

us to get this long-term FAA bill, this disaster bill passed.

I thought this FAA bill would be the legislation that eluded me. In the last 5½ years, in a bipartisan way, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has enacted legislation on every mode of transportation, and, today, we are going to pass a 5-year bill, which I mentioned earlier. It hasn't been done since 1928.

But I would be remiss if I didn't point out and show the true competitive nature of the Shuster family. My father, Bud Shuster, the chairman in 2000, passed a 4½-year bill.

So, Dad, if you are watching, I just wanted to make sure that was in the RECORD.

Being chairman has been one of the great honors of my life, and I want to thank my Republican colleagues for putting their trust in me and electing me to be chairman of this committee.

Most importantly, I want to thank the people of the Ninth Congressional District for putting their faith in me. I would not be chairman today if they wouldn't have supported me as strongly as they did over the years, and I owe them this chairmanship. I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

I thank my family: my brother and three sisters; my two children, Ali and Garrett, for their love, support, and for tolerating me over the years. And, finally, to my mother, who passed away 2 years ago, we passed a WRDA bill the day she passed away. I can remember the ringing in my ears of her saying, "Go to work. Do your job." And I did just that.

And to my father, whom I mentioned earlier, I thank him and my mother for the love, the guidance they have given me and, most importantly, for the life that they gave me.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to support H. Res. 1082, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 302, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, as amended. For many years, aviation has been the safest form of transportation in the United States. This is by no means an accident, it is the result of a strong regulatory framework built over time, paired with an ongoing airline system safety culture that is one of the most ambitious in our nation's history.

Mr. Speaker, when this bill first came to the House floor as H.R. 4, I strongly opposed a provision that would establish a research and development program in support of single-piloted cargo aircraft assisted with remote piloting and computer piloting, and offered an amendment striking that section. Attempts to roll back safety regulations in this manner are counterproductive and compromise safety. I am pleased to see this provision stricken from the final bill text and urge all members to join me in voting to pass H.R. 302, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, I'd like to express my support of H.R. 302 the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2018.

Maintaining the safety of our national airspace is paramount, and I am pleased that the provision for Single-Piloted Commercial Cargo Aircraft was removed. Additionally, this bill also highlights a strong focus on airline passenger safety and consumer rights by emphasizing provisions such as minimum legroom, seat width and flight attendant rest mandates.

Finally, this legislation provides Hurricane Florence recovery funding, which emphasizes the importance of providing timely assistance to areas prone to natural disasters, similar to those in my home state of Texas.

Above all, this bill improves the airline passenger experience, provides long-term airport funding, improves disaster recovery, and ultimately strengthens the U.S. economy and aviation workforce.

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Chairman SHUSTER and Chairman THUNE for the inclusion of the Airport Investment Partnership Program and the removal of the "flags of convenience" language in H.R. 302, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018.

Similar to Brat 150, an amendment I filed to the Rules Committee on H.R. 4, this bill will improve the Airport Privatization Pilot Program by making it permanent, eliminating the numerical limits on airport participation, and providing grants to help with predevelopment planning costs. The new program will be called the Airport Investment Partnership Program. Airports that are looking to reorganize will soon be able to utilize this program as a viable option to achieve their goals. It is my hope and belief that through these changes, more airports will have an opportunity to increase profitability, efficiency, and improve the traveler experience.

In addition, I am pleased that the final language of H.R. 302 does not include so-called airline "flags of convenience" restrictions. The original language proposed was anticompetitive and would have threatened U.S. Open Skies agreements that have brought consumers more options and better prices. The fact is consumers want more choices, not less. That is why I introduced H.R. 5000, the Free to Fly Act. The Free to Fly Act would repeal an outdated regulation from the Great Depression-era which artificially caps foreign ownership in U.S. airlines at twenty-five percent. This regulation is among the strictest in the world, increases the cost of capital, and limits consumer choice. The Free to Fly Act would also require any foreign U.S. airline subsidiaries to be established and regulated under U.S. law, be based in the United States, and only employ American workers.

The Free to Fly Act has been endorsed by a wide array of organizations, from conservative groups such as the Club for Growth and FreedomWorks, business interests like the U.S. Travel Association, Airports Council International-North America, Travel Tech, and the Business Travel Coalition, taxpayer watchdogs like the National Taxpayers Union and Taxpayers Protection Alliance, and consumer groups such as Travelers United, FlyersRights.org, Air Travel Fairness, and Consumer Action for a Strong Economy. Both the travel industry and consumers recognize a need for such a change and for more competition.

I hope Congress will turn to the free market more as a solution for financing our infrastructure needs and improving the travel experience for all Americans, and I applaud Chair-

man SHUSTER and Chairman THUNE on the inclusion of the Airport Investment Partnership Program and the removal of the "flags of convenience" language in the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1082.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6157, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AP- PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1077, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 6157) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROUZER). Pursuant to House Resolution 1077, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of September 13, 2018, at page H8258.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor this afternoon to present the conference report for H.R. 6157. This conference report provides full-year funding for the Department of Defense and for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies. It also includes a continuing resolution through December 7, 2018, for Federal Government programs and agencies not covered by the enacted appropriations legislation.

Congress has no greater duty than to provide for our common defense. This legislation fulfills this constitutional responsibility. The Department of Defense is now set to receive its full funding on time for the first time in over 10 years.

Providing this stability and predictability to our military leaders is a necessary and welcome step as we rebuild our Armed Forces. For far too long, their dedication to duty has been weakened by declining and uncertain budgets.

Congress has turned that around, beginning with significant investments in last year's omnibus and continuing this year with an additional \$17 billion in base funding for the Department of Defense.

In total, the conference report provides \$674.4 billion for our Armed Forces, consistent with levels that are authorized. This funding ensures our troops have the resources they need to defend our Nation and succeed in their global missions. This includes funding to sustain ongoing overseas contingency operations and to support increased troop levels.

It also ensures our warfighters have the training, readiness, and other resources needed to prepare for their missions, and a pay raise of 2.6 percent.

This conference report also replenishes our military might, investing \$148 billion in new and modernized equipment and weapons platforms and \$96.1 billion for research and development to improve the lethality, effectiveness, and safety of our defense systems.

In addition to this critical funding for our national defense, this legislation also includes funding for vital domestic programs. The Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill provides \$178 billion for programs that protect the health, education, and labor standards that all Americans deserve.

Funding is directed to programs that have wide national benefit, in particular, the National Institutes of Health, which receives a \$2 billion increase to bolster its lifesaving research.

Notably, funding to fight the opioid abuse epidemic receives historic funding levels, totalling \$6.6 billion. This will support treatment, prevention, research, and other efforts to end this national crisis.

Another top priority is increased funding to keep our children safe in schools. This includes funding for mental health and other protective measures.

Lastly, the Labor-HHS bill invests in our future, creating economic opportunity and helping students get ahead and be part of a well-trained 21st century workforce.

In addition to these two appropriations bills I mentioned earlier, the conference report includes a continuing resolution through the remaining areas of the Federal Government not covered by this or previous bills that have already been signed into law. This will ensure that the government, indeed, stays open for business.

Upon enactment of this legislation, Congress will have provided full-year funding for three-quarters of the Fed-

eral Government, but there is more work to be done on the remaining appropriations bills.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is yet another step forward to our goal of returning to what we call regular order and fully funding the Federal Government for the fiscal year. It is a product of months of hard work on the part of our conference committee, led by Chairwoman KAY GRANGER and Chairman TOM COLE, along with Ranking Member PETER VISCLOSKY and Ranking Member ROSA DELAURO.

I thank them, of course, and I especially thank my counterpart, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), my ranking member, who has worked with me through this process as well as earlier bills. We have had a friendship for well over 20 years of service jointly on the Appropriations Committee.

And, yes, I thank our Senate counterparts for helping us complete this work as well.

This conference report would not be on the floor today without the Appropriations Committee's dedicated professional and associate staff. I extend to all of them my deepest gratitude for their dedication, service, and hard work.

In the front office, as we call it, Nancy Fox, my staff director; Maureen Holohan; Shannon O'Keefe; Jason Gray; Tammy Hughes; Rachel Kahler; Jennifer Hing; Marta Hernandez; Parker Van de Water; and Tom Doelp; and in working closely with us in the minority, Shalanda Young and Chris Bigelow, and others. I am grateful to all these men and women for their professionalism and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the conference report, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I join Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN in strong support of this bipartisan legislation. The Defense and Labor-HHS-Education bills carry out some of Congress' most important constitutional responsibilities. We should all be pleased that we have completed our work on these bills on time.

This conference report provides ample resources for our armed services and strengthens military readiness. It also upholds our commitments to our servicemembers and their families, more funding to repair Department of Defense schools, additional resources to assist victims of military sexual assault, and more support for military medical research.

Turning to the Labor-HHS-Education division, I am pleased that Congress has resoundingly rejected President Trump's budget and restored \$10 billion in proposed cuts that would have hurt working families. Instead, we have won increased funding for a number of important priorities.

This bill boosts biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health, expands opioid abuse treatment and

prevention programs, and launches new initiatives for maternal and child health.

The bill increases funding for Head Start, childcare, and after school programs on which working families rely. It lifts the maximum Pell grant to help more students access postsecondary education, and it invests in the 21st century workforce with more support for registered apprenticeships and career and technical education.

Finally, this bill stands up to President Trump's cruel family separation policy, with more transparency and oversight of child and family detention.

Just as important is what this bill does not include: the unnecessary partisan riders that caused House Democrats to oppose the Labor-HHS-Education bill in the Appropriations Committee. And while it is unfortunate that we have no choice but to include a continuing resolution for many important Federal programs, I look forward to completing our remaining appropriation bills when Congress returns in November.

I appreciate the hard work of Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN, Chairwoman GRANGER, Chairman COLE, Ranking Member VISCLOSKY, Ranking Member DELAURO, and our Senate counterparts to get us to this point.

Of course, we appreciate our hard-working staff. We couldn't get to this point without them.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill and sending it to the President for him to sign.

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER), the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Defense.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support the FY19 Defense and Labor-HHS Appropriations conference agreement.

Congress' number one responsibility is to provide for the defense of this Nation. This agreement enables us to fulfill that most fundamental constitutional duty.

Since becoming chair, it has been my goal to ensure that this bill reflects the needs of our defense and intelligence experts so that they have the resources needed to combat the threats of today and in the future.

I want to thank Members for their participation throughout this process. Their input on how we can best address the needs of our military has been invaluable. This agreement includes many of their ideas and priorities by taking into account the over 6,600 requests submitted by Members.

With this agreement, we will be able to do something that has not been done in a decade: provide our military with the funding they need on time so we can rebuild our Armed Forces.

This is an agreement we can all be very proud of. It provides Secretary of

Defense Mattis with the resources he needs to implement the new National Defense Strategy and restore our military.

□ 1500

This conference agreement includes major investments in air superiority, shipbuilding, and the ground forces, including strong support for the National Guard.

This bill provides 18 C-130 aircraft, including 8 for the Air National Guard; 24 F-18 Super Hornets; 58 Black Hawk helicopters; 66 Apache helicopters; 93 F-35 Joint Strike Fighters; 13 V-22 aircraft; 13 Navy ships, including 2 *Virginia*-Class submarines, and 3 Littoral Combat Ships; upgrades for 135 Abrams tanks, and \$1.3 billion for additional National Guard and Reserve equipment.

This agreement also invests in the research and development needed to maintain our technological superiority, including critical investments in space, hypersonics, nuclear forces, and missile defense, including the Israeli cooperative programs.

Finally, this agreement strongly supports our servicemembers and their families by funding the largest pay raise for our troops in 9 years;

Growing the force by fully funding the authorized increase in end strength; and,

Investing in the defense health program, including critical medical research.

I would like to thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN. This is his last defense bill, and we are thankful for his leadership on our national security.

I would like to thank Ranking Member VISCLOSKY for being a great partner on this bill.

I would also like to thank the members of the Defense Subcommittee, as well as the staff, for their many hours of work on this bill.

On our majority staff: Jennifer Miller, Walter Hearne, Brooke Boyer, BG Wright, Allison Deters, Collin Lee, Matt Bower, Jackie Ripke, Hayden Milberg, Bill Adkins, Sherry Young, and Barry Walker.

On our minority staff: Becky Leggieri, Jennifer Chartrand, and Chris Bigelow.

On my personal staff: Johnnie Kaberle and Spencer Freebairn; and on Mr. VISCLOSKY's staff, Joe DeVooght.

In closing, I, again, urge my colleagues to support this agreement and fund our national security. It is vital that we pass this agreement this week and have it signed into law. The men and women of our Armed Forces deserve no less.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY), the ranking member of the Defense Subcommittee.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Fiscal year 2019 starts on October 1, and it is wonderful to be here in Sep-

tember considering a conference report on two additional appropriation measures.

I would like to commend Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Ranking Member LOWEY for bringing a semblance of order back to the appropriations process. Along with their Senate counterparts they have managed to navigate an upset political situation that has completely stymied the process for years. When this two-bill package is signed into law, it will be the first time in 22 years that there have been five appropriation bills enacted before the start of the fiscal year.

I actually wish we had seven more bills conferenced and ready for enactment, but it appears those will have to be deferred until December. I hope that maturity, bipartisan cooperation, and responsible governance will also apply to their consideration and prompt enactment. Timeliness is as important as final dollar determinations.

I also would like to recognize and thank the Chairwoman, KAY GRANGER. She has been a joy to work with and a fine leader. She, along with every member of our subcommittee and our tremendous subcommittee staff and associate staff, have conducted themselves in a professional, bipartisan and collegial manner. As a result, this bill reflects the will of Congress.

Specific to the Department of Defense, this will be the first time in a decade that our military will not begin the fiscal year under a continuing resolution. Having timely appropriations should improve and stabilize budgeting at the Department, the services, our allies, and contractors.

I expect that this certainty will also allow the Department to better adhere to congressional direction, to spend the funding as appropriated, to increase transparency for budget exhibits, and to improve the quality and timeliness of communications to the committee, as has been referenced on pages 8, 9, 10, and 21 of the House Report.

Again, I thank my colleagues, Chairwoman GRANGER, and her wonderful staff.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), chairman of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, today marks a victory in the return to regular order on the Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill. I am proud of the hard work that brought this bill to us, and I want to highlight just a few of the many provisions in the Labor, Health and Human Services section of the bill that all Members can be proud of.

First of all, I want to note that, while the Defense portion of the bill is up \$18 billion, the Labor-H portion of the bill is actually only up \$1 billion. It is no secret that our friends on the other side wanted a \$5.5 billion in-

crease. Our friends in the Senate version actually got a \$2.2 billion increase. In the end, the Labor-H bill allocation actually only increased by \$1 billion. In fact, almost three-quarters of the bill in front of us is dedicated to defense.

The Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education portion of the agreement boosts funding for the National Institutes of Health by \$2 billion, continuing our quest to cure diseases like Alzheimer's and cancer, and unlock the secrets of genetic conditions like Down syndrome. We have provided increases to help our Nation prepare for public health emergencies, and included \$6.7 billion to fight and, hopefully, end the opioid abuse epidemic, including \$1.1 billion of grants to States.

I am also proud to say that the agreement includes \$50 million for a new Infectious Disease Rapid Response Reserve Fund. The fund will not only save American lives, it will save money too. By banking resources now that only can be used in the event of a future infectious disease public health emergency, we will provide the Secretary of Health and Human Services with immediate access to the funds to respond to a new outbreak, without waiting months for Congress to pass a costly supplemental bill.

The conference agreement also increases funding for education and training programs, including a \$70 million increase for career and technical education, a \$60 million increase for TRIO and GEAR UP programs to help more students obtain solid workplace skills and a career of their choosing.

We increased funds for Impact Aid and charter schools, and provided funds for our veterans to integrate back into the workforce.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield the gentleman from Oklahoma an additional 1 minute.

Mr. COLE. We invested in TRIO and GEAR UP, and also in early childhood education.

We have increased programs to help people with disabilities live independently, and to fund early intervention and education services for children with disabilities. We have increased school safety and mental health programs, and increased funding for graduate medical education to train more primary healthcare providers.

Finally, the bill continues the existing pro-life riders, including the Hyde and Weldon amendments. We didn't give an inch on pro-life matters in this bill.

This is a good agreement. I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, particularly Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN, and my good friend, Ranking Member LOWEY. I also want to acknowledge my working partner and good friend, ROSA DELAURO from Connecticut, and all the Members that participated in the process.

But I particularly want to thank the outstanding staff that made this possible: Susan Ross, Jennifer Cama, Justin Gibbons, Kathryn Salmon, and Karyn Richman and Lori Bias on the majority staff; and minority staff Stephen Steigleder and Robin Juliano for their diligence in bringing this across the finish line for the first time in 22 years.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I yield the gentleman from Oklahoma an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. COLE. So I look forward to the floor passage and the President's signature.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the distinguished ranking member of the Labor-HHS Subcommittee.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report which includes the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education appropriations bill.

The Labor-H funding bill for 2019 makes important investments in health, education, and in our families. It is a \$1 billion increase over 2018, leaving us to deliberate \$178.1 billion. Especially when I view that the Trump administration is pursuing the fundamental hollowing out of our Federal agencies, we secured critical investments in Democratic priorities that boost the middle class.

First, let me talk about health. This bill includes an increase of \$2 billion for NIH research. It also includes increases across the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration, particularly to address health threats to pregnant women and babies.

We also secured increases for our country's youngest children and their families, including an increase of \$50 million for childcare and \$200 million for Head Start, including \$50 million more for Early Head Start.

Turning to education, we won an increase for after-school programs and a raise in the maximum Pell grant, \$100 for \$6,195, to help students afford the rising cost of a college degree.

The bill also eliminates two long-standing riders. They had prohibited school districts from using education funding for transportation to address segregated schools.

So, from health, to childcare, to education, we achieved several great wins for the American people.

Importantly, the bill before us maintains the bipartisan amendments that House Democrats introduced to condemn the administration's policy of separating families, to demand a reunification plan, and to ensure that HHS upholds the highest standards of care for children in our custody.

I am proud of what we included. I am also proud of what we kept out. We

held the line and kept out harmful ideological riders that would have sabotaged the Affordable Care Act, undermined women's health, and overturned the Flores settlement to allow the administration to keep kids in cages indefinitely.

All that being said, the bill is not perfect. For example, I am disappointed we missed an opportunity to say, once and for all, that the authors of the Every Student Succeeds Act never intended for Federal dollars to arm teachers, which, as I understand, is current law.

And I believe the Labor-HHS bill continues to be shortchanged. Based on the overall increase of \$18 billion for non-defense discretionary spending, this bill should be receiving an increase of \$5.5 billion.

Nevertheless, on the whole, this bipartisan, bicameral compromise is a positive result that helped provide the American people a better chance at a better life, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I also take this opportunity to say a thank you to my working partner and good friend, Chairman COLE. I also want to say a thank you to the ranking member of the full Appropriations Committee, my colleague, Congresswoman NITA LOWEY, and to the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN. I thank him for the great work on this effort, and we know you will not be joining us again next year, so thank you for helping us get this across the finish line.

For the Democratic staff: Stephen Steigleder, Robin Juliano; to my staff: Leticia Mederos, Liz Albertine, Caitlin Peruccio, Will Serio, Kris Fetterman; to the majority staff: Susan Ross, Jennifer Cama, Justin Gibbons, Kathryn Salmon, Karyn Richman, and Lori Bias.

Mr. Speaker, our names appear on the doors of the congressional offices, but it is the labor every single day of these outstanding staff people that help us put these bills together on behalf of the American people.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), chairman of the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee, my predecessor.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to add my appreciation and thanks to the chairman and ranking members that you have just heard from for this momentous agreement before us today. And I would like to especially commend our big chairman, FRELINGHUYSEN, for the work he has done on this bill, but, more importantly, the work he has done throughout his career in this body.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, you are a great friend, a great Member of this body, a great leader, and you will be missed.

□ 1515

Once again, we are demonstrating that the Appropriations Committee

can and will do everything in our power to get the job done. I especially appreciate the committee's continued commitment to address the addiction crisis.

This bill maintains a comprehensive focus on prevention, treatment, and education, following the holistic model of Operation UNITE in my congressional district, and it provides a record \$6.6 billion toward those programs.

You have all heard me talk endlessly, if you will, about the devastation brought by opioid abuse touching so many lives around the country over the last 20 years. Chairman COLE has been a truly incredible leader and partner in combating this epidemic, and I am confident that this bill will bring substantial relief to our communities in need.

I would also like to thank the conference committee for their work to ensure that the Department of Defense not only receives the funding it needs, but that its funding is finalized before the beginning of the fiscal year to allow them to plan.

For too long, some say 22 years, we in Congress have not delivered this bill in time to allow the Department to operate as it should with its full allotment of funding on October 1.

When combined with the Energy and Water and MILCON-VA bills that are already law, this bill does exactly that and provides the Department of Defense with the funds it needs to defend American interests and values around the world, including a well-deserved pay raise for the men and women in uniform who serve bravely under our flag.

Thank you again for your collective leadership. This is a great agreement, and I urge its support.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), the ranking member of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Committee.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN for his service in the U.S. Congress. He will be greatly missed by me and by many of us.

I would like to thank Ranking Member LOWEY and the subcommittee chairs and the ranking members and all of their staffs for their hard work on this bipartisan legislation.

This bill makes robust investments in the Department of Defense, improving the readiness of our troops and, as has been pointed out, providing them with a well-deserved pay raise.

I am also pleased with this bill's commitment to the environmental cleanup of Defense Superfund sites, providing \$184 million over the request for defense cleanup efforts. This is much needed.

The Labor-Health and Human Services portion of this package provides vital resources that will impact the lives of every American. A \$2 billion increase to the National Institutes of

Health will give our researchers the tools they need to find the cures for diseases such as Alzheimer's and diabetes.

The community service block grants, however, did not receive the House level of funding but still got an increase. This is very important for families and communities that can use some of this funding, as they have come up with proven programs on how to make opioid recovery successful.

I am particularly proud of the inclusion of my amendment to allow individuals diagnosed with cancer to defer payments on their public student loans while they undergo lifesaving treatments.

I would like to thank Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and Representative PERLMUTTER, as well as Chairman COLE and Ranking Member DELAURO, for their bipartisan leadership on this important issue.

With more than 70,000 young adults diagnosed with cancer each year, they will now be able to focus on what is more important: beating cancer and getting healthy, not worrying about making their student loan payments while receiving chemotherapy.

I support this spending package, and I look forward to the fact that we have a continuing resolution included in here so that the government doesn't shut down.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the chairman of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the fiscal year 2019 Defense Appropriations and Labor-Health and Human Services Appropriations conference report.

First, I would like to take a minute to thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN, who has led the effort to return the Appropriations Committee to regular order. He knows too well the crippling impacts of a CR on the Department of Defense, and today he delivers on a promise to ensure our men and women in uniform are provided funding on time.

Personally, I am grateful to the chairman for the many years of friendship. His steady leadership will be greatly missed.

I also want to commend Chairwoman GRANGER for her good work in getting this bill here today and, certainly, PETE VISCLOSKY, the ranking member, for his work in getting this bill here today, and also Ranking Member LOWEY, the full committee ranking member, for her great work.

We are all here today, together, in a rare moment of bipartisanship to fund our military and to fund Labor-Human Services, which hasn't been passed here for some time.

I served on the House Appropriations Committee for many years, and providing for our men and women in uniform is a privilege and one of the most important things that we do.

This conference report provides vital funding for the armed services, including a 2.6 percent pay raise. This bill is an investment in our future superiority on land, air, and sea.

I might point out that, yesterday, Secretary Mattis made comments at VMI that, when he took the helm of the Department, he asked for the strategy, and he was told there was none. Well, thankfully, under General Mattis' leadership, not only does the Department have a clear strategy, but the roadmap to achieve that strategy as well. It requires Congress to do our part, which we are going to do today.

We are in a unique time in history that depends on U.S. leadership throughout the world. A strong U.S. military with our allies creates stability.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, the security of our Nation and the peace of the world depend on a strong U.S. military, and I urge my colleagues to support the conference report.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the ranking member of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I, too, join my colleagues in commending Ranking Member LOWEY and Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN for their stewardship of the appropriations process in the House. We are moving in the right direction. We have partial regular order, and, hopefully, with every passing fiscal year, it will get better and better. But, truly, it is an accomplishment.

I also want to commend Subcommittee Chairwoman GRANGER and Ranking Member VISCLOSKY for producing a Defense Appropriations bill that provides the resources necessary for our armed services to perform the critical role of securing our Nation.

Additionally, I thank Subcommittee Ranking Member DELAURO and Chairman COLE, my dear friends, for their hard work on the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education funding bill.

The bill before us funds both the assets our armed services need and invests in our servicemembers. It provides for a much-needed 2.6 percent increase in military pay.

The bill also includes over \$1.4 billion for congressionally directed medical research programs, including \$130 million for breast cancer research, a personal issue to me.

I am proud to say this bill retains my language protecting access to lifesaving mammograms, particularly for women between 40 and 50 years old, and

provides \$5 million for my ongoing initiative, the Breast Cancer Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act, or the EARLY Act, which will continue to help increase the quality and quantity of life for young women with breast cancer.

The bill increases funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by \$125 million and funds programs that fight the spread of the Zika virus, as well as combats the use of tobacco.

It also provides vital funding that will benefit seniors, and it includes \$5 million to help Holocaust survivors and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I represent one of the largest Holocaust survivor populations in the United States, and with every passing day, they are getting extremely elderly, and we are losing more and more of them each and every day. Honoring them and allowing them to live with dignity in the last years of their lives is critical.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that this bill will help us shine a light on an inhumane family separation policy perpetrated by this administration. This legislation—and I very much appreciate this—includes my amendment to allow Members of Congress immediate access to immigration detention centers. We must remain committed to seeking justice for families that have been needlessly torn apart at our borders.

The administration, actually, repeatedly stopped Members of Congress from being able to immediately access these detention centers to conduct our proper oversight role, and this amendment, when it is signed into law by the President, will allow us to conduct that oversight as a coequal branch of our government.

Mr. Speaker, more importantly, before yielding back, I just want to take a moment to thank Chairman RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN. It has really been an honor to serve with this gentleman, in the truest sense of the word. He has done a remarkable job serving his constituents. It has been fun being a member of the Appropriations Committee both while he was a chairman, a ranking member, and now the chairman of the full committee. We will miss him, and I know his constituents will miss his service.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this appropriations bill.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER), the chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this conference report.

I have been honored to be able to serve on the Defense Appropriations Committee and also to represent Fort Hood, the great place, the tip of the spear of our United States Army land forces.

I am very proud of what we are doing for those men and women who stand in

harm's way on our behalf. We are giving them a 2.6 percent pay raise for all of our troops, wherever they may be. And they have earned this money because they stand in harm's way on our behalf. We are taking care of our military families that are just as important a part of the fight as our warriors, and this is a long time coming. This is the largest pay raise in 9 years.

This bill contains accelerated efforts to modernize our armored brigade combat teams, including modernizing a significant number of Abrams tanks and Strykers so they can meet the needs of future war. They are the tip of the spear. This is good for us and good for those who stand in harm's way on our behalf.

We are particularly proud of the fact that we have stood up the Army Futures Command in Austin, Texas, which is just south of my home, and we are going to learn about how to fight the next generations of wars through the Futures Command.

I am very proud that we have support for General Mattis' goal of ensuring our military is ready to fight the next fight—and fight it tonight, if necessary.

Critically, this bill provides this funding on time, ensuring money can be spent in its most efficient, effective way and that we are able to accomplish our goals accordingly.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank everyone both in the majority and the minority who were involved in this bill and this conference, and I thank them on behalf of the men and women who stand in harm's way on our behalf and who live in my district.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR), a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Ranking Member LOWEY for yielding, and I want to thank her for her leadership that she provides in the Appropriations Committee.

I also want to thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN. As Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ said, we are going to miss you. We appreciate your leadership, and we thank you. You are a decent human being, and we really appreciate your friendship.

I also want to thank the staff and the Members on both sides of the aisle who have worked in a very bipartisan way to address these issues that are important.

Every year, we have to pass the appropriations bill. It is the train that has to pass every year. And I certainly want to thank Mrs. LOWEY, the chairman, and the folks responsible for making this happen.

First of all, let me talk about defense.

I certainly agree with the Members that this provides billions of dollars to make sure that we restore critical military readiness programs. We have to make sure we have a strong mili-

tary, and with this funding, we will. I certainly appreciate the sacrifice that the men and women make to protect our country, and this is what this appropriation bill does.

We also fully fund the 2.6 percent pay raise for our military families because, again, we have to make sure that we support them because they are under very difficult times.

There are a lot of other things in the Defense Appropriations bill, whether it is the assistance that provides \$50 million for specialized counseling programs to meet the unique needs of military children or whether it is the National Guard's counterdrug program to help reduce the illegal drugs from coming into the United States. Those are areas that are strong for our military.

□ 1530

Let me move over to the Labor-HHS bill. There are so many things that both Chairman COLE and Ms. DELAURO also provided that they worked so hard on; let me just highlight a couple of them.

The Pell grant is so important because we increased the amount by an extra \$100. Now the maximum amount is \$6,195. You have to have Pell grants so that we can have our young students go off to college.

\$10 billion for Head Start. There was a \$200 million increase. I want to thank our folks for adding that money.

The Federal TRIO program and the GEAR UP program are moneys that we added.

I certainly want to say thank you also for the \$907 million for senior nutrition programs to help our seniors.

The title I grants for school districts, \$15.9 billion that we added.

And the last thing I want to talk about is the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, we have increased the funding to provide that type of assistance.

So, again, I want to say thank you to the chairman, to our ranking member, Mrs. LOWEY, and all of the staff on both sides, I thank them for a job well done.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to thank both the chairman and chairwoman of the full committee and all of the chairs and ranking members for their outstanding job, particularly on bringing us to this point, though much work needs to be done.

I am going to speak as fast as I can, but I am very grateful for the \$7.9 billion in the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund, which will include many of us who have suffered from Hurricane Harvey in 2017, but, more particularly, will help those who are suffering with much devastation after Hurricane Florence.

I am grateful for the 2.6 percent raise of our military personnel, and the \$40

million for the historically Black colleges and universities that we have worked on, and minority serving institutions for basic research programs.

And then I worked on the issue dealing with triple-negative breast cancer, and I am pleased with \$374 million for cancer research and \$130 million for breast cancer research, being a breast cancer survivor.

And particularly, though, I would have wanted the Violence Against Women Act to be on the floor and pass the full bill. I am glad for the \$35 million for continued implementation expansion of the Sexual Assault Special Victims Counsel Program under Defense.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. And I am grateful for the death gratuities for troops in the case of a government shutdown.

And the funds prohibited to use outside of the War Powers Resolution in Syria and Iraq.

But, most importantly, my constituents are suffering from a lack of healthcare because of the undermining of the Affordable Care Act that we are still fighting for. So I am very grateful for the \$39.1 billion for the National Institutes of Health; \$4.4 billion for programs that respond to the opioid crisis; \$7.9 billion for the Centers for Disease Control, and, of course, what is so important to our constituents in Houston and Texas is that our community health centers that are our first line of defense to those who don't have healthcare; \$678 million for a maternal and child health block grant—we have some of the largest numbers of maternal death in Houston among African American women; \$10 billion for Head Start; and then specifically I want to talk about the unaccompanied children, \$1.3 billion, but I am grateful for the language that demands of this administration to tell us who is there that has not been reunited with their families, and then the 12,000 that are in the jurisdiction of HHS. We have got to get those individuals united with their families and we have got to be able to have ICE arrest the sponsors. Finally, Mr. Speaker, \$10.3 million for a domestic violence hotline.

In any event, this bill speaks to education and healthcare, and I want to ask my colleagues to recognize that more work has to be done.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend from New York for her leadership. I also thank Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN for his leadership, and I wish him well in the next chapter of his career.

While this combination of a CR and a minibus is a half-measure by definition, I certainly urge its adoption in

order to avert what would be the third government shutdown just this year. As a representative of northern Virginia, I do not share the President's idea that there is ever such a thing as a good government shutdown.

I look forward to working with the committee to complete the rest of the appropriations bills for fiscal year 2019 in order to address pressing issues, especially providing our hardworking Federal employees with a raise.

Again, I thank Chairwoman GRANGER and Ranking Member VISCLOSKEY for including in the defense appropriations bill an authorization for the Secretary of Defense in the event of a government shutdown to make military death gratuity payments to families of fallen servicemembers. I have made this a cause of mine for a number of Congresses now. I am so glad this is finally going to be enshrined in law, and I thank the Appropriations Subcommittee and full committee for their cooperation in including this provision.

I commend the committee for including this overdue provision, and I know the families of the fallen appreciate it. It was shameful that Congress would ever allow the government to shut down and allow grieving military families who made the ultimate sacrifice to go without this small, but very important, measure of the country's gratitude and recognition of their loved one's ultimate sacrifice.

Again, I thank the leadership of the committee, the subcommittee, and their staffs for providing this bipartisan bill. I certainly urge its passage and look forward to supporting it.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), a senior member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first, I thank our ranking member for yielding, but also for her tireless work, day and night, to really help shape this bill to be, in many ways, a bipartisan bill, but also, each and every day, looking out for the American people and making sure that the American Dream is real for everyone in this country. So I thank again Congresswoman LOWEY.

Also, to all of our ranking members and to Leader PELOSI, I want to just say that the input they have received from all of us on our staff—and I want to thank our staff and the phenomenal work that they have done—it has been just amazing.

As a member of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education funding subcommittee, I am pleased to see many good provisions in this bill. This bill eliminates hundreds of poison pill riders ranging from efforts to defund Planned Parenthood, eliminate teen pregnancy and title X to dismantling of critical labor and consumer protections.

The bill also includes \$60 million for a competitive grant, which we have

been working on for years, for computer science funding for young girls, young people living below the poverty line, and people of color. I thank Mr. FLEISCHMANN and others for helping us work on this, because this truly is a bipartisan effort. We included robust increases in job training, education, and childcare, as well as for historically Black colleges and universities. Now, my State of California has the highest number of students coming to HBCUs, so I am very grateful for those increases.

Even with these increases, Mr. Speaker, this conference report still falls short of what we need to just return to the funding levels before the sequester 8 years ago. Adjusted for inflation, we are still way below the 2010 levels for domestic spending.

What is worse, while underfunding our needs here at home, the bill includes an increase in \$19 billion in defense. This includes a \$2 billion increase for the overseas contingency fund, which really I think should be part of our base budget for the Pentagon funding. We know that the Pentagon doesn't need this excessive increase in funding to ensure our national security.

A Washington Post report in 2016 exposed a report detailing \$125 billion in waste, fraud, and abuse, yet we are increasing this by \$19 billion, not to mention that much of this funding is dedicated to continuing the endless wars that we are waging around the world, wars that, I might add, Congress has still not debated or voted on.

Put simply, the defense spending will be the single largest increase for the Pentagon since the beginning of the Bush so-called war on terror. Enough is enough, Mr. Speaker. We need to really make sure that our defense spending ensures our troop readiness and our national security, but we also need to work on the American people and stop these outrageous increases to defense funding.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of my time.

Mr. Speaker, should the President sign this package into law, three-quarters of all base discretionary spending will be enacted prior to the start of the fiscal year. While Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and I would have preferred to finish everything, we should be proud of the work that we have done—all the members of the committees working together—and it is a testament to the chairman's leadership.

For me, it has really been an honor and a privilege to work with him. I know we have a little more work to do. But I thank him again for his hard work and commitment to doing the right thing in serving the American people.

I also thank the staff for their work, including Rebecca Leggieri, Jennifer Chartrand, Stephen Steigleder, and

Robin Juliano of the minority staff, along with clerks Jennifer Miller, Susan Ross, and the rest of the majority staff.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill, I urge support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to correct the record. I introduced Judge CARTER as the chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee. I want to acknowledge his former chairmanship of that committee and his able leadership of the Military Construction Subcommittee.

And also I forgot to recognize my personal staff, Katie Hazlett, and the wonderful people in my office—which is I think true of all of our offices—that make us look as good as they possibly can.

And lastly, as we gather here this afternoon, we recognize that so many young men and women are serving around the world, leaving their families on multiple deployments. We honor their service and sacrifice. They are truly doing the work of freedom.

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

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the Joint Explanatory Statement to the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 6157, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2019, and Senate Report 115–290 which provide an additional \$30 million in funding for Defense-Wide Manufacturing Science and Technology Program's Advanced Manufacturing within the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide Account. These funds will allow the Department of Defense to establish a Microelectronics Cybersecurity Center.

Microelectronics support nearly all Department of Defense activities, enabling capabilities such as the global positioning system, radar, command and control, and communications. Ensuring secure access to leading-edge microelectronics, however, is a challenge. The changing global semiconductor industry and the sophistication of U.S. adversaries, who might target military electronic components, require us to update our domestic microelectronics security framework.

Defense-Wide Manufacturing Science and Technology is an investment mechanism that allows the Department of Defense to advance state-of-the-art, defense-essential, manufacturing capabilities through the development of technologies and processes necessary to produce defense systems. This funding increase will allow the United States to achieve a rapid modernization of domestic state-of-the-art foundry operations, through the use of not-for-profit public-private-partnerships, to produce trusted microelectronics.

I support rapid modernization of domestic state-of-the-art foundry operations that produce trusted microelectronics and thank the conference committee for all their work on the issue.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the conferees on H.R. 6157 for rejecting a proposal by the Trump administration to use this appropriation measure to impose a new

\$700 fee for businesses in the Northern Mariana Islands that employ foreign workers under the Commonwealth Only Transitional Worker (CW) program.

Working with Chairman BISHOP, Ranking Member GRIJALVA, and other colleagues here in the House of Representatives, I was recently able to enact the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act, Public Law 115–218, including a new requirement for employment of those workers: the U.S. Department of Labor must first certify that no U.S. worker is able, willing, and available for the job that would be filled.

This is the same kind of certification required prior to issuance of an H–2B visa for temporary foreign workers, but which is free for that purpose. In my view the certification should be free to employers in the Marianas, as well. I can understand that the Department may face new costs in standing up and operating this service for the Marianas CW program. The Department, however, had the opportunity during the drafting of the U.S. Workforce Act to ask for the authority to levy a fee. They did not nor is it likely I would have agreed.

Nevertheless, it is in the interest of our businesses and the Marianas economy that the new certification requirement be initiated without delay. The conferees have ensured that will be the case by providing in Section 118 of H.R. 6157 for the rescission of \$8.25 million in unobligated funds from the H–1B Non-immigrant Petitioner Account to be used in fiscal year 2019 for processing applications for foreign labor certifications, including activities related to wage determinations and associated tasks, submitted by Marianas employers. Again, I thank the conferees for adopting this win-win solution.

I wish also to record my support for extension of the Violence Against Women Act in the Continuing Resolution through December 7, although, of course, a reauthorization for a multi-year period is still wanting. I was an original cosponsor of the reauthorization in 2013 and included a provision in Section 201 that doubled funding allocated to the Northern Mariana Islands for the Sexual Assault Service Program. And Section 809 allowed women who petition for status as victims of human trafficking or violence to count the time lived in the Northern Marianas as time present in the United States, so they can more quickly adjust to a permanent immigrant status. I am also an original cosponsor of reauthorization of VAWA in this Congress, H.R. 6545.

Lastly, I strongly support the 2.6 percent pay increase for our uniformed services, mandated in H.R. 6157. Our country asks so much of these brave men and women and we owe them, at the very least, a wage that keeps pace with costs.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 6157, the Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, Education Appropriations Act for FY2019.

I commend Ranking Members NITA LOWEY, ROSA DELAURO, and PETE VISCLOSKEY, as well as Chairmen RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN and TOM COLE and Chairwoman KAY GRANGER and our Senate counterparts for coming together on this bill. And I would be remiss if I did not recognize the outstanding efforts of both the majority and minority LHHS subcommittee staff—Susan Ross, Jen Cama,

Kathryn Salmon, Justin Gibbons, Lori Bias, Stephen Steigleder, and Robin Juliano—for their dedication, professionalism and responsiveness to staff on both sides of the aisle throughout the entire appropriations process.

While I wish the bills had come to the floor separately under regular order to give proper time to debate and discuss all the issues, I am pleased that the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill is getting a vote on the floor for the first time in more than 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. It rejects the draconian cuts the Trump administration proposed and strengthens our commitment to our constituents by funding critical programs. It also ensures our national defense remains strong in a dangerous world.

I am particularly pleased that HHS programs received such robust funding in this Conference agreement.

The bill increases funding for three of my top legislative priorities: fighting underage drinking, supporting newborn screening, and reducing maternal mortality. At a time when this country is experiencing the highest rates of sexually transmitted diseases in history, this bill restores both the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program and all Title X Family Planning dollars that help our teens gain critical access to reproductive health care and education. And as this country faces a growing demand for health care providers, the conference report reinstates the Health Careers Opportunity Program to increase workforce diversity and restores funding for the Community Health Centers and the Nursing Workforce Programs to their FY18 funding levels.

As Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee, I was particularly pleased that the bill includes amendments from our markup to protect unaccompanied migrant children, including allowing Members of Congress to access facilities funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement for oversight visits. Finally, I am glad that we were able to maintain funding to help separated children deal with trauma.

Among Education and Labor programs, I am glad the maximum Pell award will get an increase, which I called for during our committee markup. I am also pleased we were able to work together to provide modest increases to Head Start and TRIO programs to serve students with the highest needs. Finally, the bill provides modest increases in funding for apprenticeships and maintains language that directs those funds to proven registered apprenticeships.

In the Defense section bill, I am pleased that we maintained the 2.6 percent military pay raise and that we express support for a civilian pay raise as well. The bill also ensures that families can receive death gratuities during government shutdowns. Finally, I am grateful that we were able to continue to show bipartisan support for assisting survivors of military sexual assault.

Mr. Speaker, this bill funds vital programs and ensures that our government will remain open through December. I am proud to vote in support of the bill, and I encourage my colleagues to join me so that we can safeguard the health and well-being of the most vulnerable in our country and keep our nation secure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1077, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on adoption of the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

□ 1545

RECOGNIZING THAT ALLOWING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS THE RIGHT TO VOTE DIMINISHES THE VOTING POWER OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1077, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 1071) recognizing that allowing illegal immigrants the right to vote devalues the franchise and diminishes the voting power of United States citizens, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1077, the resolution is considered read.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1071

Whereas voting is fundamental to a functioning democracy;

Whereas the Constitution prohibits discrimination in voting based on race, sex, poll taxes, and age;

Whereas it is of paramount importance that the United States maintains the legitimacy of its elections and protects them from interference, including interference from foreign threats and illegal voting;

Whereas the city of San Francisco, California, is allowing non-citizens, including illegal immigrants, to register to vote in school board elections; and

Whereas Federal law prohibits non-citizens from voting in elections for Federal office: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives recognizes that allowing illegal immigrants the right to vote devalues the franchise and diminishes the voting power of United States citizens.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H. Res. 1071.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.