

greatest military in the world, we cannot continue the erosion of our national security capabilities without assuming greater risk in our ability to meet the many and varied challenges of America's security interests. The Joint Chiefs have all testified that we can still get the job done under this budget, but the associated risk factor to meet the national threat assessment continues to increase. The unfunded requirements also continue to grow, amounting to \$54 billion over the next 5 years according to the Chiefs. These unfunded requirements range from the modernization of key weapon systems, to real property maintenance backlogs, to quality of life issues effecting the dedicated military personnel and their families. In addition to these massive unmet requirements, the Congressional Budget Office has indicated that Clinton's 5-year defense budget will not even keep pace with today's mild rate of inflation. This fact broadens the defense budget problems by another \$54.4 billion shortfall between now and fiscal 2003.

These sobering realities of the defense budget are important to note, because this administration continues to task the military with countless forward deployments while failing to provide the resources necessary to conduct these missions. The Op Tempo rate of our military personnel is at the breaking point. The Bosnia peacekeeping mission and Operation Southern Watch in Iraq continue to sap the readiness accounts of the services, requiring Congress to approve last-minute emergency supplemental appropriations bills to pay for critical training accounts depleted by these foreign policy forays. These trends are an indication of poor management of the country's national defense.

With that said, I must commend Chairman SPENCE and the subcommittee chairman for their work in crafting this bill under these difficult circumstances. We have been able to provide additional funds for key weapon systems procurement like the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and Javelin precision guided missiles and speed up the testing and development of the RAH-66 Comanche, while also adding critical funds to help improve and maintain the infrastructure on our military installations. I urge all members to support the bill.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Chairman, I join my colleagues today in support of H.R. 3616, the FY 1999 Defense Authorization Bill. This bipartisan effort has been well received and will do much to ensure that the security of the United States and its territories will be preserved.

Mr. Chairman, these are dangerous times. Today, the United States is faced with multifaceted threats from all corners of the globe. The list is enormous: illicit Ballistic Missile technology transfers from Russia and China, North Korean and Iranian ballistic missile development, a potential nuclear arms race in South Asia, continuing strife in Bosnia, Iraq's failure to completely comply with U.N. weapons inspectors, rioting, oppression, and a secession crisis in Indonesia, a seemingly insurmountable international narcotrafficking problem and the specter of global and domestic terrorism. Our military forces are being stretched to the limit, being forced to do more with less. These threats matched against our Nation's shrinking defense budget all create a tense security environment that our Nation must contend with.

But, Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3616 is not just about outfitting our military with the best equipment and training to meet these challenges, it is also about doing more for our uniformed men and women. H.R. 3616 includes several measures that I introduced that enhances the lives of our service personnel. I was able to obtain language that would allow National Guardsmen to have equal PX/BX and Commissary privileges as the active duty servicemen when called up for duty during a federally declared disaster. We learned of this inequity only too well when Typhoon Paka struck Guam last December. Additionally, I re-introduced an amendment that will authorize the reimbursement for the cost of a rental car, after a permanent change of station transfer to a new duty station overseas under the travel automobile rental allowance authorized to service members. This provision would apply only to service members whose motor vehicle has not arrived by the promised shipping date. This initiative, suggested to me by Colonel Adolf Sgambelluri of Guam, became a reality after working closely with Congressman STEVE BUYER and Congressman GENE TAYLOR.

Mr. Chairman, the House National Security Committee also manages a vital oversight function over the Department of Defense. My colleagues and I treat this responsibility very seriously. Two oversight initiatives that I had included in this bill are (1) to secure directive report language that requires the Department of Defense to report to Congress on the reasons that led to the establishment of Department of Defense Dependents School (DoDDS), their plan of reintegration between the DoDDS and the public school system on Guam, and report on the specific plans to construct any structure on Guam for the expressed purpose of housing DoDDS facilities on Guam; and (2) to require the Department of Defense to report to Congress their proposed plan for privatization of public (departmental and military) owned electric and water utilities and the real property that these utilities are located on. The report also requires that DoD describe the criterion where such a conveyance will not be made on the grounds of national security. I worked closely with Chairman JOEL HEFLEY on this initiative and would like to thank him for his foresight in including this important initiative.

Mr. Chairman, one note of dissent, I am not in support of this bill's provision that will mandate gender-separate training and barracks for all services of the armed forces during basic training. I have often commented on the growing rift in military/civilian relations. I believe that for 50 years the armed forces has been the most successful institution that promotes inclusion of both race and gender. To reverse that noble history, which this measure will certainly do, is to run the risk of dangerously turning our military into an organization that will be further separated from the society that it is charged to defend.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I am deeply concerned with the Department of Defense's continuing utilization of the A-76 process in its quest to mete out savings and increase productivity. While I recognize that the Department can no longer conduct business the way it had during the Cold War, it seems shortsighted and thankless to potentially lay off thousands of government employees who have served for so long. Despite that the A-76 process, at a minimum, provides a chance

for Government employees to compete, we must recognize that this is an inglorious method to show our gratitude for all their years of public service. I believe that the Department of Defense is relying too heavily on A-76, privatization and other outsourcing initiatives to provide sorely needed savings for their programs. I remain skeptical over the estimates that DoD claims they will reap from these processes.

Essentially, I am concerned that the retirement benefit packages of Federal employees is penalized severely for early retirement. Currently, there is no provision to protect the full receipt of benefits if the employee is displaced by a private sector worker as a result of A-76. The devastating inequity of A-76 is that a federal worker who is 2 to 3 years away from retirement will lose out on a full pension through no fault of their own. In conclusion, it is my hope that the Department will seriously review the process to protect its loyal employees and the retirement benefits that they were promised.

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS) having assumed the chair, Mr. PEASE, Chairman pro tempore 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. 3616) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for military activities of Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1999, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2400, BUILDING EFFICIENT SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND EQUITY ACT OF 1998

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1(c) of House Rule XXVIII, I hereby notify the House of my intention tomorrow to offer the following motion to instruct House conferees on H.R. 2400, Building Efficient Surface Transportation and Equity Act of 1998:

I move the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill, H.R. 2400, be instructed to ensure that spending for highways and transit programs authorized in the conference agreement on H.R. 2400 is fully paid for using estimates of the Congressional Budget Office, to reject the use of estimates from any other source, to reject any method of budgeting that departs from the budget enforcement principles currently in effect, or the use of the budget surplus to pay for spending on highways or transit programs.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2400, BUILDING EFFICIENT SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND EQUITY ACT OF 1998

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees.