

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, 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 Wisconsin will be postponed.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VAN DREW) having assumed the chair, Mr. COX of California, 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. 2740) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 2020

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 436 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. 2740.

Will the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) kindly take the chair.

□ 1439

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. 2740) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, with Mr. COX of California (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole House rose earlier today pursuant to House Resolution 436, further proceedings on amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 116-111 offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 1 OFFERED BY MRS.  
LOWEY OF NEW YORK

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 436, I offer amendments en bloc.

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

Amendments en bloc No. 1 consisting of amendments No. 1 and 3 printed in part A of House Report 116-111, offered by Mrs. LOWEY of New York:

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. SHERMAN OF  
CALIFORNIA

Page 384, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$500,000)”.

Page 394, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE OF  
MICHIGAN

Page 381, line 11, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$500,000)”.

Page 382, line 19, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$500,000)”.

Page 394, line 13, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$500,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 436, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, this en bloc includes amendments from Representative KILDEE and Representative SHERMAN. The amendment includes a number of good ideas that were not included in the original bill.

I support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), a senior member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for including my amendment, along with one other amendment, in this en bloc.

My amendment would transfer \$500,000 from the State Department's capital investments fund and put it in the U.S. Agency for Global Media fund. This extra money would allow the USAGM to begin the process of having Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty broadcast in the Sindhi language in Pakistan.

There is, perhaps, nowhere in the world where it is more important for the United States to battle extremism and to reach out with a message of democracy and the message of the American people than Pakistan.

Pakistan is a nuclear-armed state, the only nuclear-armed state that has ever experienced a military coup, and is a nuclear-armed state with a significant problem with terrorism.

Today, the USAGM broadcasts in the Urdu language of Pakistan, which is the primary language of only 8 percent of the Pakistani population. It does not have the funds to broadcast in the Sindhi language, which would reach 40 million people.

Mr. Chair, we had hearings in the subcommittee that I chair, the Subcommittee on Asia, where we focused on this issue. Just today, the relevant Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia talked about how important it was for us to reach out to the people of Sindh, to southern Pakistan, in the language that the people actually speak in their daily lives.

Accordingly, I offer this amendment, which would provide expanded broadcasting by the entity known as Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. Of course, Pakistan is not in Europe, but it is reached by Radio Liberty.

In 2015, the State Department began some efforts to reach out in the Sindhi language with a website and with press releases. Now, we have to take it to the point of radio broadcasting.

Since 2001, the United States has invested \$30 billion in economic security and humanitarian assistance for Pakistan. This amendment deals with only \$500,000 to be invested in winning the hearts and minds of the Sindhi people.

I will point out that while this amendment would provide \$500,000 for this purpose, it is my hope that, as we go through the legislative process, we can increase that amount to \$1.5 million, which is the estimate that the Broadcasting Board of Governors has given me for what it would cost to have a year-round, mostly close to 24-hour Sindhi language service.

I know that amount seems low, but keep in mind that they already have most of the content since they are already doing the journalism necessary to do stories about Pakistan in the Urdu language. This would give them a chance to broadcast that same content and some other content in the Sindhi language.

□ 1445

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. VAN DREW). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Chair, I will simply say that looking at the fact that we have invested \$30 billion in our relationship with Pakistan, I cannot think of a better investment than for us to provide \$500,000, and, I hope, as we go through the legislative process, \$1.5 million in reaching out to those who speak the Sindhi language, some 40 million people.

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

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentlewoman from New York will be postponed.

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Chair, I rise as the designee of Ranking Member LOWEY, and I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of my amendment to H.R. 2740, which ensures vital funding for the ongoing demining and rehabilitation projects in Nagorno-Karabakh.

In 1992, during the fall of the Soviet Union, war broke out in Nagorno-

Karabakh. Twenty thousand people were killed and hundreds of thousands more were displaced before the conflict froze.

While an agreed upon ceasefire has been held for over 2 decades, the lack of a formal end to the war has left the Armenian people of Nagorno-Karabakh isolated.

Un-detonated mines and cluster bombs from the conflict remain in the region. As a result, Karabakh has one of the world's highest civilian casualty rates from land mines and the explosive remnants of war.

According to the HALO Trust, there have been nearly 400 civilian casualties from mines and unexploded ordnance in Karabakh over the last 2 decades, and a quarter of those land mine victims have been children.

In 2013, a needs assessment estimated that the HALO Trust's interventions in Karabakh have benefited over 80 percent of the region's population.

Mr. Chair, families and children shouldn't have to live in fear of dying due to a land mine accident. That is why I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to support my amendment.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROUDA) having assumed the chair, Mr. VAN DREW, 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. 2740) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 2020

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 431 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. 2740.

Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) kindly take the chair.

□ 1450

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. 2740) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, with Mr. VAN DREW (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole House rose earlier today pursuant to House Resolution 431, further proceedings on amendment No. 87 printed in part B of House Report 116-109 offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) had been postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 89 OFFERED BY MR. WALKER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 89 printed in part B of House Report 116-109.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Chair, 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 405, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$3,366,500,000)".

Page 409, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,930,000,000)".

Page 410, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$4,164,867,000)".

Page 410, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$4,435,312,000)".

Page 411, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$92,043,000)".

Page 412, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$30,000,000)".

Page 413, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$172,700,000)".

Page 414, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$101,000,000)".

Page 414, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$770,334,000)".

Page 416, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$3,532,000,000)".

Page 416, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000)".

Page 417, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$425,000,000)".

Page 418, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$905,000,000)".

Page 419, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$32,500,000)".

Page 419, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$30,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 431, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Chair, less than 10 days ago, this body missed a perfect opportunity. You see, natural disasters are unpredictable, but you know what isn't? Congress failing to do their job and prepare for them.

For too long Washington has governed by crisis and shifted its responsibility to adequately care for those in need, opting instead to saddle our children and grandchildren with an impossible debt.

Then days ago, this body wanted to spend more than \$19 billion with no consideration of how to pay for it. Was it for a worthy cause? Absolutely. Of course. I would hope that every dollar appropriated by Congress is for a worthy cause. But as then-Representative MIKE PENCE said in 2005, following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, does Congress have a duty to ensure that a catastrophe of nature does not become a catastrophe of debt?

Congress should pay for these emergency packages by either cutting

spending in other areas that are less of a priority or responsibly budgeting for them ahead of time.

Disaster aid shouldn't be added to the debt. That is akin to going to the emergency room after an injury, putting the charges on a credit card, and then pretending that credit card bill is never going to arrive.

The bottom line is this, that even during an emergency, Washington needs to pay its bills.

My amendment is relatively simple, Mr. Chair. My amendment would be a 1-year reallocation of the Department of State and USAID's bilateral economic assistance and independent agency funds to cover the disaster recovery.

Let me explain. Combined, these accounts amount to more than \$23.9 billion and would fully cover the disaster recovery, including the \$5.87 billion in debt servicing costs of the borrowed funds, all while prioritizing America's recovery and resiliency.

America is still the most philanthropic country in the world and would continue to be.

Mr. Chair, this amendment recognizes our dire fiscal health by reducing foreign aid during these times and prioritizing Americans and American recovery efforts first.

As the President and this administration have said on multiple occasions, we must prioritize our domestic needs first and put the American citizens at the front of the line, especially during these times of disaster relief and especially since we are the ones that will foot the bill.

With these spending offsets, I believe we can show the American people we are serious about their recovery from disasters in a fiscally responsible manner that will not burden our future generations with debt and despair.

Finally, we can help our neighbors and serve the Americans impacted by natural disasters by prioritizing our families before foreign interests.

Congress should take this opportunity to put America first and lead responsibly.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, Ranking Member ROGERS and I have worked hard to craft a bill that provides the necessary tools to the Secretary of State and USAID Administrator to advance United States foreign policy.

Smart use of global health, humanitarian, and development assistance supports the United States' interests, builds greater global stability, and promotes American values.

The gentleman's amendment would, not trim, but entirely cut all these investments, including support to 14.7 million people receiving lifesaving HIV treatment, including 700,000 children;