

As the Nation's largest employer, I believe that the federal government has a responsibility to lead by example to be a model employer. This is especially true for the Department of Defense. Since being elected to Congress, I have met and worked with many civilian employees at DoD and am inspired by their dedication. Our military and country are stronger because of them, and I will continue to support efforts that strengthen our federal workforce.

THE HOMELAND SECURITY  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF FY2014

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2013*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2217, the FY14 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. I appreciate the bipartisan effort put into crafting H.R. 2217 and commend the members of the Appropriations Committee for encouraging a collaborative and open process. It's unfortunate that at the last minute an anti-immigration amendment offered by Representative STEVE KING of Iowa upset the delicate bipartisan balance established in the bill.

Recent events emphasize the importance of ensuring the availability of the resources our country needs to address national emergencies. The tornadoes in Oklahoma, the bombings at the Boston Marathon, forest fires in California and Colorado are just a few examples of why funding for homeland security should always be considered a national priority. This bill provides resources to address these and other critical needs by directing funding to protect the country's transportation infrastructure and cybernetworks, and equally important, to our first responders who help to protect our communities and who play a vital role in helping keep the nation safe and secure. In total, the bill appropriates \$38.9 billion for the Department in FY 2014 for these and other critical national priorities.

While I support the level of funding set for Homeland Security in this bill, I strongly oppose the funding levels set in the Republican budget plan for other key priorities. For example, the Republican budget recklessly cuts the category of funding for our kids' education and medical research by 20 percent below the sequester level. Consequently, I strongly support the President's position that the funding levels for Homeland Security must ultimately be considered in the context of an overall agreement on the budget. Unfortunately, our Republican colleagues in the House and Senate continue to refuse to convene a conference to negotiate a budget agreement.

Additionally, I share the President's concern about the bill's failure to fund the request for the Department of Homeland Security headquarters consolidation project, which will only delay the project further; the bill's failure to fully fund the request for new Customs and Borders Protection officers; and the bill's continued funding of the unnecessary 287 (g) program when the Secure Communities program is a more efficient and cost-effective alternative.

In that same vein, this year I again opposed the anti-immigration amendment offered by

Representative KING that prohibits the use of funds in the bill from being used to implement the so called "Morton Memos." These memos were written by ICE Director Morton and provide a plan to deploy ICE resources to the most cost effective priorities and provide guidance to ensure that limited resources are focused on criminals and other individuals who pose a genuine threat to national security or public safety. I am disappointed that the House chose to again include this provision and it is for that reason that I will oppose this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC  
SERVICE OF MARC JOHNSON

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2013*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marcus Johnson as he prepares to retire from his position as Superintendent of the Sanger Unified School District. Marc will be leaving after more than 35 years in public education in the Central Valley.

As Superintendent of Sanger Unified, Marc transformed some of California's lowest performing schools into some of our best. The education reforms that he spearheaded are now considered a model for schools across the country. Marc's dedication and commitment to improving education standards in the Central Valley have been nationally recognized including by the American Association of Student Administrators who named him the 2011 National Superintendent of the Year.

A California native, Marc lives in the small community of Reedley, where at age four he moved with his parents and where his wife of 37 years, Penni, taught at Thomas Law Reed Elementary, before retiring last year. He is a graduate of Reedley Community College, California State University, Fresno and Fresno Pacific University, where he received his Masters in Education. Marc began his career in education at American Union Elementary, where he taught for 16 years and later served as the district's superintendent and principal. In 1999, Marc was named the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources for the Sanger Unified School District, before assuming the role of Superintendent of the district in the fall of 2003.

When Marc took over as Superintendent, Sanger Unified was struggling. A year into his tenure, the district was designated for program improvement by the State of California. Under Marc's leadership and guidance, Sanger Unified implemented education reforms including adopting the professional learning community model focused on student learning, high quality instruction, and teacher collaboration. Within two years Sanger Unified exited program improvement status and its schools have since gone on to win many accolades and awards. Recently, Sanger Unified became only the second school district in the country to have every one of its middle schools named to the Department of Education's prestigious "Schools to Watch" list.

Although Marc is retiring as Superintendent of Sanger Unified, he will continue the fight to improve education standards in the Central Valley as the interim co-director of the John D.

Welty Center for Educational Policy and Leadership. In addition, Marc is retiring to spend much needed time with his wife, his three children, and his four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished educational leadership of Mr. Marc Johnson. The work he has done for the Sanger Unified School District will have a lasting impact on our children in Fresno County and in the entire State of California.

RECOGNIZING FALLEN OWEGO  
FIREFIGHTER CAPTAIN MATT  
PORCARI

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2013*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fallen Owego Firefighter Captain Matt Porcari. Captain Porcari belonged to the Owego Fire Department for 18 years before his tragic death while actively responding to a mutual aid fire call in Newark Valley, New York. He was 34 years old and leaves behind a wife Christina, two children and three step-children.

Captain Porcari was a dedicated volunteer in the department who began his service at age 16, serving as a mentor and friend to newer members. His caring nature extended beyond the Owego community, demonstrated by his assistance to the Long Beach Fire Station following Hurricane Sandy and by his efforts to organize a trip to pay tribute to the fallen firefighters in Webster, New York. In addition, Captain Porcari led the Croton Hose Company #3 in the Central New York Hose Racing Championships and was a member of the youngest team to win a CNY Championship in 1995.

Captain Porcari's legacy was honored this June at the Owego Fallen Firefighters Memorial Golf Tournament, which was held in honor of Captain Porcari and other fallen Owego firefighters. The monies raised at the tournament will support scholarships for Owego Free Academy's graduating seniors pursuing careers as first responders. Additional monies will go to the development and maintenance of an Owego Fire Department training facility.

Today we honor Matt Porcari's sacrifice. Let us remember every day the price paid by true heroes such as Matt.

INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUTH  
JOBS ACT

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 14, 2013*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Youth Jobs Act.

We are facing a jobs crisis in this country, and even our youth are not exempt from its effects. Five years after the Great Recession hit, 27 million workers are either unemployed or underemployed—roughly one out of every six U.S. workers. This is completely unacceptable.

Even worse though, is the impact this crisis is leaving on the next generation of workers.