

mandates and things like that. We certainly are not sending an appropriation along that is compliant with this bill. We are certainly not sending money along and extra staff to be able to generate the reports that would come about as a result of this bill.

It just seems to me that it would be fair for the Executive to say that that is not a constitutionally implicated provision for which we are using our discretion to either formally or not formally enforce; therefore, we don't need to write a report but for this amendment. Yet, since we don't have the money and since, I am sure, that my friends on the Republican side wouldn't want to bog down government, they should just be able to waive the requirement if there are not sufficient funds to comply.

I want to point out, Madam Speaker, that this particular bill would have the effect of burdening government unless we do have some provision for the Executive to escape it given its overburdening nature. This particular bill would be an undue burden.

I also think it is important to point out—I think it is very important for everyone listening to this debate to know, Madam Speaker—that existing law already requires the Department of Justice to submit a report to Congress when it determines that nonenforcement is recommended because the law is unconstitutional. So, when we need a report, the law already requires that we would get one; but informal? Think about the way this bill is written. It would require a Federal agency to issue a report even in the case of informal nonenforcement.

Does that mean that if somebody decides not to charge out a case that one has to write a report on it? Does that mean that if EPA officials cannot get down to every single polluter because they are dealing with the big ones that they have got to write a report about it? Does that mean that the FBI cannot prioritize the dangerousness of crimes and go after the most dangerous people and work with local law enforcement to deal with the other ones?

This is a ridiculous piece of legislation being offered. It would generate all types of burdens, and in order to meet and comply with it, it would require all types of expenses and extra staff. Since my Republican friends and I agree that it would not be a good idea to just push unfunded mandates on the government, I am sure that I will be able to get a lot of votes from both sides of the aisle that would allow the executive branch to waive reporting requirements.

Mr. COHEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ELLISON. I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. COHEN. You said you would definitely get a whole bunch of folks on both sides of the aisle?

Mr. ELLISON. In reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee. I am sure we will get plenty of people on both sides.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I claim time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

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Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I would oppose the amendment, as it would explicitly grant the Attorney General the unilateral power to negate the entire bill based on his own subjective determination of what constitutes "sufficient" appropriations.

This amendment would shield from accountability the President, the Attorney General, and any other Federal employee from the duty to take care that the laws are faithfully executed.

Madam Speaker, we know that this bill will not cost the taxpayers any money, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. As stated in their official view submitted, CBO estimates:

Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

CBO estimates that implementation of the bill would not have a significant effect on the budget because such reporting costs are small and subject already to the availability of appropriated funds.

So, Madam Speaker, why does this amendment grant the Attorney General the unilateral authority to conclude otherwise?

Well, Madam Speaker, the Attorney General works for the President, and when given the opportunity to immunize the President from accountability, what does one think the Attorney General would do? It is logical to assume he would shield the President from accountability.

The base bill is specifically designed to hold the President accountable. This amendment, on the other hand, would allow his own Attorney General to shield the President from accountability, thereby gutting the bill, and so this amendment should be roundly defeated.

Madam Speaker, we have had significant debate here, but it is important to remind ourselves what it really is all about. The rule of law is truly the only context in which human freedom on Earth can exist. It is incumbent upon those of us who have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States to protect that rule of law here tonight. This is the intention of this bill. This is the deep commitment that should be on the part of all of us.

With that, I hope my colleagues would defeat this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended, and on the amendment by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 3973 is postponed.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 113-97)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2014.

The crisis between the United States and Iran resulting from the actions and policies of the Government of Iran has not been resolved. The Joint Plan of Action (JPOA) between the P5+1 and Iran went into effect on January 20, 2014, for a period of 6 months. This marks the first time in a decade that Iran has agreed to and taken specific actions to halt its nuclear program and to roll it back in key respects. In return for Iran's actions on its nuclear program, the P5+1, in coordination with the European Union, are taking actions to implement the limited, temporary, and reversible sanctions relief outlined in the JPOA.

Nevertheless, certain actions and policies of the Government of Iran are contrary to the interests of the United States in the region and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Iran and to maintain in force comprehensive sanctions against Iran to deal with this threat.

BARACK OBAMA.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 12, 2014.

45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Minority Business Development Agency on its 45th anniversary.

The Minority Business Development Agency was established by executive order on March 5, 1969, and has worked to promote the growth and global competitiveness of a critical segment of