

and modernizing flood maps across the entire nation. This process is necessary to account for property development and growth over the past several decades as well as changes in topography. If done properly, this process would bring more fairness for those who live in flood plains and are required to purchase flood insurance.

Unfortunately, property owners in Michigan are being treated unfairly by these new maps, which have recently taken effect in my district and other parts of the state. These property owners, whose properties very rarely flood—nor have the potential to flood—are paying very high flood insurance premiums and yet they very rarely receive claims.

In regards to FEMA's proposal for remapping in the Great Lakes region, they are raising the base flood elevation an additional 14 inches—they say to accurately reflect the risk of flooding. This is predicated on data from 1988, 2 years after the absolute highest recorded levels for the Great Lakes. However, in Lake St. Clair alone, the lake levels have dropped over 3 feet since then and are now 5½ feet below the old base flood elevation. In spite of this, FEMA's new base flood elevation is now 6½ feet above the current lake level.

I have been trying to stop FEMA from implementing their new flood maps until the International Joint Commission's Upper Great Lakes study has been completed. This study will be the most comprehensive study of this region ever undertaken. Nevertheless, my constituents are currently paying much higher premiums for an insurance plan that they will likely not ever file a claim on. These new maps will cost my constituents literally millions of dollars at a time when lake levels are at historic all time lows. This means that they are not going to be making claims, but they will be subsidizing other parts of the country through the National Flood Insurance Program.

What is happening is that many states and their property owners, with little risk of flooding, who have experienced little or no flooding, are funding the National Flood Insurance Program at astronomical rates. Between 1978, the year the National Flood Insurance Program began, and 2002, there were 10 states that received more in claims than what they paid in policies. In fact over \$1.5 billion dollars more—and the average premium for policyholders in those states was only \$223.

Michigan, on the other hand, paid almost \$120 million more into the program than it received back in claims, yet the average premium for Michigan policyholders was \$257 dollars. As you can see, this program is draining millions of dollars from Michigan and dispensing it throughout other areas of the country.

As you know, the residents of our state are already experiencing tremendous economic strain due to rising gasoline costs, the high unemployment rate, and the housing crisis. They do not need to spend an additional several hundred dollars each year on insurance they will likely never need. And they should not be mandated to sacrifice for residents of other states much more prone to severe weather events.

One of the potential solutions to this disparity is for the State of Michigan to take action to opt out of the National Flood Insurance Program and self insure. While I realize that some will consider this a rather drastic measure, this problem is having such a negative impact on our constituents that I believe it must be considered.

If Michigan were to opt out of this program, it would undoubtedly save our constituents millions of dollars each year which could then be used to further stimulate our

state's economy. I urge you to work with the state legislature and the Commissioner of Financial and Insurance Services to explore this option to see if it could result in significant savings to Michigan taxpayers.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. I look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

CANDICE S. MILLER,
Member of Congress.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. I yield myself the balance of my time.

It is very unfortunate that the fate of the National Flood Insurance Program has to be authorized on a temporary basis because of unrelated issues. What the marketplace needs today is certainty and stability, and we should do whatever we can to create that.

I ask for an "aye" vote.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5569—To extend the National Flood Insurance Program until September 30, 2010. It's Hurricane Season—we cannot put off the reauthorization of this program. We can no longer wait on the extenders package—we must pass an extension now.

I have constituents in Southeast Texas both in flood-prone and hurricane-prone areas that are unable to access flood insurance. This is a major problem for potential homeowners, if their lender requires flood insurance before closing.

Though I am supportive of this measure, I am advocating for a longer term extension of the National Flood Insurance Program through May 31, 2011. I hope my colleagues will join me in advancing such a measure.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of keeping promises to the American people. To speak plainly about it, I do not support the federal government's growing role in the private sector.

But for reasons known to all of my colleagues, the federal government has, for some time, been the primary provider of flood insurance to America's homeowners. Because of Congress' inaction, that insurance is no longer available.

Simply put, as a matter of principle and responsible public policy, when the government makes commitments to the American people, and families and businesses come to rely on the fulfillment of those commitments, it is flat out wrong to fail to live up to them. That is where we are right now.

Mr. Speaker, the Democrats have control over every lever of government and your majorities in both chambers are significant. So to allow the National Flood Insurance Program, the "SGR", the state sales tax deduction, and others to expire demonstrates a complete lack of responsibility and an inability to govern.

This is hurting my constituents. My district, like many in Florida, has been pummeled by the housing crisis. And while the President may believe that press conferences touting his foreclosure initiatives are sufficient to addressing the problem, my constituents know that the only thing that will turn their situation around is a recovery in demand.

I am sure that Members on both sides of the aisle can understand my frustration when I get calls from realtors in my district explaining that three of their clients can't close on houses because the Flood Insurance program has lapsed.

There is nothing they can do about it and they want answers. They want to know when the government is going to get the situation fixed. And frankly, I don't know what to tell them. To me, the idea that a single-party government can't pass must-pass legislation is incomprehensible.

So I would like to thank the gentlelady from California, Ms. WATERS, for stepping up to the plate and bringing this legislation to the floor. And while I support the bill and will be the first of my colleagues to vote for it, my constituents also want assurances from the Speaker and Majority Leader that this isn't just "pat ourselves on the back" legislation—that it isn't just "pass it to say we did" legislation. My constituents want real results and that means actually getting the Flood Insurance program, the tax cuts, and other commitments that this government have made extended quickly. It is simply the right thing to do.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. KOSMAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5569.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRESSIONAL AWARD PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2865) to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 801 et seq.), and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2865

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL AWARD PROGRAM.

(a) IMPLEMENTATION AND PRESENTATION.—Section 102 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 802) is amended—

(1) in the matter following subsection (b)(5), by striking "under paragraph (3)"; and

(2) in subsection (c), in the second sentence, by striking "during" and inserting "in connection with".

(b) TERMS OF APPOINTMENT AND REAPPOINTMENTS.—Section 103 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 803) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

"(b) TERMS OF APPOINTED MEMBERS; REAPPOINTMENT.—

"(1) Appointed members of the Board shall continue to serve at the pleasure of the officer by whom they are appointed, and (unless reappointed under paragraph (2)) shall serve for a term of 4 years.

"(2)(A) Subject to the limitations in subparagraph (B), members of the Board may be reappointed, except that no member may

serve more than 2 full consecutive terms. Members may be reappointed to 2 full consecutive terms after being appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board.

“(B) Members of the Board shall not be subject to the limitation on reappointment in subparagraph (A) during their period of service as Chairman of the Board and may be reappointed to an additional full term after termination of such Chairmanship.

“(3)(A) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) or (2), the term of each member of the Board shall begin on October 1 of the even numbered year which would otherwise apply with one-half of the Board positions having terms which begin in each even numbered year.

“(B) Subparagraph (A) shall apply to appointments made to the Board on or after the date of enactment of the Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act of 2009.”.

(C) REQUIREMENTS REGARDING FINANCIAL OPERATIONS.—Section 104(c) of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 804(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the third sentence, by striking “, in any calendar year,” and inserting “in any fiscal year”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2)(A) The Comptroller General of the United States shall determine for each fiscal year whether the Director has substantially complied with paragraph (1). The findings made by the Comptroller General under the preceding sentence shall be included in the reports submitted under section 107(b).

“(B) If the Director fails to substantially comply with paragraph (1), the Board shall instruct the Director to take such actions as may be necessary to correct such deficiencies, and shall remove and replace the Director if such deficiencies are not promptly corrected.”.

(d) FUNDING AND EXPENDITURES.—Section 106(a) of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 806(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) the Board shall carry out its functions and make expenditures with—

“(A) such resources as are available to the Board from sources other than the Federal Government; and

“(B) funds awarded in any grant program administered by a Federal agency in accordance with the law establishing that grant program.”.

(e) STATEWIDE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD COUNCILS.—Section 106(c) of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 806(c)) is amended by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) Each Statewide Council established under this section may receive contributions, and use such contributions for the purposes of the Program. The Board shall adopt appropriate financial management methods in order to ensure the proper accounting of these funds. Each Statewide Council shall comply with subsections (a), (d), (e), and (h) governing the Board.”.

(f) CONTRACTING AND USE OF FUNDS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.—Section 106 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 806) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), by inserting “to be” after “expenditure is”; and

(2) in subsection (e)(1)(A), by inserting “or for scholarships” after “local program”.

(g) NONPROFIT CORPORATION.—Section 106 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 806) is amended by striking subsection (i) and inserting the following:

“(i)(1) The Board shall provide for the incorporation of a nonprofit corporation to be known as the Congressional Award Foundation (together with any subsidiary nonprofit corporations determined desirable by the Board, collectively referred to in this title as

the ‘Corporation’) for the sole purpose of assisting the Board to carry out the Congressional Award Program, and shall delegate to the Corporation such duties as it considers appropriate, including the employment of personnel, expenditure of funds, and the incurrence of financial or other contractual obligations.

“(2) The articles of incorporation of the Congressional Award Foundation shall provide that—

“(A) the members of the Board of Directors of the Foundation shall be the members of the Board, with up to 24 additional voting members appointed by the Board, and the Director who shall serve as a nonvoting member; and

“(B) the extent of the authority of the Foundation shall be the same as that of the Board.

“(3) No director, officer, or employee of any corporation established under this subsection may receive compensation, travel expenses, or benefits from both the Corporation and the Board.”.

(h) TERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 108 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 808) is amended by striking “October 1, 2009” and inserting “October 1, 2013”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall take effect as of October 1, 2009.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on S. 2865 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2865, which reauthorizes the Congressional Award Program. The Congressional Award is a public-private partnership created by Congress in 1979 that works to recognize the initiative, achievement, and service of America's youth, ages 14 to 23. Participants earn recognition and bronze, silver, and gold Congressional Award certificates or medals based on their involvement in four key areas: volunteer service, personal development, physical fitness, and exploration.

Participants in the Congressional Award Program set and achieve personally challenging goals based on their individual interests, needs, and abilities. Because these participants set their own goals, the program is open and inclusive of youth of all ability levels.

S. 2865 provides for the reauthorization of the Congressional Award Program until October 2013. It will allow the Congressional Awards Foundation to confer awards to the many youth who have completed their goals and service. We recognize the outstanding

contributions of over 27,700 individuals who have participated in the Congressional Award Program since its inception, and over 1,500 youth from 45 States earned certificates or medals at one of the six award levels this current year. We congratulate them on their achievement and thank them for an outstanding 2.5 million hours of combined volunteer service.

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In fact, this morning, Members of Congress and community leaders will join together to honor 252 recipients of the Congressional Award Gold Medal. These recipients will represent the best of the best of the young people working to meet their goals. They will be congratulated by NFL star Michael Oher and Deputy Secretary of Education Anthony Miller. We wish these young people continued success in their personal, professional and educational goals.

We also thank Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE and Congressman GUS BILIRAKIS, who serve on the Congressional Award board of directors. Their contributions to the program are an important part of this Congress' support of the outstanding youth who participate in the Congressional Award Program.

Mr. Speaker, once again I express my support for Senate bill 2865 and the reauthorization of the Congressional Award Program. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2865, the Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act of 2009. This bill reauthorizes the Congressional Award Program and the board that administers the program, which is a public-private partnership created by Congress to promote and recognize excellence in America's youth ages 14 to 23. Applicants excel in service, personal development, physical fitness, expedition, and exploration, and receive various levels of the award, including bronze, silver, and gold certificates and medals. The Congressional Award Program also provides scholarships to select winners for participation in the People to People Program and the Presidential Classroom, and for select incoming freshmen to Drexel University.

The Congressional Award Program was founded in 1979 and has recognized outstanding youth since that time. To earn the award, youth are encouraged to set their own goals in one of four areas of volunteer service, personal development, physical fitness, and expedition and exploration. The award recognizes youth that complete their goals in these areas. It encourages adolescents and young adults to set and achieve their own challenging goals and recognizes them for doing such.

I urge my colleagues to support S. 2865.

Ms. JACKSON LEE OF Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2865, an act that seeks the reauthorization of the Congressional Award Program. I also want to thank my colleague, Senator LIEBERMAN, for introducing this important legislation.

Today we acknowledge the continued success of the Congressional Award Program and seek its reauthorization contingent with a few amendments. This program enriches America's youth by instilling four principle areas in the contestant's life. The four program areas include voluntary community service, personal development, physical fitness, and expedition and exploration. Performance of these activities strengthens the mind, body, and soul of the youth. By providing service to others and the greater community at large, developing personal interests, social or employment skills, improving quality of life through physical fitness activities, and by undertaking an outdoor, wilderness or venture experience (historical, cultural or environmental), the participating youth are well rounded.

I have relentlessly sought better education and jobs for our youth in this great nation, because they fuel the future of the country. As a member of the board of the Congressional Award Program I also believe that in order to truly produce a well rounded society, we should be supporting all aspects of life. Education is a very important factor in a youth's life, and the four program areas of the Congressional Award Program also work to shape the knowledge acquired through that education to mold successful youths.

This reauthorization act will strengthen the program's leadership amending the appointments provisions such as to revise requirements for appointment and reappointment of members of the Congressional Award Board, especially the limitation of service on the Board to two consecutive terms. This act exempts a member from the two-term limit during a period of service as Board Chairman, permits reappointment of such individual to an additional full term after termination of such Chairmanship, requires a Board member's term to begin on October 1 of the even numbered year, with one-half of the Board positions having terms which begin in each even numbered year, and changes from calendar to fiscal year the annual period for which the Director is required to ensure that the Board's liabilities do not exceed its assets.

For the foregoing reasons, I stand with Senator LIEBERMAN in support of this act to reauthorize the Congressional Award Program.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time and urge the support of Senate bill 2865, the Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act, to the full body.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2865.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING DESIGNATION OF YEAR OF THE FATHER

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 285) recognizing the important role that fathers play in the lives of their children and families and supporting the goals and ideals of designating 2010 as the Year of the Father.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 285

Whereas Father's Day was founded in 1910 by Mrs. John B. Dodd after attending a Mother's Day celebration in 1909 and believing that fathers should receive the same recognition;

Whereas Mrs. John B. Dodd, Sonora Smart Dodd, founded the day in celebration of her father, William Smart;

Whereas William Smart, a Civil War veteran, raised six children on his own after the death of his wife;

Whereas Spokane, Washington, recognized and hosted the first celebration of Father's Day on June 19, 1910;

Whereas in 1924, President Calvin Coolidge recognized Father's Day and urged States to follow suit;

Whereas in 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a proclamation calling for the third Sunday in June to be recognized as Father's Day and requested that flags be flown that day on all government buildings;

Whereas President Richard Nixon signed a proclamation in 1972 permanently observing Father's Day on the third Sunday in June;

Whereas Father's Day is celebrated in over 50 countries around the world;

Whereas there are an estimated 64.3 million fathers around the Nation today;

Whereas it is well documented that children involved with loving fathers are significantly more likely to have healthy self-esteem, exhibit empathy and prosocial behavior, avoid high risk behaviors, have reduced antisocial behavior and delinquency in boys, have better peer relationships, and have higher occupational mobility relative to parents;

Whereas fathers who live with their children are more likely to have a close, enduring relationship with their children than those who do not; and

Whereas the 100th anniversary of Father's Day will be celebrated in Spokane, Washington, on June 20, 2010: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the important role that fathers play in the lives of their children and families; and

(2) supports the goals and ideals of the Year of the Father.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Concurrent Resolution 285 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 285, which honors and celebrates the observance of the centennial anniversary of Father's Day this past Sunday, and to recognize the importance of fatherhood. This resolution highlights the long history of Father's Day, first celebrated on June 19, 1910, to honor the love and commitment that fathers give our children and their families.

Every year on the third Sunday in June, families across this Nation stop to thank fathers for the hard work and dedication it takes to be a supportive and involved parent. The tradition of Father's Day began 100 years ago in Spokane, Washington. The day was first recognized nationally by President Coolidge in 1924, who urged States to follow suit. President Nixon signed the proclamation in 1972 permanently observing Father's Day as the third Sunday in June.

Supportive fathers play a significant and influential role in their child's development. Children with loving fathers generally have healthier self-esteem, better peer relationships, more pro-social behavior, and an enjoyment of learning new skills. A positive environment at home also helps children thrive academically and get involved in extracurricular activities.

By commending the hard work and dedication of fathers during the centennial celebration of Father's Day, we encourage responsible fatherhood and happy, successful, and stronger families and communities.

I want to thank Representative McMORRIS RODGERS for bringing this resolution to the floor and urge my colleagues to pass this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 285, recognizing the important role that fathers play in the lives of their children and family, and recognizing this year, 2010, as the "year of the father."

Unbeknownst to many, Father's Day has an especially significant meaning to the people of Spokane, Washington. This past Sunday, the city of Spokane celebrated the 100th anniversary of the founding of Father's Day, a national tradition that began in 1909 by a local Spokane woman, Sonora Smart Dodd. Looking for a way to recognize her father and those like him, Sonora Dodd publicly recognized her father in 1909, a Civil War veteran who raised six children on his own after the death of his wife. From there, the city of Spokane established the first celebration of Father's Day at the local YMCA in 1910, and in the years following the celebration spread around the Nation. The resolution that we are considering today