

the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I would like to talk briefly about the amendment number 260, offered by my friend from Ohio, Mr. LATTA.

This amendment would cut \$10 million from the construction budget of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

NIST's buildings were constructed in the 1950s and 1960s, and are no longer adequate for the research needed to support U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness, particularly in emerging technology areas like nanotechnology and biotechnology.

Independent analysis of NIST's maintenance needs recommends an annual investment target of \$70 to \$80 million to address critical deferred maintenance and bring the NIST facilities to fair condition.

The CR already slashes NIST's construction budget to \$58 million. This is an \$89 million reduction (60%) below the FY 2010 enacted level and significantly below what NIST requires.

Further cuts to the construction budget as proposed by the Latta amendment will erode basic repair and maintenance capability and hamstring NIST's ability to deal with emergencies like water or gas line breaks, storm damage, and power outages.

Improving and maintaining its laboratory facilities is critical for NIST to continue to engage in cutting edge research, delivering high quality science and research to foster innovation and technological advancement for the benefit of U.S. industry.

For these reasons, I must oppose this amendment and urge its defeat.

TRIBUTE TO MARK WILSON

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I want to continue recognizing African Americans from throughout Georgia's 11th Congressional District who have a major impact on their community. Today, I rise to recognize Mark Wilson of Kennesaw, Georgia, who is the founder and CEO of Ryla, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, Ryla is a leading call center solutions provider with expertise in customer contact solutions and business process outsourcing. As owner, Mark utilizes a "Small Yet Big" approach to managing his clients giving each of them the attention a small company can yield yet consistently delivering the results of a larger organization.

I have visited the call center on many occasions and one thing that consistently stands out is that I always see the employees wearing a smile on their faces. It is a credit to Mark that he has created the type of environment that brings out the best in his employees.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking Mark Wilson for his contributions to his community.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chair, a strong definition for gainful employment is vital to protect vulnerable borrowers from unmanageable debts incurred from heavily overpriced programs. The failure of the regulatory agency to define gainful employment up to this point has left open an avenue by which bad actors have taken advantage of the lack of regulation and created a number of overpriced programs of dubious academic quality targeted at underserved communities, people of color, and low-income students who have not been adequately prepared for a form of employment that will make it possible for those students to pay their loans back.

This amendment stops this process in its tracks. A student who borrows large amounts of money to pay for a higher education should have a reasonable expectation that the degree or certificate she is working for will qualify her for employment at a job that will allow her to repay those loans at a manageable rate.

The vast majority of programs around the country subject to this definition, whether public or private, for-profit or not-for-profit, are doing a good job of providing quality education and training at a reasonable price. Those schools and programs that are doing an effective job have every reason to distance themselves from the ones taking advantage of a lack of oversight, who make the entire industry look bad.

This definition will not impede access to federal aid for any of these programs. In fact, if the rule were to be implemented in its current form, it would affect very few programs and many bad actors who are not concerned about the debts their students will be saddled with will continue to qualify.

It's incredible to me that this amendment is being sold as a move to protect minority students. I, myself, cannot fathom how low-income people of color are protected by being tied to unmanageable and unforgivable debts from federal loans that don't require a shred of evidence that the program will lead to any form of gainful employment for the borrower.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and

the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Chair, I rise today in opposition to the CR put forward by my Republican colleagues, and specifically to the amendment offered by Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey and Mr. MACK of Florida, and a separate amendment by Mr. WALBERG of Michigan, which would either eliminate or drastically reduce funding for the National Endowment for the Arts.

In tough economic times, funding for the arts may appear to be an easy area to cut. But we cannot forget that the arts industry is an active and crucial part of the American economy.

The non-profit arts industry generates \$166.2 billion annually, and supports 5.7 million full-time jobs across the United States. Spending in the arts stimulates local economies, creates attractive communities, and supports tourism. Cultural tourism alone contributes \$192 billion annually to our country's economy.

And the federal government is not the lone supporter of these projects, but the federal funding is critical to leveraging local, state and private dollars. The direct grants from the National Endowment for the Arts that reach each and every congressional district around the country are often matched by other resources.

In my hometown of Sacramento, California, NEA funding is helping to support a thriving arts scene that is putting our city on the map. In addition to bringing intellectual diversity to the region, it is helping to support young artists, smaller museums, and cultural programs. NEA funding supports galleries and exhibits that are part an extended classroom for our students.

As a former docent of the Crocker Art Museum, I can tell you firsthand the effect that an individual piece of art, or a trip to a museum, can have on a child. Many children would never have the opportunity otherwise to participate in these inspiring experiences.

And the commitment of federal funding for our local artists and art venues sends a strong signal that we are a nation that thinks art is important, and that symbol's influence cannot be overstated.

We must make tough choices. But the question is where. I do not believe gutting our nation's cultural institutions is the place to do so. We cannot afford to stifle the creativity of our students and our citizens.

I urge my colleagues to vote against these harmful amendments and against this CR.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT STERLING T. WIMBERLY

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I want to continue recognizing African Americans from throughout Georgia's 11th Congressional District who have had a major impact on their community. Today, I rise to recognize Master Sergeant Sterling T. Wimberly of Dallas, Georgia. MSG Wimberly is currently serving in an Active Guard Reserve role as the Senior Supply NCO for the 78th Aviation Troop Command.