

that today is making existing housing programs work better.

Of those enacted last year, the American Dream Downpayment Act and the proposal to raise the FHA multifamily loan limits are helping thousands of individuals and families realize the dream of homeownership. I am especially proud of the American Dream Downpayment Act, which will provide \$200 million in grants to help homebuyers with the downpayment and closing costs.

Sponsored by Ms. HARRIS and Mr. DAVIS, this bill will assist 40,000 families annually achieve the dream of homeownership and will make available subsidy assistance averaging \$5,000, to help low-income, first-time home buying families.

In an effort to continue the goal the increase minority homeownership, on June 3rd of this year the House Financial Services Committee approved HR 3755, the FHA Zero Down Payment Act. This bill, introduced by Congressmen TIBERI and SCOTT, would provide a program to eliminate the downpayment requirement for certain families and individuals who buy homes with FHA-insured mortgages.

During the enactment of the American Dream Downpayment Act last year, we learned that the biggest obstacle to homeownership for most families is the inability to save enough cash to meet down payment and closing costs. HR 3755 is a good bill that represents another important step forward in helping all Americans achieve the dream of homeownership.

In closing, let me say that the federal government, consumers, and the housing industry are linked by our mutual goal of creating housing opportunities for more Americans.

We have much to achieve together for the American people, and our best hope of being successful is to work in close concert with each other—guided by the same high standards and principles and motivated by the same goals.

In that way, we will continue to open up our communities to new opportunities for growth and prosperity.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 658, which recognizes National Homeownership Month. Owning a home is a central part of the American dream, and I am pleased that this dream is within reach of more families than ever before. Home ownership is now at a record high in the United States, with 68.6 percent of all American families and over half of all minority families owning their own home.

Buying a home is the largest personal investment many families will ever make. Homeownership provides economic security for American families by helping them build wealth over time. Expanding home ownership also helps strengthen communities, as owners feel a greater stake in their local schools, civic organizations, and churches.

We have a lot to be proud of in the expansion of home ownership throughout our communities, but there is still work to be done. We must recognize and strengthen the working partnerships between the public, private and non-profit sectors in promoting home ownership, and we must provide greater support to FHA and related programs which help provide the means for lower income families to buy their first homes.

Mr. Speaker, owning a home is becoming a reality for more American families, and we

must use National Homeownership Month to continue working towards providing this piece of the American dream to all Americans. I thank the gentleman from California for introducing this important resolution and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 658.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

COMMUNICATION FROM DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF HON. DALE E. KILDEE, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Barbara Donnelly, Deputy District Director of the Honorable DALE E. KILDEE, Member of Congress:

DALE E. KILDEE,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
5th District, MI, June 21, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a civil subpoena for documents issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

BARBARA DONNELLY,
Deputy District Director.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4613, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 683 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 683

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4613) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes. The first read-

ing of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. Points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived. During consideration of the bill for further amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order, any rule of the House to the contrary notwithstanding, to consider concurrent resolutions providing for adjournment of the House and Senate during the month of July.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Committee on Rules met and granted an open rule for H.R. 4613, the Fiscal Year 2005 Department of Defense Appropriations Act. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule also ensures that the United States Government shall take all steps necessary to guarantee the full faith and credit of the government.

Mr. Speaker, this is a fair and open rule for a very important bill. It cannot get any better than that. The rule allows any Member to offer any amendment to the bill as long as their amendment complies within the normal Rules of the House.

H.R. 4613 comes at a particularly crucial time for our Nation's Armed Forces. The Iraqi conflict and our continuing war on terrorism have brought a renewed and proper focus on national defense. In our global campaign against global terror, our military must have every resource, every tool, every weapon, and every advantage that they need for the missions to come.

This legislation addresses the needs of a Nation at war on multiple fronts.