

General Robinson was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Infantry, on May 11, 1985, through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at the University of Southern Mississippi. He served as Commander of 890th Engineer Battalion, Commander of the 150th Engineer Battalion, Deputy Commander of the 168th Engineer Brigade, and Commander of the Camp McCain Training Site, Mississippi Army National Guard. He has also served as the Chief of Staff, Joint Force Headquarters, Mississippi Army National Guard, and as Assistant Adjutant General—Army, Joint Force Headquarters, Mississippi National Guard.

I was privileged to serve with Brigadier General Robinson during a combat deployment to Iraq in 2005. At the time, Lieutenant Colonel Robinson commanded the 150th Engineer Battalion at Forward Operating Base Dogwood in Iraq, which was on the Euphrates River in the corner of Al Anbar Province right across the river from Babil Province. During Lieutenant Colonel Robinson's command, the 150th Combat Engineer Battalion performed at an extremely high level while performing combat operations in a very high intensity area. Lieutenant Colonel Robinson displayed courage, leadership, and mentored the officers and noncommissioned officers of the 150th Engineer Battalion.

I have served with Brigadier General Robinson since our return, and he is a trusted mentor, respected by soldiers across the ranks of the Mississippi Army National Guard. As Director of the National Guard Association of Mississippi, he has been a champion for soldiers at the state and national level. I am privileged to consider Brigadier General Robinson a friend and mentor.

As Brigadier General Robinson retires from his military career, I wish him the best in his future endeavors. I know he will continue to be a leader for Mississippi's soldiers in his role as Executive Director of the National Guard Association of Mississippi.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for certain votes taken yesterday, Wednesday, July 13. If present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call Vote Number 453 (Passage of H. AMDT. 1342 to H.R. 5538 offered by Rep. GARY PALMER): NO.

Roll Call Vote Number 454 (Passage of H. AMDT. 1344 to H.R. 5538 offered by Rep. PAUL GOSAR): NO.

SUPPORTING H.R. 1655, THE COMMUNITY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1655, the Community Economic Opportunity Act.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson introduced America to the War on Poverty. Since then, Washington has created many anti-poverty programs, spent trillions of dollars, and made promises that failed to achieve well-intentioned goals. However, we realize it is just as difficult to lift people and families out of the poverty cycle today. It is not enough to speak of change in Washington; we must invite and support new ideas and open up our system to collaboration with those on the front lines in the fight against poverty. To that end, I proudly support H.R. 1655, the Community Economic Opportunity Act, which reauthorizes the Community Service Block Grant program that was last reauthorized in 1998. This program is currently present in 99 percent of US counties, and supports important programs that bring people out of the grip of poverty, improves the quality of our communities, and benefits our country and economy for the better. Together, we can help guide our nation into a new era of success and prosperity.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PUTTING MAIN STREET FIRST ACT: FINISHING IRRESPONSIBLE RECKLESS SPECULATIVE TRADING

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I introduced H.R. 5745, The Putting Main Street FIRST Act: Finishing Irresponsible Reckless Speculative Trading.

The bill would levy a miniscule 0.03 percent tax on stocks, bonds and derivatives, which will discourage irresponsible high-speed trades that have no intrinsic value and that destabilize the market, which were the driving factors of the 2008 financial crisis and the 2010 flash crash.

How much does a 0.03 percent tax cost per trade? It amounts to 3 pennies on a \$100 trade.

How much does it raise? The Joint Tax Committee estimates the tax would raise \$417 billion over ten years.

These funds can be used to fund national priorities like free higher education so college students aren't stuck in never-ending debt. It can be used for job-creating infrastructure investments, or other national priorities.

Raising much-needed revenue to help average Americans is a big plus, but my primary reason for my bill is to end unhealthy speculation in the market and bring it back into balance. My goal is to stop Wall Street from gambling with Main Street's money.

Opponents of a financial transaction tax have already rolled out their same tired arguments: American retail investors and retirees would get hit with higher administrative fees as brokerages pass the cost of the tax down to them.

The opponents haven't read my bill, or if they have, they are ignoring what's in it.

The fear-mongers have always said a transaction tax will destroy the market. The truth is the U.S. had a transaction tax from 1914 until 1966. In 1932, the transaction tax was raised. When the increase in the tax was proposed, various newspaper headlines screamed our

markets would fail. Here are just two: "Stocks Tax Called Peril to Exchange" and "Panic Threat Seen in Taxes."

In 1932 the Dow Jones was at a low point of 41. In 1966, the Dow Jones was at nearly 1000 points. The sky did not fall.

The point is the large majority of trades today are made by computers with algorithms whose sole purpose is to execute thousands of trades in milliseconds to turn a quick buck.

Flash boys and high-frequency traders go so far as to locate their servers as close to an exchange as possible—all to gain a nano-second head start of a trade price. How can average Americans compete with that? They can't.

It's time to stop irresponsible trading, time to level the playing field, and it's time to put Main Street FIRST.

ENHANCING TREASURY'S ANTI-TERROR TOOLS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2016

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Chairman HENSARLING, Ranking Member WATERS, Chairman FITZPATRICK and Ranking Member LYNCH for the thoughtful and inclusive process that produced this set of bills. I would also like to thank Mr. PITTENGER and Mr. LYNCH for introducing this particular bill, Enhancing Treasury's Anti-Terror Tools Act (H.R. 5607).

I am especially appreciative that the bill includes language to help address the remittances crisis facing Somalia. I am fortunate to represent the largest Somali diaspora in our nation. I have heard from my constituents that they are unable to send funds to their loved ones back home. They can't send money for school fees or for medicine. They can't send funds to help a loved one start a business. Banks have stopped providing bank accounts to money services businesses that send funds to Somalia. Very few banks still provide wire transfers to the people of Somalia. As remittances from abroad are critical to the economy of this fragile nation, we are creating a humanitarian crisis which is also a national security problem.

We need to address this crisis. Money is going to flow: either in the system or outside of it. It is in everyone's best interest to provide Somali Americans the ability to safely and transparently send money to loved ones in their home nation.

This pilot program idea grew out of my frustration with finding a solution. I would like to see financial institutions and their regulators act proactively to keep the remittances pipeline open and safe. That's why I so appreciate Mr. PITTENGER and Mr. LYNCH including language I suggested requiring the Treasury Department to study the potential impact of a pilot program for humanitarian funds to Somalia.

Somalia is improving; it recently passed an Anti-Money Laundering Law and appointed an ambassador to the U.S. The U.S. has acknowledged the government of Somalia and for the first time in decades, has an ambassador to that nation. The need to address the