

meet predefined knowledge points as they proceed through development and testing. Mr. Altwegg initiated and deployed an array of earned value and life cycle management tools to optimize MDA knowledge-based decision systems and criteria, and he spearheaded efforts to evaluate and make informed senior leader decisions based upon cost, schedule, performance and relative merit criteria and metrics. He developed and managed numerous data generation and evaluation systems—including MDA's Integrated Program Plan and supporting management systems and activities—to more effectively manage system wide and component level costs and schedules, balance development and fielding priorities and successfully meet block development and fielding goals.

He has been the central figure in planning and responding to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) commission's recommendations to consolidate missile defense development activities at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama. He has collaborated closely with the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Service and Department of the Army staffs to ensure MDA's requirements are fully considered. He has personally championed open communication with the workforce to survey employee concerns, develop detailed plans for executing the directed realignments and ensure workforce needs are addressed. He has personally met with Huntsville Alabama Chamber of Commerce and coordinated an informative series of presentations to the staff to minimize anxiety and provide information to families, and he established an advanced detachment of support staff to facilitate the transition of services and functions to our new location.

Mr. Altwegg has been a guiding force for the Missile Defense Agency and the prime author of our long-term strategy to strengthen and maximize the flexibility of the nation's missile defense capabilities. He advocated and succeeded in aligning the agencies missile defense programs to achieve a greater degree of mobility through better networked, forward-deployed sensors and interceptors; and additional layers of increasingly capable missile defenses. He stood at the forefront of establishing MDA as a global leader in ballistic missile defense capabilities. In doing so, he has set and enforced an uncompromising standard of excellence and professionalism among the workforce and has created a "core competency" for our national security structure.

He has tirelessly advocated for the responsible use of scarce resources as well as for effective care and professional development of the civilian workforce; and his sustained accomplishments are deserving of special recognition. Mr. Altwegg, thank you for your service and God bless.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I missed rollcall vote 64. If I had been present, I would have voted "aye."

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

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. TONKO. Madam Chair. I move to strike the last word.

The cuts contained in these sections to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program—LIHEAP—are dangerous, and I rise to oppose them. The Republican continuing resolution cuts \$390.3 million in funding from LIHEAP's emergency contingency fund for the remaining seven months of this fiscal year. Those are cuts that are made on the backs of the low-income residents, like those I represent in the cold and snowy Capital Region of New York, who struggle to pay for the cost of home heating oil and natural gas.

LIHEAP is a widely supported, essential program that delivers short-term aid to our most vulnerable neighbors, including the elderly on fixed incomes. LIHEAP provides a vital safety net, allowing families and seniors to stay healthy and protected from cold winters and hot summers. It keeps those receiving help from having to make the heart-breaking decision about whether to pay to keep the heat on, or to pay for food and prescription drugs.

The numbers of households receiving assistance reached record levels this year, increasing from 7.7 million to 8.8 million. The rise in participation includes only households that are below the maximum income level—\$33,525 for a family of four this year. The need for the continued support of LIHEAP is clear—the program was only able to help one in five eligible Americans. Four out of five families in need went without this assistance, and were left out in the cold.

The Republican continuing resolution cuts \$390.3 million in funding from LIHEAP's contingency fund. The LIHEAP contingency fund allocates emergency funding to states dealing with emergencies, like cold snaps, heat waves, or spikes in energy prices that force low-income Americans to cut off their heat. So far this year, the Administration has released \$200 million in contingency funds, illustrating the need for full funding of the contingency fund. I do not think we can afford to let seven more months pass and risk another blizzard, or another heat wave, and leave our nation's vulnerable citizens out on their own.

In FY 2010, my home state of New York received about \$57.8 million in contingency funds, but in FY 2011 the state has only received about \$26 million. These CR cuts would mean that New York loses out on about half the contingency fund money it saw during the same period last year. Given the fact that this winter has been comparably cold and seen substantially more snow, my state and my constituents will be losing out tremendously with these cuts.

The continued need for LIHEAP funding is clear to me as I travel around my district and

talk to my constituents. Staff in my district offices help connect seniors and low-income families to LIHEAP for desperately needed assistance. Cutting funding for this program is, in my mind, unconscionable. We cannot leave behind our nation's most vulnerable in the dead of winter.

The Majority is lauding the fact that this bill represents the largest spending cut in the history of our country. If they want to cut funding to satisfy their base, fine. But I will not stand for cutting LIHEAP funding. I will not support budget cuts balanced on the backs of seniors on fixed incomes, struggling to make it through this cold winter. Madam Chair, I urge defeat of this bill.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

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. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to this legislation. All of us recognize the need for fiscal restraint, but we should not be doing so at the expense of working families.

Governing is about making difficult choices, making wise investments where we can, while recognizing the fiscal pressures our nation faces. This legislation is an abdication of that responsibility. It would harm our most vulnerable citizens, fail to invest in economic recovery and cost American jobs. For our economy to recover over the long term, American workers need training and education that will enable them to compete in a new global economy. However, the Republican spending bill makes drastic cuts to education, putting a college degree out of reach for more working families.

In my district, this bill will deprive 22,000 working families of nearly \$1,000 in financial assistance from the Pell Grant program. Many of these New Yorkers will have to pay more in tuition. For some, this shortfall may prevent them from completing their degree, altogether.

The cuts to the Pell program are just one way education suffers. Spread throughout my district, there are thirty-two Head Start centers that offer early education to the children of working families. New York City Head Start will lose almost \$30 million in funding. As we look for ways to strengthen our country's economy, cutting services that prepare children for the future seems not just unconscionable, but unwise.

Just as children and young people would be penalized by this legislation, some of our oldest and most vulnerable citizens would be harmed. In the middle of winter, New York City would lose \$4.4 million in funding from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, forcing seniors and working families to choose between keeping the heat on and purchasing groceries.