

order to highlight the continued Turkish and Azeri aggression toward the Armenian people. This anniversary reminds us yet again of the historical injustices the Armenian people have faced, and the need for strong U.S. engagement in the region to safeguard Armenia against the aggressive tactics of its neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues stand with me in recognizing this tragic moment in history. Through recognizing the atrocities of the past, we can build a more peaceful future.

IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING FOR
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose Rep. SCOTT GARRETT'S amendment to the FY2011 Continuing Resolution. His proposal to erase funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services will effectively eliminate all specific federal funding for libraries. Doing so would cut off access to information for millions of Americans.

I believe our government needs to be more fiscally responsible, but as the son a librarian, I know the high cost these cuts will have in the long term. If we are serious about competing in a global economy, we must provide our children with the tools and resources to succeed, and cutting funds for our libraries will only hinder our chance to win the future.

As a nation, we cannot afford to cut ourselves off from such necessary tools for economic recovery as books, periodicals, newspapers, the internet, and the bevy of information our public libraries provide. If funding for public libraries is removed, the Georgia Public Library Service will no longer be able to provide the following:

The statewide network of high-speed Internet data lines providing access to all 400+ libraries in Georgia

The award-winning, nationally-recognized PINES network and statewide library card system, which is used by more than 2.4 million Georgians and provides statewide lending via a shared database of more than 10 million items

A Statewide daily courier service for inter-library loans to the headquarters of all 61 public library systems in Georgia—nearly 1 million books shared in this way

"Talking book" library services for the blind and other Georgians whose physical abilities require the use of books and magazines in audio format or in Braille—encompassing more than 1 million annual circulations

The GALILEO online databases, which contain essential quality digital resources for students (kindergarten through higher education), teachers, professors and public library users

The statewide Summer Reading Program, which served approximately 450,000 children in 2010—an increase of more than 10 percent from 2009

Shared services that provide necessary OCLC cataloging information and interlibrary loan access to every library in the state

Continuing education programs and training for library staff who work in all types of libraries—public, university, K-12 and specialized—and for trustees

Consulting services to assist in improving local library operations in technology, governance, services to children, and other areas.

As we bounce back from the recession, it is clear that more Georgians are turning to our public libraries for informational and educational needs. Libraries play a critical role in workforce recovery and economic development throughout our state. These funds allow Georgia's libraries to take advantage of economies of scale that benefit all libraries. The loss of these critical funds would force the elimination of services essential to Georgia residents of all ages—and this, Mr. Speaker, is at a cost we cannot afford!

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

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:

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, I've come to the floor today to talk about a crisis our country is facing. I'm not here to talk about the deficit, which is also a problem, but one which pales in importance to the crisis of America's declining economic competitiveness.

I say that the deficit problem pales in comparison to our declining competitiveness because without a robust and innovative economy, it will be next to impossible to ever truly reduce our national deficit.

For some time, important leaders in our business and academic community have warned us about this crisis.

In 2005, a National Academies panel chaired by former Lockheed Martin CEO Norm Augustine released the report, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm."

This report warned that without a focused effort by the Federal Government, the future of American competitiveness was bleak.

It recommended increased efforts in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, also referred to as STEM education, and increased federal investment in research and development.

It's not a mystery why that distinguished group made those recommendations: it has long been clear that technological innovation creates jobs, and that Federal investments in R&D have had a major positive impact on innovation in this country.

Our economic rivals understand all too well that America's great economic success has been a direct result of our innovation. And these competitors have begun to pour their resources into research and development and into STEM education.

Those investments are bearing fruit:

In 2004 China overtook the United States to become the world's leading exporter of information and communications technology goods.

China, Japan, India, and South Korea all graduate more engineers each year than the United States.

U.S. student scores in STEM achievement continue to decline in worldwide comparisons.

So what do we do about it? Once the problem was identified, the Democratically-controlled Congress immediately focused on coming up with solutions.

Over the past four years, we passed bills like the America COMPETES Act, which put NSF, NIST, and the Department of Energy's Office of Science on a doubling path.

We've been changing the way America's children are taught science and math by putting in classrooms teachers who actually have a background and training in those fields, and we've been working to increase opportunities for minorities to contribute their talents to our scientific and technological initiatives.

And we've been investing in clean energy technology development so that America can one day be an energy exporter instead of an energy importer.

Unfortunately, all that work, and all that progress in keeping America competitive is about to be undone. My Republican colleagues have proposed a budget for the rest of 2011 which will severely wound our country's research and development capabilities, and stifle our innovation engine.

Let me cite just a few of the consequences that would flow from enactment of this ill-considered CR:

At the Department of Energy:

Cuts to the Department of Energy will slow down the progress the country has made in demonstrating and deploying carbon capture and sequestration technologies, solar energy and cost-saving energy efficiency technologies.

The cuts in the CR will force a number of world-class labs, which undertake research on cutting edge energy technologies to solve economic and environmental problems, to shut down.

Thousands of scientific and technical staff at the national labs, universities and companies will be laid off, or worse, go to our competitors for support.

This could lead to the United States being even more dependent on other countries for clean energy technologies.

STEM education programs will be cut or eliminated at a time when China is graduating six engineers for every one of ours. We need to capitalize on the interests of our students who are ready and willing to solve our country's energy and environment problems.

At the EPA:

A reduction on the order of \$3 billion to EPA's science programs will negatively impact our ability to find new and innovative solutions to 21st century environmental and public health challenges.

The proposed water research reductions will impact EPA's ability to ensure the Nation's water infrastructure is capable of the sustained delivery of safe water as well as the safe and sustainable removal and treatment of waste water.

At NOAA:

NOAA's weather satellite programs are already in trouble during this difficult economic time.

Without proper additional funding of our satellite programs, we will be faced with less accurate and timely weather predictions. We are not just talking about taking our country back to 2008. We are talking about rewinding the clock two decades. We could soon be relying