

force over the past several months. With a group of many of my colleagues, we worked tirelessly every week to propose a budget of our own. Right now, it is the only budget in this Congress that has been proposed. It cuts spending to the tune of trillions of dollars, and it balances in 6 years.

To get to that balanced budget, it is an across-the-board 14 percent reduction in nondefense and discretionary spending.

Mr. Chair, I am going to be back. I am going to come back time and time again, proposing this same amendment for across-the-board cuts of 14 percent because my daughters' generation and the young people who are watching us in the gallery today are depending on it.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair would remind Members to avoid references to occupants of the gallery.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, I strongly urge a "no" vote on the gentleman's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. BANKS. 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 Indiana 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. 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 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 New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1528

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 rose earlier today pursuant to House Resolution 436, further proceedings on amendments en bloc offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) had been postponed.

□ 1530

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. ALLEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part A of House Report 116-111.

Mr. ALLEN. 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:

At the end of division D (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ . Each amount made available by this division is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 436, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chair, we are nearly 6 months into the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives, and here we are debating amendments to an almost \$1 trillion minibus, \$176 billion above current budget caps, without even a glimpse of a fiscal year 2020 budget proposal from House Democrats.

You might ask, how did we get to this point? Well, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are operating on a premise that an increase in defense spending justifies increases in non-defense spending across the board.

Now and always, strengthening our defense should remain priority number one, but providing more than twice as much additional funding in fiscal year 2020 for nondefense programs as for defense programs is simply irresponsible.

Additionally, if Congress does not come to a budget cap agreement, these spending levels would lead to sequestration, which would be devastating to our military.

Folks, as a former business owner and someone who has experience operating within a budget, I am appalled by the lack of fiscal responsibility being shown here today. With an almost \$22 trillion national debt, this minibus is a complete disservice to our country and our fellow Americans.

If we wish to avoid passing an insurmountable debt along to the future generations, we must act immediately to tighten the purse strings on Washington's spending habits.

My amendment today is simple. It would reduce State and Foreign Operations spending by 1 percent for fiscal year 2020. Democrats have increased this division by \$2 billion, bringing foreign nondefense spending to a whopping \$56 billion.

If you do the math, my amendment would cut \$560 million. Even with my 1 percent cut, this division will still increase spending for fiscal year 2020 compared to fiscal year 2019.

So, in my mind, my Democratic colleagues should support my amendment, as they will still be spending a lot more of your hard-earned money, just a bit less than they intended.

It is not my intention to cut funding going towards our critical ally, Israel. And while our diplomatic efforts abroad are necessary, it is equally as important that we take a hard look at the balance sheet and make appropriate cuts wherever possible.

Also, just to be clear, it was my goal to offer an amendment to reduce spending by 1 percent across all branches in this minibus spending package, with the exception of defense. However, House Democrats blocked this effort, continued to promote out-of-control government spending and neglecting our national debt crisis, and only ruled this amendment in order.

Mr. Chair, I am a proud grandfather of 13 grandchildren, and I believe it is my duty to do everything in my power to avoid placing a \$22 trillion—and rising—burden on their backs.

I urge my colleagues in this body to support my amendment today and take a small step towards bringing fiscal responsibility back to Washington.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, our committee has worked hard on a bipartisan basis to craft a bill that provides the Secretary of State and the U.S. administrator with the necessary tools to advance United States foreign policy.

As I have said before, I have long opposed amendments that indiscriminately apply across-the-board cuts to the carefully thought-out funding recommendations in appropriations bills.

Such amendments make no provision for protecting high-priority programs and activities. For example, the amendment would cut \$33 million from security assistance to Israel. It would cut \$92 million from global health programs, including \$118 million less for HIV/AIDS; \$79 million from lifesaving humanitarian assistance; and \$60 million from funds made available to protect our diplomats and development personnel and their facilities.

Cuts would also impact funding for other key allies, such as Jordan, Egypt, Ukraine, Colombia, and countries in Eastern Europe battling Russian aggression and disinformation.

Mr. Chair, I tell my friend, as a grandmother of eight, I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chair, I can't stress enough just how important it is to the future of this country that we take desperately needed steps to rein in our national debt and restore some fiscal sanity to this Chamber. H.R. 2740 is an unserious proposal that will not be signed into law by President Trump.

I would ask all my colleagues to think about, again, their grandkids, their kids, and their great-grandkids before casting their vote. If we can't cut just 1 percent of one spending division on a bipartisan basis, then how will Congress ever get spending under control?

Mr. Chair, I urge a "yes" vote on my amendment today, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, I am prepared to close. I strongly urge a "no" vote on the gentleman's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. ALLEN. 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 Georgia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. ALLEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part A of House Report 116-111.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chair, as the designee of the gentleman from Illinois, 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 381, line 11, after the first dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 436, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer this amendment on behalf of my friend and colleague from Illinois, Representative BOST.

This simple, straightforward amendment will ensure that the State Department emphasizes working with veteran-owned and disabled veteran-owned small businesses when awarding contracts and grants.

Small businesses are the backbone of our Nation's economy. Veteran-owned small businesses play an important part.

The number of veterans and veteran entrepreneurs continues to grow as

veterans return from overseas, with many making personal sacrifices to stand up for America.

Veterans understand the needs of the State Department in a unique manner and should be relied upon to supply the necessary equipment and expertise.

I believe it is our duty to look after our soldiers when they return home from serving our country, and we should continue looking to these heroes as the Federal Government contracts with these small businesses.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Kentucky is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would ensure that veteran- and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses are able to effectively compete for State Department contracts and grants.

We have a moral obligation to help our veterans, and especially our wounded veterans, to live a fulfilling life after they have hung up that uniform.

This is a worthy addition to the bill. I urge its support and thank the gentleman for bringing this amendment up.

Mr. Chair, I yield such time as she may consume to gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, we must ensure we do everything possible to expand opportunities for veterans in this country. I will continue to encourage the State Department to increase grant and contract opportunities for veterans and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

Mr. Chair, I support this amendment.

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chair, I appreciate that we were able to debate this amendment on the floor today that would emphasize the State Department's working with veteran-owned and disabled veteran-owned small businesses when awarding contracts and grants, and we were able to agree on a bipartisan basis that this important amendment be passed.

Mr. Chair, I encourage my colleagues to support 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 Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. ROUDA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part A of House Report 116-111.

Mr. ROUDA. 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 416, line 6, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000)".

Page 416, line 6, after the first dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 436, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROUDA. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to recognize the contributions of Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian immigrants and to discourage attempts to repatriate them to those countries.

In 2008, Vietnam and the United States reached a formal agreement that contains specific restrictions on the repatriation of certain individuals to Vietnam, including barring the repatriation of any Vietnamese national who arrived in the United States before our two nations established formal diplomatic relations on July 12, 1995.

This limitation in the agreement, which has not been renegotiated since its signing, strengthens and protects our communities by keeping families together and empowering individuals who have lived in the United States for decades to continue to make positive change in communities across our country.

Under President Trump's Administration, however, we have seen an increase in deportations of Southeast Asian immigrants in a push to negotiate repatriation agreements across Southeast Asia, including using visa sanctions to unilaterally punish countries like Laos that do not currently have such an agreement with the United States.

I am proud to represent a thriving Southeast Asian community, including thousands of men and women and children who came to the United States fleeing violence and genocide during and after the Vietnam war in search of a better life.

I call upon President Trump's administration to cease these attacks on Southeast Asian constituents and halt all efforts to renegotiate the 2008 agreement with Vietnam and negotiate a new repatriation agreement with Laos.

I would like to thank the organizations, like the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, and the National Pacific American Bar Association for their work to support these individuals and their help in raising this issue before the House.

□ 1545

I would also like to thank my colleagues, especially Representatives ALAN LOWENTHAL, Lu Correa, and ZOE LOFGREN for their important work on behalf of these communities. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, while deportation policy is a component of immigration and should most appropriately be considered by the House Judiciary Committee, I appreciate my friend raising awareness on this issue.

The concerns expressed here today are echoed by many communities across the country who were distressed by the administration's actions. I commend the gentleman from California for highlighting this matter and urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. I rise today in support of this amendment to provide protections for Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian people who came to the United States as war refugees. I thank my colleagues, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. CORREA, and Ms. LOFGREN for their work on this crucial issue.

Decades ago thousands upon thousands of Vietnamese, Cambodia, and Laotian refugees fled strife, war, and persecution in their own countries and made America their home.

They started families, built businesses, and formed communities.

They have become part of the American tapestry—contributing to a nation that welcomed them and is now their home.

My district is one of the most diverse in the nation, and home to some of the largest Vietnamese and Cambodian communities outside of both countries.

As the co-chair of both the Vietnam and Cambodia congressional caucuses, I am intimately aware of the problems these refugees have faced since arriving in America.

One of the most pressing problems since the current administration took office is the deportation of members of the Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Laotian communities across the nation.

Previous Democratic and Republican administrations put in place safeguards to prevent these refugees from being forced to return to countries that don't want them. These protections are now under attack by the current administration.

These refugees fled war and persecution. America opened its arms and accepted them. We cannot turn our backs on them now.

They are our neighbors, our friends, and our family. Often the case, they also have spouses and children who are American citizens.

Deporting them back to countries ruled by authoritarian governments is inhumane and will separate Americans from their loved ones.

I support this amendment to uphold and acknowledge these refugees' contributions to our nation and to protect them from deportation.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

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.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1607

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my sponsorship in the Fairness to Pet Owners Act, H.R. 1607.

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

There was no objection.

HEALTHCARE IS A RIGHT

(Mr. VAN DREW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, all Americans, all people have the right to accessible and affordable healthcare.

While I am proud that we have recently passed five bills that improve and strengthen healthcare accessibility, lower prescription prices, and protect access for those with pre-existing conditions, we still have much more work to do.

Healthcare is the people's issue. When polled, 75 percent of Americans listed it as the most important issue to them, and not just healthcare, but affordable, accessible healthcare. We must fight to improve our healthcare system.

We must fight the opioid crisis.

We must fight to lower prescription prices, and we must unite to make sure that Americans do not go into debt because they or a loved one has an emergency or are diagnosed with a terrible illness.

The only way we are going to make real change, the only way we can protect people is if we work to come together to really form real solutions.

My message should be clear: healthcare is truly a right.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is an interesting process we have for appropriating money. Some people are wondering why there were so many requests for a recorded vote, because nor-

mally most will go by a voice vote. We don't have to gather everybody together to vote. I think it is important. I know Members are not supposed to mention this when they are asking for a recorded vote, but we have a crisis on our southern border.

Last month, there were over 144,000 individuals that came into the United States across our southern border illegally. That would seem to be a crisis. As I mentioned early this morning, around 9 o'clock, in my 1-minute speech, some of us had just returned from being at Normandy for the 75th anniversary of D-day.

What an incredible thing that is to contemplate. And, of course, for those who know history thoroughly, World War II, be aware that there was even a dress rehearsal for D-day. There were no live rounds that were utilized, and yet, the Allied forces lost hundreds of military members during that fiasco of a practice for D-Day, which some attributed as being partly the reason that General Eisenhower, as the Supreme Allied Commander, had written out a resignation letter and given it to his subordinate that tendered his resignation with instructions that if D-Day went poorly, to please submit his resignation to his superiors.

He didn't know how it was going to come out. They tried to prepare, but there are different estimates: 150,000, some up to 170,000, some 158,000 were involved in the D-Day landing at Normandy in France.

Those courageous individuals that came ashore—some tried to come ashore and didn't make it that were dropped off too far out. Some had landing crafts that were sunk, but they were trying to come ashore, and did come ashore, and there were thousands of casualties as a result.

Some of the stories bring tears to your eyes as a person contemplates what they went through. I had not been to Normandy before this weekend, and I am very grateful to Speaker PELOSI for inviting former members of the military to accompany her to Normandy. It was amazing.

I have never been to Pointe du Hoc, but having attended Texas A&M University, I knew all about, at that time, Colonel Earl Rudder's heroic actions as he took the first group of what were then called Rangers—and have been called Rangers since—who trained at Fort Benning, Georgia, for most of that training, where I spent 4 years.

He took them up the cliffs. Their goal, their job, their order was to take out the big cannons that were doing so much damage to the Allied forces. They fought their way up the cliffs, got to the top, and found out those big guns had been pulled back down the hill, so then they had to fight their way down the hill. But they did eventually take out those guns.

There were a lot of mistakes made, as there are in any conflict, but the determination was to try to soften the German forces before our troops came