

under the Obama administration, the principal author of President Obama's Nuclear Posture Review: "Secretary of Defense James Mattis' 2018 Nuclear Posture Review offers continuity with past U.S. policy and plans, including those in the 2010 NPR. It deserves broad bipartisan support. Its proposal for a low-yield SLBM weapon and a new nuclear-tipped, sea-launched cruise missile are sensible responses to changed security conditions, especially Russia and North Korea."

Well, things have changed since 2010. That is what the 2018 NPR addresses. So, from both administrations, from both sides of the aisle, we have agreement that we do need this low-yield option. That is a stabilizing influence, to have more tools in the toolbox. When you have fewer tools, you have fewer options, and that is destabilizing.

Mr. Chair, I ask for a rejection of this amendment.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I once again urge a "no" vote on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAMBORN) having assumed the chair, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5515) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

PERMISSION TO REVISE REMARKS DURING GENERAL DEBATE ON H.R. 5515

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may be permitted to revise my remarks, made during general debate in the Committee of the Whole earlier today, beyond technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 905 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5515.

Will the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) kindly resume the chair.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5515) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, with Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 115-698 offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) had been postponed.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. THORNBERRY OF TEXAS

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to House Resolution 905, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 1 consisting of amendment Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22 printed in House Report 115-698, offered by Mr. THORNBERRY of Texas:

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. RUSSELL OF OKLAHOMA

At the end of title XI, add the following:

SEC. 11. EXPEDITED HIRING AUTHORITY FOR COLLEGE GRADUATES AND POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 31 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 3115. Expedited hiring authority for college graduates; competitive service

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) DIRECTOR.—The term 'Director' means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

"(2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term 'institution of higher education' has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

"(b) APPOINTMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency may appoint, without regard to any provision of sections 3309 through 3319 and 3330, a qualified individual to a position in the competitive service classified in a professional or administrative occupational category at the GS-11 level, or an equivalent level, or below.

"(2) RESTRICTIONS.—An appointment under paragraph (1) shall be made in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Director.

"(c) QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT.—The head of an agency may make an appointment under subsection (b) only if the individual being appointed—

"(1) has received a baccalaureate or graduate degree from an institution of higher education;

"(2) applies for the position—

"(A) not later than 2 years after the date on which the individual being appointed received the degree described in paragraph (1); or

"(B) in the case of an individual who has completed a period of not less than 4 years of obligated service in a uniformed service, not later than 2 years after the date of the discharge or release of the individual from that service; and

"(3) meets each minimum qualification standard prescribed by the Director for the position to which the individual is being appointed.

"(d) PUBLIC NOTICE AND ADVERTISING.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency making an appointment under subsection (b) shall publicly advertise positions under this section.

"(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the head of an agency shall—

"(A) adhere to merit system principles;

"(B) advertise positions in a manner that provides for diverse and qualified applicants; and

"(C) ensure potential applicants have appropriate information relevant to the positions available.

"(e) LIMITATION ON APPOINTMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the total number of employees that the head of an agency may appoint under this section during a fiscal year may not exceed the number equal to 15 percent of the number of individuals that the agency head appointed during the previous fiscal year to a position in the competitive service classified in a professional or administrative occupational category, at the GS-11 level, or an equivalent level, or below, under a competitive examining procedure.

"(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Under a regulation prescribed under subsection (f), the Director may establish a lower limit on the number of individuals that may be appointed under paragraph (1) of this subsection during a fiscal year based on any factor the Director considers appropriate.

"(f) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Direct Hire of Students and Recent Graduates Act of 2017, the Director shall issue interim regulations, with an opportunity for comment, for the administration of this section.

"(g) REPORTING.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30 of each of the first 3 fiscal years beginning after the date of enactment of the Direct Hire of Students and Recent Graduates Act of 2017, the head of an agency that makes an appointment under this section shall submit to Congress a report assessing the impact of the use of the authority provided under this section during the fiscal year in which the report is submitted.

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30 of each of the first 3 fiscal years beginning after the date of enactment of the Direct Hire of Students and Recent Graduates Act of 2017, the head of an agency that makes an appointment under this section shall submit a report to—

"(A) Congress that assesses the impact of the use of the authority provided under this section during the fiscal year in which the report is submitted; and

"(B) the Director that contains data that the Director considers necessary for the Director to assess the impact and effectiveness of the authority described in subparagraph (A).

"(2) CONTENT.—The head of an agency shall include in each report under paragraph (1)—