

the withheld funding. Duffey signs another letter apportionment for State/USAID foreign aid, continuing to withhold the funding withheld by the August 3 Letter by releasing only about 2% of funds each day, preventing the normal spending of these funds. (DoD USAI funds continue to be withheld.)

August 19, 2019: The House (majority) and Senate (minority) Budget Committees write to OMB and the White House urging the administration to respect Congress's constitutional authority and to comply with appropriations law and the ICA, in particular as it applies to the State/USAID foreign aid withheld by Duffey.

August 29, 2019: Duffey signs another letter apportionment for the State/USAID foreign aid, continuing to withhold remaining funding previously withheld by the August 3 and August 9 letters by releasing 25% of the funds each Sunday between September 1 and September 22, preventing the normal spending of these funds. (DoD USAI funds continue to be withheld.)

September 11, 2019: A letter was sent to Congress (dated September 11, 2019) by the State Department notifying the agency's intent to obligate the \$141.5 million in FMF funding for Ukraine. Following notification, the funds were held for an additional period before being released by OMB on September 27 (\$115 million from the FY19 appropriations act) and September 30 (\$26.5 million from the FY18 appropriations act) through apportionments also signed by Duffey.

September 12, 2019: Subsequent actions by Duffey extended the DoD USAI withholding until September 12.

September 18, 2019: The House Budget and Appropriations Committees write to OMB expressing concerns over the agency's abuse of its apportionment authorities and questions its compliance with the Antideficiency Act and the Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

September 27, 2019: The House Budget and Appropriations Committees write to OMB requesting answers and documents related to the withholding of Ukraine aid, State and USAID funds, and possible abuses of the apportionment process.

September 30, 2019: The fiscal year ends. Preliminary and public reporting from State and USAID indicates that significant amounts of the withheld FMF funding were not obligated before that deadline. Additionally, a portion of the \$250 million DoD USAI funding was not obligated. The 2019 Continuing Resolution (P.L. 116-59) extended the deadline to obligate any and all of the remaining USAI funding by a full year; preliminary and public reporting from DoD indicates that amount totaled \$35.2 million.

NEXT STEPS

Although the committees only received a partial production of the requested materials, OMB's responses and documentation to date confirm that the apportionment process has been misused to withhold Congressionally enacted appropriations. Increased transparency and accountability for the apportionment process would serve both Congress and the public.

As the committees consider legislative proposals and reforms to rein in OMB's abuse of its apportionment responsibilities (especially in the context of the Impoundment Control Act of 1974 and the annual appropriations acts), these findings—and the pending document requests—are key.

CONGRATULATING LIZ PAUGH ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and appreciation that I rise today to honor Liz Paugh of Lebanon, who is retiring from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs after serving our nation's incredible veterans for over 30 years.

Ms. Paugh began her career on December 11, 1989 at the Lebanon VA Medical Center in the Nutrition and Food Service Department. While serving in this role, she took great care to ensure Veterans meals fit of their diet and any medical needs. After, she was promoted to oversee Ingredient Control at the Lebanon VA. 20 years after her career began at the Lebanon VA, she accepted a position in Network Contracting Office 4 as a Purchasing Agent where she continued to support the Lebanon VA in a different capacity, through administrative contracting support. Throughout her long and distinguished career, Ms. Paugh faithfully provided heartfelt service to our Veterans.

Although she is culminating an impressive and impactful career, I am confident that as she begins this new chapter, she will continue to be a positive influence and a dedicated member of our great community.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives and the citizens of Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ms. Paugh on her retirement and thank her for her many years of dedicated service to our Veterans and our great nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, I was not present for the only vote series on January 28, 2020.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 25, Previous Question on H. Res. 811; NAY on Roll Call No. 26, H. Res. 811; and YEA on Roll Call No. 27, H.R. 4331.

HONORING JIM LYALL

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the First District of Oklahoma's January Veteran of the Month, Jim Lyall.

A sergeant in the United States Army, Mr. Lyall honorably served our country in the Vietnam conflict. Throughout his time in the military, Mr. Lyall earned the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, an Army Com-

mandation with Valor, the Good Conduct Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and he received a Citation for Valor on September 27, 1968. Mr. Lyall's courageous and valorous service in the name of freedom is truly honorable.

Following his departure from the military, Jim became a tireless servant for the veterans of northeastern Oklahoma. Currently, he serves as the Veterans Outreach Coordinator for the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma, ensuring that those who have served our country have access to meals. Mr. Lyall also currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Coffee Bunker, a Tulsa non-profit, that seeks to meet veterans "where they are" and help them transition to family and community life following their service.

Before his retirement in 2017, Jim served at the Community Service Council beginning in 1980, retiring as the Associate Director. Mr. Lyall helped spearhead many of the programs that help to make the Community Service Council a premier service organization in Oklahoma and, in spite of his retirement, remains active with the Council. He currently serves as a Resource Member for the Community Service Council and is active in their Oklahoma Veteran Alliance program.

Jim Lyall lives a life of unmatched dedication, sacrifice, and service to our great nation. He answered the call to defend freedom across the globe and sacrificed whatever was necessary in the name of that noble cause. He continues to serve our country, community, and his fellow veterans at a high level on a daily basis. It is my honor to recognize Jim Lyall as the 1st Congressional District of Oklahoma's January Veteran of the Month.

WHY IMPOUNDMENT CONTROL ACT MATTERS

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the letter to the Office of Management and Budget questioning the Trump Administration for declaring bogus national emergencies to usurp funds Congress appropriated for military construction and counter-narcotic initiatives to use for the President's border wall. I am submitting this in the RECORD to help inform the public of the Administration's systematic disregard of Congress' constitutional authority, separation of powers principles, and the Impoundment Control Act.

MARCH 8, 2019.

The Hon. RUSSELL VOUGHT,

Acting Director,

Office of Management and Budget.

DEAR ACTING DIRECTOR VOUGHT: The President's announcement to spend up to \$6.725 billion in additional funding for construction of a border wall or barrier came at the end of bipartisan negotiations on an agreed-to funding level of \$1.375 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 for border security. The executive action plan further specified that the \$6.725 billion would be used sequentially as follows: \$601 million from the Treasury Forfeiture Fund, up to \$2.5 billion under the Department of Defense funds transferred for Support for