

natural predators. If these fish are not stopped, we are risking the destruction of the delicate ecosystem of the Great Lakes and the countless industries and communities that rely upon them.

Mr. Chair, current efforts to stop the Asian Carp are not getting the job done. Indeed, last year a live Carp was found well beyond the electronic barriers and only 6 miles from Lake Michigan. Despite the imminent threat, the Supreme Court has refused to consider Michigan's request to close the Chicago locks. Congress must act now; there is no time to lose. The Chicago-area locks must be kept closed to protect our region from this grave danger.

I commend my colleague Congressman CAMP for introducing this important amendment to keep the Chicago area locks closed and protect our Great Lakes. I urge my colleagues to join us in protecting these great bodies of water. We cannot allow the Great Lakes to become a smorgasbord for the Asian Carp. We must act now so that our communities and industries can continue to rely on these great bodies for generations to come.

WESTMONT LIONS CLUB 75TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the Westmont Lions Club as they celebrate the club's 75th year of service in the Village of Westmont.

Chartered on January 8, 1936, the Lions Club is the oldest and one of the most dedicated service organizations in Westmont. Over the past 75 years, the Westmont Lions Club has risen to Helen Keller's challenge to become the "knights of the blind" by setting up several scholarship programs, as well as by hosting such fundraising events as A Magical Vision Fundraiser.

They have worked very hard to become a pillar of service in my congressional district. I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating the Westmont Lions Club for its 75 years of service to the Village of Westmont and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAKE FARENTHOLD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 86 I missed the vote due to a previously scheduled satellite interview in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING MRS. ELLEN WILLIAMS
RAGLAND

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public

servant Mrs. Ellen Williams Ragland. Mrs. Ragland got her start in 1929. She grew up in a small rural community in Humphreys County, MS, where she witnessed the implementation of the civil rights movement and watched it unfold victoriously.

Mrs. Ragland married Adam Ragland in 1947. They later moved to Silver City, MS, and had five children. They were black farmers and owners of Semicko's Record Shop.

Mrs. Ragland was hired as a nurse assistant for the black schools in Humphreys County before integration. She picked-up the sick children from school and took them to the doctor in Belzoni, MS. She also worked for Friends of Children of Mississippi as a teacher assistant in 1968.

After the schools were integrated, Mrs. Ragland was hired as a teacher assistant in Humphreys County Public School in 1970. She worked for Humphreys County School District until she retired in 1990.

In 1991, Mrs. Ragland began working as an Entitlement Aid for National Caucus for Black Age. She was very passionate about her job and the people she served, where she often went beyond the call of duty to service their needs. Mrs. Ragland is well respected in the community. She has a pleasant personality that makes people feel comfortable going to her for help.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Ellen Williams Ragland for her dedication to serving others in need.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

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:

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of the Kline/Fox/Hastings/McCarthy/Payne amendment which will block the administration from using any funds to implement the gainful employment regulations.

The overbearing regulations the Department of Education promulgated deny students a choice in their educational program and would require the federal government to approve new educational programs being offered at proprietary schools. This is another attack by an administration that is more intent on exerting more government control than expanding job creation in America.

For-profit schools perform a crucial role in higher education; they fill a void in providing college education that traditional universities cannot meet. Traditional public universities are tightening their belts both financially and in terms of the number of students entering their programs. For-profit schools are capable of being flexible enough to meet the demands of students and businesses looking for qualified candidates. This regulation stands to destroy that relationship between the needs of the market and the dreams of students.

After hearing the arguments put forward by the Department of Education several times, I remain completely unconvinced. After receiving over 90,000 comments in the public comment period on the proposed rule, the Department has largely ignored the chorus of opposition to the rule. The process is flawed, the logic at the department is flawed, and the administration's approach on higher education is flawed. Therefore, I strongly support this amendment to ensure that the Department of Education cannot move forward on the gainful employment regulation.

COMMEMORATING THE SUMGAI
POGROMS AGAINST AZER-
BAIJANI ARMENIANS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, the 26th and 27th of February mark the 23rd anniversary of a violent and horrific attack against Azerbaijani citizens of Armenian descent. The 1988 attacks occurred in the town of Sumgait in Soviet Azerbaijan. Dozens of Armenians were killed, and hundreds more were wounded. During the pogrom, Armenian women and children were raped and people were set on fire and beaten to death while police stood by, unwilling or unable to intervene.

The violence touched off a broader attack against Azerbaijan's ethnic Armenians, ultimately resulting in a war with Nagorno-Karabakh in which tens of thousands of people were killed. The conflict persists and remains unresolved today, as does the military blockade of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. The pogroms precipitated a massive refugee situation displacing hundreds of thousands of people, virtually eliminating Azerbaijan's once-significant Armenian population.

Mr. Speaker, as people of conscience, this is a remembrance we must all engage in. For me, it is also a very personal remembrance. My own family members fled the slaughter of the Armenian Genocide under the Ottomans, and when we learned of the massacres against Armenians in 1988, we saw history repeating itself. These vicious acts of murder, targeted at ethnic groups, must be forcefully condemned whenever and wherever we see them. Yet 96 years after the slaughter, Congress has yet to officially recognize the Armenian genocide.

Without our recognition and our forceful condemnation, the cycle of violence will continue. Even today, Christians and other minority groups are being driven from Iraq by extremists, and the once large and diverse ethnic mosaic there is all but eradicated. Without our attention and action by the world community, there is no end in sight.

Today, Mr. Speaker, let us remember the Armenians who lost their lives in Azerbaijan 23 years ago. And then let us take up the work that our principles demand of us, standing united against ethnic violence, discrimination, extremism and brutality, wherever we find them.

MOFFAT COUNTY TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Moffat County, located in North-western Colorado. The historic county celebrates its 100th anniversary this month. It stands as a reminder of the pioneering spirit that drove westward expansion and made this country great. It's roughly 14,000 residents are proud to call Moffat home and eagerly await February 27th, when the county officially celebrates its centennial.

Moffat County is known best for its open space and fossil discoveries, but has a history rooted in western railroad expansion. David Moffat, the man after whom the county was named, made it a point to run his railroad through Craig, the county seat, on its way to Salt Lake City. The railroad became the backbone of the county's economy. It made the area ideal for farming and ranching. Craig, in fact, became the world's largest shipping point for wool in the 1950s. Not long after, oil and natural gas supplies were discovered and further drove growth in both the economy and population of the area.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent a proud and historic community like that of Moffat County, Colorado. It is no surprise that the hardworking and self-reliant residents of the area have maintained a strong county for 100 years. There is no doubt that those same people will ensure Moffat County survives for another 100 years.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

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. PAYNE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the FY 2011 Continuing Resolution, which severely cuts critical funding for State and USAID and, if enacted would severely undermine U.S. development programs in Africa, U.S. National Security, and our domestic economy. The House bill provides State and USAID \$43.2 billion.

Development and diplomacy are the United States' first line of defense. Stable democracies and prosperous communities are less likely to pose a threat to their neighbors or to the United States.

State and USAID work to help countries and communities in Africa and across the world to become more stable, democratic, and prosperous. When conflicts do arise, State and USAID work to transition countries from violence to stability to long-term development and to prevent struggling states from becoming failed states. Doing so reduces the burden on our military and enhances our diplomacy.

The House bill would cut humanitarian assistance accounts by more than 40 percent below 2010 levels, devastating our ability to help victims of natural disasters and undermining U.S. leadership around the world.

The International Disaster Assistance account allows us to respond to international disasters like the earthquake in Haiti and the flood in Pakistan. The House bill provides \$429 million, taking this account back to 2008 levels—a 50 percent reduction to the 2010 level. This significant reduction will severely limit our ability to respond to natural disasters; we will simply be unable to respond to earthquakes and other disasters the way we did in Haiti.

In Sudan, more than 1.6 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Darfur would not receive critical health care, access to water, or support with livelihood activities. Instead of reintegrating approximately 300,000 returnees to South Sudan in the wake of the referendum, USAID would be able to assist fewer than 150,000.

In West Africa, proposed budget cuts would significantly hamper efforts to reduce and maintain acute malnutrition rates below emergency levels in drought-affected areas of Burkina Faso and Niger.

The House mark will also end a cost-effective local and regional purchase program which enables the U.S. to feed hungry people by purchasing food locally at a significantly lower cost to the U.S. taxpayer.

U.S. food aid continues to play a critical role by helping people in need and supporting broader U.S. national security objectives by demonstrating the goodwill of the United States, especially in Afghanistan and Pakistan. U.S. food aid also supports domestic interests by the purchase of agricultural commodities from American farmers and the shipping of commodities abroad on U.S. ships.

Reducing Title II food aid from the FY 2011 request of \$1.690 billion to \$1.003 billion forces dramatic cuts in food aid programs around the world, as well as decreasing purchases from U.S. farmers and the use of U.S. ships.

This cut would require reductions in the largest emergency food aid programs, to include Sudan, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Given the average cost of emergency food aid of \$44 per beneficiary, this would mean up to 15 million people might not receive such life-saving assistance due to the proposed reduction.

The bill reduces funding for refugee relief by \$670 million or 40 percent below 2010 levels, representing a shift in U.S. policy of historical, unprecedented and devastating proportions. This reduction will drastically reduce the U.S. ability to protect and assist refugees in places of critical national security, such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and the Horn of Africa.

For example, a reduction of this magnitude jeopardizes U.S. support for 1.6 million Afghan refugees living in Pakistan and another 100,000 Afghan refugees returning to Afghanistan this year alone. Also, some 230,000 Burmese refugees in Thailand, Malaysia, Bangladesh and India would be at risk. And, security in the Horn of Africa and supporting peace in Sudan would also be at risk as some 3,000–5,000 Somalis are fleeing into Kenya each month and 270,000 Darfuris in Sudan and Chad will go largely unassisted.

The House proposal also makes deep cuts in Global Health programs and Development

Assistance. Disease knows no borders. As such, USAID's programs to prevent and treat infectious diseases not only benefit the most vulnerable overseas, but also protect American citizens at home. Moreover, this Continuing Resolution would disproportionately cut programs that help the neediest people around the world by 25 percent versus an 11 percent reduction overall.

The proposed CR level cuts the Global Health Initiative by \$834 million from 2010 levels. While these cuts would have miniscule value in the goal of balancing the budget, they will have real, immediate, and devastating impact on the poorest.

I am deeply disappointed by the Appropriators' choice to step away from America's long-term humanitarian interests in improving and preserving lives around the world by helping people lift themselves out of poverty. There is living proof across the world that less than 1 percent of the total federal budget has helped poor farmers learn to grow more food more efficiently, provided a lifeline to millions with HIV—including pregnant women whose babies can now be born HIV-free—put millions of children under malaria-fighting bed nets by night and into schools by day, and strengthened America's friendships with millions of people, thus strengthening our own national security.

The cut to the PEPFAR program is \$513 million below 2010, a 10 percent reduction. At this level, the U.S. will be unable to provide treatment to more than 700,000 people in desperate need of life-saving HIV/AIDS treatment.

The House bill cuts USAID health programs by \$320 million (–13 percent) from 2010 levels and nearly 30 percent below the 2011 request. Reducing the USAID Global Health and Child Survival by this magnitude will have devastating effects on men, women, and children worldwide.

Under the proposed CR levels, 5 million children and family members will be denied treatment or preventative interventions for malaria, leaving millions to die. Moreover, 43,000 children and family members with tuberculosis will be denied treatment, of which 12,000 will likely die.

More than 16 million persons will be denied treatment for such debilitating conditions as blinding trachoma and onchocerciasis. Efforts would be scaled back in at least 10 countries where we were on track to interrupt transmission within five years of up to four of the NTDs. USAID will be forced to sever agreements with four major pharmaceutical companies that donate hundreds of millions worth of drugs for NTD treatment programs.

The bill would force USAID to scale back efforts in the 24 countries which collectively account for approximately one-half of all maternal and child deaths. 3,500 mothers will die, and more than 40,000 children under five—of which 16,000 are newborns—will perish in the absence of highly effective child survival interventions.

More than 500 thousand undernourished children will be deprived of highly effective nutrition interventions (e.g., community management of acute malnutrition, micronutrient supplementation, and nutrition education leading to dietary diversity).

Placing an all-account ceiling of \$440 million on family planning and reproductive health in 2011 amounts to a 32 percent cut from FY 2010 levels. This would result in 1.2 million