

places, giving care to those who need it the most. They treat victims of sexual violence and provide menstrual hygiene services and maternity care in humanitarian crisis settings.

I visited many times UNFPA projects all around the world, and I have seen firsthand the tremendous impacts these programs have on the lives of those they serve. Defunding these programs truly will kill women.

I urge my colleagues to reject these harmful riders, reject this bill, and get back to regular order. It is time to stop trying to push through these really untenable bills that really are very dangerous to women and girls throughout the world and babies.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAMBORN) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment numbered 6 to the bill (H.R. 601) "An Act to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of assistance provided under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to promote quality basic education in developing countries, to better enable such countries to achieve universal access to quality basic education and improved learning outcomes, to eliminate duplication and waste, and for other purposes.", with an amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

The Committee resumed its sitting.

AMENDMENT NO. 94 OFFERED BY MR. BUCK

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. BOST). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 94 printed in part B of House Report 115-295.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 874, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$35,300,000)".

Page 1140, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$35,300,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 500, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BUCK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Chairman, I rise for the opportunity to speak about my amendment to the State and Foreign Operations division of H.R. 3354.

Mr. Chairman, we are facing some tough choices. Our Nation is nearly \$20 trillion in debt. We are going to debate lifting the debt ceiling in the coming days. Simply put, we cannot afford to continue recklessly spending on duplicative and wasteful programs.

The United States Institute of Peace is a perfect example of a duplicative program that must be reexamined. The Institute's charter states that the organization was established to promote international peace and the resolution of conflict among the nations and peoples of the world without recourse to violence.

These are laudable and worthy goals, but it sounds a lot like the mission statement of another taxpayer-backed diplomatic organization, the United States Department of State.

The State Department's operational mission is to create a more secure, democratic, and prosperous world for the benefit of the American people and the international community. Why is Congress funding an independent think tank that supports the same mission as another Federal Government agency?

The U.S. Institute of Peace is far from the only organization on the ground working to foster peace across the globe. Since its inception, the U.S. Institute of Peace has awarded thousands of grants to other peace organizations. There are also more than 150 colleges and universities offering peace studies programs across the United States.

Why are we earmarking an additional \$35.3 million in public funds to support a think tank that duplicates the State Department's mission, uses its public funds to support other peace-promoting organizations, and can raise millions of dollars in private funds to promote its own work?

For this reason, Members on both sides of the aisle have supported ending this program. In fact, this same amendment was offered by a Democratic member from New York to an appropriations bill in 2011. The amendment passed with a strong bipartisan vote.

The White House recently proposed eliminating Federal funding to the Institute noting that it duplicates not only other Federal programs but also nonprofit and private sector organizations.

In addition to the duplicative nature of its work, the Institute's authorization has expired. The underlying funding contained in the bill is not even allowed under House rules.

The authorization process is vital to ensuring that the American taxpayer is protected from waste. At the very least, we should withhold funding until the Institute is reauthorized.

Our kids and grandkids are relying on us to find a solution to this problem rather than continuing to dig the hole deeper. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, each and every one of us has a moral obligation to challenge ourselves to make this little piece of real estate that we call Earth better for generations yet unborn.

USIP does good and great work by teaching people around the world to strive to create a society at peace with itself and its neighbors.

We spend millions and billions of dollars on guns, bombs, and missiles. Can we spend just a few pennies, a few dimes, a few dollars on peace?

This world, this planet is, not ours to hoard, waste, and destroy. Mr. Chairman, I ask you: What is wrong with supporting the way of peace, the way of love, the way of nonviolence? What is wrong with teaching communities to respect the dignity and the worth of every human being? What is wrong with preventing conflict and keeping our military personnel safe and out of harm's way?

Mr. Chairman, on the question of preventing war and on the challenge of keeping peace, there should be no price tag, but USIP does good and great work on a shoestring budget. It is a small agency which teaches the way of peace, the way of love. Their small staff help communities solve problems through dialogue rather than weapons.

Mr. Chairman, this is not the first time that we consider an amendment to abolish the U.S. Institute of Peace, but I hope this will be the last. I urge each and every one of my colleagues to vote against this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, first I want to thank the gentleman from Colorado for the amendment and the committee for the opportunity. The U.S. Institute of Peace is intended to be a nonpartisan independent national institute funded by Congress, and I question both the nonpartisan nature of the Institute and the need, quite honestly, for the Federal Government to fund it now, at least \$1 billion over these many years at \$35 million a year, and, as the gentleman from Colorado said, in a duplicative effort.

Nobody is against peace and nobody is against love. The question is: Do we need a State Department doing it at the cost of billions of dollars and then this other organization doing the exact same work at a cost of another \$35 million annually when we are \$20 trillion in debt and more, maybe up to \$200 trillion in unfunded liabilities? And then to add insult to injury, regarding the nonpartisan independent nature that the taxpayers are forced to fund, on January 5th of 2016, on an episode of C-SPAN, Manal Omar, the acting vice president for the Middle East and Africa Center conducted a highly divisive,