);

''(8) to the extent practicable, take into account the other efforts (if any) being made in Federal, State or local governments or the private sector to address the problem described under paragraph (7) and the relative cost-effectiveness of such efforts;

''(9) if the program is not new, describe the amount of funds expended in the previous year and state the progress made in the previous year toward solving the problem described under paragraph (7), including evidence of whether the problem is increasing, decreasing, or staying the same;

''(10) describe the specific level of improvement expected to be made toward addressing the problem described under paragraph (7); and

''(11) state the long-term goal for the program and when that goal is expected to be achieved or the problem described under paragraph (7) reduced to an acceptable level.''.

SEC. 10. SAVINGS.

Any savings or reductions in expenditures generated by this Act shall be used to offset the costs of implementation of this Act and any additional savings shall be used to offset the deficit.

SEC. 11. FUNDING.

Agencies shall fund the reporting requirements of this Act out of existing budgets and are authorized to make necessary reprogramming of funds.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2142, the Government Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Performance Improvement Act, by Congressman CUELLAR. In short, I believe the measure before us would strengthen the oversight and policy processes in place for evaluating the effectiveness of agency programs. The issue of performance-based budgeting has been long viewed as the next step

to pursuing a comprehensive framework for managing agency resources and justifying our program funding decisions.

These issues were discussed extensively during the Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization, and Procurement's hearings on H.R. 2142, this past April, as well as during our subcommittee markup on May 5. As a result of these efforts, I believe the bill before us is a more nimble and effective tool for agency performance measurement activity. Developing valuable performance and evaluation criteria is a difficult and time-consuming process, but I believe the bill before us will push our agencies to more ably identify pertinent goals for measuring a program's true value.

I want to thank all the relevant stakeholders who participated in the development of and the modifications to the bill that is before us today. I definitely want to thank Congressman CUELLAR and Chairman TOWNS for their hard work and diligence in the development of H.R. 2142, and I would ask my colleagues to support this measure. I also want to thank the staff for their hard work and the time they have spent trying to bring to the floor this particular very important measure.

With that, Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS).

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, which takes important steps to eliminate Federal Government waste and inefficiencies. I served as the chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Management, Finance, and Accountability for 4 years, where I focused my efforts on making the Federal Government more accountable. My subcommittee held numerous hearings in which, all too often, accounting errors such as overpayment for services or redundant payments were discovered or where programs were not effectively fulfilling their intended mission.

At a time when the national debt is over $13 trillion, it has never been more apparent that the Federal Government must spend tax dollars wisely. Federal programs must be monitored to ensure that our investments are presenting clear results and that those programs that are not performing effectively must be reformed or eliminated.

One of the reasons that we find ourselves in such a substantial debt today is that Federal programs never end. Both high-performing and low-performing programs continue on year after year after year, often with increasing funds. The Federal Government needs a clear evaluation process for each program, the results of which would be used to provide Members of this House with the information needed to determine which programs should continue and which should not.

The legislation we are considering here today, similar to legislation that I introduced in the 108th and 109th Sessions of Congress, would require that all Federal agencies work with the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, to clearly identify outcome-based goals and then submit an action plan to achieve these goals. Agencies would be required to conduct quarterly performance assessments outlining how effectively they are working to meet the stated goals, and all information would be available to Members of the House and Senate and the American people.

In addition the Government Accountability Office, GAO, would be tasked with performing frequent and detailed evaluations outlining how effective each agency has been in achieving their goals. GAO would also assess whether the goals are appropriate and determine if the program is providing direct value to the American people. This impartial review of Federal programs will assure that agencies are being good stewards of our Federal taxpayer dollars.

I strongly commend my colleague, Representative CUELLAR, for introducing this bill to ensure that Federal resources are spent efficiently and that waste is minimized. Now more than ever, while American families are cutting extraneous expenses from their budgets, the Federal Government must do the same. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in supporting this important effort. I urge a ''yes'' vote.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I would now like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

Mr. CUELLAR. Thank you very much, Madam Chair, for the leadership that both you and Chairman TOWNS have provided in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and, of course, your staff that has worked so hard on making sure that we get this passed. My staff also has worked very, very hard on this.

On the committee, also, I certainly want to thank Ranking Member ISSA for his input and for his amendments also that we accepted and, of course, his staff also for getting this work done.

I certainly want to thank the other stakeholders—GAO, CRS, CAP, OMB, the Blue Dog Coalition, and other folks that have worked to make this into a bipartisan bill.

In particular, I want to point out my friend, TODD PLATTS, who has been working on this particular bill the last few sessions, building the foundation. And we went and looked at his bill, looked at some of the other things we were working on, and we put it together as a bipartisan bill.

H.R. 2142 creates a results-oriented government; a government that works with the people in a commonsense concept that emphasizes a couple of things: One, increases government accountability while Federal agencies must identify cost-cutting, outcome-based goals that have a direct impact on the American people; shines light on ineffective Federal programs to root out wasteful spending, where they're held accountable where they have to provide those goals every quarter; and more importantly, senior management will be held accountable for this work.

GAO oversight on the use of taxpayers' dollars to slash wasteful spending requires the GAO to perform frequent, detailed evaluations of the agency implementation of this legislation.

And, finally, if I can say this, it will not add to the Federal deficit. As you know, the CBO says that it does not affect the direct spending or revenues. Moreover, discretionary costs will be offset by saving from a ''more effective management of agency-lowered costs.''

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. WATSON. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. CUELLAR. Just to conclude, we added some specific language that says, ''Agencies shall fund the reporting requirements of this Act out of the existing budgets and authorized to make any necessary reprogramming of funds.'' So this addresses the issues of Mr. CHAFFETZ and some other folks, and I think this will be a good bill that we can all support in a bipartisan way.

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

We're currently dealing with a stalled economy, high unemployment, record budget deficits, and a debt that seems insurmountable. The challenge this Congress faces cannot be more clear. We must cut wasteful spending. We have to do it. We have no other choice. The Federal Government's spending to reduce our Nation's debt is paramount to our successful future. If we want to be the world's economic and military super power, we're going to have to change the way we do business in Washington, D.C.

Now performance-based budgeting can be an effective tool to do just that. It can make clear what Federal programs are not performing and then spell out what Federal programs are duplicative in nature. But performance-based budgeting dictates that we identify the problem and enact a solution. It's not enough to just recognize there's a problem. Most all of us can step forward and say we're spending too much money. But the core question becomes, What are the changes that we're going to make?

One of the challenges that we see within the bill is that it's not necessarily performance-based budgeting because the question becomes, ultimately, What are you going to do about it? It sets out to diagnosis a problem that we already know exists but does not necessarily follow through and prescribe a cure. We know that there are duplicative and nonperforming Federal programs. We know this. We need to finish the job and actually cut those programs. To be complete, the bill must do just that. In its

current form, this bill does not necessarily help us rein in these programs.

For example, just last week, our Information Policy Subcommittee held a hearing on the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, a program which appears to give grants that are duplicative of grants in the National Archives and Records Administration. I questioned then, and I ask it again today, Why should we continue to fund this duplicative program? It costs the committee nothing to find this duplication, so why, if we cannot trim $10 million of Federal spending without a penny, then why should we authorize $150 million to be spent? What exactly do we expect for it to bring in return?

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that this bill will cause the Federal Government to spend $150 million to determine what many people already know. We have Federal Government programs which are nonperforming and duplicative, but the bill before us leaves wasteful programs intact.

As we came to the floor, one of the amendments that was offered, and I really, truly do appreciate, the sponsor of the bill, Mr. CUELLAR added some language that says, ''Agencies shall fund the reporting requirements of this act out of existing budgets and are authorized to make necessary reprogramming of funds.''

I sincerely appreciate it in every way, shape, or form. This goes a huge way to making this palatable to a lot of conservatives that are concerned about spending an additional $150 million. I still question why it takes so much money for people to just do the jobs that they're supposed to do. But please know the sincerity in which the sponsor is offering this is greatly appreciated in every way, shape, or form. It's done in the right spirit. I think it goes a huge way to causing a lot of people to support this, particularly from the Republican side of the aisle. I cannot thank you enough for the attitude and the approaching and the actual listening to that. For that, we're very thankful.

I do wish that this bill would come under a rule—an open rule. It's hard to believe, but as a freshman in this United States Congress, I will likely go through my entire freshman Congress, the 111th Congress, having never experienced even once an open rule on the floor of the House of Representatives. That's a shame. That's a shame. There should be a way for a mechanism where this bill is brought under a rule, an open rule, where Members on both sides of the aisle can offer amendments and we can vote on those amendments. Unfortunately, that's not going to happen.

We should not necessarily pass a bill that does not have tough enforcement mechanisms. We can and must do better than this. This body must make tough choices to eliminate wasteful government spending. It should not pass legislation with great titles—A-plus on the titles you're giving these bills. They're good. Who's going to vote against efficiency, effectiveness, and performance. But it doesn't necessarily reflect what's in the body of the bill.

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My colleague Aaron Schock from Illinois offered a great amendment in the committee that was shot down which would put a sunsetting provision in programs that are not performing. In the previous administration, there was a Web site called expectmore.gov. It did an assessment of programs. It was pushed by the Office of Management and Budget. It had dashboard indicators as to how these programs that were instituted by Congress, how they were performing based on their own set of criteria that was set in advance. It allowed the American people to actually have exposure.

Unfortunately, expectmore.gov under the current administration is no longer maintained. The information is not up to date; and, consequently, the American people do not have access to the information that they do deserve. I would encourage the administration and supporters from both sides of the aisle to reinstitute this Web site.

I want to conclude by quoting Office of Management and Budget director Peter Orszag. On May 24 this year, Mr. Orszag said, ''We should never tolerate taxpayer dollars going to programs that are duplicative or ineffective. Because, especially in this current fiscal environment, we cannot afford this waste.'' He is right. He is absolutely right. We cannot afford to let these programs go on, and Congress needs to step to the plate and do something about it. So I do appreciate the amendment that was offered that will go a long way to getting a lot of different support. I do just wish this bill would come under a rule.

I reserve the balance of my time, Madam Speaker.

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the most distinguished chair of the Oversight Committee, the gentleman from New York, Representative EDOLPHUS TOWNS.

Mr. TOWNS. I would like to thank the gentlewoman from California, the subcommittee chair, for yielding time to me.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill, H.R. 2142, and I also would like to thank Congressman CUELLAR for his hard work in making this a reality today and Congressman PLATTS who has worked on this for many, many years. And of course I would like to thank Congressman ISSA who is the ranking member of the committee. We went through consultation, and of course we worked it out, and now we are able to come to this important part and to be able to move this legislation forward, which I think is an excellent bill. And of course the dialogue made it even stronger.

I appreciate the commitment and determination of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) for advancing this bill and his willingness to work with me, the ranking member of the Oversight Committee, Mr. ISSA, and other members of the committee to make this bill stronger and to make certain that we are here today saying that this bill truly will make a difference. A number of changes were made to this bill during the committee process to address concerns raised by Republican and Democrat members on the committee as well as the Office of Management and Budget and the Government Accountability Office.

H.R. 2142 would improve the efficiency of the Federal Government by requiring each agency to identify ambitious goals and perform frequent performance evaluations. The bill improves the transparency of the performance management process by requiring the results of performance assessments to be made publicly available. The bill provides greater accountability by requiring agencies to consider input from Congress and members of the public and by requiring the Government Accountability Office to perform frequent and detailed evaluations of the agency implementation.

There are a few misconceptions about this bill. Let me just sort of talk to that for a moment. The first misconception is that this bill costs too much money. The truth is that the bill will save the government money. And I want to repeat that: it will save the government money, not cost more money. CBO says that implementing this legislation ''could lead to more effective management of agencies at lower cost.'' So we would be doing a lot for even other agencies.

This bill will make the government more cost effective because it requires agencies to evaluate their performance. This will allow agencies to identify waste and inefficiency and to change what isn't working. This is what successful corporations do regularly, and this is what the government should do as well. This bill requires agencies to create new positions. And on that note, being that I do not have time to yield back, I will say to the gentleman from Texas and the gentleman from Pennsylvania, thank you for this outstanding piece of legislation.

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

I simply just want to note for the record that, quoting from the CBO report of June 7, 2010, regarding H.R. 2142: ''Finally implementing H.R. 2142 could lead to more effective management of government agencies at a lower cost. Any such savings would depend on amounts provided in future appropriations acts.'' I just wanted to note that for the record.

The intention of this is good. I think in a bipartisan way, we want the government to become more efficient. How we do that—well, there are some disagreements, but the intention of this bill I think is a positive one.

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

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished Member from Florida, Representative ALLEN BOYD.

Mr. BOYD. I thank the gentlelady from California for yielding.

Madam Speaker, as a long-time advocate of restoring fiscal responsibility in Washington, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2142. This is an issue, Madam Speaker, that I have worked on for many years, including my time in the Florida House of Representatives, at which time I personally authored a bill which does many of the same things. We affectionately came to know that bill as performance-based budgeting. Performance-based budgeting, that's a novel idea, isn't it? PB squared, we called it.

As many of you know, I am a member of the Blue Dog Coalition, which was created to focus on these issues. This bill is one step of many that will move us toward these goals of effective and efficient government. H.R. 2142 requires the people closest to the ground that are directly involved in government programs to assess those programs and live up to the goals and standards that have been set for their programs. This is helpful to the Federal agencies. It's helpful to the taxpayer, and it's certainly helpful to Congress in our oversight duty.

Given today's fiscal situation, it is more important now than ever for the Federal Government to be making tough decisions in order to make the most out of every single taxpayer dollar. Each of us, no matter what our political leaning is, should be confident that the programs we support and that serve our constituencies are resulting in the biggest bang for the buck. I want to personally thank Mr. CUELLAR from Texas, who is a fellow member of my Blue Dog task force for introducing this bill, and his partner Mr. TODD PLATTS. I also want to thank Chairman TOWNS, Ranking Member ISSA, and the House leadership for their support of this initiative.

The Congress has taken strides to instill a greater sense of fiscal responsibility over the last year, including enactment of the pay-as-you-go language and the establishment of a fiscal commission. This bill builds on that commitment and seeks to ensure that we are acting as responsibly as possible as stewards of our taxpayer dollars.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. WATSON. I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. BOYD. Our efforts do not stop here, however. My Blue Dog colleagues and I have unveiled a 15-point blueprint for responsible fiscal reform, and we will continue working to curb spending, eliminate wasteful spending, and move towards a balanced budget. In the meantime, Madam Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote on H.R. 2142.

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Congressman CUELLAR's H.R. 2142, the "Government Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Performance Improvement Act of 2009," otherwise known as "Performance-Based Budgeting."

This simple legislation helps ensure the taxpayer is receiving efficient use of government funds by establishing a set of guidelines, tested at the State-level throughout our country, to determine how responsive government agencies are at their stated purposes. By holding agencies accountable, Congress and the American public can know what works, what does not, and what needs to be fixed.

Performance-based budgeting is designed to replicate tools utilized in the private sector to increase the taxpayer's return on investment. By increasing efficiency and cutting unneeded spending this legislation will reduce government waste while providing improved services for the taxpayer.

This system works by developing explicit performance targets, regularly evaluating the results, and developing mechanisms to improve performance. Enveloped within existing oversight mechanisms of the Government Accountability Office, GAO, reviewers will determine if stated goals match real outcomes, examine if taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently, and provide recommendations for improvement. This transparent and fact-based review of government will foster an open dialogue on how taxpayer funds are used.

Madam Speaker, I commend my fellow Blue Dog Coalition member, Representative CUELLAR, for his work on this legislation aimed at reducing government spending, and urge passage of H.R. 2142, the "Government Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Performance Improvement Act of 2009."

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, again, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2142, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: ''A bill to require quarterly performance assessments of Government programs for purposes of assessing agency performance and improvement, and to establish agency performance improvement officers and the Performance Improvement Council.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF KOREAN WAR

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 86) recognizing the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War and reaffirming the United States-Korea alliance, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 86

Whereas, on June 25, 1950, communist North Korea invaded the Republic of Korea with approximately 135,000 troops, thereby initiating the Korean War;

Whereas, on June 27, 1950, President Harry Truman ordered the United States Armed Forces to help the Republic of Korea defend itself against the North Korean invasion;

Whereas United States and Allied forces recaptured the capital city of Seoul on September 28, 1950, after a successful amphibious landing by the Marine Corps at Inchon on September 15, 1950;

Whereas the hostilities ended in a cease-fire marked by the signing of the armistice at Panmunjom on July 27, 1953, and the peninsula still technically remains in a state of war;

Whereas, during the Korean War, approximately 1,789,000 members of the United States Armed Forces served in-theater along with the forces of the Republic of Korea and 20 other members of the United Nations to defend freedom and democracy;

Whereas casualties of the United States during the Korean War included 54,246 dead (of whom 33,739 were battle deaths), more than 92,100 wounded, and approximately 8,176 listed as missing in action or prisoners of war;

Whereas approximately 6,800,000 American men and women served worldwide in the Armed Forces during the entire Korean War era of June 27, 1950, to January 31, 1955;

Whereas the Korean War Veterans Recognition Act (Public Law 111–41) was enacted on July 27, 2009, so that the honorable service and noble sacrifice by members of the United States Armed Forces in the Korean War will never be forgotten;

Whereas President Barack Obama issued a proclamation to designate July 27, 2009, as the National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day and called upon Americans to display flags at half-staff in memory of the Korean War veterans;

Whereas since 1975, the Republic of Korea has invited thousands of American Korean War veterans, including members of the Korean War Veterans Association, to revisit Korea in appreciation for their sacrifices;

Whereas in the 60 years since the outbreak of the Korean War, the Republic of Korea has emerged from a war-torn economy into one of the major economies in the world and one of the largest trading partners of the United States;

Whereas the Republic of Korea is among the closest allies of the United States, having contributed troops in support of United States operations during the Vietnam war, Gulf war, and operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, while also supporting numerous United Nations peacekeeping missions throughout the world;

Whereas since the end of the Korean War era, more than 28,500 members of the United States Armed Forces have served annually in the United States Forces Korea to defend the Republic of Korea against external aggression, and to promote regional peace;

Whereas North Korea's sinking of the South Korean naval ship, Cheonan, on March 26, 2010, which resulted in the killing of 46 sailors, necessitates a reaffirmation of the United States-Korea alliance in safeguarding the stability of the Korean Peninsula;

Whereas from the ashes of war and the sharing of spilled blood on the battlefield, the United States and the Republic of Korea have continuously stood shoulder-to-shoulder to promote and defend international peace and security, economic prosperity, human rights, and the rule of law both on the Korean Peninsula and beyond; and

Whereas beginning in June 2010, various ceremonies are being planned in the United