

provisions and bogged down in complicated processes. Today, we have another chance to do the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GREENWOOD] has been out there trying to urge that we move this bill as a freestanding measure and get it to the President as quickly as possible, and I know that he joins with me and many others in hoping that this time the legislative journey will have its final destination on the President's desk.

The millions of people whose lives are touched each day by devastating tragedies that result from traumatic brain injuries need to know that we care about them and we will try to help them.

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

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GREENWOOD] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 249, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 248.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

COST OF GOVERNMENT DAY

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 193) expressing the sense of the Congress that the cost of Government spending and regulatory programs should be reduced so that American families will be able to keep more of what they earn.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 193

Whereas the total of Government spending and regulations (total cost of Government) has increased from 48.2 percent of the net national product (NNP) in 1989 to an estimated 50.4 percent of NNP in 1996;

Whereas the total cost of Government now exceeds \$3,380,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas Federal regulatory costs now exceed \$730,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas the cost of Government in general and excessive regulations in particular have placed a tremendous drain on the economy in recent years by reducing worker productivity, increasing prices to consumers, and increasing unemployment;

Whereas if the average American worker were to spend all of his or her gross earnings

on nothing else besides meeting his or her share of the total cost of Government for the current year, that total cost would not be met until July 3, 1996;

Whereas July 3, 1996, should therefore be considered Cost of Government Day 1996; and

Whereas it is not right that the American family has to give up more than 50 percent of what it earns to the government: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that, as part of balancing the budget and reevaluating the role of government, Federal, State, and local elected officials should carefully consider the cost of Government spending and regulatory programs in the year to come so that American families will be able to keep more of what they earn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER] and the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. MORAN] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER].

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to strongly support a resolution introduced by Congressman DELAY and 37 other original cosponsors. This resolution expresses a sense of Congress that Government officials should carefully consider the costs of Government and reduce those costs so that Americans will be able to keep more of their income. This is something I believe we all can and should support.

The timing of this resolution is appropriate since last week on July 3, 1996, was the Cost of Government Day. What does that mean? It means that if the average American worker were to spend all of their gross earnings on nothing else besides meeting his or her share of the total costs of Government, then this amount would not be paid off until July 3, 1996. At a time when private industry is rightsizing and becoming more efficient, we are also looking to the Federal Government to do the same.

The facts speak for themselves. The total cost of Government is estimated at \$3.38 trillion. That's \$13,000 for every man, woman, and child in America. Federal income tax receipts from individual income taxes are more than 13 times the size they were in 1960. The Federal regulatory burden that private businesses and citizens must shoulder is estimated to be over \$400 billion a year. We also recognize that the Federal Government should be performing only essential functions; however, we have seen the Government continue to mushroom. In 1985, there were 1,013 Federal programs; today there are 1,390 Federal programs administered by 53 Federal entities.

However, even more troubling is the billions of wasted tax dollars. It is estimated that about 10 percent of every health care dollar in this country is lost due to fraud and abuse. Using that assumption, it is estimated that combined total losses for Medicare and Medicaid due to fraud amount to ap-

proximately \$32.6 billion, or \$89 million each day. We must put a stop to this kind of wasteful hemorrhaging of our precious tax dollars and I am hopeful that health reform legislation will be enacted shortly.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to emphasize that the Republican led Congress has been keenly aware of the need to rightsize the Federal Government. In fact, this issue has been the major focus of our agenda from day one of the 104th Congress.

Without a Republican led Congress, we would never have passed line-item veto authority which provides the President with the power to eliminate unnecessary Federal spending.

Without a Republican led Congress, we would never have had unfunded mandates legislation enacted which will prevent the Federal Government and Congress from imposing new requirements on State and local governments without the necessary funds. This should help with lessening the burden on State and local governments and in turn ease State and local tax increases.

Without a Republican led Congress, we would never have had the Small Business Regulatory Fairness Act which now provides for congressional review of major regulations to ensure that they make sense.

Without a Republican led Congress, we would never have had a complete overhaul of the Federal procurement system to allow the Government to cut through unnecessary redtape and increase efficiencies in purchasing goods and services to save the Government billions.

Mr. Speaker, the list goes on and on but the point is that this Republican led Congress is committed to ensuring that taxpayers will be able to keep more of what they earn. We have proven that we can do just that. It is important to note that many of these initiatives have been supported in a very bipartisan manner.

This resolution is important because it reaffirms that message. Many of us on both sides of the aisle are deeply troubled that this Government costs too much. It is time to put our money where it belongs—back into the pockets of taxpayers. I urge that every Member support this resolution and show our commitment to a less expensive but more effective Government.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I know that the chairman of the committee is disappointed that the gentlewoman from Illinois [Mrs. COLLINS] is not able to be here, but I am sure the gentleman wants me to share with him what the gentlewoman have said had she been here.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution was never considered in the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, so we never had an opportunity to discuss it or amend it. It was put on today's