United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2005 No. 85

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, guide and protector of Your people, grant us unfailing respect for Your holy name and for Your holy presence in the people we meet today.

Consecrate the work of this Congress. Raise up statesmen here and abroad who will recognize Your holy will in the waves of history and the will of the people whom they serve.

May the peace and prosperity of this Nation be secured, while our attention is expanded and genuine concern for others is deepened by sincerity.

Your bountiful resources of the Earth are plentiful enough, Lord, and can even be multiplied by the ingenuity and cooperative labor of people working together.

For Your many gifts, we give You praise, honor and thanksgiving now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER. State your inquiry.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I have noticed at least one occasion when a Member announced he was opposed to a measure when he sought to offer a motion to recommit but then voted ''yes'' on passage of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, is that regular order?

The SPEAKER. As Members are aware, the first element of priority in recognition for a motion to recommit is whether the Member seeking recognition is opposed to the main measure. This criterion is not a matter of record at that point. Instead, it depends on the statement of the Member seeking recognition. Under the practice of the House exemplified in Cannon's Precedents, volume 8, section 2770, the Chair accepts without question an assertion by a Member of the House that he is opposed to the measure in its current form.

The Chair is cognizant of the possibility that a very close question can engender a genuine change of heart during the collegial discussions that occur during proceedings in recommittal and passage. But it is hard to believe that such genuine changes of heart might occur on regular bases. So the Chair must ask all Members to reflect on how important it is that the Chair be able to rely on the statement of a Member in judging whether he qualifies over another who is truly opposed to offer a particular motion.

The instance recorded in the Deschler-Brown Precedents, volume 12, chapter 29, section 23.49, is instructive. As articulated in an apology by the ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations in 1979, ''the honorable, if not technical, duty of a Member offering a motion to recommit is to vote against the bill on final passage.'' The Chair asks each Member to give thoughtful consideration to this sentiment.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will recognize up to 10 Members on each side for 1-minute speeches.

GITMO

(Ms. PRYCE of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our military. It has been 4 years since terrorists killed more than 3,000 innocent people and it seems that Democrats still do not understand who the enemy is.

They have turned their rhetoric to the American soldiers who guard the prison at Guantanamo Bay which houses some of the world's most wanted and is vital to the war on terror. Their efforts have provided some very valuable intelligence, intelligence that will save countless lives and keep our country secure. Yet some would rather use it as a political tool than honor those who serve there.

I hope our troops cannot hear them.

What is more, they would rather focus this Congress on investigating our own troops than on investigating enemy combatants, would-be terrorists, and threats to our homeland. You would think that the party of Truman and FDR would reserve comparisons to Nazis, the Holocaust and Pol Pot for al Qaeda, Saddam's ethnic cleansing, or Osama bin Laden.

But no. Those are the words they use to describe our troops in the field, our military command, and our soldiers at Guantanamo.

I hope our men and women in uniform cannot hear them.

RESTORE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

(Mr. MEEKS of New York asked and was given permission to address the

Printed on recycled paper.

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to urge the House to restore full funding for public broadcasting. The Republican House appropriators' unwise decision to cut funding totaling 45 percent is offensive to the millions of Americans who rely on PBS for news and information. Parents depend on PBS to provide their children with wholesome programming that is educational and free of charge. But not only children benefit from PBS. Their programs and services also educate adults and engage people in the sciences, history and arts; and inform viewers and listeners of local and world events. As a result, PBS programming helps Americans engage as literate citizens of their respective communities.

The Republican Party who preaches about family values and morality is turning its back on millions of Americans who seek decent, wholesome programming free from the smut and violence that has infested the airwaves. Only the GOP would assassinate Big Bird, Elmo and Barney with one vicious swipe of their mean-spirited, budget-cutting sword.

It is time that my friends on the other side of the aisle match their values rhetoric with their actions and restore full funding for our families by giving PBS the Federal moneys it justly deserves.

CONCERNING THE ROLE OF GUANTANAMO BAY PRISON

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay is of strategic importance in winning the global war against terrorism. Guantanamo provides the United States with a secure interrogation center to gain essential intelligence information from terrorists. Illegal enemy combatants held at Guantanamo Bay include terrorist trainers, bombmakers, would-be suicide bombers and terrorist financiers. Through the detainees held at this facility, we have learned about the detonation system used in roadside bombs in Iraq by the insurgency, bombs that have killed our troops and innocent Iraqi citizens. Detainees include 20 of Osama bin Laden's personal bodyguards as well as one of the architects of the September 11 attacks and suspected 20th hijacker in the attack on our country on September 11.

GITMO is designed to save the lives of our citizens and our service men and women from future acts of terror. Let us continue to support this important mission to protect the safety of our constituents and our Nation.

LOBBYING REFORM

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the Senate we heard testimony of blatant fraud masquerading as a legitimate lobbying operation. And also yesterday, the Washington Post ran a front page story detailing the excesses of K Street, known as Lobbyists Avenue.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that these are gold rush times for professional lobbyists in Washington, DC. Since 2000, the number of professional lobbyists has more than doubled, to 34,000. Professional lobbyists have become the full service ''back office'' to Congress, arranging lavish fact-finding trips, writing legislation, and functioning as an employment agency for Members and staff.

Just as we put distance between donors and Members of Congress when they run for office, we need to do the same when it comes to professional lobbyists and Members of Congress who write the laws. Our bill, the Meehan-Emanuel bill, slows the revolving door between government and lobbying, enhances disclosure and transparency, curbs privately funded congressional junkets and gives teeth to enforcement mechanisms. With congressional approval at all-time lows, we must act now to restore public confidence.

Mr. Speaker, when your gavel comes down, it should mark the opening of the people's house, not the auction house.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. MCHENRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, Social Security is going broke and we need to fix it. The question is how. When the baby boomers begin to retire in 2008 and 2009, the only way to save Social Security is then to cut benefits by 30 percent or raise taxes by $600 billion a year.

The Democrats believe in tax hikes. In fact, the only Democrat proposal to reform Social Security is to raise your taxes. But the best way to reform Social Security is with personal accounts, to get a better return on our investments. And there are a lot of proposals out there. In fact, Ways and Means Committee leaders actually came up with a good plan yesterday that has personal accounts, that everyone paying into the system would get a personal retirement account by using the Social Security surplus that we have for the next few years. I like this idea because it means politicians cannot spend the money and it is a true lockbox for every citizen that pays taxes.

We need to have personal retirement accounts, Mr. Speaker, not tax hikes. We need to support Social Security reform.

150TH ANNIVERSARY TREATIES

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this weekend marks the 150th anniversary of the Treaty with the Tribes of Middle Oregon and today I have introduced legislation to commemorate that event. There were a number of important treaties signed in 1855 which included the Cayuse, Umatilla, Walla Walla and ultimately the Warm Springs. These treaties helped guide and shape the management of land, water, wildlife and fisheries of the Pacific Northwest now and into the future. The treaties were understood by their signers to ensure the unique quality of life of native peoples in middle Oregon.

Unfortunately, the United States' history of honoring its commitments to Native Americans leaves much to be desired. In honor of the anniversary of these treaties, we should reaffirm and support the promises made 150 years ago between the Pacific Northwest tribes and the United States of America. Together, we have a rich legacy and a bright future to protect, and I urge my colleagues in joining me in supporting this resolution.

STOP USING TAXPAYER DOLLARS TO SUBSIDIZE VIAGRA FOR SEX OFFENDERS

(Mr. DOOLITTLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, we must stop using taxpayer dollars to subsidize Viagra for sex offenders. It was recently revealed that almost 800 convicted sex offenders in 14 States have received Medicaid funded Viagra and other similar drugs. This practice is a disgusting abuse of taxpayer dollars and must be stopped now.

On today's calendar, an amendment in the Labor-HHS appropriations bill prevents taxpayer dollars from being used to reimburse sex offenders for Viagra and similar drugs. This amendment does not just address Medicaid but it also prevents Medicare and any other public health service from reimbursing convicted sex offenders for these types of drugs. It is the responsibility of Congress to take action to close this loophole immediately which we in the House shall do today.

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

(Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to

honor the 33rd anniversary of title IX. Title IX creates opportunities for female athletes. Since its inception in 1972, female participation in sports has increased 400 percent in colleges and 800 percent in high schools. As a young girl, I played on several sports teams. These experiences fostered my love of competition. But they have far greater benefits. Girls who play sports are less likely to have an unplanned pregnancy, more likely to leave an abusive relationship, and are less likely to suffer from depression.

Unfortunately, under President Bush's administration, the Department of Education has created a huge title IX loophole. By bending title IX rules, it is now easier for schools to evade their responsibilities to provide opportunities for female athletes. It is wrong for this administration to reverse the progress made over the last three decades.

Tonight, I will be joining my colleagues in the annual congressional baseball game and when I join the lineup in RFK Stadium, I will be on the line for title IX.

Mr. President, I hope you can join us in supporting title IX by repealing these damaging new rules instead of slamming the door of opportunity in the face of women.

□ 1015

LET US DISCONNECT THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR TELEPHONE TAX

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce to all Americans that the Spanish-American War of 1898 has ended. It has been 107 years since the war was over and Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders went up San Juan Hill and we won that war. Yet 95 percent of all Americans are still paying for it and do not even know it.

Introduced in 1898 was a phone tax, which established the concept of a temporary luxury tax to defray costs on the Spanish-American War. It started on 1,300 phones, a tax on telephones. Today more than 100 million American households across the Nation still are paying for this excise tax to the tune of $5.6 billion a year on their phone services such as land lines, cell phones, and dial-up Internet connection. This tax strikes at every use of the telephone and burdens everyone, especially those in lower incomes.

Initially, this tax was used to finance this 3-month Spanish-American War, but it has been made permanent and was even raised in World War II.

So I would like to commend the gentleman from California for sponsoring legislation to get rid of this ''temporary tax.'' This tax has proved there is no such thing as a temporary tax, and let us disconnect the Spanish-American tax on telephones.

33RD ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I also rise with my colleagues who are here from the Women's Caucus to pay tribute to a historic occasion, the celebration of the 33rd anniversary of Title IX that seeks to achieve fairness among student athletes, both men and women.

For 33 years, Title IX has expanded opportunities for young women and girls to participate in athletic programs in schools across the country. Since it was enacted in 1972, women's participation in these sports has increased by 400 percent at college level and about 800 percent in high schools. Title IX's fundamental intent is significant because it ensures equal access and opportunity to all women and especially women of color.

And yesterday I had the opportunity of joining with Members of the Senate and the House to celebrate this very important occasion and to also make very clear that we are in opposition to this clarification, or notion of clarification, that the Secretary of the Department of Education would like to somehow implement, which would actually create a big loophole so that we would not be able to account for those young women participating in these sports. It would keep scholarships from them and the ability to participate in sports. So, please, I ask the Members to contact the President.

IRAQ

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, day after day Members from across the aisle have been coming to this floor to tell Americans that in their opinion we are losing the war on terror. They say that Iraq is a disaster, Gitmo is a gulag, and that our soldiers should have come home yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, they have no shame. If they want policy change, fine. But do not undermine our soldiers' efforts by going all out and selling this as hopeless in order to try to score political points.

Did they think winning the war was going to be easy? No one ever told them the endeavor would be without cost. Iraq is not a failure. Is it tough? For heaven's sake, absolutely, yes, it is tough. We all knew that going in. But transforming Iraq, freeing millions of people, stamping out terrorism in a nation right in the middle of the Arab world will pay huge dividends in the war on terror, period. It gives us a democratic ally in the Middle East.

I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting this effort, rather than tearing it and the brilliant men and women in uniform down.

THE REPUBLICANS AND SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, what is it that the Republicans really do not like about Social Security? The Social Security system has provided retirement security for millions of Americans. But every time these Republicans start talking about Social Security, things get worse for those retirees. In the Senate the other day they talked about a new plan for Social Security that drastically cuts the benefits of future retirees and current retirees.

Then the Republicans on the House side here decided they had a new plan yesterday, and what did they decide? After borrowing $700 billion from the Social Security trust fund, yesterday the Republicans in the House decided to end that trust fund, to get rid of that trust fund, to make the solvency of Social Security worse now than it is today. That was their plan.

In the Senate, they cut the benefits and here they end the solvency of Social Security by ending the trust fund. They have taken $700 billion out of the trust fund since George Bush was elected. Bill Clinton left them a $5.6 trillion surplus. They squandered it. It is gone. And the President has suggested he is not planning to pay it back, the first President in the history of the country that said he would not pay back the Social Security trust fund, and now these boys want to end the whole thing.

SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is time to turn down the rhetoric and to stop the raid on the Social Security trust fund and start allowing Americans to invest their Social Security taxes in personal savings accounts.

For more than 40 years, the United States Congress has shamelessly used payroll taxes intended for Social Security to fund Big Government spending. Thanks to the leadership of President George W. Bush, Congress has undertaken a national discussion about how we deal with the inevitable insolvency in the program. And while there are multiple plans for reforms, several of my colleagues yesterday offered a thoughtful approach.

The Ryan-Johnson-McCrery-Shaw plan is a good start down the right path for form, first and foremost by stopping the raid on the Social Security fund, by requiring that any surplus in Social Security taxes be returned to the American people in personal savings accounts. The plan ensures that Social Security taxes will be used for Social Security.

Let us stop the raid, start the accounts. Let us move forward with this commonsense plan.

I urge all my colleagues to give thoughtful consideration to the Ryan-Johnson-McCrery-Shaw plan for beginning the reform of Social Security.

IN SUPPORT OF TITLE IX

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the 33rd anniversary of Title IX, the landmark 1972 law that blocks gender discrimination in education. I am a proud supporter of this law that has helped girls and women move toward equality in athletics at every level and in every community across the Nation.

As opportunities have been made increasingly available, women's participation in sports has grown exponentially. Nearly 2.6 million high school girls and over 135,000 women in college now participate in organized sports. That is more than 2 million women and girls having a chance to score a goal, slide into home plate, or sink that winning basket. For many young athletes, the scholarship opportunities provide the only means by which they can attend college.

Moreover, they tend to graduate at higher rates, perform better in school, are less likely to use drugs and alcohol. They also tend to have more confidence, better body image, and higher self-esteem than female nonathletes, the critical attributes that help them succeed throughout their lives.

We build on these advancements in the name of the equality, and I want those here to stand for and defend the integrity of this pioneering civil rights law.

SCNT EQUALS CLONING

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Members of this body this past week have been told by outside groups that somatic cell nuclear transfer is not cloning. That is just not true. SCNT is the same process that created Dolly the sheep. If SCNT does not create a clone, then Dolly was not a sheep.

SCNT produces an embryo, whether the procedure is done to destroy the human embryo for research or to implant it to produce a child. The fact that creating it does not involve sperm is what makes it a clone. This is unquestioned by serious people. Bioethics commissions, President Clinton, and George W. Bush said that the product of SCNT is a cloned embryo.

In a debate as emotional and important as this one, it is important to understand all the facts; and it is equally important to see through the word games espoused by some groups and Members of this body.

SCNT creates a cloned human embryo. There is no way around it. And that is why this body should move quickly to stop human cloning before scientists start killing human clones like they killed all those sheep when they cloned Dolly.

TITLE IX AND SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise to speak about two wrong-headed policies.

First of all, let me honor and celebrate Title IX: remember the U.S. soccer team, women's soccer team, the WMBA; and then of course the assault on Title IX to allow the schools to send an e-mail to determine whether students, young women want to participate in sports. Do the Members know what that means? No women's sports. I stand here today to support a full funding of Title IX. Get rid of the loophole.

And then, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to my friends who think that we are going to accept the smoke and mirrors on the new Social Security plan, let us let me tell them that it is the same old plan. It privatizes Social Security, raids the trust fund, and weakens Social Security because what it does is it takes money from the trust fund and puts it in private accounts. Democrats stand for a solvent Social Security. Social Security is not a policy issue. It is a personal issue. It is an umbrella. It is the wind beneath the wings of those who work every day. Do not buy the smoke and mirrors of Social Security and support Title IX with no changes.

CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, more than 40,000 business and professional leaders from 150 countries have come together this week to attend Rotary International's Centennial Convention led by President Glenn Estess, Sr., in Chicago.

During their first 100 years, Rotary International grew from a small club established by Paul Harris in Chicago to a diverse international network of community volunteers who are dedicated to building peace and goodwill in the world. Today, approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 32,000 Rotary Clubs in 161 countries.

Rotarians are carrying out humanitarian projects in their own neighborhoods, promoting youth exchanges, and raising money to eradicate polio worldwide.

As a former Rotary Club president, I am proud to recognize the organization's distinguished record of volunteerism and thank all Rotarians who contribute to the success of this vital organization. I also appreciate my district director, Butch Wallace, as president of the West Metro Rotary Club; and my chief of staff, Eric Dell, as president of the Capitol Hill Rotary Club.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 33rd anniversary of Title IX and pay tribute to the significant advancements made for women's educational and athletic opportunities. Not coincidentally, this year is also the 33rd anniversary of the UC Santa Barbara Lady Gauchos basketball team, this year's Big West Conference champions.

I hold a basketball signed by the team members of the 1997 team who participated in the NCAA tournament here in Washington, DC. Any woman who has played for this team can attest to the numerous benefits afforded to them by receiving the same opportunity as men to participate in college athletics.

□ 1030

There is a clear interest for women to play sports, and schools must respond.

To anyone who disagrees, I would like you to know that the UCSB women's basketball team sells more season tickets than the men's team.

So I am appalled that the Bush administration is trying to weaken the enforcement of Title IX in our Nation's colleges and universities.

On this anniversary of Title IX, we must stand up and protect it.

AIRLINE PENSIONS

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, we do not need any more airline companies going bankrupt.

Imagine retiring with a pension only 50 or even 20 percent of what you expected. That is what is happening to thousands of airline employees.

A government bailout is not fair to taxpayers, and it will not work. What will work is industry-specific pension reform.

In the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure hearing yesterday, we heard testimony from financial experts, the PBGC, the Pilots Association, and others. They painted a picture of a flawed current business model. In the face of high fuel costs and more retirees than workers, defined benefit plans simply do not work for many companies.

Congress can help. H.R. 2106 gives the airline carriers greater flexibility in funding their pensions. It provides more security for employees and will ensure that taxpayers will not be held liable for these underfunded pensions. A government bailout should not be a financial planning tool for the airlines.

Mr. Speaker, employees should receive the pensions they have worked for their entire lives, and taxpayers should not be left holding the bag. The Employment Pension Preservation and Tax Prepare Protection Act, H.R. 2106, is the winning formula.

TITLE IX'S 33RD ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, 33 years ago, Title IX, written by our dear friend, Patsy Mink, became law. Title IX recognizes that only when all Americans have opportunity to reach their potential can our country reach its potential.

Recently, the Bush administration said that if a school's women students do not respond to an e-mail from the school asking if they are interested in sports, then the school would be in compliance with Title IX.

That is ridiculous. There are acceptable standards to measure compliance that are accurate and must be used.

The lesson of Title IX is that interest flows from opportunity. That is why women's participation in sports has increased 800 percent in high school and 400 percent in college since 1972.

Moreover, if we are going to make policy based on how many people ignore one of the dozens of e-mails in their in-box, we will be in huge trouble with Title IX.

I hope that the President will heed the letter from the gentlewoman from California (Leader PELOSI), the gentleman from California (Ranking Member MILLER), and myself and 140 other Members, and rescind this clarification.

FLAWED POLICY DENIES CUBAN-AMERICANS REGULAR FAMILY VISITS

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the case of Sergeant Carlos Lazo. Sergeant Lazo is a Cuban American, a proud Cuban American who is serving in our military. He recently did a tour in Iraq and came home, wanting to visit his two children in Cuba. He was prevented from doing so, stopped at the airport, because we have a policy that only allows Cuban American families to visit each other once every 3 years. Here is a man serving in our military, proudly; we trust him in Iraq, but we do not trust him to visit his own family in Cuba.

It seems to me this policy is flawed. We will have amendments next week on the Treasury-Postal bill.

I urge my colleagues to look at this case, to meet with Sergeant Lazo who is on Capitol Hill today, and to rethink this policy of ours that denies Cuban Americans the ability to visit their families.

IN SUPPORT OF TITLE IX

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Title IX program which created equality, equality for young men and women in our Nation's schools.

As Title IX celebrates its 33rd anniversary today, I am concerned with recent attempts to undermine the program that will reverse the progress Title IX has made in enabling young women to participate in sports.

The Department of Education recently issued its ''Additional Clarification of Intercollegiate Athletics Policy: Three-Part Test, Part Three'' which changes the way schools determine female interest in athletics by making an e-mail survey the sole interest indicator.

This new policy harms the Title IX program because it prevents schools from using a multi-method approach to assess female sports programs. By deciding to base the future of women's athletic programs on e-mail surveys, the Department of Education is denying women the same opportunities as men to participate in sports.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue to support equal rights for men and women in every arena of public life, including sports. I strongly urge the Department of Education to rescind its policy. Title IX opened the doors for women; let us not close them now.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3010, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 337 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 337

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. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes. The first reading 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. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived except for section 511. During consideration of the bill for 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. When the Committee rises and reports the bill back to the House with a recommendation that the bill do pass, 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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 337 is a fair, open rule that provides for the consideration of the Labor, Health, and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill for fiscal year 2006.

I want to commend my friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Ranking Member OBEY) for their efforts in moving this important piece of legislation to the floor.

This appropriation bill funds health and education programs that are vitally important to our children and families. The Committee on Appropriations has met the need for these programs, while living within the parameters set by the House and the budget resolution.

The bill provides an $118 million increase to the Department of Education, including a $100 million increase for Title I State grants. My colleagues across the aisle decry what they call a lack of funding for education, and nothing could be further from the truth.

Since Republicans took control of Congress, funding for the Department of Education has more than doubled. In the last 5 years alone, total education expenditures have increased by nearly 50 percent.

I am particularly pleased that the committee provided resources to key college prep programs. The TRIO program is funded at last year's level of $837 million, and GEAR–UP will receive $306 million, also equal to last year's allocation. These two programs are very successful in helping low-income students in making the transition to college. Many TRIO and GEAR–UP participants from high schools and colleges across West Virginia took the

time to write me about their successes in the programs. I appreciate these students' efforts and wish them every success as they continue their education.

The bill also provides money for the Perkins Vocational Education and Tech Prep programs at last year's level. These programs provide job skills to students, some of whom will go to college, and many others will have the necessary training to enter the work force. Many West Virginia students take advantage of vocational education, so I appreciate that funding for those programs was maintained.

The maximum Pell grant award is increased to $4,100, the highest level in the program's history. This increase is the beginning of a series of proposed increases in Pell grants that will help more students across the country afford the growing cost of a college education.

The committee provides $569.6 million, the same as fiscal year 2005, for the Adult Education State Grant program. This money will be used to help fund literacy programs for adults and enable them to complete a secondary education. Reading skills are a necessity for our adults as well as our youth, and for adults in the employment market and in everyday life, so I am pleased this bill restores adult education to last year's level.

The legislation before us also addresses the many health care needs of our Nation. The bill contains a $145 million increase for the National Institutes of Health, demonstrating our commitment to finding cures for deadly diseases. Funds for community health centers that provide primary care for many patients in counties across my district and others across the country are increased by $100 million to $1.8 billion. These health centers are important, because they offer health care to people in rural communities who have few other options for quality care. Health centers are cost effective because they cut down on unnecessary emergency room visits and expensive, serious ailments that come when minor illnesses go untreated.

I am also glad that the bill provides $890 million to begin the implementation of Medicare Part D, the long-awaited prescription drug benefit that will be especially helpful for our Nation's poorest seniors.

Job training activities, especially the successful Job Corps program, are also well provided for in this legislation. The Job Corps Centers in Charleston and Harper's Ferry in my district do an outstanding job of training students not only to be productive workers, but to be active members of their community as well. I am pleased that Job Corps will see an increase to $1.44 billion this year.

As with any appropriation legislation, we had to make tough choices in this legislation. These choices are particularly difficult when dealing with the sensitive health and education issues like the ones in this bill. The Committee on Appropriations allocated the available resources in this bill in a manner that emphasizes those programs most important to our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in support for the rule and the underlying legislation.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, let me start with a quote from Lyndon Johnson: Today we rededicate a part of the airwaves which belong to all the people,'' a thing we should always remember, ''and we dedicate them for the enlightenment of all the people.''

President Lyndon Johnson spoke these words at the White House ceremony which marked the official creation of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting in 1967. Much has changed in the 37 years since then, but in the realm of television, Mr. Speaker, a PBS program that reaches millions of families every day has been the only constant.

PBS programming is first and foremost about children. At a time when so many television networks are wary of producing educational programming because it will not be cost-effective as they define it, PBS stands alone. They are proud to present wonderful programs that teach children how to read, how to share, and how to be tolerant of others. But PBS is not just for children, it is for minds of all ages that seek to question and learn about our world.

PBS has the best documentaries, the best programs about American history and about the new scientific discoveries which are constantly changing our world. There is a reason that Peggy Noonan of The Wall Street Journal, an unabashed conservative, has written that ''At its best, at its most thoughtful and intellectually honest and curious, PBS does the kind of work that no other network in America does or will do.'' Ms. Noonan wrote this because it is true. And what is most important, PBS programming is free to all.

Big Bird reaches all the children in America, regardless of whether they are in urban or rural areas, regardless of their economic class or whether or not their parents can afford 500 channels of cable, but the majority leadership is speaking out against Big Bird here today and the other great children's programming. They are speaking out against quality news and arts and entertaining programs that have no other place to call home on television today.

The Labor-HHS appropriations bill we will consider today offers cuts of more than $100 million from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting funding. And, all told, this bill imposes a staggering 42 percent cut in funding for PBS this year.

□ 1045

Now, why would the Congress do this? There is only one reason, Mr. Speaker, and that reason is the leadership of this body does not like PBS. In fact, Republicans have been after PBS for years. Ronald Reagan tried to slash CPB funding, so did Newt Gingrich. And now the conservatives have redoubled their efforts.

They claim that PBS is the lapdog of the left. But the notion that PBS is partisan runs against the very grain of what PBS is and what the Corporation for Public Broadcasting was designed to accomplish.

President Johnson stated that CPB was intended to be carefully guarded from government and party control. It will be free, it will be independent, and it will belong to all of our people.

PBS and CPB, therefore, should be neither liberal nor conservative and should instead be honest and objective; and it always has been. The real problem with our friends on the right seems to be confusing intellectually honest and independent programming with so-called liberal bias, simply because they are not espousing their own narrow conservative world view 24 hours a day.

Most Americans, no matter their political persuasion, understood the benefits of hearing views from different perspectives; and they like the idea of truly independent, stimulating public programming. They understand that Big Bird cannot be replaced by 500 channels of cable.

That is why Roper polls taken in 2004 and 2005 found that the people of our country thought that spending money on PBS was the second best use of their tax dollars, right behind the funding of our military.

But the independence of PBS and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting is somehow a threat to this Republican leadership. Why else would Kenneth Tomlinson, the new Republican chairman of CPB, attempt to appoint Patricia Harrison as the new head of the Corporation For Public Broadcasting?

Ms. Harrison is a strange choice for the leader of a broadcasting corporation in as much as she has never even worked in broadcasting. On the other hand, she was at one time the cochair of the Republican National Committee, and so perhaps her qualifications for the position speak for themselves.

Mr. Tomlinson also felt that such prominent PBS programs such as ''NOW,'' with Bill Moyers, were liberal in their orientation. He therefore did the honorable thing and hired several ombudsmen to secretly spy on the programs and report on their activity.

And just last week, we learned that in 2004 the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, now firmly under partisan Republican leadership, gave two Republican lobbyists $15,000 and did not tell anybody they had done so.

By the way, Mr. Tomlinson was head of Voice of America, and we understand that Voice of America is to be outsourced to Asia. How do you like that, America? Is this what we have come to, spying on the network that brings us ''Sesame Street,'' ''The Electric Company,'' ''Captain Kangaroo''? And if so, what is next?

Will we have satellite surveillance of the ''Antiques Road Show''? Wire taps in Oscar's trash can? Are the American people going to allow these same individuals who actively manipulate the media, who have allowed political operatives to pose as journalists in the White House, who have paid commentators and pundits to falsely pose as journalists, to manipulate public opinion?

Are we going to allow them to tell us that now Public Broadcasting is the enemy? I certainly hope and pray not. If there is any doubt that this is their true intention, my fellow Americans, we need look no further than this very bill, approved in a subcommittee where the Republican leadership successfully eliminated funding for PBS and the Corporation For Public Broadcasting.

As with so many other things in this Congress, they were shamed by the American people into reversing course, but I imagine that the right wing assault on PBS will continue.

President Johnson feared that if placed ''in weak or even in irresponsible hands,'' public television could generate controversy without understanding, could mislead as well as teach.

It could appeal to passions rather than to reason. That was very far-seeing for President Johnson. Let us not succumb to the misguided partisan passions of the leadership which threaten to destroy this cherished American institution. Let us preserve public networks across our country.

Mr. Speaker, Sesame Street teaches children to be fair and just. And we learned that from Sesame Street, our children learned it from Sesame Street, let us practice it today, and we expect no less from Members of this Congress.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill contains quite a bit on education. I think the wonderful thing about America is that every child in America is afforded a public education through our public schools. I am very proud to say that I have three children who are very fine graduates of West Virginia public schools. And there are tough choices to be made in this bill. I acknowledged that in my opening statement. And I acknowledge that as well.

But I would like to go through some of the things, the public education things, in this bill that will help every child in America no matter what channel they turn to on the television. There is a $118 million increase to the Department of Education. Increases in Pell grants to the highest ever, $4,100 availability. Special Ed grants are funded at $10.7 billion, $150 million above last year's funding.

Title 1 grants, which help the underprivileged and our lower-economic students, $100 million over last year's funding. Reading programs. Reading is an essential art; I hope it never becomes a lost art. It is an essential art for our future, not only to bring much joy into people's lives but also to see that they are able to secure fruitful employment and raise a family and have the best things in America. Reading is absolutely essential.

Reading programs are funded at $1.2 billion. The Reading First program is funded at over $1 billion. The Even Start program is funded at $200 million. Math and science. We have heard a lot about the loss of math and science abilities in our students coming out of high school. We recognize that in this bill, and we have increased by over $11 million for a total of $190 million to enhance the number of teachers trained to teach in the fields of math and science.

I think there is much to be proud of in this bill in terms of the way we have addressed problems in our public education, and the way we have addressed something that is near and dear to every American's heart, that is, a good solid quality education for our children.

We have also worked to improve teacher quality. This provides $2.94 billion to help teachers with professional development programs. So I think that this year's bill, while the tough decisions were made, and as I said, I congratulate the chairman and ranking member for making those tough choices, there is a lot in here that will help enhance the education, enrich the lives of our children, and help improve the quality of our public education.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI).

(Ms. MATSUI asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House is on schedule to pass all 10 appropriations bills necessary to fund the Federal Government. But the challenge we face is to do so under the tight constraints dictated by the budget resolution put forth by the Republican majority.

I believe a budget is a moral blueprint for the priorities of the Federal Government. But, sadly, this year's budget fails to address our Nation's most basic priorities and fails to plan for our Nation's future. And now, to the detriment of our appropriations bills and ultimately our country, we have become chained to its misguided priorities.

The long-term health of our Nation is being threatened at a time when we should be investing in it. Within 15 years, America's supply of nurses will fall almost 30 percent below the Nation's needs. Filling the registered nurse pipeline with new recruits requires sustained, aggressive funding over the long term. And I am disappointed to say that level funding in the bill for nursing programs will not do enough to reverse this demographic reality.

If we fail to support the backbone of this Nation's health care industry and ask our nurses to spread themselves even thinner, we risk everything that comes with it, including decreased patient safety and poor quality of care.

And we are failing in this bill to meet the needs of those individuals who most need the access to health care professionals. This bill guts critical funding from title VII programs which encourage health professionals to serve in underrepresented populations. I have seen the positive effects of this funding in my hometown of Sacramento. The UC Davis Medical Center uses title VII funds to train medical students to work through significant language or economic barriers in communities that have a host of otherwise treatable medical conditions.

And medical center fellows trained with these monies conduct cutting-edge research in health care disparities and how to improve cancer screening. Sacramentoans have been well served because of this investment in the health of the community.

But, again, title VII funding is eliminated in this bill without regard for these long-term impacts. And so, again, we see yet one more example of the misguided priorities contained in this year's budget.

Let me close by talking about this commitment to the future in a slightly different way. Growing up, I never doubted that I would have the opportunity to go to college. And never once did I doubt a doctor would be there when I fell ill.

But, Mr. Speaker, not all Americans are lucky enough to have these assurances. The way in which we as a Nation meet the gap between the world we want to raise our children in and the challenges of life speaks directly to the values we hold. This bill absolutely fails in that vision.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to talk a little bit about community health centers. I visited all of the community health centers in my district of West Virginia. They go a long way towards enhancing access and quality in the rural areas. It has been a great initiative that has worked very successfully in a State that sometimes has difficult areas to get to.

And I am pleased that this bill enhances that funding by $100,000 million.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule, and I rise in opposition to the Labor-HHS Education appropriations bill.

My reason is simple: This bill shortchanges the American people in so many ways that it is difficult to keep track of them all. Just last month, when the House was considering H.R. 366, the Vocational and Technical Education for the Future Act, I raised the question of where the Appropriations Committee was going to find the $1.3 billion to fund these programs without making deep cuts in other critical programs.

I raised this question, because the Republican majority had just passed a budget resolution in lock step with the President's request to zero out vocational education programs.

So while I am pleased that the committee has restored $1.3 billion for vocational education, my worse fears have come to pass. This bill eliminates half a billion dollars' worth of other education programs. It eliminates half a billion dollars' worth of important health programs. It eliminates $56 million of Labor Department programs.

These critical programs include early learning opportunities for early childhood development, the Community Food and Nutrition program, comprehensive school reform, student alcohol abuse reduction, and dozens of others.

This bill practically eliminates funding for health professions training and professional development programs at a time when our Nation is facing a severe shortage of health care professionals. Primary care physician training programs in Massachusetts would be cut by $12 million.

These programs stand to be cut by over $2 million alone at the University of Massachusetts Health Care Center, the largest employer in my district. These cuts will further strain an already fragile health care system in my home State and around the country.

And I have not even begun to touch upon programs that have seen their funding sharply reduced or frozen for the second, third, or fourth year in a row. My colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), talked about the senseless cuts to PBS.

Essential programs such as community service block grants, the child block grant, after-school programs, the investment and professional training and development of our teachers have all been cut or level funded. In the end, thousands and thousands of families, children and elderly, the sick and the poor in our communities will lose the help and services that are critical to reducing the vulnerability of their daily lives.

□ 1100

Hospitals, health care centers, schools, and community centers will lose the ability to provide quality classes, programs and services.

Mr. Speaker, I was not sent to Washington to hurt the poor and the elderly. I was not sent here to shortchange our schools and health care providers or to undercut State and local efforts by starving them of needed resources.

As I have said on many occasions, and it is important to repeat today as we move on this legislation, the Republican majority is fast creating a government, that lacks compassion and has no conscience. My friends on the other side of the aisle fought ferociously for tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires. They had to have those tax cuts, and guess what, they have diverted billions and billions of dollars from programs that benefit our kids, our senior citizens, and the most vulnerable in our society.

I suppose that highlights the real difference between the two political parties. But, Mr. Speaker, what they are doing is wrong, it is so wrong and it is why I oppose this bill today, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to note in this bill another program that is very important to every State across the Nation, and that is the Head Start program. The Head Start program has been funded $56 million over last year's level, and this will help towards the readiness of our preschoolers to be able to be ready to handle the challenges of school.

Another program highlighted in this bill is funding of $100 million for a new pilot program to develop and implement innovative ways to provide financial incentives for teachers and principals who raise student achievement and close the achievement gap.

And back to community health centers, I think this is one of the best ways to cover children's health care. Many young families cannot travel far to access hospitals for preventative care. This will go towards managing health care for children with another $100 million for that program.

My colleague talked about senior programs. I note in this bill there are several senior programs. There is the National Senior Volunteer Corps and the Foster Grandparents program. Foster Grandparents always come to visit me in Washington and tell me about their program. I am in awe at their dedication to not only seniors but to the youth of America. The Senior Companion Program and the Retired Senior Volunteer program, these programs are funded at the highest levels ever, and I think it will go a long way towards giving our seniors a way to volunteer and give back to the Nation, to the young people and families. I am pleased that the chairman recognized the value of these programs in his bill.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I am sad to say that I think this bill is a prescription for a second-rate economy for the American people because it declines to make the long-term investments that are necessary in education, in health care, in job training, in worker protection and the like.

I will be voting against the previous question on the rule and the rule itself because the Committee on Rules did not make in order the amendment that I had asked them to make in order which would have done one very simple thing: it would have provided an additional $11.8 million in funding for high-priority education, health and worker protection programs. It would have provided that same amount, $11.8 million, in deficit reduction; and it would have paid for that by reducing the supersize tax cuts for people who make over a million dollars a year. Right now they are expected to get on average a $140,000 tax cut this year. We would have limited their tax cut to only $36,000, the poor devils. They would have to get along with only $36,000.

I make no apology about wanting to make these investments. We are the greatest country in the world. We have the greatest economy in the world. We are the world's leader in technology. We are the world's leader in almost everything, but we did not get there by not making crucial investments year after year after year. We got there by investing in our people by way of education, by making the right capital investments, by making the right investments in science and technology; and that grew the economy for everybody. This bill walks away from that responsibility.

This bill, in real-dollar terms, after you adjust for inflation, will deliver on a per-person basis about $5.9 billion less in these critical areas than it delivered last year.

There is one other element of the amendment I would like to talk about for just a moment. We talk a lot in this country about preventing abortions. It has been my experience that lectures from your local friendly politician or your local clergyman are not nearly as helpful to young women who are pregnant and trying to decide if they are going to carry a baby to term or not as is a helping hand. The amendment we wanted to offer would have provided that helping hand.

It would have taken critical programs that would make it economically easier for low-income and vulnerable women to choose to carry pregnancies to term. We would have had $175 million for maternal and infant health care, returning it to the fiscal year 2002 level. We would have added $300 million to child care, returning that to the fiscal year 2002 level. We would have added $418 million to the community service block grant to provide people with an opportunity for education, training and work, and to live with decency and dignity. And we would have provided $126 million for domestic violence prevention, effectively doubling that program. We

would have doubled the Healthy Start program for newborn babies, and we would have increased job training for young women by $212 million.

If we are concerned about life, our concern cannot end with the checkbook's edge. We need to recognize that if we are going to provide real-life, real-world opportunities for women to help convince them not to have abortions, we need to be funding programs like this. These are a whole lot more important to the spirit of the country, to the economy of the country, than providing a $140,000 tax cut to somebody who makes a million bucks a year.

Mr. Speaker, I regret the Committee on Rules did not make this amendment in order. That is why I will be voting against the previous question and voting against the rule.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), the chairman of the subcommittee.

(Mr. REGULA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I think the gentlewoman has done a great job of describing the bill as part of the rule debate. The bill covers many items of great importance to people. The bill is a balanced bill. It is a recognition, of course, that we have limited resources. But within the framework of what was available and what was given to us by way of an allocation, I think we have done an excellent job, as was described by the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), in making priority choices.

I was interested this morning when I read the Post that David Broder in his column says, ''As for the value of education, when asked to identify from a list of five options the single greatest source of U.S. success in the world, the public education system edged out our democratic system of government for first place, with our entrepreneurial culture, military strength and advantages of geography and natural resources far behind.''

Number one in public opinion was education. We will talk about this in the general debate, and the gentlewoman likewise pointed this out, that this bill emphasizes education and some new areas, putting emphasis on teachers and principals, because the people are what make a school system a success.

Also in Roll Call today, an article by Morton Kondracke, the editor, the caption is: ''Avian Flu Could Become Top '08 Issue. Seriously.'' He goes on to point out in here how the Senate leader, a physician, made a speech and declared infectious disease and bioterrorism are ''the single greatest threat to our safety and security today.'' He went on to say fighting them will be the overriding purpose of his political future. That, again, we address in this bill.

I just want to point out that the bill does as much as possible within the constraints of limiting spending, addressing two major issues that are both in the news today, education and the threat of bioterrorism. We will discuss that more in the general debate on the bill.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, of the many reasons to vote against this measure, one of the most significant is its failure to address the ''opportunity deficit.'' Yes, this administration's many failures are reflected in the budget deficit and the trade deficit, but I am even more concerned about the ''opportunity deficit.''

When students cannot develop their God-given potential to its fullest extent, we have an ''opportunity deficit.'' When our community cannot benefit from the talents of those students unable to get a higher education, we have an ''opportunity deficit.'' By failing to increase the amount of federal financial assistance to let all students get the full extent of educational opportunity, this measure today deepens the ''opportunity deficit.''

Freezing Perkins loans, freezing work-study financing for all of those students who want to work, freezing Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants, and virtually freezing Pell grants demonstrate that these Republicans are putting higher education on ice for too many students. This administration gives students a cold shoulder, as they have by freezing Pell grants in the past, in not addressing the rising tuition rates across the country.

Our students at UT-Pan American, South Texas College, Austin Community College, and Huston-Tillotson University depend on Pell grants, but the purchasing power of Pell grants has shrunk to historic lows. The purchasing power of Pell grants, which once covered half of tuition and fees, is down to a historic low, now only covering a fourth of tuition and fees.

In his budget President Bush proposed a Pell Grant increase of, finally, a pittance, $100: enough to buy a chemistry textbook, almost. But this bill cuts that pittance in half. That is not enough for a textbook. It is not even enough to pay for the increased cost of gas, another failure of this administration, to get to class for a week.

I believe we need to do more to support our young people, to support our future by giving them the financial assistance that they need; and this bill, like the entire approach of this administration, from pre-kindergarten to postgraduate education, fails to address that ''opportunity deficit.''

For those who can still afford to attend school, we are saddling that generation with a burden of debt, much like the burden of debt in the public sector. We are not investing adequately in our future or in our students. Students are facing a mountain of debt after graduation that this bill does not address. Let us close the ''opportunity deficit'' and reject this measure.

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

I would like to comment on Pell grants because this bill contains the largest amount for Pell grants ever in the history of the United States, $4,100 per student. That is a lot of opportunity for a lot of different students.

I would also like to say that the TRIO program, the GEAR-UP program, the Job Corps program, these are all programs designed to help students who might not have an opportunity get an opportunity through those programs. They are well-funded, successful programs; and they are recognized in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM), a champion of education.

□ 1115

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I came on this committee after I had been on the authorizing committee for education. Then the chairman was Congressman JON PORTER, probably one of the best chairmen that have ever chaired that particular committee. I was concerned that because of the delicacies of the programs that this particular bill offers, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) has quite often spoken of it as the caring committee because it involves such things as education, health care, medical research and so on, I was concerned about who was going to replace JON PORTER. The leadership came up and gave the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) the chair, and I watched and watched. Members on both sides of the aisle would agree that the gentleman from Ohio has done every single thing that he can to enhance the properties of this bill.

Now, many will use each of these bills for propaganda against the administration, against Republicans. I would tell you that most of the things that we fight for in this bill are done in a bipartisan way. There are other things that other people would like, but when it comes down to it, education and the different aspects of this bill, we do work together. The House bill is only the start. We have the other body to go through and we have a conference to go through. What we are talking about here today will not be in effect.

I would also like to recognize, Mr. Speaker, that only 7 percent of education is funded by the Federal Government; 93 percent of education is funded by the State. California has had a particular problem with a $12 billion debt left by a different Governor and they are trying to pay that back. In most States, Leave No Child Behind has worked successfully. In California, we

need more flexibility. Many of the State laws do not apply or correspond to the Federal laws and we are having problems, especially in IDEA, attendance and testing. But I will tell you that the items in which this bill are important, Impact Aid that takes care of our military troops and Native Americans, is increased in this bill.

If you look at title I, what is title I? Title I is for the most disadvantaged children we have in our Nation. California has to fight for its fair share. About 1 in 9 Americans live there. But yet title I is in this bill is increased.

Pell grants, as has been mentioned, is the highest level ever. No child should be denied a secondary or a college education if they meet the standards, and Pell grants help that. But, remember, the State pays for 93 percent.

IDEA, there is some reform I think we can work on together in the Individuals With Disabilities Act. There are some students that take over $100,000 a year out of the school system under IDEA because of special needs, and the school has to pay. We need to embrace that because in many areas those costs are impacting the schools themselves.

There is one amendment that I think is a good amendment that I may have to go against my chairman in this today and that is Easy Start, authored by former member Bill Goodling of the authorizing committee, a program in which parents are actually involved with their children at an early age in education, and I think that that should somehow be restored, hopefully in conference or maybe even with this amendment.

But I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio and I want to thank the Members on the other side of the aisle. I am sad to hear the partisan rhetoric when many times we work so closely together.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the only thing I can say is that I rise with enthusiasm to support the Obey/Slaughter/Leach amendment that recognizes the need and the reason for survival of public broadcasting. I only say one sentence. If Afghan citizens can gather yesterday in Washington to welcome Big Bird to Afghanistan, then it really is a shame that we are closing the door and turning off the lights and turning off the television for the children of America who learn and are inspired by Big Bird and Sesame Street and PBS.

But then I want to support the Obey amendment that will be coming up that adds $11.8 billion to a bill that has been called America's umbrella. I am very sad to say that even though I have the greatest respect for the chairman and, of course, the ranking member of this subcommittee, we have not done our job. From the billions of dollars that have been cut from education, it is evident that we need a reform of this bill. No Child Left Behind, $806 million has been cut. The bill cuts $603 million from Title I. The Republican majority again breaks their promise on the funding of IDEA, provisions that help those with special needs. The bill freezes dollars in the after-school centers. It slashes education technology dollars by $196 million. It eliminates comprehensive school reform grants to 1,000 high-poverty schools by eliminating the program. This is not the umbrella that the American people need.

When we begin to talk about investment in America, this is the bill we do it in, and we have traditionally done it in a bipartisan way. I have heard my good friend from California say this is a House bill, we are not finished, but this is a bill that makes a statement to America. We have cut moneys from the most vulnerable. I would ask my colleagues to look at this closely, defeat this bill and go back to the American people and work on their behalf.

Support the Obey amendment.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman's courtesy. I rise in opposition to the rule and to the bill. I have many concerns, but one of the most fundamental deals with the treatment of public broadcasting. Public broadcasting, is America's voice. It is our window on public affairs, culture, children's programming and education, enjoyed by 80 million viewers a week and over 30 million listeners on NPR, and one of the last locally owned media voices in America. I worked hard over the last couple of weeks to avoid a partisan showdown over this bill, but here we are.

What does it say about America's priorities that we are cutting public broadcasting over 40 percent from the current year's spending level to help achieve the overall 1 percent target reduction in the bill of over $140 billion, a self-imposed straitjacket by the Republican majority? The committee actually tried at first to eliminate altogether future funding which has luckily been beaten back, at least for the time being. But I would urge each of my colleagues to look at the committee report, at the estimated allocations for public television and radio stations that are listed on pages 315 to 327 to look at the damage.

Ironically, in States that are rural like mine that have large rural areas, small towns, this damage is understated, because the big cities will always have public broadcasting, although it will be hurt under this bill; but small town America, rural America, that do not have the resources to make up for it and are much more expensive to receive broadcasting, they face elimination, and it is outrageous.

I am pleased that the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) is coming forward with an amendment. I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to get real about what America wants and America needs. This is one thing we ought to come together and fix.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately this appropriations bill fails the values test of equal opportunity and fairness that the American people would expect of us. The bill's failure is rooted in the flawed priorities of the House leadership, which has said in its budget resolution that it is okay to cut education, job training, and health programs so that someone making $1 million a year can receive every dime of his or her $220,000 annual tax cut. That is not okay. It is wrong.

These flawed priorities not only offend Americans' sense of fairness, they undercut our constitutional promise of equal opportunity for all Americans. It makes no sense. There are 7.6 million unemployed Americans, but this bill cuts job training programs. It makes no sense. Our Nation faces an ever more competitive world, but this bill does not allow college student loans and grants to even keep up with the inflationary cost of higher education. The result, millions of hardworking students who have earned the right to go to college will not be able to afford to do so, thus undermining their future and our Nation's future. It makes no sense.

Over 43 million Americans, most of them from working families, have no health insurance, but this bill cuts services from maternal and child health along with rural health programs. It makes no sense.

Parents yearning to have more commercial-free quality television programming for their small children will be deeply disappointed to learn that this bill guts funding for public broadcasting.

Our labor, health and human service programs are about helping people help themselves. Yet this bill, after inflation and population growth, cuts $5.9 billion from these important programs. That is a lot of bootstraps that decent, hardworking people will not have to pull themselves up and their family's future up.

Cutting programs that help millions of hardworking middle- and low-income American families make a better life for themselves in order to pay for a $220,000 annual tax cut for a privileged few reflects neither faith-based nor pro-family values. The bottom line is this bill fails the American family values test of equal opportunity and fairness. This bill fails American children, seniors, and families. It fails our Nation's future. We can do better and American families deserve better.

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

I would like to point out in this bill in terms of America's seniors that there is implementation funding in here for the very historic prescription drug plan that will help many, many, many seniors across this country and particularly those lower-income seniors who really are making those tough choices. I am proud to say that is a bill I was proud to have voted for. I cannot wait for the implementation. This bill provides for the good education materials and the implementation materials that our seniors are going to need to move forward with this program.

I would like to dispute also in terms of cutting education, that is inherently false. There are 118 million more dollars in this bill for public education than there was last year. I think that looks at the programs that are successful and enhances them. Tough choices have been made, no question about it.

There are other things in here. I talked about Job Corps, but there is also a dislocated workers program which is a rapid response for layoffs and plant closures or natural disasters, something, unfortunately, a State like West Virginia, we seem to have our share of natural disasters in flooding. This gives us the ability to have that rapid response. I think there is much to be proud of in this bill. There is lots in here for education, for our families, for our seniors, for our workers and for the health of our Nation.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I will be calling for a ''no'' vote on the previous question. If the previous question is defeated, I will amend the rule so that we can consider the Obey amendment that was rejected in the Rules Committee on a straight party-line vote.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the amendment be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD immediately prior to the vote.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, the Obey amendment would give $11.8 billion in needed funding for the priority job training, education and health programs which have been underfunded in this bill. A $50 increase in a Pell grant, let me state, is not going to help anybody get a college education. The cost of this amendment will not add one dollar to the deficit. It is fully offset by reducing the substantial six-digit tax cuts for those making more than $1 million from about $140,000 to $36,500 for the coming year. That cannot hurt too much. That means that America's millionaires will only be getting $36,000 in special tax breaks so that we may properly fund education for our children and provide adequate health care for working Americans, a sacrifice, I believe, that is well worth the cost.

□ 1130

In addition, the Obey amendment would reduce the deficit by $11.8 billion while at the same time protecting these valuable social programs for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, the activities included in this bill fund many of the government's most important social services and touch almost every American in some way. Most of the programs and services in the bill are considerably underfunded, many funded at last year's levels or below. And those that have received increases have generally not received enough to keep pace with inflation. Most education programs are cut or frozen at fiscal year 2005 levels. Job training is funded below last year. NIH funding, though slightly increased from last year, still is receiving the lowest increase in 36 years. The Centers for Disease Control is funded at $293 million below last year.

The list goes on and on, and the amendment will help reverse these serious shortfalls in our Nation's top education, health care, and job training programs. Members should know that a ''no'' vote will not prevent us from considering the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill under an open rule, but a ''no'' vote will allow Members to vote on the Obey amendment to restore funding shortfalls in the bill, and a ''yes'' vote will block consideration of the amendment.

Please vote ''no'' on the previous question.

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA).

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, just the facts: in 1996 the maximum Pell grant was $2,470. In this bill it is $4,100, almost a doubling in the past 10 years. One other fact: in 1997 the total funding for this bill was $75 billion. Today in this bill it is $142.5 billion, almost double.

So, I think it is important for people to realize that we have in the majority party's tenure of the last 10 years almost doubled the total.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, with respect to Pell grants, the College Board has indicated that the cost of attending a 4-year public university has increased by $2,300 since the President became President. The President decided to fix that problem by raising Pell grants by $100, thus taking care of 4 percent of the problem. The committee cut that to $50. That means that the committee is taking care of 2 percent of the problem.

In addition to that, the new IRS regulations out of the administration have cost students in my State over $170 per person. So the fact is that right now any student going to a 4-year university is dragging behind. He is not doing nearly as well as he was 4 years ago.

To suggest that a $50 increase in the Pell grant is going to take care of a $2,300 program is a joke.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The time of the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) has expired.

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

I would like to close this debate by again thanking the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman Regula), the chairman of the subcommittee, and the ranking member and for their efforts on this important piece of legislation.

The debate on this rule has shown some of the difficulties that we have faced when appropriating funds for areas as important as education and health care. From community health centers to TRIO and title I, this bill addresses our Nation's critical health and education funding needs.

I ask my colleagues to join me in support for the rule and underlying legislation.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, what we are hearing today is that there isn't enough money to fund any of these important programs like the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, education, or health research.

But, let's be honest. The real reason that we do not have the money to put towards these programs is because of the reckless tax cuts for the wealthiest of the wealthy that the White House and the majority party have insisted on passing.

Yesterday, I met with some of my young constituents representing the Migrant Education Program. I would like to read their requests to you.

We the constituents of the Migrant Education Program regions II and XXIII of California are here today to address constant issues that challenge the quality of our lives. In order to achieve this we propose the following.

EDUCATION

We propose to the Congress to allocate funds to use in the implementations of programs that will benefit learning through buying proper equipment that will permit students to succeed. Proper equipment includes: textbooks, sports, uniforms, and computers.

IMMIGRATION

We propose that Congress pass the Dream Act and Student Adjustment Act, which could allow undocumented students to pursue higher education. We propose better working conditions for agricultural workers. Better working conditions such as health care, breaks and better pay.

SOCIAL SECURITY

In order to secure our Social Security benefits we propose to reject President Bush's Social Security Reforms and accept to continue the current Social Security Program without the government tapping into our resources. In order to reimburse the lost money the Government must repay the deficit that was caused by the Governor's decisions.

HEALTH CARE

We propose to the Congress that in order to have healthier citizens a universal program should be established with an equal

payment for insurance coverage regardless of their status in California.

The result of this will be a healthier public thus reducing the burden on taxpayers.

A small tax increase, which will be offset by the thousands or even million of dollars saved in the urgent care facilities.

All families will be able to live their lives knowing that their tax payments are in return to their health care leaving them with a satisfaction that their insurance bill will not increase. We ask that the Government intervene to help maintain a set price.

LABOR

Minimum wages: The average person lives below the poverty line and in order to improve the quality of life a higher minimum wage needs to be issued.

Pesticides: Pesticides present a hazard towards the health of workers and their families.

Benefits: Equal health benefits should be issued to all employees as a result of hazardous working conditions.

FIELD WORKER PERMIT

Permits should be issued for workers of foreign countries to work in the United States under fair conditions.

SAME SEX

Acknowledging the couple: Same sex couples deserve equal unalienable rights as heterosexual couples.

Support Adoption: Same sex couples deserve the opportunity to give a loving home to a child in need.

Separating state and religion: An individual deserves the right to do as one pleases without the intervention of theocracy, while respecting civil rights.

VIOLENCE IN THE MEDIA

We propose to the Congress that violence in TV should be controlled to a substantial level of awareness; such level could include showing violence media in the after hours and avoid presentation of inappropriate material. We the delegates of California propose to the Congress that there will be more funds for community activities for the youth, so that they get involved and occupy their time in something useful other than gangs, such as, sports, music, dancing groups, karate, etc.

Children and adolescents are the most affected audience through the contents of violence. We strongly recommend that such material be diminished; such contents include music, alcohol, sex, drugs, gun control, and homicide. We propose to the Congress that programs should be developed in local communities in order to educate parents about violence and how to keep it away from today's youth.

These are some of the requests that we could have fulfilled had it not been for these reckless tax cuts. We should not forget about the needs of our children and the elderly. It is time to turn back some of these reckless tax cuts and put the money into education, health care, and all of the services that the most vulnerable in our society need to survive.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with grave concern about the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2006 and the direction in which our country's priorities are going. I find it amazing that we don't have the money to continue funding critical programs in this bill because we continue to fund outlandish tax cuts for millionaires.

We don't have the money to continue funding a sickle cell demonstration program which received $198,000 in fiscal year 2005 because we continue to fund ridiculous tax cuts for millionaires.

We don't have the money to continue funding trauma care and emergency medical services which received more than $3.4 million in fiscal year 2005 because we continue to fund outrageous tax cuts for millionaires.

We don't have the money to continue funding early learning opportunities which received almost $36 million in fiscal year 2005 because we continue to fund morally reprehensible tax cuts for millionaires.

We don't have the money to continue funding arts in education programs which received $35.6 million in fiscal year 2005 because we continue to fund unconscionable tax cuts for millionaires.

We don't have the money to continue funding alcohol abuse reduction programs which received $32.7 million in fiscal year 2005 because we continue to fund self-serving tax cuts for millionaires.

Mr. Speaker, the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2006 provides us with a perfect example of what we are left with due to the irresponsible and reckless economic policies of the President and Republican Majority. It is a clear indication of the different approaches that Republicans and Democrats take toward ensuring the domestic security and well-being of our country.

The drastic cuts in the Labor-HHS-Education bill are also clear examples of the very different philosophical approach toward government that our two parties take. Democrats, on one hand, believe that the role of government is to serve the masses, especially those who have the least and need the most. We do not demonize and slash funding for federally sponsored programs that help individuals stay in school, assist the unemployed find work, help pay for college, and further improve rural health care. Democrats believe that government exists not only to protect the people, but to provide services that, as our framers put it, "promote the general welfare" of all.

Republicans, on the other hand, believe that government is intrusive. They believe that shared responsibility should not be a priority of our government, and the responsibility that we have to others is limited only to the unselfish and altruistic. Republicans are willing to sacrifice the greater good of the masses to further pad the pockets of the wealthy.

I'm tired of hearing the Appropriations Committee say, 'We did the best that we could with what we were given,' because ultimately, we aren't doing the best that we can. Congress is failing the American people when we slash funding for programs that millions depend on.

Mr. Speaker, am I the only one who is offended that we don't have the money to continue funding foreign language assistance programs which received almost $18 million in fiscal year 2005 because we continue to fund odious tax cuts for millionaires?

Am I the only one who is appalled that we don't have the money to continue funding literacy programs for prisoners which received just under $5 million in fiscal year 2005 because we continue to fund irresponsible tax cuts for millionaires?

Where's the outrage from my Republican colleagues that we don't have the money to continue funding programs on America's Underground Railroad which received $2 million in fiscal year 2005 because we continue to fund offensive tax cuts for millionaires?

Where's the infuriation from Members that we don't have the money to continue funding drop-out prevention programs, mental health integration programs in schools, and women's educational equity programs which received a combined $12.6 million in fiscal year 2006 because we continue to fund appalling tax cuts to millionaires?

Just once, Mr. Speaker, just once, I would like to come to this floor with Republicans in the Majority and President Bush in the White House and say, we don't have money for tax cuts for millionaires because we have to fund programs that benefit the other 99 percent of this country.

The material previously referred to by Ms. SLAUGHTER is as follows:

PREVIOUS QUESTION ON H. RES. 337—RULE FOR H.R. 3010—LABOR/HHS/EDUCATION FY06 APPROPRIATIONS

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 2.Notwithstanding any other provision of this resolution, the amendment printed in section 3 shall be in order without intervention of any point of order and before any other amendment if offered by Representative Obey of Wisconsin or a designee.The amendment is not subject to amendment except for pro forma amendments or to a demand for a division of the question in the committee of the whole or in the House.

SEC. 3. The amendment referred to in section 2 is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3010, AS REPORTED

OFFERED BY MR. OBEY OF WISCONSIN

Page 2, line 12, strike ''$2,658,792,000'' and insert ''$2,900,792,000''.

Page 2, line 13, strike ''$1,708,792,000'' and insert ''$1,950,792,000''.

Page 2, line 18, strike ''$950,000,000'' and insert ''$986,000,000''.

Page 2, line 24, strike ''$1,193,264,000'' and insert ''$1,243,264,000''.

Page 3, line 1, strike ''$125,000,000'' and insert ''$250,000,000''.

Page 5, line 18, strike ''$3,299,381,000'' and insert ''$3,414,381,000''.

Page 6, line 16, strike ''$672,700,000'' and insert ''$757,700,000''.

Page 21, line 13, strike ''$244,112,000'' and insert the following:

and including the management or operation, through contracts, grants or arrangements of Departmental activities conducted by or through the Bureau of International Labor Affairs, including bilateral and multilateral technical assistance and other international labor activities, $325,112,000

Page 25, line 16, strike ''$6,446,357,000'' and insert ''$7,587,357,000''.

Page 26, line 18, strike ''$285,963,000'' and insert ''$295,963,000''.

Page 27, line 3, strike ''$797,521,000'' and insert ''$817,521,000''.

Page 29, line 1, strike ''$5,945,991,000'' and insert ''$6,207,991,000''.

Page 31, line 18, strike ''$4,841,774,000'' and insert ''$4,969,526,000''.

Page 32, line 2, strike ''$2,951,270,000'' and insert ''$3,029,140,000''.

Page 32, line 7, strike ''$393,269,000'' and insert ''$403,646,000''.

Page 32, line 12, strike ''$1,722,146,000'' and insert ''$1,767,585,000''.

Page 32, line 17, strike ''$1,550,260,000'' and insert ''$1,591,164,000''.

Page 32, line 22, strike ''$4,359,395,000'' and insert ''$4,574,419,000''.

Page 32, line 25, insert the following before the period:

: *Provided further*, That $100,000,000 may be made available to International Assistance Programs, ''Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis'', to remain available until expended

Page 33, line 4, strike ''$1,955,170,000'' and insert ''$2,006,758,000''.

Page 33, line 9, strike ''$1,277,544,000'' and insert ''$1,311,252,000''.

Page 33, line 13, strike ''$673,491,000'' and insert ''$691,261,000''.

Page 33, line 18, strike ''$647,608,000'' and insert ''$664,695,000''.

Page 33, line 22, strike ''$1,057,203,000'' and insert ''$1,085,098,000''.

Page 34, line 5, strike ''$513,063,000'' and insert ''$526,600,000''.

Page 34, line 10, strike ''$397,432,000'' and insert ''$407,918,000''.

Page 34, line 14, strike ''$138,729, 000'' and insert ''$142,389,000''.

Page 34, line 19, strike ''$440,333, 000'' and insert ''$451,951,000''.

Page 34, line 23, strike ''$1,010,130,000'' and insert ''$1,036,783,000''.

Page 35, line 4, strike ''$1,417,692,000'' and insert ''$1,455,098,000''.

Page 35, line 8, strike ''$490,959,000'' and insert ''$503,913,000''.

Page 35, line 13, strike ''$299,808,000'' and insert ''$307,719,000''.

Page 35, line 17, strike ''$1,100,232,000'' and insert ''$1,129,323,000''.

Page 36, line 5, strike ''$122,692,000'' and insert ''$125,929,000''.

Page 36, line 10, strike ''$197,379,000'' and insert ''$202,587,000''.

Page 36, line 13, strike ''$67,048,000'' and insert ''$68,817,000''.

Page 36, line 17, strike ''$318,091,000'' and insert ''$326,484,000''.

Page 37, line 7, strike ''$482,216,000'' and insert ''$494,939,000''.

Page 39, line 11, strike ''$3,230,744,000'' and insert ''$3,262,744,000''.

Page 45, line 10, strike ''$1,984,799,000'' and insert ''2,199,799,000''.

Page 45, after line 10, insert the following new paragraph:

For making payments under title XXVI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, $215,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That these funds are for the unanticipated home energy assistance needs of one or more States, as authorized by section 2604(e) of the Act, and notwithstanding the designation requirement of section 2602(e).

Page 45, line 20, strike ''$560,919,000'' and insert ''$601,919,000''.

Page 46, line 9, strike ''$2,082,910,000'' and insert ''$2,382,910,000''.

Page 48, line 7, strike ''$8,688,707,000'' and insert ''$9,283,707,000''.

Page 48, line 13, strike ''$6,899,000,000'' and insert ''$7,038,000,000''.

Page 48, line 17, strike ''$384,672,000'' and insert ''$714,672,000''.

Page 52, line 6, strike ''$1,376,217,000'' and insert ''$1,419,217,000''.

Page 65, line 8, strike ''$14,728,735,000'' and insert ''$17,923,735,000''.

Page 65, line 8, strike ''$7,144,426,000'' and insert ''$10,339,426,000''.

Page 65, line 22, strike ''$2,269,843,000'' and insert ''$3,769,843,000''.

Page 65, line 24, strike ''$2,269,843,000'' and insert ''$3,769,843,000''.

Page 66, line 2, strike ''$10,000,000'' and insert ''$205,000,000''.

Page 66, line 9, strike ''$1,240,862,000'' and insert ''$1,340,862,000''.

Page 66, line 9, strike ''$1,102,896,000'' and insert ''$1,202,896,000''.

Page 67, line 18, strike ''$5,393,765,000'' and insert ''$6,343,765,000''.

Page 67, line 18, strike ''$3,805,882,000'' and insert ''$4,755,882,000''.

Page 70, line 23, strike ''$11,813,783,000'' and insert ''$13,373,783,000''.

Page 70, line 24, strike ''$6,202,804,000'' and insert ''$7,762,804,000''.

Page 75, line 4, strike ''$15,283,752,000'' and insert ''$17,183,752,000''.

Page 75, line 7, strike ''$4,100'' and insert $4,550''.

Page 88, strike line 11.

Page 88, line 14, strike ''$100,000,000 is rescinded;''.

Page 96, line 13, strike ''$9,159,700,000'' and insert ''$9,268,700,000''.

Insert at the end of title V (before the short title) the following new section:

SEC. ____. In the case of taxpayers with adjusted gross income in excess of $1,000,000, for the tax year beginning in 2005 the amount of tax reduction resulting from enactment of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 and the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 shall be reduced by 74 percent.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting, if ordered, on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 225, nays 194, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 304]

YEAS—225

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Beauprez
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boustany
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cox
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis (KY)
Davis, Jo Ann
Deal (GA)
DeLay
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Feeney
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Gutknecht
Hall
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Latham
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marshall
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Osborne
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Poe
Pombo
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schwarz (MI)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Sodrel
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—194

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Case
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank (MA)
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson, E. B.
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz

Waters	Waxman	Woolsey
Watson	Weiner	Wu
Watt	Wexler	Wynn

NOT VOTING—14

Boyd	Jones (OH)	Peterson (MN)
Buyer	Kucinich	Platts
Davis, Tom	LaTourette	Pomeroy
Hunter	Lewis (GA)	Ryan (OH)
Hyde	Moore (WI)	

□ 1200

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3010 and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 337 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3010.

□ 1203

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 consideration of the bill (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, with Mr. PUTNAM in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA).

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, let me say at the outset here that the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) and I have had a discussion about the possibility of trying to finish this bill today. We want to make every effort to do so. And that will depend, of course, on what kind of cooperation we can get on amendments.

Also, I am going to ask unanimous consent to move the issue of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to come up as the first issue as there is a lot of interest in this. We will try to limit time on both sides and give people a chance to vote on this.

So all of that is an effort to expedite today's proceedings.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. REGULA. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. OBEY. I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I want to emphasize, as the subcommittee chairman says, we are trying to help Members get out of here today. We cannot do that unless we get cooperation from Members on amendments and on time.

Frankly, if I had my way, there would be one speech for this bill, one speech against it, and we would vote, because we are not going to make any significant changes in this bill given what the budget has done to us.

So we might as well get on with it. I would ask Members to give us their cooperation. I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) for bringing it to the House's attention.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, and my colleagues, I am pleased to present before the House today the fiscal year 2006 appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.

By taking into consideration the priorities of the President and the Members of this House, we have produced a bill that meets the needs of all Americans. We are appreciative of the efforts of the leader of the House and the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), in providing a workable allocation for this bill.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work, dedication, and expertise of my subcommittee staff, as well as the minority staff, in putting together this bill.

Mr. Chairman, we have made a commitment to reduce Federal deficits. With the reduction in the budget from last year, support for Pell grants required by the budget resolution, and that was money that has been spent in years past that we had to pay in this bill, and new implementation and processing costs of the Medicare Modernization Act, we had nearly $2 billion less to spend on programs that were funded in fiscal year 2005.

We made some tough decisions. We eliminated four programs and did not initiate eight new programs proposed by the President. But when looked at as a whole, this bill provides $142.5 billion to over 500 discretionary programs. It is a lot of money, and it does a lot of good.

It is a responsible, fair, and balanced bill. I believe it does a good job in meeting the needs of the American people. Let me start with education. Earlier on the rule, I quoted from an editorial piece by David Broder today that in polling the American people, they said education was the number one reason for the success of this Nation. Education is essential to the preservation of democracy, and an investment in education is an investment in people.

Mr. Chairman, Federal education spending has more than doubled since 1996, from $23 billion to $56.7 billion, as contained in this bill. Education funding in this bill for fiscal year 2006 is $476 million above the President's request. We added to his request. This is a significant commitment to the future of our Nation.

However, we must be prudent in our funding priorities to ensure that these dollars are targeted to programs that most directly improve the education of our Nation's students.

We have focused spending in this bill on the key areas that directly impact our children's education. First, and foremost, I believe that no child will be left behind if he or she has a quality teacher. Almost every teacher in our Nation's classrooms today is there for one reason: they care about children and want to help them reach their full potential.

We applaud their hard work and dedication and support them in this bill by providing funding to encourage people to enter the field of teaching, and provide incentives for quality teachers to remain in the classrooms. This bill supports teachers and students by increasing funding for title I by $100 million. Title I provides additional resources to low-income schools, to help principals, teachers, and students close education achievement gaps.

At the school level, Title I helps provide additional staffing, ongoing training, and the latest research, computer equipment, books or new curricula. That, coupled with strong accountability measures, helps disadvantaged children meet the same high standards as their more advantaged peers.

I want to say that this bill really tries to help every individual to be sensitive to the needs of all people. We, this morning, and every morning when we meet, give the Pledge of Allegiance. We close by saying ''with liberty and justice for all.'' That is what we have tried to do here, because education does give people liberty, it does give them justice, and the same thing with medical research.

Mr. Chairman, many of my colleagues spoke with me about the financial demands of special education on their local school districts. We also hear from parents about the need to support adequate special education funding to ensure their special needs children receive a quality education.

In this bill, funding for special education is increased by $150 million, which brings its total to over $11 billion, a nearly 378 percent increase since the fiscal year 1996.

I believe that quality of classroom teachers and principals is one of the most important factors that affects student achievement. This bill provides $100 million to reward effective teachers and to offer incentives for highly qualified teachers to be in our Nation's high schools, and particularly in high-needs schools.

Mr. Chairman, science and technology have been and will continue to be the engines of U.S. economic growth and national security. Excellence in discovery, innovation in science and engineering is derived from an ample and well-educated workforce. To ensure competency in a rapidly changing global market, this bill provides $190 million for the math and science partnership program. This program supports State and local efforts to improve student academic achievements in mathematics and science by promoting strong teaching skills for elementary and secondary school teachers.

Many of you already know that First Lady Laura Bush supports the Troops to Teachers programs, and has visited military bases to inform our troops about the opportunity to enter the field of teaching upon completion of their military service.

With maturity, training in mathematics or science, and assistance in appropriate courses for teaching, members of our Armed Forces make outstanding classroom teachers. And in fields where we currently have teacher shortages, this bill provides $15 million for the Troops to Teachers program.

During the 2001–2002 school year, approximately 42 percent of the Nation's schools were located in rural areas or small towns, and approximately 30 percent of all students attended these schools. The average rural or small town school serves 364 students, compared to 609 students served by the average urban school.

The small size of many rural schools and districts presents a different set of problems from those of urban schools and districts. This bill provides over $171 million to meet the needs of schools in rural communities.

TRIO, GEAR UP, Vocational Education State grants and adult education programs have strong support from Members of this body. These programs were proposed for termination in the President's budget. However, we have allocated over $3 billion for the continuation of these important efforts.

Title III programs are designed to strengthen institutions of higher education that serve a high percentage of minority students and students from low-income backgrounds. Federal grants made under those programs go to eligible institutions to support improvements in the academic quality, institutional management, endowments and fiscal stability. Funding is targeted to minority-serving and other institutions that enroll a large proportion of financially disadvantaged students and have low per-student expenditures.

□ 1215

Fiscal year 2006 spending for Title III programs is at $506 million; combined with the funding for Howard University, our commitment to minority serving institutions exceeds $747 million.

The sharp rise in college costs continues to be a barrier to many students. Pell grants help ensure access to postsecondary education for low- and middle-income undergraduate students by providing financial assistance. This bill increases the maximum award of a Pell grant to $4,100, the highest level in history. As required by the budget resolution, the bill provides $4.3 billion to retire the shortfall that has accumulated in the program over the last several years because of higher-than-expected student participation in the program. And, that is good, that more students are participating.

Health care is a critical part of the Nation's economic development. To assist in protecting health of all Americans and provide essential human services, this bill provides the Department of Health and Human Services over $63 billion for fiscal year 2006. Mr. Chairman, similar to the Department of Education, we have more than doubled the funding for HHS since 1996 from $28.9 billion in fiscal year 1996 to $63.1 billion in this bill.

At the forefront of new progress in medicine, the National Institutes of Health supports and conducts medical research to understand how the human body works and to gain insight into countless diseases and disorders. It supports a wide spectrum of research to find cures covering many medical conditions that affect people. As a result of our commitment to NIH, our citizens are living longer and better lives. In 1900, the life expectancy was only 47 years. By 2003 it was almost 78 years. And I am sure that it would be even more today.

The 5-year doubling of the NIH budget completed in fiscal year 2003 both picked up the pace of discovery and heightened public expectations. We now expect NIH to carefully examine its portfolio and continue to be a good steward of the public's investment. Funding for NIH has increased by over $142 million, bringing its total budget to $28.5 billion.

It is certainly a serious commitment to health research. All the information and advances we have gained from NIH would be useless if it does not make its way to health care providers and individuals, those most responsible for their own health. Thus, the work for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, better known as CDC, is critical to protecting the health and safety of people both at home and abroad. Infectious diseases such as SARS, West Nile Virus, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis have the ability to destroy lives, strain community resources, and even threaten nations. In today's global environment, new diseases have the potential to spread across the world in a matter of days, or even hours, making early detection and action more important than ever.

As the CDC director, Dr. Gerberding, and National Institutes of Health director, Dr. Zerhouni, have said, infectious disease and bioterrorism are one of the greatest threats to our safety and security today. CDC plays a critical role in controlling these diseases. Traveling at a moment's notice to investigate outbreaks both abroad and at home, CDC is watching over these particular and dangerous medical issues.

Recognizing the tremendous challenges faced by the CDC, we have provided nearly $6 billion for their budget in fiscal year 2006.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, many of the community health centers have served as America's health care safety net for the Nation's underserved populations. Health centers operating at the community level provide regular access to high-quality, family-oriented, comprehensive primary and preventative health care, regardless of ability to pay, and improve the health status of underserved populations living in inner-city and rural areas.

The health centers' target populations have lower life expectancy and higher death rates compared to the general population. These patients have less purchasing power and many are unable to afford even the most basic medical or dental attention. In 2003, the Community Health Centers served more than 12 million patients and I am sure many more in the last couple of years. Funding for the community health centers is $1.8 billion; again, an increase of $100 million over last year.

Children's hospitals across the Nation are the training grounds for our pediatricians and pediatric specialists. Many of these hospitals are regional and national referral centers for very sick children, often serving as the only source of care for many critical pediatric services. This bill provides $300 million to train these important caregivers who will care for America's youngest population, its children.

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program for funding is increased by $10 million and brings the Ryan White AIDS program total to over $2 billion. The increase in funding assists those infected with the virus in receiving vital medical attention.

We have provided nearly $6.9 billion for Head Start, a program designed primarily for preschoolers from low-income families. Head Start promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program ensures that low-income households are not without heating or cooling, and provides protection to our most vulnerable populations: the elderly, households with small children, and persons with disabilities. The

funds are distributed to the States through a formula grant program and we have provided nearly $2 billion for fiscal year 2006.

Mr. Chairman, our society is judged not only by the care we provide to our young, but also how we treat our elderly. We owe a profound debt of gratitude to a generation of older Americans whose hard work, courage, faith, sacrifice, and patriotism helped to make this Nation great.

Funding in the nutrition programs, including Meals On Wheels for the elderly, are increased by over $7 million. This bill provides nearly $1.4 billion to the Administration on Aging to enhance health care, nutrition, and social supports to seniors and their family caregivers.

The Labor Department. We ought to support the aspirations of people: good health, security, meaningful work, creative and intellectual pursuits. The Department of Labor places a key role in many important worker training and protection programs. Therefore, we have restored funding to core job training and employment assistance programs.

A number of communities continue to experience plant closings and other layoffs, and we understand the need to support dislocated worker training programs that can assist workers return to gainful employment. In this bill we restore funding for dislocated worker assistance programs to over $1.4 billion, an increase of $62 million over the budget request.

The Job Corps program provides a comprehensive and intensive array of training, career development, job placement and support services to our disadvantaged young people between the ages of 16 and 24. Many people who enroll in a Job Corps Center never completed their high school education and may have other barriers to sustaining a job. This program ensures that disadvantaged young people are afforded an opportunity to successfully participate in the Nation's workforce.

For fiscal year 2006 this bill provides over $1.5 billion for this program, an increase of $25 million over the President's request.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. REGULA. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I very much appreciate my chairman yielding. I rise just for a moment.

As you know, over the years in the Committee on Appropriations. I have not had the chance to serve on the gentleman's great subcommittee. Since I have the job chairing the whole committee now, I have involved myself in the gentleman's work; and I must say to my colleagues, our Members, as well as the public-at-large, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) over the years have done a fabulous job, especially this year in a year of some constraint.

We may have to come up with some money for a sound system for ourselves.

Mr. Chairman, I just want my colleagues to know how impressed I am with the work both the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) have done on behalf of the American public, whether it be Indian health care, or preschool, or dealing with labor issues that can be very contentious, a fabulous job of priorities.

I particularly want to compliment the gentleman for the priority he has given to the kind of research and development that is extending the good health as well as the lives of our citizens. I have been very impressed with those people from NIH but also from the Centers for Disease Control, fabulously involving America in the most important work; that is, healthy lives and longer lives for our citizens. I compliment the gentleman and thank him very much for the time.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Reclaiming my time, the Job Corps provides a comprehensive and intensive array of training, career development, job placement, and support services to disadvantaged young people between the ages of 16 and 24. Many people enrolled in the Job Corps Center never completed their high school education and have other barriers.

For fiscal year 2006, this bill provides over $1.5 billion for these programs and this is an increase. And we likewise protect the safety of workers.

Mr. Chairman, in order to implement more than 400 provisions of the Medicare Modernization Act and ensure that senior citizens receive the prescription drug benefits that we provide in MMA, we have allocated more than $1 billion over the fiscal year 2005 level to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and Social Security Administration.

While benefits that both of these agencies provide come through mandatory spending by way of the Committee on Ways and Means, this bill provides the funding for the agencies' administrative costs. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services pay about one-third of national health care expenditures and pay for more than one-half of all senior health care costs.

Let me repeat that. Medicare and Medicaid pay for more than one-half of all senior health care costs. More than 85 million Americans rely on these programs for health care coverage. Last year the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services processed over 1 billion claims, answered over 52 million inquiries and reviewed nearly 8 million appeals.

SSA, Social Security Administration, will also play a vital role in the implementation of the Medicaid Modernization Act, as they will identify low-income beneficiaries who might be eligible for drug benefit subsidies, make low-income subsidy determinations, withhold premiums appropriate to beneficiaries' selected plans, and calculate Part B premiums for high-income beneficiaries.

The increases provided to CMS and SSA will enable them to implement and improve delivery of benefits and expedite the processing of disability claims, and that is very important. This bill meets our financial commitment for effective administration of these programs and ensures efficient services to recipients.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, much more could be said about this bill which touches every American at some point in life. We are mindful of the fiscal limitations on our bill and we have tried to use the allocation to fund our highest priorities. This bill does its part, its best, to meet the American people's needs.

I want to say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and also on our side, it was a great subcommittee. Both Republican and Democrat members worked very well together, and we may have some disagreements on the amounts of money, but I think within the confines of what was available, we pretty much are in agreement with the assignment of priorities that were made. All the members participated very effectively.

It is a responsible, fair, and balanced bill and I ask my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Chairman, the following is a detailed table of the bill:

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF LABOR					
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION					
TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES					
Grants to States:					
Adult Training, current year	184,618	153,736	153,736	-30,882	---
Advance from prior year	(706,304)	(712,000)	(712,000)	(+5,696)	---
FY 2007	712,000	712,000	712,000	---	---
Adult Training	896,618	865,736	865,736	-30,882	---
Youth Training	986,288	950,000	950,000	-36,288	---
Dislocated Worker Assistance, current year	345,264	226,867	345,264	---	+118,397
Advance from prior year	(841,216)	(848,000)	(848,000)	(+6,784)	---
FY 2007	848,000	848,000	848,000	---	---
Dislocated Worker Assistance	1,193,264	1,074,867	1,193,264	---	+118,397
Federally Administered Programs:					
Dislocated Worker Assistance National Reserve:					
Current year	70,800	56,717	---	-70,800	-56,717
Advance from prior year	(210,304)	(212,000)	(212,000)	(+1,696)	---
FY 2007	212,000	212,000	212,000	---	---
Dislocated Worker Assistance Nat'l Reserve	282,800	268,717	212,000	-70,800	-56,717
Less funding reserved for Community College Initiative (NA)	(-125,000)	---	---	(+125,000)	---
Dislocated Worker Assistance Nat'l Reserve	157,800	268,717	212,000	+54,200	-56,717
Total, Dislocated Worker Assistance	1,476,064	1,343,584	1,405,264	-70,800	+61,680
Native Americans	54,238	54,238	54,238	---	---
Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers	75,759	---	75,759	---	+75,759
Job Corps:					
Operations	844,670	851,019	851,019	+6,349	---
Advance from prior year	(586,272)	(591,000)	(591,000)	(+4,728)	---
FY 2007	591,000	591,000	591,000	---	---
Construction and Renovation	16,190	---	---	-16,190	---
Advance from prior year	(99,200)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(+800)	---
FY 2007	100,000	75,000	100,000	---	+25,000
Subtotal, Job Corps	1,551,860	1,517,019	1,542,019	-9,841	+25,000
National Activities:					
Pilots, Demonstrations and Research	85,167	30,000	74,000	-11,167	+44,000
Responsible Reintegration of Youthful Offender	49,600	---	---	-49,600	---
Evaluation	7,936	7,936	7,936	---	---
Prisoner Re-entry	19,840	35,000	19,840	---	-15,160
Community College initiative	124,000	250,000	125,000	+1,000	-125,000
Community College initiative (NA) 1/	(125,000)	---	---	(-125,000)	---
Subtotal, CC initiative, program level	249,000	250,000	125,000	-124,000	-125,000
Denali Commission	6,944	---	---	-6,944	---
Other	3,458	2,000	2,000	-1,458	---
Subtotal, National activities	296,945	324,936	228,776	-68,169	-96,160
Subtotal, Federal activities	2,261,602	2,164,910	2,112,792	-148,810	-52,118
Current Year	1,358,602	1,286,910	1,209,792	-148,810	-77,118
FY 2007	903,000	878,000	903,000	---	+25,000
Total, Training and Employment Services	5,337,772	5,055,513	5,121,792	-215,980	+66,279

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
Current Year	(2,874,772)	(2,617,513)	(2,658,792)	(-215,980)	(+41,279)
FY 2007	(2,463,000)	(2,438,000)	(2,463,000)	---	(+25,000)
COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT FOR OLDER AMERICANS	436,678	436,678	436,678	---	---
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES	1,057,300	966,400	966,400	-90,900	---
STATE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OPERATIONS					
Unemployment Compensation:					
State Operations	2,663,040	2,622,499	2,622,499	-40,541	---
National Activities	10,416	10,416	10,416	---	---
Subtotal, Unemployment Compensation	2,673,456	2,632,915	2,632,915	-40,541	---
Employment Service:					
Allotments to States:					
Federal Funds	23,114	23,300	23,300	+186	---
Trust Funds	757,478	672,700	672,700	-84,778	---
Subtotal, allotments to States	780,592	696,000	696,000	-84,592	---
ES National Activities	64,976	33,766	33,766	-31,210	---
Subtotal, Employment Service	845,568	729,766	729,766	-115,802	---
Federal Funds	23,114	23,300	23,300	+186	---
Trust Funds	822,454	706,466	706,466	-115,988	---
One-Stop Career Centers/Labor Market Information	97,974	87,974	87,974	-10,000	---
Work Incentives Grants	19,711	19,711	19,711	---	---
Total, State Unemployment & Employment Srvcs	3,636,709	3,470,366	3,470,366	-166,343	---
Federal Funds	140,799	130,985	130,985	-9,814	---
Trust Funds	3,495,910	3,339,381	3,339,381	-156,529	---
ADVANCES TO THE UI AND OTHER TRUST FUNDS 2/	517,000	465,000	465,000	-52,000	---
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION					
Adult Employment and Training	38,874	44,631	44,631	+5,757	---
Trust Funds	6,901	7,925	7,925	+1,024	---
Youth Employment and Training	39,627	38,805	38,805	-822	---
Employment Security	6,045	6,039	6,039	-6	---
Trust Funds	48,235	77,952	77,952	+29,717	---
Apprenticeship Services	21,136	21,655	21,655	+519	---
Executive Direction	6,845	6,993	6,993	+148	---
Trust Funds	2,065	2,111	2,111	+46	---
Welfare to Work	373	---	---	-373	---
Total, Program Administration	170,101	206,111	206,111	+36,010	---
Federal Funds	112,900	118,123	118,123	+5,223	---
Trust Funds	57,201	87,988	87,988	+30,787	---
Total, Employment and Training Administration	11,155,560	10,600,068	10,666,347	-489,213	+66,279
Federal Funds	7,602,449	7,172,699	7,238,978	-363,471	+66,279
Current Year	(5,139,449)	(4,734,699)	(4,775,978)	(-363,471)	(+41,279)
FY 2007	(2,463,000)	(2,438,000)	(2,463,000)	---	(+25,000)
Trust Funds	3,553,111	3,427,369	3,427,369	-125,742	---
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS SECURITY ADMINISTRATION					
SALARIES AND EXPENSES					
Enforcement and Participant Assistance	109,374	114,462	114,462	+5,088	---
Policy and Compliance Assistance	17,357	17,458	17,458	+101	---
Executive Leadership, Program Oversight and Admin	4,482	5,080	5,080	+598	---
Total, EBSA	131,213	137,000	137,000	+5,787	---

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION					
Pension insurance activities	(12,211)	(42,122)	(42,122)	(+29,911)	---
Pension plan termination	(169,739)	(161,117)	(161,117)	(-8,622)	---
Operational support	(84,380)	(93,739)	(93,739)	(+9,359)	---
Total, PBGC (Program level)	(266,330)	(296,978)	(296,978)	(+30,648)	---
EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ADMINISTRATION					
SALARIES AND EXPENSES					
Enforcement of Wage and Hour Standards	164,493	167,359	167,359	+2,866	---
Office of Labor-Management Standards	41,681	48,799	48,799	+7,118	---
Federal Contractor EEO Standards Enforcement	80,059	82,106	82,106	+2,047	---
Federal Programs for Workers' Compensation	97,339	100,129	100,129	+2,790	---
Trust Funds	2,023	2,048	2,048	+25	---
Program Direction and Support	15,252	15,891	15,891	+639	---
Total, ESA salaries and expenses	400,847	416,332	416,332	+15,485	---
Federal Funds	398,824	414,284	414,284	+15,460	---
Trust Funds	2,023	2,048	2,048	+25	---
SPECIAL BENEFITS					
Federal employees compensation benefits	230,000	234,000	234,000	+4,000	---
Longshore and harbor workers' benefits	3,000	3,000	3,000	---	---
Total, Special Benefits	233,000	237,000	237,000	+4,000	---
SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS					
Benefit payments	358,806	308,000	308,000	-50,806	---
Administration	5,191	5,250	5,250	+59	---
Subtotal, FY 2006 program level	363,997	313,250	313,250	-50,747	---
Less funds advanced in prior year	-88,000	-81,000	-81,000	+7,000	---
Total, Current Year, FY 2006	275,997	232,250	232,250	-43,747	---
New advances, 1st quarter FY 2007	81,000	74,000	74,000	-7,000	---
Total, Special Benefits for Disabled Coal Miners	356,997	306,250	306,250	-50,747	---
ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION FUND, Part B Administrative Expenses	40,321	96,081	96,081	+55,760	---
BLACK LUNG DISABILITY TRUST FUND					
Benefit payments and interest on advances	1,004,951	1,010,011	1,010,011	+5,060	---
Employment Standards Adm. S&E	32,615	33,050	33,050	+435	---
Departmental Management S&E	23,705	24,239	24,239	+534	---
Departmental Management, Inspector General	342	344	344	+2	---
Subtotal, Black Lung Disability	1,061,613	1,067,644	1,067,644	+6,031	---
Treasury Administrative Costs	356	356	356	---	---
Total, Black Lung Disability Trust Fund	1,061,969	1,068,000	1,068,000	+6,031	---
Total, Employment Standards Administration	2,093,134	2,123,663	2,123,663	+30,529	---
Federal Funds	2,091,111	2,121,615	2,121,615	+30,504	---
Current year	(2,010,111)	(2,047,615)	(2,047,615)	(+37,504)	---
FY 2007	(81,000)	(74,000)	(74,000)	(-7,000)	---
Trust Funds	2,023	2,048	2,048	+25	---

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION					
SALARIES AND EXPENSES					
Safety and Health Standards	16,003	16,628	16,628	+625	---
Federal Enforcement	169,652	174,318	174,318	+4,666	---
State Programs	91,013	92,013	92,013	+1,000	---
Technical Support	20,742	21,652	21,652	+910	---
Compliance Assistance:					
Federal Assistance	70,859	73,278	73,278	+2,419	---
State Consultation Grants	53,362	53,896	53,896	+534	---
Training Grants	10,218	---	10,218	---	+10,218
Subtotal, Compliance Assistance	134,439	127,174	137,392	+2,953	+10,218
Safety and Health Statistics	22,203	24,498	24,498	+2,295	---
Executive Direction and Administration	10,106	10,698	10,698	+592	---
Total, OSHA	464,158	466,981	477,199	+13,041	+10,218
MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION					
SALARIES AND EXPENSES					
Coal Enforcement	115,251	118,335	118,335	+3,084	---
Metal/Non-Metal Enforcement	66,752	68,750	68,750	+1,998	---
Standards Development	2,334	2,506	2,506	+172	---
Assessments	5,238	5,445	5,445	+207	---
Educational Policy and Development	31,255	32,021	32,021	+766	---
Technical Support	25,111	25,736	25,736	+625	---
Program evaluation and information resources (PEIR)	17,525	15,671	15,671	-1,854	---
Program Administration	15,670	12,026	12,026	-3,644	---
Total, Mine Safety and Health Administration	279,136	280,490	280,490	+1,354	---
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS					
SALARIES AND EXPENSES					
Employment and Unemployment Statistics	162,714	167,047	167,047	+4,333	---
Labor Market Information (Trust Funds)	77,845	77,845	77,845	---	---
Prices and Cost of Living	169,370	174,779	174,779	+5,409	---
Compensation and Working Conditions	78,942	81,532	81,532	+2,590	---
Productivity and Technology	10,503	10,847	10,847	+344	---
Executive Direction and Staff Services	29,629	30,473	30,473	+844	---
Total, Bureau of Labor Statistics	529,003	542,523	542,523	+13,520	---
Federal Funds	451,158	464,678	464,678	+13,520	---
Trust Funds	77,845	77,845	77,845	---	---
OFFICE OF DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT POLICY					
Ofce of Disability Employ. Policy, Salaries & expenses	47,164	27,934	27,934	-19,230	---
DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT					
SALARIES AND EXPENSES					
Executive Direction	26,720	29,504	29,504	+2,784	---
Departmental IT Crosscut	29,760	29,760	29,760	---	---
Departmental Management Crosscut	4,960	1,700	1,700	-3,260	---
Legal Services	79,769	81,907	81,907	+2,138	---
Trust Funds	311	311	311	---	---
International Labor Affairs	93,248	12,419	12,419	-80,829	---
Administration and Management	32,414	33,197	33,197	+783	---
Frances Perkins building security enhancements	6,944	6,944	6,944	---	---
Adjudication	25,665	27,126	27,126	+1,461	---
Women's Bureau	9,478	9,764	9,764	+286	---

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
Civil Rights Activities	6,237	6,451	6,451	+214	---
Chief Financial Officer	5,182	5,340	5,340	+158	---
Total, Salaries and expenses	320,688	244,423	244,423	-76,265	---
Federal Funds	320,377	244,112	244,112	-76,265	---
Trust Funds	311	311	311	---	---
VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING					
State administration, Grants	161,097	162,415	162,415	+1,318	---
Federal Administration	30,438	30,435	30,435	-3	---
National Veterans Training Institute	1,984	1,984	1,984	---	---
Homeless Veterans Program	20,832	22,000	22,000	+1,168	---
Veterans Workforce Investment Programs	8,482	7,500	7,500	-982	---
Total, Veterans Employment and Training	222,833	224,334	224,334	+1,501	---
Federal Funds	29,314	29,500	29,500	+186	---
Trust Funds	193,519	194,834	194,834	+1,315	---
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL					
Program Activities	63,478	65,211	65,211	+1,733	---
Trust Funds	5,517	5,608	5,608	+91	---
Total, Office of the Inspector General	68,995	70,819	70,819	+1,824	---
Federal funds	63,478	65,211	65,211	+1,733	---
Trust funds	5,517	5,608	5,608	+91	---
Total, Departmental Management	612,516	539,576	539,576	-72,940	---
Federal Funds	413,169	338,823	338,823	-74,346	---
Trust Funds	199,347	200,753	200,753	+1,406	---
WORKING CAPITAL FUND					
Working capital fund	9,920	6,230	6,230	-3,690	---
Total, Title I, Department of Labor	15,321,804	14,724,465	14,800,962	-520,842	+76,497
Federal Funds	11,489,478	11,016,450	11,092,947	-396,531	+76,497
Current Year	(8,945,478)	(8,504,450)	(8,555,947)	(-389,531)	(+51,497)
FY 2007	(2,544,000)	(2,512,000)	(2,537,000)	(-7,000)	(+25,000)
Trust Funds	3,832,326	3,708,015	3,708,015	-124,311	---

Title I Footnotes:
1/ Funding from the Dislocated Worker National Reserve
2/ Two year availability

TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES

BUREAU OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Community health centers	1,734,311	2,037,871	1,834,311	+100,000	-203,560
Free Clinics Medical Malpractice	99	---	---	-99	---
Radiation Exposure Compensation Act	1,958	1,936	1,900	-58	-36
Healthy Community Access Program	82,993	---	---	-82,993	---
Hansen's Disease Services	17,251	16,066	16,066	-1,185	---
Buildings and Facilities	247	222	222	-25	---
Payment to Hawaii, treatment of Hansen's	2,017	2,016	2,016	-1	---
Black lung clinics	5,951	5,912	5,912	-39	---
Subtotal, Bureau of Primary Health Care	1,844,827	2,064,023	1,860,427	+15,600	-203,596

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
BUREAU OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS					
National Health Service Corps:					
Field placements	45,068	40,705	40,705	-4,363	---
Recruitment	86,380	86,091	86,091	-289	---
Subtotal, National Health Service Corps	131,448	126,796	126,796	-4,652	---
Health Professions					
Training for Diversity:					
Centers of excellence	33,609	---	12,000	-21,609	+12,000
Health careers opportunity program	35,647	---	---	-35,647	---
Faculty loan repayment	1,302	---	---	-1,302	---
Scholarships for disadvantaged students	47,128	9,831	35,128	-12,000	+25,297
Subtotal, Training for Diversity	117,686	9,831	47,128	-70,558	+37,297
Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry	88,816	---	---	-88,816	---
Interdisciplinary Community-Based Linkages:					
Area health education centers	28,971	---	---	-28,971	---
Health education and training centers	3,819	---	---	-3,819	---
Allied health and other disciplines	11,753	---	---	-11,753	---
Geriatric programs	31,548	---	---	-31,548	---
Quentin N. Burdick program for rural training	6,076	---	---	-6,076	---
Subtotal, Interdisciplinary Comm. Linkages	82,167	---	---	-82,167	---
Health Professions Workforce Info & Analysis	716	712	---	-716	-712
Public Health Workforce Development:					
Public health, preventive med. and dental programs	9,097	---	---	-9,097	---
Health administration programs	1,070	---	---	-1,070	---
Subtotal, Public Health Workforce Development	10,167	---	---	-10,167	---
Nursing Programs:					
Advanced Education Nursing	58,160	42,806	57,637	-523	+14,831
Nurse education, practice, and retention	36,468	46,325	36,468	---	-9,857
Nursing workforce diversity	16,270	21,244	16,270	---	-4,974
Loan repayment and scholarship program	31,482	31,369	31,369	-113	---
Comprehensive geriatric education	3,450	3,426	3,426	-24	---
Nursing faculty loan program	4,831	4,821	4,821	-10	---
Subtotal, Nursing programs	150,661	149,991	149,991	-670	---
Subtotal, Health Professions	450,213	160,534	197,119	-253,094	+36,585
Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education	300,730	200,000	300,000	-730	+100,000
National Practitioner Data Bank	15,700	15,700	15,700	---	---
User Fees	-15,700	-15,700	-15,700	---	---
Health Care Integrity and Protection Data Bank	4,000	4,000	4,000	---	---
User Fees	-4,000	-4,000	-4,000	---	---
Subtotal, Bureau of Health Professions	882,391	487,330	623,915	-258,476	+136,585
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH BUREAU					
Maternal and Child Health Block Grant	723,928	723,928	700,000	-23,928	-23,928
Sickle cell service demonstration program	198	---	---	-198	---
Traumatic Brain Injury	9,297	---	9,000	-297	+9,000
Healthy Start	102,543	97,747	97,747	-4,796	---
Universal Newborn Hearing	9,792	---	10,000	+208	+10,000
Emergency medical services for children	19,830	---	19,000	-830	+19,000
Poison control	23,499	23,301	23,301	-198	---
Subtotal, Maternal and Child Health Bureau	889,087	844,976	859,048	-30,039	+14,072

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
HIV/AIDS BUREAU					
Ryan White AIDS Programs:					
Emergency Assistance	610,094	610,094	610,094	---	---
Comprehensive Care Programs	1,121,836	1,131,836	1,131,836	+10,000	---
AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) (NA)	(787,521)	(797,521)	(797,521)	(+10,000)	---
Early Intervention Program	195,578	195,578	195,578	---	---
Pediatric HIV/AIDS	72,519	72,519	72,519	---	---
AIDS Dental Services	13,218	13,218	13,218	---	---
Education and Training Centers	35,051	35,051	35,051	---	---
Subtotal, Ryan White AIDS programs	2,048,296	2,058,296	2,058,296	+10,000	---
Evaluation Tap Funding (NA)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	---	---
Subtotal, Ryan White AIDs program level	(2,073,296)	(2,083,296)	(2,083,296)	(+10,000)	---
Telehealth	3,916	3,888	3,888	-28	---
Subtotal, HIV/AIDS Bureau	2,052,212	2,062,184	2,062,184	+9,972	---
SPECIAL PROGRAMS BUREAU					
Organ Transplantation	24,413	23,282	23,282	-1,131	---
Cord Blood Stem Cell Bank	9,859	---	---	-9,859	---
Bone Marrow Program	25,416	22,916	25,416	---	+2,500
Trauma Care	3,418	---	---	-3,418	---
State Planning Grants for Health Care Access	10,910	---	---	-10,910	---
Subtotal, Special programs bureau	74,016	46,198	48,698	-25,318	+2,500
RURAL HEALTH PROGRAMS					
Rural outreach grants	39,278	10,767	10,767	-28,511	---
Rural Health Research	8,825	8,528	---	-8,825	-8,528
Rural Hospital Flexibility Grants	39,180	---	39,180	---	+39,180
Rural and community access to emergency devices	8,927	1,960	1,960	-6,967	---
Rural EMS	496	---	---	-496	---
State Offices of Rural Health	8,321	8,223	8,223	-98	---
Denali Commission	39,680	---	---	-39,680	---
Subtotal, Rural health programs	144,707	29,478	60,130	-84,577	+30,652
Family Planning	285,963	285,963	285,963	---	---
Health Care-related Facilities and activities	482,729	---	---	-482,729	---
Bioterrorism hospital grants to States 1/	---	---	500,000	+500,000	+500,000
Program Management	147,080	145,992	145,992	-1,088	---
Total, Health resources and services	6,803,012	5,966,144	6,446,357	-356,655	+480,213
Total, Health resources & services program level	(6,828,012)	(5,991,144)	(6,471,357)	(-356,655)	(+480,213)
Evaluation tap funding	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	---	---
HEALTH EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOANS (HEAL) PROGRAM:					
Liquidating account	(4,000)	(4,000)	(4,000)	---	---
Program management	3,244	2,916	2,916	-328	---
Total, HEAL	3,244	2,916	2,916	-328	---
VACCINE INJURY COMPENSATION PROGRAM TRUST FUND:					
Post-FY 1988 claims	66,000	70,884	70,884	+4,884	---
HRSA administration	3,151	2,832	3,500	+349	+668
Total, Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund	69,151	73,716	74,384	+5,233	+668
Total, Health Resources and Services Admin	6,875,407	6,042,776	6,523,657	-351,750	+480,881
Total, HRSA program level	(6,904,407)	(6,071,776)	(6,552,657)	(-351,750)	(+480,881)

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION					
Infectious Diseases	1,667,095	1,696,964	1,704,529	+37,434	+7,565
Evaluation Tap Funding	(12,794)	(12,794)	(12,794)	---	---
Subtotal, Program level	(1,679,889)	(1,709,758)	(1,717,323)	(+37,434)	(+7,565)
Health Promotion	1,021,709	964,421	983,647	-38,062	+19,226
Health Information and Service	94,438	89,564	195,069	+100,631	+105,505
Evaluation Tap Funding	(134,235)	(134,235)	(28,730)	(-105,505)	(-105,505)
Subtotal, Program level	(228,673)	(223,799)	(223,799)	(-4,874)	---
Environmental health and injury	285,721	284,820	285,721	---	+901
Occupational safety and health 2/	198,970	198,859	164,170	-34,800	-34,689
Evaluation Tap Funding	(87,071)	(87,071)	(87,071)	---	---
Subtotal, Program level 2/	(286,041)	(285,930)	(251,241)	(-34,800)	(-34,689)
Global health	293,863	306,079	309,076	+15,213	+2,997
Supplemental (P.L. 109-13) (emergency)	15,000	---	---	-15,000	---
Subtotal, Program level	(308,863)	(306,079)	(309,076)	(+213)	(+2,997)
Terrorism preparedness and response 1/	---	---	1,616,723	+1,616,723	+1,616,723
Public Health research:					
Evaluation Tap Funding	(31,000)	(31,000)	(31,000)	---	---
Public health improvement and leadership	266,842	206,541	258,541	-8,301	+52,000
Preventive health and health services block grant	118,526	---	100,000	-18,526	+100,000
Buildings and Facilities	269,708	30,000	30,000	-239,708	---
Business services	278,838	263,715	298,515	+19,677	+34,800
Total, Centers for Disease Control	4,510,710	4,040,963	5,945,991	+1,435,281	+1,905,028
Evaluation Tap Funding (NA)	(265,100)	(265,100)	(159,595)	(-105,505)	(-105,505)
Total, Centers for Disease Control program level	(4,775,810)	(4,306,063)	(6,105,586)	(+1,329,776)	(+1,799,523)
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH					
National Cancer Institute	4,825,259	4,841,774	4,841,774	+16,515	---
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute	2,941,201	2,951,270	2,951,270	+10,069	---
National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research	391,829	393,269	393,269	+1,440	---
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases	1,713,584	1,722,146	1,722,146	+8,562	---
Juvenile diabetes (mandatory)	(150,000)	(150,000)	(150,000)	---	---
Subtotal, NIDDK	(1,863,584)	(1,872,146)	(1,872,146)	(+8,562)	---
National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke	1,539,448	1,550,260	1,550,260	+10,812	---
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases	4,303,640	4,359,395	4,359,395	+55,755	---
Global HIV/AIDS Fund Transfer	99,200	100,000	---	-99,200	-100,000
Subtotal, NIAID	4,402,840	4,459,395	4,359,395	-43,445	-100,000
National Institute of General Medical Sciences	1,944,067	1,955,170	1,955,170	+11,103	---
National Institute of Child Health & Human Development	1,270,321	1,277,544	1,277,544	+7,223	---
National Eye Institute	669,070	673,491	673,491	+4,421	---
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences	644,505	647,608	647,608	+3,103	---
National Institute on Aging	1,051,990	1,057,203	1,057,203	+5,213	---
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases	511,157	513,063	513,063	+1,906	---
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders	394,259	397,432	397,432	+3,173	---
National Institute of Nursing Research	138,072	138,729	138,729	+657	---
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism	438,277	440,333	440,333	+2,056	---
National Institute on Drug Abuse	1,006,419	1,010,130	1,010,130	+3,711	---
National Institute of Mental Health	1,411,933	1,417,692	1,417,692	+5,759	---
National Human Genome Research Institute	488,608	490,959	490,959	+2,351	---
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering	298,209	299,808	299,808	+1,599	---
National Center for Research Resources	1,115,090	1,100,203	1,100,203	-14,887	---

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine	122,105	122,692	122,692	+587	---
National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities	196,159	197,379	197,379	+1,220	---
John E. Fogarty International Center	66,632	67,048	67,048	+416	---
National Library of Medicine	315,146	318,091	318,091	+2,945	---
Evaluation Tap Funding	(8,200)	(8,200)	(8,200)	---	---
Subtotal, NLM	323,346	326,291	326,291	+2,945	---
Office of the Director 1/	358,047	385,195	482,216	+124,169	+97,021
Biodefense countermeasures 1/	---	---	(97,021)	(+97,021)	(+97,021)
Buildings and Facilities	110,288	81,900	81,900	-28,388	---
Total, National Institutes of Health (NIH)	28,364,515	28,509,784	28,506,805	+142,290	-2,979
Global HIV/AIDS Fund Transfer	-99,200	-100,000	---	+99,200	+100,000
Evaluation Tap Funding	(8,200)	(8,200)	(8,200)	---	---
Total, NIH, Program Level	(28,273,515)	(28,417,984)	(28,515,005)	(+241,490)	(+97,021)
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (SAMHSA)					
Mental Health:					
Programs of Regional and National Significance	274,297	210,213	253,257	-21,040	+43,044
Mental Health block grant	410,953	410,953	410,953	---	---
Evaluation Tap Funding	(21,803)	(21,803)	(21,803)	---	---
Subtotal, Program level	(432,756)	(432,756)	(432,756)	---	---
Children's Mental Health	105,112	105,129	105,129	+17	---
Grants to States for the Homeless (PATH)	54,809	54,809	54,809	---	---
Protection and Advocacy	34,343	34,343	34,343	---	---
Subtotal, Mental Health	879,514	815,447	858,491	-21,023	+43,044
Subtotal, Program level	(901,317)	(837,250)	(880,294)	(-21,023)	(+43,044)
Substance Abuse Treatment:					
Programs of Regional and National Significance	418,066	442,752	405,131	-12,935	-37,621
Evaluation Tap Funding	(4,300)	(4,300)	(4,300)	---	---
Subtotal, Program level	(422,366)	(447,052)	(409,431)	(-12,935)	(-37,621)
Substance Abuse block grant	1,696,355	1,696,355	1,696,355	---	---
Evaluation Tap Funding	(79,200)	(79,200)	(79,200)	---	---
Subtotal, Program level	(1,775,555)	(1,775,555)	(1,775,555)	---	---
Subtotal, Substance Abuse Treatment	2,114,421	2,139,107	2,101,486	-12,935	-37,621
Subtotal, Program level	(2,197,921)	(2,222,607)	(2,184,986)	(-12,935)	(-37,621)
Substance Abuse Prevention:					
Programs of Regional and National Significance	198,725	184,349	194,950	-3,775	+10,601
Program Management	75,806	75,817	75,817	+11	---
Evaluation Tap funding (NA)	(18,000)	(16,000)	(16,000)	(-2,000)	---
Subtotal, Program level	93,806	91,817	91,817	-1,989	---
Total, SAMHSA	3,268,466	3,214,720	3,230,744	-37,722	+16,024
Evaluation Tap funding	(123,303)	(121,303)	(121,303)	(-2,000)	---
Total, SAMHSA program level	(3,391,769)	(3,336,023)	(3,352,047)	(-39,722)	(+16,024)

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY					
Research on Health Costs, Quality, and Outcomes:					
Federal Funds	---	---	318,695	+318,695	+318,695
Evaluation Tap funding (NA)	(260,695)	(260,695)	---	(-260,695)	(-260,695)
Clinial effectiveness research (NA)	(15,000)	(15,000)	---	(-15,000)	(-15,000)
Reducing medical errors (NA)	(84,000)	(84,000)	---	(-84,000)	(-84,000)
Subtotal, Program level	(260,695)	(260,695)	(318,695)	(+58,000)	(+58,000)
Health Insurance and Expenditure Surveys:					
Evaluation Tap funding (NA)	(55,300)	(55,300)	---	(-55,300)	(-55,300)
Program Support:					
Evaluation Tap funding (NA)	(2,700)	(2,700)	---	(-2,700)	(-2,700)
Total, AHRQ	---	---	318,695	+318,695	+318,695
Evaluation Tap funding (NA)	(318,695)	(318,695)	---	(-318,695)	(-318,695)
Total, AHRQ program level	(318,695)	(318,695)	(318,695)	---	---
Total, Public Health Service appropriation	43,019,098	41,808,243	44,525,892	+1,506,794	+2,717,649
Total, Public Health Service program level	(43,664,196)	(42,450,541)	(44,843,990)	(+1,179,794)	(+2,393,449)
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES					
GRANTS TO STATES FOR MEDICAID					
Medicaid current law benefits	171,407,893	204,166,276	204,166,276	+32,758,383	---
State and local administration	9,318,602	9,803,100	9,803,100	+484,498	---
Vaccines for Children	1,468,799	1,502,333	1,502,333	+33,534	---
Subtotal, Medicaid program level	182,195,294	215,471,709	215,471,709	+33,276,415	---
Less funds advanced in prior year	-58,416,275	-58,517,290	-58,517,290	-101,015	---
Total, Grants to States for medicaid	123,779,019	156,954,419	156,954,419	+33,175,400	---
New advance, 1st quarter	58,517,290	62,783,825	62,783,825	+4,266,535	---
PAYMENTS TO HEALTH CARE TRUST FUNDS					
Supplemental medical insurance	114,002,000	128,015,000	128,015,000	+14,013,000	---
Hospital insurance for the uninsured	87,000	202,000	202,000	+115,000	---
Federal uninsured payment	199,000	206,000	206,000	+7,000	---
Program management	215,000	164,000	164,000	-51,000	---
General revenue for Part D benefit	---	53,596,000	53,596,000	+53,596,000	---
General revenue for Part D administration (CMS)	---	357,000	357,000	+357,000	---
General revenue for Part D administration (SSA)	---	320,000	320,000	+320,000	---
HCFAC reimbursement	---	80,000	---	---	-80,000
Prescription drug eligibility determinations	105,900	99,100	99,100	-6,800	---
Subtotal, Payments to Trust Funds, current law	114,608,900	183,039,100	182,959,100	+68,350,200	-80,000
Less funds advanced in prior year	---	-5,216,900	-5,216,900	-5,216,900	---
New Advance FY 2007	5,216,900	---	---	-5,216,900	---
Total, Payments to Trust Funds, current law	119,825,800	177,822,200	177,742,200	+57,916,400	-80,000
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT					
Medicare reform funding 3/ 4/ 5/ (NA)	(250,000)	(250,000)	(250,000)	---	---
Research, Demonstration, Evaluation	77,494	45,194	65,000	-12,494	+19,806
Medicare Operations	1,722,984	2,189,987	2,172,987	+450,003	-17,000
H.R. 3103 funding (NA)	(720,000)	(720,000)	(720,000)	---	---
Subtotal, Medicare Operations program level	(2,442,984)	(2,909,987)	(2,892,987)	(+450,003)	(-17,000)

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
Revitalization plan	24,205	24,205	24,205	---	---
State Survey and Certification	258,735	260,735	260,735	+2,000	---
Federal Administration	581,493	657,357	657,357	+75,864	---
Total, Program management, Limitation on new BA	2,664,911	3,177,478	3,180,284	+515,373	+2,806
Total, Program management, program level	(3,384,911)	(3,897,478)	(3,900,284)	(+515,373)	(+2,806)
Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control:					
Part D drug benefit/medicare advantage (MIP)	---	75,000	---	---	-75,000
Medicaid and SCHIP financial management	---	5,000	---	---	-5,000
Total, Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control	---	80,000	---	---	-80,000
Total, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services	304,787,020	400,817,922	400,660,728	+95,873,708	-157,194
Federal funds	302,122,109	397,560,444	397,480,444	+95,358,335	-80,000
Current year	(238,387,919)	(334,776,619)	(334,696,619)	(+96,308,700)	(-80,000)
New advance, FY 2007	(63,734,190)	(62,783,825)	(62,783,825)	(-950,365)	---
Trust Funds	2,664,911	3,257,478	3,180,284	+515,373	-77,194
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES					
FAMILY SUPPORT PAYMENTS TO STATES					
Payments to territories	23,000	33,000	33,000	+10,000	---
Repatriation	1,000	1,300	1,300	+300	---
Subtotal, Welfare payments	24,000	34,300	34,300	+10,300	---
Child Support Enforcement:					
State and local administration	3,610,465	3,715,816	3,715,816	+105,351	---
Federal incentive payments	446,000	458,000	458,000	+12,000	---
Access and visitation	10,000	12,000	12,000	+2,000	---
Subtotal, Child Support Enforcement	4,066,465	4,185,816	4,185,816	+119,351	---
Total, Family support payments program level	4,090,465	4,220,116	4,220,116	+129,651	---
Less funds advanced in previous years	-1,200,000	-1,200,000	-1,200,000	---	---
Total, Family support payments, current request	2,890,465	3,020,116	3,020,116	+129,651	---
New advance, 1st quarter, FY 2007	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	---	---
Total, Family support payments	4,090,465	4,220,116	4,220,116	+129,651	---
LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM					
Formula grants	1,884,799	1,800,000	1,984,799	+100,000	+184,799
Emergency allocation:					
Contingent emergency allocation	---	200,000	---	---	-200,000
Emergency allocation	297,600	---	---	-297,600	---
Total, Low income home energy assistance	2,182,399	2,000,000	1,984,799	-197,600	-15,201
REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE					
Transitional and Medical Services	192,028	264,129	264,129	+72,101	---
Victims of Trafficking	9,915	9,915	9,915	---	---
Social Services	164,888	151,121	160,000	-4,888	+8,879
Preventive Health	4,796	4,796	4,796	---	---
Targeted Assistance	49,081	49,081	49,081	---	---
Unaccompanied minors	53,771	63,083	63,083	+9,312	---
Victims of Torture	9,915	9,915	9,915	---	---
Total, Refugee and entrant assistance	484,394	552,040	560,919	+76,525	+8,879

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT	2,082,921	2,082,910	2,082,910	-11	---
SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT (TITLE XX)	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	---	---
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES PROGRAMS					
Programs for Children, Youth and Families:					
Head Start, current funded	5,454,314	5,499,336	5,499,000	+44,686	-336
Advance from prior year	(1,388,800)	(1,400,000)	(1,400,000)	(+11,200)	---
FY 2007	1,400,000	1,388,800	1,400,000	---	+11,200
Subtotal, Head Start, program level	6,843,114	6,899,336	6,899,000	+55,886	-336
Consolidated Runaway, Homeless Youth Program	88,724	88,728	88,728	+4	---
Maternity Group Homes	---	10,000	---	---	-10,000
Prevention grants to reduce abuse of runaway youth	15,178	15,179	15,179	+1	---
Child Abuse State Grants	27,280	27,280	27,280	---	---
Child Abuse Discretionary Activities	31,640	31,645	31,645	+5	---
Community based child abuse prevention	42,858	42,859	42,859	+1	---
Abandoned Infants Assistance	11,955	11,955	11,955	---	---
Child Welfare Services	289,650	289,650	289,650	---	---
Child Welfare Training	7,409	7,409	7,409	---	---
Adoption Opportunities	27,116	27,119	27,119	+3	---
Adoption Incentive (no cap adjustment)	31,846	31,846	31,846	---	---
Adoption Awareness	12,802	12,802	12,802	---	---
Compassion Capital Fund	54,549	100,000	75,000	+20,451	-25,000
Social Services and Income Maintenance Research	26,012	---	2,621	-23,391	+2,621
Evaluation tap funding	(6,000)	(6,000)	(8,000)	(+2,000)	(+2,000)
Subtotal, Program level	(32,012)	(6,000)	(10,621)	(-21,391)	(+4,621)
Developmental Disabilities Programs:					
State Councils	72,496	72,496	72,496	---	---
Protection and Advocacy	38,109	38,109	38,109	---	---
Voting access for individuals with disabilities	14,879	14,879	14,879	---	---
Developmental Disabilities Projects of National Significance	11,542	11,529	11,529	-13	---
University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities	31,549	31,548	33,548	+1,999	+2,000
Subtotal, Developmental disabilities programs	168,575	168,561	170,561	+1,986	+2,000
Native American Programs	44,786	44,780	44,780	-6	---
Community Services:					
Grants to States for Community Services	636,793	---	320,000	-316,793	+320,000
Community Initiative Program:					
Economic Development	32,731	---	32,731	---	+32,731
Individual Development Account Initiative	24,704	24,699	24,699	-5	---
Rural Community Facilities	7,242	---	7,242	---	+7,242
Subtotal, Community Initiative Program	64,677	24,699	64,672	-5	+39,973
National Youth Sports	17,856	---	---	-17,856	---
Community Food and Nutrition	7,180	---	---	-7,180	---
Subtotal, Community Services	726,506	24,699	384,672	-341,834	+359,973

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
Domestic Violence Hotline	3,224	3,000	3,000	-224	---
Family Violence/Battered Women's Shelters	125,630	125,991	125,991	+361	---
Early Learning Fund	35,712	---	---	-35,712	---
Mentoring Children of Prisoners	49,598	49,993	49,993	+395	---
Independent Living Training Vouchers	46,623	59,999	50,000	+3,377	-9,999
Abstinence Education	99,198	138,045	110,000	+10,802	-28,045
Evaluation Tap Funding	(4,500)	(4,500)	(4,500)	---	---
Subtotal, Program level	(103,698)	(142,545)	(114,500)	(+10,802)	(-28,045)
Faith-Based Center	1,375	1,400	1,400	+25	---
Program Direction	185,210	185,217	185,217	+7	---
Total, Children and Families Services Programs	9,007,770	8,386,293	8,688,707	-319,063	+302,414
Current Year	(7,607,770)	(6,997,493)	(7,288,707)	(-319,063)	(+291,214)
FY 2007	(1,400,000)	(1,388,800)	(1,400,000)	---	(+11,200)
Evaluation Tap funding	(10,500)	(10,500)	(12,500)	(+2,000)	(+2,000)
Total, Program level	9,018,270	8,396,793	8,701,207	-317,063	+304,414
PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES	305,000	305,000	305,000	---	---
Discretionary Funds	98,586	105,000	99,000	+414	-6,000
PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION					
Foster Care	4,895,500	4,685,000	4,685,000	-210,500	---
Adoption Assistance	1,770,100	1,795,000	1,795,000	+24,900	---
Independent living	140,000	140,000	140,000	---	---
Total, Payments to States	6,805,600	6,620,000	6,620,000	-185,600	---
Less Advances from Prior Year	-1,767,700	-1,767,200	-1,767,200	+500	---
Total, payments, current year	5,037,900	4,852,800	4,852,800	-185,100	---
New Advance, 1st quarter	1,767,200	1,730,000	1,730,000	-37,200	---
Total, Administration for Children & Families	26,756,635	25,934,159	26,224,251	-532,384	+290,092
Current year	(22,389,435)	(21,615,359)	(21,894,251)	(-495,184)	(+278,892)
FY 2007	(4,367,200)	(4,318,800)	(4,330,000)	(-37,200)	(+11,200)
Evaluation Tap funding	(10,500)	(10,500)	(12,500)	(+2,000)	(+2,000)
Total, Administration for Children & Families	26,767,135	25,944,659	26,236,751	-530,384	+292,092
ADMINISTRATION ON AGING					
Grants to States:					
Supportive Services and Centers	354,136	354,136	354,136	---	---
Preventive Health	21,616	21,616	21,616	---	---
Protection of vulnerable older americans-Title VII	19,288	19,360	19,360	+72	---
Family Caregivers	155,744	155,744	155,744	---	---
Native American Caregivers Support	6,304	6,304	6,304	---	---
Subtotal, Caregivers	162,048	162,048	162,048	---	---
Nutrition:					
Congregate Meals	387,274	387,274	391,147	+3,873	+3,873
Home Delivered Meals	182,827	182,826	184,656	+1,829	+1,830
Nutrition Services Incentive Program	148,596	148,596	150,082	+1,486	+1,486
Subtotal, Nutrition	718,697	718,696	725,885	+7,188	+7,189
Subtotal, Grants to States	1,275,785	1,275,856	1,283,045	+7,260	+7,189

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
Grants for Native Americans	26,398	26,398	26,398	---	---
Program Innovations	43,286	23,843	23,843	-19,443	---
Aging Network Support Activities	13,266	13,266	13,266	---	---
Alzheimer's Disease Demonstrations	11,786	11,786	11,786	---	---
White House Conference on Aging	4,520	---	---	-4,520	---
Program Administration	18,301	17,879	17,879	-422	---
Total, Administration on Aging	1,393,342	1,369,028	1,376,217	-17,125	+7,189
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY					
GENERAL DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT:					
Federal Funds	184,155	172,643	172,643	-11,512	---
Trust Funds	5,804	5,851	5,851	+47	---
Subtotal	189,959	178,494	178,494	-11,465	---
Adolescent Family Life (Title XX)	30,900	30,742	30,742	-158	---
Minority health	50,518	47,236	47,236	-3,282	---
Office of women's health	28,818	28,715	28,715	-103	---
Minority HIV/AIDS	52,415	52,415	52,415	---	---
Health care information technology	---	---	---	---	---
Afghanistan	5,952	5,952	5,952	---	---
Embryo adoption awareness campaign	992	992	992	---	---
IT Security and Innovation Fund	14,695	14,630	---	-14,695	-14,630
Evaluation tap funding (ASPE) (NA)	(39,552)	(39,552)	(39,552)	---	---
Total, General Departmental Management	374,249	359,176	344,546	-29,703	-14,630
Federal Funds	368,445	353,325	338,695	-29,750	-14,630
Trust Funds	5,804	5,851	5,851	+47	---
Evaluation tap funding	(39,552)	(39,552)	(39,552)	---	---
OFFICE OF MEDICARE HEARINGS AND APPEALS	57,536	80,000	60,000	+2,464	-20,000
OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY 6/	---	75,000	58,100	+58,100	-16,900
Evaluation tap funding	(16,943)	(2,750)	(16,900)	(-43)	(+14,150)
Total, Health Information Tech. program level	(16,943)	(77,750)	(75,000)	(+58,057)	(-2,750)
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL:					
Federal Funds	39,930	39,813	39,813	-117	---
HIPAA funding (NA)	(160,000)	(160,000)	(160,000)	---	---
Total, Inspector General program level	(199,930)	(199,813)	(199,813)	(-117)	---
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS:					
Federal Funds	31,726	31,682	31,682	-44	---
Trust Funds	3,287	3,314	3,314	+27	---
Total, Office for Civil Rights	35,013	34,996	34,996	-17	---
MEDICAL BENEFITS FOR COMMISSIONED OFFICERS					
Retirement payments	241,294	256,193	256,193	+14,899	---
Survivors benefits	14,750	15,600	15,600	+850	---
Dependents' medical care	74,592	56,759	56,759	-17,833	---
Total,Medical benefits for Commissioned Officers	330,636	328,552	328,552	-2,084	---
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE EMERGENCY FUND					
HRSA homeland security activities 1/	514,618	510,500	---	-514,618	-510,500
CDC homeland security activities 1/	1,622,757	1,616,723	---	-1,622,757	-1,616,723
NIH homeland security activities 1/	47,021	97,021	---	-47,021	-97,021
Office of the Secretary homeland sercurity activities	63,821	83,589	63,589	-232	-20,000
Other PHSSEF homeland security activities	109,198	120,000	120,000	+10,802	---
Supplemental (P.L. 108-234) (emergency)	50,000	---	---	-50,000	---
Total, PHSSEF	2,407,415	2,427,833	183,589	-2,223,826	-2,244,244

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
Total, Office of the Secretary	3,244,779	3,345,370	1,049,596	-2,195,183	-2,295,774
Federal Funds	3,178,152	3,256,205	980,431	-2,197,721	-2,275,774
Trust Funds	66,627	89,165	69,165	+2,538	-20,000
Total, Title II, Dept of Health & Human Services	379,200,874	473,274,722	473,836,684	+94,635,810	+561,962
Federal Funds	376,469,336	469,928,079	470,587,235	+94,117,899	+659,156
Current year	(308,367,946)	(402,825,454)	(403,473,410)	(+95,105,464)	(+647,956)
FY 2007	(68,101,390)	(67,102,625)	(67,113,825)	(-987,565)	(+11,200)
Trust Funds	2,731,538	3,346,643	3,249,449	+517,911	-97,194

Title II Footnotes:
1/ Funds provided for biodefense activities are reflected within HRSA, CDC, and NIH respectively.
2/ Includes Mine Safety and Health.
3/ Funds provided in P.L. 108-173, the 2003 Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement & Modernization Act
4/ $1 billion available for fiscal years 2004-2005
5/ $250 million available for fiscal years 2005-2008
6/ An additional $50 million for Health IT within AHRQ

TITLE III - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

EDUCATION FOR THE DISADVANTAGED

Grants to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs)					
Basic Grants:					
Advance from prior year	(1,883,584)	(1,383,584)	(1,383,584)	(-500,000)	---
Forward funded	5,547,798	5,955,536	5,452,798	-95,000	-502,738
Current funded	3,472	3,472	3,472	---	---
Subtotal, Basic grants current year approp.	5,551,270	5,959,008	5,456,270	-95,000	-502,738
Subtotal, Basic grants total funds available	(7,434,854)	(7,342,592)	(6,839,854)	(-595,000)	(-502,738)
Basic Grants FY 2007 Advance	1,383,584	975,846	1,478,584	+95,000	+502,738
Subtotal, Basic grants, program level	6,934,854	6,934,854	6,934,854	---	---
Concentration Grants:					
Advance from prior year	(1,365,031)	(1,365,031)	(1,365,031)	---	---
FY 2007 Advance	1,365,031	1,365,031	1,365,031	---	---
Subtotal, Concentration Grants program level	1,365,031	1,365,031	1,365,031	---	---
Targeted Grants:					
Advance from prior year	(1,969,843)	(2,219,843)	(2,219,843)	(+250,000)	---
FY 2007 Advance	2,219,843	2,822,581	2,269,843	+50,000	-552,738
Subtotal, Targeted Grants program level	2,219,843	2,822,581	2,269,843	+50,000	-552,738
Education Finance Incentive Grants:					
Advance from prior year	(1,969,843)	(2,219,843)	(2,219,843)	(+250,000)	---
FY 2007 Advance	2,219,843	2,219,843	2,269,843	+50,000	+50,000
Subtotal, Education Finance Incentive Grants	2,219,843	2,219,843	2,269,843	+50,000	+50,000
Subtotal, Grants to LEAs, program level	12,739,571	13,342,309	12,839,571	+100,000	-502,738
Even Start	225,095	---	200,000	-25,095	+200,000
Reading First:					
State Grants (forward funded)	846,600	1,041,600	1,041,600	+195,000	---
Advance from prior year	(195,000)	(195,000)	(195,000)	---	---
FY 2007 Advance	195,000	---	---	-195,000	---
Subtotal, Reading First State Grants	1,041,600	1,041,600	1,041,600	---	---
Early Reading First	104,160	104,160	104,160	---	---
Striving readers	24,800	200,000	30,000	+5,200	-170,000

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
Literacy through School Libraries	19,683	19,683	19,683	---	---
High School Intervention	---	1,240,000	---	---	-1,240,000
State Agency Programs:					
Migrant	390,428	390,428	390,428	---	---
Neglected and Delinquent/High Risk Youth	49,600	49,600	49,600	---	---
Subtotal, State Agency programs	440,028	440,028	440,028	---	---
Evaluation	9,424	9,424	9,424	---	---
Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration	205,344	---	10,000	-195,344	+10,000
Migrant Education:					
High School Equivalency Program	18,737	18,737	18,737	---	---
College Assistance Migrant Program	15,532	15,532	15,532	---	---
Subtotal, Migrant Education	34,269	34,269	34,269	---	---
Total, Education for the disadvantaged	14,843,974	16,431,473	14,728,735	-115,239	-1,702,738
Current Year	(7,460,673)	(9,048,172)	(7,345,434)	(-115,239)	(-1,702,738)
FY 2007	(7,383,301)	(7,383,301)	(7,383,301)	---	---
Subtotal, forward funded	(7,264,865)	(8,677,164)	(7,144,426)	(-120,439)	(-1,532,738)
IMPACT AID					
Basic Support Payments	1,075,018	1,075,018	1,102,896	+27,878	+27,878
Payments for Children with Disabilities	49,966	49,966	49,966	---	---
Facilities Maintenance (Sec. 8008)	7,838	7,838	5,000	-2,838	-2,838
Construction (Sec. 8007)	48,545	45,544	18,000	-30,545	-27,544
Payments for Federal Property (Sec. 8002)	62,496	62,496	65,000	+2,504	+2,504
Total, Impact aid	1,243,863	1,240,862	1,240,862	-3,001	---
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS					
State Grants for Improving Teacher Quality	1,481,605	1,481,605	1,481,605	---	---
Advance from prior year	(1,435,000)	(1,435,000)	(1,435,000)	---	---
FY 2007	1,435,000	1,435,000	1,435,000	---	---
Subtotal, State Grants for Improving Teacher Quality, program level	(2,916,605)	(2,916,605)	(2,916,605)	---	---
Early Childhood Educator Professional Development	14,695	14,696	14,696	+1	---
Mathematics and Science Partnerships	178,560	269,000	190,000	+11,440	-79,000
State Grants for Innovative Education (Education Block Grant)	198,400	100,000	198,400	---	+98,400
Educational Technology State Grants	496,000	---	300,000	-196,000	+300,000
Supplemental Education Grants	18,183	18,183	18,183	---	---
21st Century Community Learning Centers	991,077	991,077	991,077	---	---
State Assessments/Enhanced Assessment Instruments	411,680	411,680	411,680	---	---
High school assessments	---	250,000	---	---	-250,000
Javits gifted and talented education	11,022	---	---	-11,022	---
Foreign language assistance	17,856	---	---	-17,856	---
Education for Homeless Children and Youth	62,496	62,496	62,496	---	---
Training and Advisory Services (Civil Rights)	7,185	7,185	7,185	---	---
Education for Native Hawaiians	34,224	32,624	24,770	-9,454	-7,854
Alaska Native Education Equity	34,224	31,224	31,224	-3,000	---
Rural Education	170,624	170,624	170,624	---	---
Comprehensive Centers	56,825	56,825	56,825	---	---
Total, School improvement programs	5,619,656	5,332,219	5,393,765	-225,891	+61,546
Current Year	(4,184,656)	(3,897,219)	(3,958,765)	(-225,891)	(+61,546)
FY 2007	(1,435,000)	(1,435,000)	(1,435,000)	---	---
Subtotal, forward funded	(3,990,442)	(3,736,482)	(3,805,882)	(-184,560)	(+69,400)
INDIAN EDUCATION					
Grants to Local Educational Agencies	95,166	96,294	96,294	+1,128	---

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
Federal Programs:					
Special Programs for Indian Children	19,595	19,595	19,595	---	---
National Activities	5,129	4,000	4,000	-1,129	---
Subtotal, Federal Programs	24,724	23,595	23,595	-1,129	---
Total, Indian Education	119,890	119,889	119,889	-1	---
INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT					
Troops-to-Teachers	14,793	14,793	14,793	---	---
Transition to Teaching	44,933	44,933	44,933	---	---
National Writing Project	20,336	---	20,336	---	+20,336
Teaching of Traditional American History	119,040	119,040	50,000	-69,040	-69,040
School Leadership	14,880	---	14,880	---	+14,880
Advanced Credentialing	16,864	8,000	16,864	---	+8,864
Charter Schools Grants	216,952	218,702	216,952	---	-1,750
Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities	36,981	36,981	36,981	---	---
Voluntary Public School Choice	26,543	26,543	26,543	---	---
Magnet Schools Assistance	107,771	107,771	107,771	---	---
Fund for the Improvement of Education (FIE):					
Current funded	414,079	156,296	27,000	-387,079	-129,296
Teacher Incentive Fund	---	500,000	100,000	+100,000	-400,000
Ready to Learn television	23,312	23,312	---	-23,312	-23,312
Dropout Prevention Programs	4,930	---	---	-4,930	---
Close Up Fellowships	1,469	---	1,469	---	+1,469
Advanced Placement	29,760	51,500	30,000	+240	-21,500
Total, Innovation and Improvement	1,092,643	1,307,871	708,522	-384,121	-599,349
SAFE SCHOOLS AND CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION					
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities:					
State Grants, forward funded	437,381	---	400,000	-37,381	+400,000
National Programs	152,537	267,967	152,537	---	-115,430
Alcohol Abuse Reduction	32,736	---	---	-32,736	---
Mentoring Programs	49,307	49,307	49,307	---	---
Character education	24,493	24,493	24,493	---	---
Elementary and Secondary School Counseling	34,720	---	34,720	---	+34,720
Carol M. White Physical Education Program	73,408	55,000	73,408	---	+18,408
Civic Education	29,405	---	29,405	---	+29,405
State Grants for Incarcerated Youth Offenders	26,784	---	---	-26,784	---
Total, Safe Schools and Citizenship Education	860,771	396,767	763,870	-96,901	+367,103
Current Year	(860,771)	(396,767)	(763,870)	(-96,901)	(+367,103)
FY 2007	---	---	---	---	---
Subtotal, forward funded	(464,165)	---	(400,000)	(-64,165)	(+400,000)
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION					
Current funded	84,816	---	---	-84,816	---
Forward funded	590,949	675,765	675,765	+84,816	---
Total, English Language Acquisition	675,765	675,765	675,765	---	---
SPECIAL EDUCATION					
State Grants:					
Grants to States Part B current year	5,176,746	4,893,746	5,326,746	+150,000	+433,000
Part B advance from prior year	(5,413,000)	(5,413,000)	(5,413,000)	---	---
Grants to States Part B (FY 2007)	5,413,000	6,204,000	5,413,000	---	-791,000
Subtotal, Grants to States, program level	10,589,746	11,097,746	10,739,746	+150,000	-358,000
Preschool Grants	384,597	384,597	384,597	---	---
Grants for Infants and Families	440,808	440,808	440,808	---	---
Subtotal, State grants, program level	11,415,151	11,923,151	11,565,151	+150,000	-358,000

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
IDEA National Activities (current funded):					
State Improvement	50,653	---	50,653	---	+50,653
Special Education-Voc Rehab transition initiative	---	5,000	---	---	-5,000
Technical Assistance and Dissemination	52,396	49,397	49,397	-2,999	---
Personnel Preparation	90,626	90,626	90,626	---	---
Parent Information Centers	25,964	25,964	25,964	---	---
Technology and Media Services	38,816	31,992	31,992	-6,824	---
Subtotal, IDEA special programs	258,455	202,979	248,632	-9,823	+45,653
Total, Special education	11,673,606	12,126,130	11,813,783	+140,177	-312,347
Current Year	(6,260,606)	(5,922,130)	(6,400,783)	(+140,177)	(+478,653)
FY 2007	(5,413,000)	(6,204,000)	(5,413,000)	---	(-791,000)
Subtotal, Forward funded	(6,052,804)	(5,719,151)	(6,202,804)	(+150,000)	(+483,653)
REHABILITATION SERVICES AND DISABILITY RESEARCH					
Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants	2,635,845	2,720,192	2,720,192	+84,347	---
Client Assistance State grants	11,901	11,901	11,901	---	---
Training	38,826	38,826	38,826	---	---
Demonstration and training programs	25,607	6,577	6,577	-19,030	---
Migrant and seasonal farmworkers	2,302	---	2,302	---	+2,302
Recreational programs	2,543	---	2,543	---	+2,543
Protection and advocacy of individual rights (PAIR)	16,656	16,656	16,656	---	---
Projects with industry	21,625	---	19,735	-1,890	+19,735
Supported employment State grants	37,379	---	30,000	-7,379	+30,000
Independent living:					
State grants	22,816	22,816	22,816	---	---
Centers	75,392	75,392	75,392	---	---
Services for older blind individuals	33,227	33,227	33,227	---	---
Subtotal, Independent living	131,435	131,435	131,435	---	---
Program Improvement	843	843	843	---	---
Evaluation	1,488	1,488	1,488	---	---
Helen Keller National Center for Deaf/Blind Youth and Adults	10,581	8,597	8,597	-1,984	---
National Inst. Disability and Rehab. Research (NIDRR)	107,783	107,783	107,783	---	---
Assistive Technology	29,760	15,000	29,760	---	+14,760
Subtotal, discretionary programs	438,729	339,106	408,446	-30,283	+69,340
Total, Rehabilitation services	3,074,574	3,059,298	3,128,638	+54,064	+69,340
SPECIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES					
AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE FOR THE BLIND	16,864	16,864	17,000	+136	+136
NATIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF (NTID):					
Operations	53,672	53,672	55,337	+1,665	+1,665
Construction	1,672	800	800	-872	---
Total, NTID	55,344	54,472	56,137	+793	+1,665
GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY	104,557	104,557	107,657	+3,100	+3,100
Total, Special Institutions for Persons with Disabilities	176,765	175,893	180,794	+4,029	+4,901
VOCATIONAL AND ADULT EDUCATION					
Vocational Education:					
Basic State Grants/Secondary & Technical Education					
State Grants, current funded	403,331	---	403,331	---	+403,331
Advance from prior year	(791,000)	(791,000)	(791,000)	---	---
FY 2007	791,000	---	791,000	---	+791,000
Subtotal, Basic State Grants, program level	1,194,331	---	1,194,331	---	+1,194,331

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
Tech-Prep Education State Grants	105,812	---	105,812	---	+105,812
National Programs	11,757	---	11,757	---	+11,757
Tech-Prep Education Demonstration	4,899	---	---	-4,899	---
Occupational and Employment Information Program	9,307	---	---	-9,307	---
Subtotal, Vocational Education	1,326,106	---	1,311,900	-14,206	+1,311,900
Adult Education:					
State Grants/Adult basic and literacy education:					
State Grants, current funded	569,672	200,000	569,672	---	+369,672
National Programs:					
National Leadership Activities	9,096	9,096	9,096	---	---
National Institute for Literacy	6,638	6,638	6,638	---	---
Subtotal, National programs	15,734	15,734	15,734	---	---
Subtotal, Adult education	585,406	215,734	585,406	---	+369,672
Smaller Learning Communities, current funded	4,724	---	4,724	---	+4,724
Smaller Learning Communities, forward funded	89,752	---	89,752	---	+89,752
Community Technology Centers	4,960	---	---	-4,960	---
Total, Vocational and adult education	2,010,948	215,734	1,991,782	-19,166	+1,776,048
Current Year	(1,219,948)	(215,734)	(1,200,782)	(-19,166)	(+985,048)
FY 2007	(791,000)	---	(791,000)	---	(+791,000)
Subtotal, forward funded	(1,210,264)	(215,734)	(1,196,058)	(-14,206)	(+980,324)
STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE					
Pell Grants -- maximum grant (NA)	(4,050)	(4,150)	(4,100)	(+50)	(-50)
Pell Grants:					
Regular Program	12,364,997	13,199,000	13,383,000	+1,018,003	+184,000
Enhanced Pell grants for State scholars	---	33,000	---	---	-33,000
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants	778,720	778,720	778,720	---	---
Federal Work Study	990,257	990,257	990,257	---	---
Federal Perkins Loans:					
Loan Cancellations	66,132	---	66,132	---	+66,132
Presidential math and science scholars	---	50,000	---	---	-50,000
LEAP program	65,643	---	65,643	---	+65,643
Subtotal, discretionary programs	14,265,749	15,050,977	15,283,752	+1,018,003	+232,775
Total, Student Financial Assistance	14,265,749	15,050,977	15,283,752	+1,018,003	+232,775
STUDENT AID ADMINISTRATION					
Administrative Costs	119,084	939,285	124,084	+5,000	-815,201
Fed Direct Student Loan Reclassification (Leg prop)	---	-625,000	---	---	+625,000
LOANS FOR SHORT-TERM TRAINING	---	11,000	---	---	-11,000
HIGHER EDUCATION					
Aid for Institutional Development:					
Strengthening Institutions	80,338	80,338	80,338	---	---
Hispanic Serving Institutions	95,106	95,873	95,873	+767	---
Strengthening Historically Black Colleges (HBCUs)	238,576	240,500	240,500	+1,924	---
Strengthening historically black graduate insts	58,032	58,500	58,500	+468	---
Strengthening Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions	11,904	6,500	6,500	-5,404	---
Strengthening Tribal Colleges	23,808	23,808	23,808	---	---
Subtotal, Aid for Institutional development	507,764	505,519	505,519	-2,245	---
International Education and Foreign Language:					
Domestic Programs	92,465	92,466	92,466	+1	---
Overseas Programs	12,737	12,737	12,737	---	---
Institute for International Public Policy	1,616	1,616	1,616	---	---
Subtotal, International Education & Foreign Lang	106,818	106,819	106,819	+1	---

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
Fund for the Improvement of Postsec. Ed. (FIPSE)	162,108	22,211	49,211	-112,897	+27,000
Minority Science and Engineering Improvement	8,818	8,818	8,818	---	---
Interest Subsidy Grants	1,488	---	---	-1,488	---
Tribally Controlled Postsec Voc/Tech Institutions	7,440	7,440	7,440	---	---
Federal TRIO Programs	836,543	369,390	836,543	---	+467,153
GEAR UP	306,488	---	306,488	---	+306,488
Byrd Honors Scholarships	40,672	---	---	-40,672	---
Javits Fellowships	9,797	9,797	9,797	---	---
Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need	30,371	30,371	30,371	---	---
Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants	68,337	---	58,000	-10,337	+58,000
Child Care Access Means Parents in School	15,970	15,970	15,970	---	---
Community college access	---	125,000	---	---	-125,000
Demonstration in Disabilities / Higher Education	6,944	---	---	-6,944	---
Underground Railroad Program	2,204	---	---	-2,204	---
GPRA data/HEA program evaluation	980	980	980	---	---
B.J. Stupak Olympic Scholarships	980	---	980	---	+980
Thurgood Marshall legal education opportunity program	2,976	---	---	-2,976	---
Total, Higher education	2,116,698	1,202,315	1,936,936	-179,762	+734,621
HOWARD UNIVERSITY					
Academic Program	205,507	205,506	207,507	+2,000	+2,001
Endowment Program	3,524	3,524	3,524	---	---
Howard University Hospital	29,759	29,759	29,759	---	---
Total, Howard University	238,790	238,789	240,790	+2,000	+2,001
COLLEGE HOUSING AND ACADEMIC FACILITIES LOANS PROGRAM: (CHAFL)	573	573	573	---	---
HBCU CAPITAL FINANCING PROGRAM -- Federal Adm	210	210	210	---	---
INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES					
Research, development and dissemination	164,194	164,194	164,194	---	---
Statistics	90,931	90,931	90,931	---	---
Regional Educational Laboratories	66,132	---	66,132	---	+66,132
Research in special education	83,104	72,566	72,566	-10,538	---
Special education studies and evaluations	---	10,000	10,000	+10,000	---
Statewide data systems	24,800	24,800	24,800	---	---
Assessment:					
National Assessment	88,985	111,485	88,985	---	-22,500
National Assessment Governing Board	5,088	5,088	5,088	---	---
Subtotal, Assessment	94,073	116,573	94,073	---	-22,500
Total, IES	523,234	479,064	522,696	-538	+43,632
DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT					
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION	419,280	418,992	418,992	-288	---
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS	89,375	91,526	91,526	+2,151	---
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL	47,327	49,408	49,000	+1,673	-408
Total, Departmental management	555,982	559,926	559,518	+3,536	-408
Total: Elementary and Secondary Education Act programs	24,555,998	25,504,846	23,725,884	-830,114	-1,778,962
TITLE III GENERAL PROVISIONS					
Pell grant shortfall payoff 1/	---	---	4,300,000	+4,300,000	+4,300,000
Total, Title III, Department of Education	59,212,775	58,939,040	63,714,964	+4,502,189	+4,775,924
Current Year	(44,190,474)	(43,916,739)	(48,692,663)	(+4,502,189)	(+4,775,924)
FY 2007	(15,022,301)	(15,022,301)	(15,022,301)	---	---

1/ Part of the HEA reauthorization budget request.

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
TITLE IV - RELATED AGENCIES					
COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED	4,669	4,669	4,669	---	---
CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE					
DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROGRAMS					
Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)	94,240	96,428	96,428	+2,188	---
Volunteers in Homeland Security	4,960	---	---	-4,960	---
Teach for America	---	4,000	2,000	+2,000	-2,000
National Senior Volunteer Corps:					
Foster Grandparents Program	111,424	112,058	112,058	+634	---
Senior Companion Program	45,905	47,438	47,438	+1,533	---
Retired Senior Volunteer Program	58,528	60,288	60,288	+1,760	---
Subtotal, Senior Volunteers	215,857	219,784	219,784	+3,927	---
Program Administration	38,688	39,750	39,750	+1,062	---
Total, Domestic Volunteer Service Programs	353,745	359,962	357,962	+4,217	-2,000
National and Community Service Programs: 1/					
National service trust	142,848	146,000	146,000	+3,152	---
AmeriCorps grants	287,680	275,000	270,000	-17,680	-5,000
Innovation, assistance, and other activities	13,227	9,945	9,945	-3,282	---
Evaluation	3,522	4,000	4,000	+478	---
National Civilian Community Corps	25,296	25,500	25,500	+204	---
Learn and Serve America: K-12 and Higher Ed	42,656	40,000	40,000	-2,656	---
State Commission Administrative Grants	11,904	12,642	12,642	+738	---
Points of Light Foundation	9,920	10,000	10,000	+80	---
America's Promise	4,464	5,000	5,000	+536	---
Subtotal, National & Community Service Programs	541,517	528,087	523,087	-18,430	-5,000
National and Community Service, Salaries & expenses 1/	25,792	27,000	27,000	+1,208	---
Office of Inspector General 1/	5,952	6,000	6,000	+48	---
Total, Corp. for National and Community Service	927,006	921,049	914,049	-12,957	-7,000
CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING:					
FY 2008 (current) with FY 2007 comparable	400,000	---	400,000	---	+400,000
FY 2007 advance with FY 2006 comparable (NA)	(400,000)	(400,000)	(400,000)	---	---
FY 2006 advance with FY 2005 comparable (NA)	(386,880)	(400,000)	(400,000)	(+13,120)	---
Rescission of FY 2006 funds (NA)	---	(-10,000)	(-100,000)	(-100,000)	(-90,000)
Subtotal, FY 2006 program level	386,880	390,000	300,000	-86,880	-90,000
Digitalization program, current funded 2/	39,387	---	---	-39,387	---
Previous appropriated funds (NA) 3/	---	(30,000)	(30,000)	(+30,000)	---
Interconnection, current funded 2/	39,680	---	---	-39,680	---
Previous appropriated funds (NA) 3/	(75,000)	(52,000)	(52,000)	(-23,000)	---
Subtotal, FY 2006 appropriation	79,067	---	---	-79,067	---
Subtotal, FY 2006 comparable	(154,067)	(82,000)	(82,000)	(-72,067)	---
FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE	44,439	42,331	42,331	-2,108	---
FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION	7,809	7,809	7,809	---	---
INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES	280,564	262,240	249,640	-30,924	-12,600
MEDICARE PAYMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION	9,899	10,168	10,168	+269	---
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFO SCIENCE	993	993	993	---	---
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY	3,344	2,800	2,800	-544	---
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD	249,860	252,268	252,268	+2,408	---
NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD	11,628	11,628	11,628	---	---
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION	10,510	10,510	10,510	---	---

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD					
Dual Benefits Payments Account	107,136	97,000	97,000	-10,136	---
Less Income Tax Receipts on Dual Benefits	-7,936	-7,000	-7,000	+936	---
Subtotal, Dual Benefits	99,200	90,000	90,000	-9,200	---
Federal Payment to the RR Retirement Account	150	150	150	---	---
Limitation on Administration	102,543	102,543	102,543	---	---
Inspector General	7,196	7,196	7,196	---	---
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION					
Payments to Social Security Trust Funds	20,454	20,470	20,470	+16	---
SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME					
Federal benefit payments	38,109,000	37,487,174	37,487,174	-621,826	---
Beneficiary services	45,929	52,000	52,000	+6,071	---
Research and demonstration	35,000	27,000	27,000	-8,000	---
Administration	2,986,900	2,897,000	2,897,000	-89,900	---
Subtotal, SSI program level	41,176,829	40,463,174	40,463,174	-713,655	---
Less funds advanced in prior year	-12,590,000	-10,930,000	-10,930,000	+1,660,000	---
Subtotal, regular SSI current year	28,586,829	29,533,174	29,533,174	+946,345	---
Total, SSI, current request	28,586,829	29,533,174	29,533,174	+946,345	---
New advance, 1st quarter, FY 2007	10,930,000	11,110,000	11,110,000	+180,000	---
Total, SSI program	39,516,829	40,643,174	40,643,174	+1,126,345	---
LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES					
OASDI Trust Funds	4,359,033	4,665,400	4,617,600	+258,567	-47,800
HI/SMI Trust Funds	1,256,968	1,704,000	1,643,100	+386,132	-60,900
Social Security Advisory Board	2,000	2,000	2,000	---	---
SSI	2,986,900	2,897,000	2,897,000	-89,900	---
Subtotal, regular LAE	8,604,901	9,268,400	9,159,700	+554,799	-108,700
SSI User Fee activities	124,000	119,000	119,000	-5,000	---
SSPA User Fee Activities	1,000	1,000	1,000	---	---
Total, Limitation on Administrative Expenses	8,729,901	9,388,400	9,279,700	+549,799	-108,700
MEDICARE REFORM FUNDING					
Medicare reform funding 4/ 5/	(446,054)	---	---	(-446,054)	---
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL					
Federal Funds	25,542	26,000	26,000	+458	---
Trust Funds	64,836	67,000	66,805	+1,969	-195
Total, Office of Inspector General	90,378	93,000	92,805	+2,427	-195
Adjustment: Trust fund transfers from general revenues	-2,986,900	-2,897,000	-2,897,000	+89,900	---
Total, Social Security Administration	45,370,662	47,248,044	47,139,149	+1,768,487	-108,895
Federal funds	39,687,825	40,809,644	40,809,644	+1,121,819	---
Current year	(28,757,825)	(29,699,644)	(29,699,644)	(+941,819)	---
New advances, 1st quarter	(10,930,000)	(11,110,000)	(11,110,000)	(+180,000)	---
Trust funds	5,682,837	6,438,400	6,329,505	+646,668	-108,895
Total, Title IV, Related Agencies	47,609,539	48,974,398	49,245,903	+1,636,364	+271,505
Federal Funds	41,807,064	42,416,091	42,796,491	+989,427	+380,400

LABOR-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES--FY 2006 (H.R. 3010)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2005 Comparable	FY 2006 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Comparable	Bill vs. Request
Current Year	(30,477,064)	(31,306,091)	(31,286,491)	(+809,427)	(-19,600)
FY 2007 Advance	(10,930,000)	(11,110,000)	(11,110,000)	(+180,000)	---
FY 2008 Advance	(400,000)	---	(400,000)	---	(+400,000)
Trust Funds	5,802,475	6,558,307	6,449,412	+646,937	-108,895

Title IV Footnotes:
1/ FY 2006 House jurisdiction change--account moved from former VA-HUD Appropriations.
2/ Current funded
3/ Requested funds for these activities are from previously appropriated funds
4/ Funds provided in P.L. 108-173, the 2003 Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement & Modernization Act
5/ Available in fiscal years 2004 and 2005

SUMMARY

Federal Funds	488,978,653	582,299,660	588,191,637	+99,212,984	+5,891,977
Current year	(391,980,962)	(486,552,734)	(492,008,511)	(+100,027,549)	(+5,455,777)
2007 advance	(96,597,691)	(95,746,926)	(95,783,126)	(-814,565)	(+36,200)
2008 advance	(400,000)	---	(400,000)	---	(+400,000)
Trust Funds	12,366,339	13,612,965	13,406,876	+1,040,537	-206,089
Grand Total	501,344,992	595,912,625	601,598,513	+100,253,521	+5,685,888

RECAP

Mandatory, total in bill	357,872,275	454,393,513	458,613,513	+100,741,238	+4,220,000
Less advances for subsequent years	-77,712,390	-76,897,825	-76,897,825	+814,565	---
Plus advances provided in prior years	74,061,975	77,712,390	77,712,390	+3,650,415	---
Total, mandatory, current year	354,221,860	455,208,078	459,428,078	+105,206,218	+4,220,000
Discretionary, total in bill	143,472,717	141,519,112	142,985,000	-487,717	+1,465,888
Less advances for subsequent years	-19,285,301	-18,849,101	-19,285,301	---	-436,200
Plus advances provided in prior years	19,241,277	19,285,301	19,285,301	+44,024	---
Subtotal, Discretionary, current year	143,428,693	141,955,312	142,985,000	-443,693	+1,029,688
Scorekeeping adjustments:					
SSI User Fee Collection	-124,000	-119,000	-119,000	+5,000	---
Vaccines for children legislative proposal	---	-100,000	---	---	+100,000
Smallpox vaccine injury compensation (rescission)	-20,000	---	---	+20,000	---
Medical facilities guarantee and loan fund (rescission)	-66,000	---	---	+66,000	---
Health professions student loan (rescission)	-19,000	---	-15,912	+3,088	-15,912
MMA Health Care infrastructure improvement program (P.L. 109-13) (rescission)	-58,000	---	---	+58,000	---
Title V Chapter III (P.L. 109-13) (rescission)	-10,000	---	---	+10,000	---
H-1B (rescission)	-100,000	---	---	+100,000	---
Job Corps construction FY06 advance (rescission)	---	-25,000	---	---	+25,000
National Emergency Grant (healthcare premium) (rescission)	---	-20,000	-20,000	-20,000	---
Workers compensation (NY 9-11) (rescission)	---	-5,000	-5,000	-5,000	---
Workers compensation (9-11) (rescission)	---	-120,000	-120,000	-120,000	---
Community College initiative (rescission)	---	---	-125,000	-125,000	-125,000
75 percent rule scoring	9,000	---	---	-9,000	---
Medicare eligible accruals (permanent,indefinite)	---	33,912	33,912	+33,912	---
CPB (FY 2006 Rescission)	---	-10,000	-100,000	-100,000	-90,000
Less emergency appropriations	-362,600	---	---	+362,600	---
Total, discretionary	142,678,093	141,590,224	142,514,000	-164,093	+923,776
Adjustment to balance with 2005 enacted	-1,038	---	---	+1,038	---
Total, discretionary (FY 2005 enacted)	142,677,055	141,590,224	142,514,000	-163,055	+923,776
Grand total, current year (incl FY 2005 comparable)	496,899,953	596,798,302	601,942,078	+105,042,125	+5,143,776
Grand total, current year (incl FY 2005 enacted)	496,898,915	596,798,302	601,942,078	+105,043,163	+5,143,776

□ 1230

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 10 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is the clearest demonstration that I can think of of what happens when Congress puts $140,000 tax cuts for people who make $1 million a year or more ahead of our investment needs in our children, ahead of our investment needs in our health care system, and ahead of supporting programs that will help our workers compete in world markets. This bill, make no mistake about it, is a prescription for a second-class economy.

I know most of the discussion today will be focused on public broadcasting. I will be offering an amendment to add back $100 million that the committee cut out. Previously in the committee, I offered another amendment which added $400 million for this year's funding. We are simply trying to get it back up to last year's level. That is an important issue, and I hope that the House will vote for the amendment.

I want to make clear that even though the press has focused 90 percent of its attention on public broadcasting, in one sense that is fortunate because at least the people who pay attention to public broadcasting do have a megaphone of sorts, and they can get their message known. I believe our amendment today will pass, but even if it does, I would hope that the Members of this House and the members of the press would understand that that is far from the most important issue in this bill.

The most important thing about this bill is what it does to hurt the future of our children, what it does to avoid meeting the needs of people in this society who are sick and without health insurance, what it does to help our workers in the world economy.

The distinguished majority leader in discussing the budget resolution earlier this year said this: ''This is the budget the American people voted for when they elected a Republican House, a Republican Senate and a Republican White House.'' I quite agree, and this bill is also, unfortunately, the kind of bill that the American people are going to get because they voted for a Republican House, a Republican Senate, and a Republican White House.

Last year, the programs in this bill were $3.5 billion above the previous year. This year, this bill in a program-to-program basis cuts $1.6 billion from these programs.

Now, what does that mean? It means, for instance, that this bill even cuts into the President's signature programs in training, in health care and education. It cuts back substantially the President's recommendation for community college skills, for community health centers and high school reform. Let us take a look at what it does in other key areas of our economy.

For our workers, the administration is about to bring forth CAFTA, yet another misguided, misbegotten trade agreement. The administration is breaking arms and promising the Moon in order to get people to vote for that amendment; and yet this bill cuts the program that is supposed to be the traffic cop that protects American workers against having to compete against child and slave labor. It cuts that program by 87 percent. I do not think that the American people would agree with that.

This bill disinvests in job training and help for the unemployed. This bill for adult training grants is the lowest funding level in 10 years. It even cuts the Job Corps below current services level. And if you take a look at the health care area, of the 11 programs that we had on the books to help us develop the kind of health profession that we need, so that you have enough in rural areas and enough in your major metropolitan areas, this bill cuts 10 of those 11 programs. Only one is remaining, and 84 percent of that portion of the budget is gone. It also eliminates a community access program that is a key program that helps deliver health care services to the uninsured.

National Institutes of Health. There is not a politician in this House who does not go home and tell your constituents what you are doing on cancer research or Alzheimer's or Parkinson's. And what does this bill do? It means the National Institutes of Health are going to have 500 fewer grants to put out to scientists around the country than they had 2 years ago. We are backing off on the attack on disease.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance program. That is a program that helps low-income people and seniors avoid having to choose between heating their houses and feeding themselves. The program is cut by $200 million.

Education. Effectively, this is the first freeze on education funding in a decade. This bill cuts No Child Left Behind programs by $800 million. You have the mother of all mandates, telling the States and school districts what they must do here, what they must do there. That costs money. But the Federal Government is welshing on its responsibility and on its promise to help pay those costs. It is backing off.

On IDEA, the program that helps local units, or local school districts, pay for educating disabled kids. What does this bill do for that? Well, the Republican majority promised a few years ago that the Feds would pay 40 percent of the cost of that program. Today, this bill actually cuts the share of Federal participation from 18.6 to 18.2 percent of that program, welshing on another promise.

It freezes after-school centers for the fourth year in a row. It slashes education technology at a time when that has never been more important. It eliminates comprehensive school grants for 1,000 high-poverty school districts by eliminating the program. It freezes Impact Aid.

On Pell grants, the main program we use to help kids go to college, what does it do? On Pell grants, we are told by the College Board that the cost of a 4-year public university has increased $2,300 during the last 4 years. What is our response to it? The President says, well, we will fix the problem with a hundred bucks add-on to Pell grant. That takes care of 4 percent of the problem. This bill cuts that to 2 percent. It provides a measly $50 increase in the Pell grant program, and that does not address the fact that because the IRS has changed the eligibility tables there are going to be thousands and thousands of kids who are tossed off the program entirely. In fact, it is going to raise costs in my State by about $187 per student.

So what I would say is that this is the main legislation we will deal with this year that deals with the economic and social problems of the country. The main issue in this country the next 40 years is going to be how we gear ourselves up to economically compete with countries like China and India. We need to invest in all of the technology, all of the education that we can possibly invest in. This bill walks away from that obligation, and that is why I say it is a prescription for a second-rate economy. It walks away from our obligation to workers, and we will long regret it if we pass this bill.

I would urge a ''no'' vote on the bill. The problems with this bill have nothing to do with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA). He is a fine man and a fine chairman, but this bill implements the Republican budget resolution in the broadest possible areas in our economy and our country. It is a major social and economic mistake, and it certainly does not represent my values, and I do not believe it represents the values of the American people.

Madam Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REGULA. Madam Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. ISTOOK), a very fine member of our subcommittee.

Mr. ISTOOK. Madam Chairman, I want to congratulate the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) for producing a solid bill under very challenging circumstances; but rather than talking about the entirety of the bill, I want to address myself to one particular process.

During the amendment process, there will be an amendment offered to add more funding to public broadcasting. I will oppose that amendment.

We should recognize two things: first, Big Bird and his friends can fly on their own; and, second, Americans have access to a wide variety and multitude of educational, cultural, and children's programming that are provided by a vast variety of diverse networks that we have today.

Public broadcasting has developed a major base of private donors, corporate donors and licensing fees and royalties

from programs. Because of this, Federal funding is only 15 percent, $1 in $7, of the budget for public broadcasting; and this bill only reduces a fraction of that 15 percent, about a 4 percent overall reduction for public broadcasting's budget. This will not jeopardize any program or any station, because they have ample resources already on hand to make up that difference.

Public broadcasters have accumulated major financial resources, hundreds of millions of dollars that they have invested in stocks, bonds and other securities, in addition to owning their broadcast facilities. In other words, Big Bird and his friends can fly on their own. But there is another factor.

Public broadcasting is not the only place to find education, cultural, historical documentaries and children's programs. We have achieved variety and diversity, thanks to networks that do not ask for Federal money. C–SPAN carries the proceedings of Congress to the world without a Federal subsidy. We have the Discovery Channel, the History Channel, Nickelodeon, the Arts and Entertainment Network, Lifetime TV, Family Channel, Food Network, Science Channel, and so forth.

We do not need a nationwide subsidy either to reach a few targeted households. I heard somebody say, well, we need public broadcasting to provide TV for the poor. Let us understand what we call poverty in the U.S.A. is not like poverty in Bangladesh, the Sudan, Haiti or anyplace else. In the United States, not only does almost every poor household have a TV, but two-thirds of them have cable television with full access to a vast diversity of programs.

It is getting harder and harder to distinguish public TV from the rest of broadcasting because other broadcasters, a great many, carry the same type of programs today, and each year public broadcasting looks more and more like other networks.

Public radio has even moved away from classical music and more toward talk radio that is common to the profit sector. Much of public TV has the same movies and old TV shows that we see on other networks, even as those other networks are adding more documentaries and more special programs.

Madam Chairman, as the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) has said, we have higher priorities than subsidizing one segment of America's broadcasters. The gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) has made tough decisions about those priorities, and we should support his decisions.

Mr. OBEY. Madam Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished minority whip.

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Madam Chairman, I thank the distinguished ranking member and congratulate him on the extraordinary job he does as the ranking member not only on this subcommittee but on all the subcommittees.

Let me begin with a traditional disclaimer, and that disclaimer is I do not hold the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) personally responsible for this product. He has done the best he could with the resources that were given to him, and I congratulate him and thank him for that.

□ 1245

Nor do I hold the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) responsible, but I do hold responsible the policies that have been adopted by the Committee on Ways and Means, by the Committee on the Budget, and by this House.

Madam Chairman, just 3 months ago the Republican majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) stood on this House floor and with great passion stated, ''The one major responsibility of a government is to protect the innocent, vulnerable people.'' On that very same day in March, the President of the United States stated, ''The essence of civilization is that the strong have a duty to protect the weak.''

I served under Bill Natcher from Kentucky who chaired this committee for many years. He used to say as long as we take care of the education of our children and the health of our people, we will continue to live in the strongest and greatest Nation on the face of this earth. But now the political party that exploits every opportunity to talk about the culture of life, virtually ignores and dismisses what I call the culture of the living: the innocent, the vulnerable, the weak, who are living, breathing, members of the American family.

Today, this bill demonstrates in concrete terms how the Republican Party's misguided, irresponsible tax and budget policies have harmful consequences for so many living Americans.

Just yesterday President Bush visited my congressional district in Maryland. He stated, ''I know some workers are concerned about jobs going overseas.'' Yet this bill cuts job training for unemployed by $346 million. This bill cuts the President's community college skills training initiative in half. This bill cuts the International Labor Affairs Bureau by 87 percent which helps enforce child and slave labor abroad.

Mr. President, you are not meeting the concerns. He went on to say, ''I know some are concerned about gaining the skills necessary to compete in the global market that we live in.'' Yet this bill cuts No Child Left Behind by $806 million. This is $13.2 billion short of authorization and $40 billion short of what the President said we were going to fund when he signed the bill.

This bill provides only a $50 increase in Pell grants, notwithstanding hundreds of dollars of increases in college costs. This bill cuts education technology by 40 percent. This bill cuts the Community Services Block Grant in half. This bill cuts the administration's proposal for title I by $603 million.

Mr. President, you know the American people are concerned, but you have not responded. He went on to say this: ''I know that families are worried about health care and retirement. And I know moms and dads are worried about their children finding good jobs.''

Yet, Madam Chairman, this bill eliminates 10 out of the 12 title VII health profession training programs. These programs help alleviate the shortage of doctors and dentists in underserved areas to meet that concern that he recognizes the American people have.

This bill eliminates the Health Communities Access Program which helps health centers and public hospitals better serve the uninsured. This bill cuts the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant program by $24 million. This bill freezes after-school centers for the fourth year in a row. This bill provides only a half a percent increase, far less than inflation, which means they will do less for the National Institutes of Health which researches the afflictions which confront Americans, like heart disease, cancer, and diabetes.

Madam Chairman, I have the utmost respect for those who speak about the culture of life. But we must ask, what about the culture of the living? What about the people who are served by this bill, who need this bill, whose quality of life is critically affected by this bill? This bill is perhaps the most important piece of domestic legislation that this Congress considers every year. It is a statement of national and moral principle. But today it is nothing more than Exhibit A for the Republican Party's culture of fiscal irresponsibility.

Mr. REGULA. Madam Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON).

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Madam Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

Madam Chairman, I rise to congratulate the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and the subcommittee for doing a remarkable job in funding our Nation's education, health and workforce priorities in a time of intense fiscal restraint.

This legislation includes in education: increased funding for special funding, for No Child Left Behind, and for Head Start. It has a tremendous increase in the Pell grant area which will help our young people go to college, get the education they need to succeed and contribute. It holds firm on TRIO and GEAR UP, so important to kids who are the first in their family to go to college. So in education, while it does not do everything, it does some important things for our children, and I thank the gentleman. I hope in conference we will find a little more additional money for title I, but this is a good start.

In health, it also has some very important accomplishments. By increasing Community Health Center funding, it decidedly reaches out to additional uninsured people. It provides the support vitally needed for the important initiative to implant information technology in our health care sector, which is our best hope of both improving quality and reducing long-term costs, and it provides the money needed for the government to educate our seniors about the important, generous prescription drug program that will go into effect January 1. I thank the gentleman for those very important education dollars.

There are, of course, as always, areas of concern. I hope that in conference there will be more money for the Community Services Block Grant because that is the critical, flexible money that cities, particularly, use to fill the holes in the safety net programs, to provide day-care for women returning to work, and so on.

In HCAP, I hope we will restore the funding and thoughtfully review some of the other problems in the bill. But this is a fine job done, and I commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA).

Mr. OBEY. Madam Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Chairman, I want to express my appreciation as well to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), for their hard work in crafting this legislation. I know they did the best they could with the allocation, and this bill does include many of our most important priorities, from education funding and worker training, to biomedical research and public health activities, and impacts the lives of virtually every American.

I am pleased that the bill makes significant investments in preparing for and responding to a potential pandemic influenza outbreak, and restores funding to the TRIO and GEAR UP programs, and partial funding to the Preventive Health Block Grant.

However, because of this limited budget allocation, many important needs will remain underfunded. For example, the bill provides the smallest increase for the National Institutes of Health in 36 years, squandering the momentum we built up in the 5 years completed in 2003. And despite an average 26 percent tuition increase in the last 2 years, the bill fails to adequately increase the maximum Pell grant award, and does nothing to stop the new financial aid formula that severely impacts the ability of low- and middle-income students to attend college. These changes will affect more than 1.3 million students nationwide, including 4,600 students in Westchester, New York.

The bill provides the smallest increase for elementary and secondary education in a decade, allows Congress to continue to renege on its promise to fully fund special education, IDEA.

The bill cuts the Corporation for Public Broadcasting base account by $100 million, and I urge my colleagues to support an amendment that I will be offering with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) to restore funding to CPB.

Madam Chairman, I also want to express my continued concern with the Weldon refusal clause provision included in the bill. For over 30 years there have been Federal laws which allow doctors, hospitals, and nurses to refuse to provide abortion services because of their religious beliefs. However, this provision extends that protection to HMOs and insurance companies. And just as the law protects religious and moral objections to performing medical services, it protects patients' access to accurate and complete medical information when making decisions about their health. The Weldon provision would unravel these protections. I want to make it very clear that States that attempt to protect access to these health services can be denied all of their Federal health, education, and labor funding. I will work to remove this provision from the final bill.

Madam Chairman, this legislation has significant flaws. However, I hope that as it moves through the process, we can work together to make necessary improvements to the final measure. I will vote ''no'' today.

Madam Chairman, I want to express my appreciation to Chairman REGULA and Ranking Member OBEY for their hard work in crafting this legislation.

This bill includes many of our most important priorities—from education funding and worker training to biomedical research and public health activities. The programs and policies in this legislation impact the lives of virtually every American.

I am pleased that the bill makes significant investments in preparing for and responding to a potential pandemic influenza outbreak and restores funding to the TRIO and GEAR UP programs and partial funding to the Preventive Health Block Grant.

However, because of the limited budget allocation many important needs will remain under-funded. For example,

This bill provides the smallest increase for the National Institutes of Health in 36 years, squandering the momentum we've built up over the last five years.

Despite an average 26 percent tuition increase in the last two years, the bill fails to adequately increase the maximum Pell grant award and does nothing to stop the new financial aid formula that severely impacts the ability of low-and-middle-income students to attend college. These changes will affect more than 1.3 million students nationwide, including 4,600 students in Westchester County, New York.

The bill provides the smallest increase for elementary and secondary education in a decade and allows Congress to continue to renege on its promise to fully fund special education. And frankly, I was appalled that the majority chose to completely eliminate the Foreign Assistance Language Program (FLAP). There is little disagreement that the nation continues to face a shortage of language experts after the attacks of September 11th. FLAP is the only federal program that supports language education for students in elementary and secondary schools.

The bill cuts the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, Healthy Start, training grants for health care workers and grants for public health and hospital preparedness, and eliminates $100 million for the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis.

The bill cuts the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's base account by $100 million. I hope that my colleagues will support an amendment that I will be offering with Ranking Member OBEY and Representative LEACH to restore funding to CPB.

I'm also disappointed that when so many other programs faced the chopping block this year, the bill provides a $10 million increase for abstinence-until-marriage programs despite mounting evidence of the scientific and medical inaccuracy of their curricula and ineffective results. We all agree that we must teach our children that abstinence is the best way to prevent pregnancy and STDs. However, federal dollars should be invested only in programs with strong evaluation components and those found to provide medically and scientifically sound information to young people.

Madam Chairman, I also want to express my continued concern with the Weldon refusal clause provision included in the bill. For over thirty years, there have been Federal laws that allow doctors, nurses, and hospitals to refuse to provide abortion services because of their religious beliefs. However, this provision extends that protection to HMOs and insurance companies.

And just as the law protects religious or moral objections to performing medical services, it protects patients' access to accurate and complete medical information when making decisions about their health. The Weldon provision would unravel these protections, gutting the stipulations included in the Title X family planning program which require that all legal options are presented to a woman; denying rape and incest survivors access to legal abortion services; and overriding state constitutional patient protections. States that attempt to protect access to these health services can be denied all of their federal health, education and labor funding.

I will work to remove this provision from the final bill.

Madam Chairman, this legislation has significant flaws, however, I hope that as it moves through the process we can work together to make necessary improvements to the final measure.

I will vote "no" today.

Mr. OBEY. Madam Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON).

(Mr. JACKSON of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Chairman, I do not know what to say about H.R. 3010. I know the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and the subcommittee staff did the best they could under the circumstances. But to virtually eliminate title VII health professions is draconian and unconscionable.

Since I started serving on this subcommittee almost 6½ years ago, I have fought to end disparities, disparities in employment, disparities in education, and especially disparities in health.

Health disparities are real. If you are black in this country, your life expectancy is 66 years. If you are white in this country, your life expectancy is 74 years. Infant mortality is twice as high for African American babies than white babies.

Fortunately, institutions like the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences have laid out a framework on how to end these disparities. One of the recommendations of the IOM was to increase the number of health professions, and this bill virtually does the opposite. It essentially eliminates health professions, a cut of $250 million.

I think a society says a lot about the way it treats the weakest and most vulnerable of its citizens. I believe we live in a ''united'' States, and like a chain, we are only as strong as our weakest link. By leaving some of our citizens behind, we prove that we are not strong and compassionate, but weak and uncaring.

There is a phrase that former Labor-HHS Chairman Porter was fond of saying, ''Noblesse oblige,'' the belief that the wealthy and privileged are obliged to help those less fortunate. In Luke, chapter 12, verse 48, Jesus simply says, ''To who much is given, much is expected.''

We are the wealthiest country in the world. We spend more money on our military than the entire world combined, with the sole mission of protecting this country and advancing U.S. interests, interests which should include a high-quality education and high-quality health care for every American.

I keep hearing members of this committee and the House leadership say that this is a tight budget year. Well, this tight budget year did not occur because of immaculate conception. Congress voted to make it a tight budget year. Congress approved the budget resolution. Saying it is going to be a tough budget year is like a farmer saying he is going to have a bad harvest because he did not plant any seeds.

Madam Chairman, when Congress approved the budget resolution, we did not plant any seeds. Nothing will grow this year. This is not a natural disaster like a drought. This is a disaster of our own making.

What does it say about a society that approves tax cuts for millionaires instead of trying to solve why babies of color die sooner? What does it say about a society that approves tax cuts for millionaires instead of trying to solve what ails the weakest amongst of us?

Madam Chairman, I know the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and the subcommittee staff were dealt a bad hand and did the best job they could under the circumstances, but we should be ashamed of this budget that has produced the product that is before us today.

□ 1300

In Matthew 6:21, Jesus says, ''For where your treasure is, there will your heart be, also.'' If this verse is true, what does it say about us, about this Congress, about our government, that we pass a budget resolution every year that spends almost half of our discretionary dollars on defense and hundreds of billions on all kinds of tax cuts for the most well off?

Madam Chairman, I encourage my colleagues to vote against this bill. In good conscience, none of us should support H.R. 3010.

Madam Chairman, I don't know what to say about H.R. 3010. I know Chairman REGULA and his subcommittee staff did the best they could under the circumstances, but to virtually eliminate Title VII Health Professions I think is draconian and unconscionable.

Since I started serving on this subcommittee almost six-and-a-half years ago, I have fought to end disparities—disparities in employment, disparities in education and especially disparities in health.

Health disparities are real. If you are black in this country, your life expectancy is 66 years. If you are white in this country, your life expectancy is 74 years. Infant mortality is twice as high for African American babies than for white babies.

Fortunately, institutions, like the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, have laid out a framework on how to end these disparities. One of the recommendations of the IOM was to increase the number of health professions. This bill does exactly the opposite. It essentially eliminates health professions—a cut of $250 million.

I think a society says a lot by the way that it treats the weakest and most vulnerable of its citizens. I believe we live in a 'united' states, and like a chain, we are only as strong as our weakest link. By leaving some of our citizens behind, we prove that we are not strong and compassionate but weak and uncaring.

There is a phrase that former Labor-HHS Chairman PORTER was fond of saying, "Noblesse oblige", the belief that the wealthy and privileged are obliged to help those less fortunate. In Luke, chapter 12, verse 48, Jesus simply says, "To whom much is given, much is expected."

We are the wealthiest country in the world. We spend more money on our military than the entire world combined with the sole mission of protecting this country and advancing U.S. interests. Interests which should include a high quality education and high quality health care for all Americans.

I keep hearing members of this committee and House leadership say that this is a tight budget year. Well this tight budget year did not occur by immaculate conception. Congress voted to make it a tough budget year. Congress approved the budget resolution. Saying it is going to be a tough budget year is like a farmer saying he is going to have a bad harvest because he didn't plant any seeds. Madam Chairman, when Congress approved the budget resolution we didn't plant any seeds. Nothing will grow this year. This is not a natural disaster like a drought. This disaster was of our making.

What does it say about a society that approves of tax cuts for millionaires instead of trying to solve why babies of color die sooner? What does it say about a society that approves tax cuts for millionaires instead of trying to solve what ails the weakest among us?

Chairman REGULA, I know you and your staff were dealt a bad hand and did the best job you could under the circumstances, but we all should be ashamed of the budget that has produced the product before us today.

In Matthew chapter 6, verse 21 , Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." If this verse is true, what does it say about us, about Congress, about our government that we pass budget resolutions each year that spend almost half of our discretionary dollars on defense, and hundreds of billions on all kinds of tax cuts for the most well off. I have a masters in theology from the Chicago Theological Seminary and have read my bible from cover to cover, and nowhere does it say, "only clothe the naked and feed the poor if it fits into your annual budget resolution." Noblesse oblige, Madam Chairman.

In 1984, referring to Marxist-ruled Ethiopia, President Ronald Reagan said, "a hungry child knows no politics." I would also add that a hungry child, or a sick child, doesn't know a 302(b) allocations from a point-of-order." All he knows is that he is hungry or sick.

Every day I am proud to say I am a Member of the United States Congress. Since December 1995, I have gone home every night and held my head high knowing I worked to improve the lives of all Americans. Tonight I will not be able to do that.

Madam Chairman, fellow Members of the House, I have dedicated my service on this subcommittee to ending disparities in health, education and employment. This bill will only increase them. In good conscience, I cannot support H.R. 3010.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY), also a member of the subcommittee.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the chairman and ranking member for giving me the opportunity to serve on this committee and to work with them on so many of these important issues. I know this would be a different bill if the budget had provided the gentleman from Ohio more dollars to work with. I just want to explain some of the things that this bill does that will impact my State of Rhode Island.

In the area of education, the Leave No Child Behind Act is crushing each and every one of our communities because it is driving our property taxes up. All of our local school committees are in an outrage because of the Leave No Child Behind and we do not properly fund it.

In IDEA, Rhode Island is the number one State in the country with the most kids in IDEA, so the cuts to IDEA will obviously affect us disproportionately.

And, Mr. Chairman, we also have the case of military families. Rhode Island is home to the Navy. We have many families from the Navy, children, and they do not get the Impact Aid dollars that they need to properly get a decent education.

As has been said before, child labor has not been properly funded. Actually it has been cut by 87 percent, inspections. Medical research has gone up less than it has in 32 years.

But let me also, to the credit of Chairman REGULA, point out some of the good things that the bill does. The bill does restore money for elementary school counseling and the foundations for learning, both of which are programs that help deal with the emotional needs of our young people. In the area of mental health, the seniors mental health program has been restored, the child mental health block grant has been restored, and the youth suicide are restored. Suicide is twice the rate of homicide in this country. In the next year, we will lose 1,400 young people in our colleges and universities to suicide, and I am glad that those dollars have finally been restored in the budget. They should have never been cut by the President in the first place.

Finally, I am glad that this budget includes dollars to fund health information technology. We lose 98,000 people every year of preventable medical errors because providers do not have the information that they need at the point of service to give the best quality care that they can provide, and I am glad that we provided money in this bill to enable those providers to make those proper decisions and to save lives in our country.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy.

Mr. Chairman, I listened to my friend from Oklahoma talk about public broadcasting, flush with money, lots of other free choices, and that the quality of public broadcasting does not distinguish it from others. I would suggest strongly that he and anybody else who is confused about this go check with the people back home. They would be foolish to eliminate their assets, most stations are not flush in the first place. Asking them to eat their seed corn to continue operations would be criminal.

And if you are confused about the quality, watch it. Nobody has any difficulty telling the difference between the commercial opportunities and the high quality that is offered by public television. The number does not equal quality, and even the good commercial efforts are a pale imitation of the award-winning opportunities that are given to us by public television. But most critically, are the offerings for children. Look at what is on television every day, all day long, for kids in the commercial arena. Then compare it to public broadcasting, and I do not think anybody would agree with my friend from Oklahoma.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY).

Mr. TIERNEY. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, I think that this budget as well as these spending bills are clear expressions of the values of the majority party and the White House, but they are clearly not the expression of the values of this country. This country believes in moving forward and investing in its future. It believes in having education for its children, opportunity for everyone, health care.

We are cutting to the bone. This is not a debate about cutting waste and fraud. This is a decision that has been made to give enormous amounts of money back to people that are already very, very wealthy; and the choice was to get that money to cut into education, not to fund No Child Left Behind, not to fund community health clinics, not to fund job training programs, not to fund those things that make this country strong and give us a promise for opportunity and prosperity.

This is the wrong way for us to go. The American people understand that this majority is not talking to the issues that matter most to them. The issues that matter for them are the future of this country and not just arbitrarily giving money back to people who, frankly, have not asked for it and do not need it. At a time when our country is stretched, there is a need of making sure that we have a competitive strategy. Other countries are moving forward. We need to get even, move ahead, and do what this country is capable of doing, and that is lead.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

I just want to address one issue because it has been raised twice on the floor today, Mr. Chairman. The argument our friends on the majority side make is that we should be happy because the education budget has gone up considerably since they took over control of Congress.

Let me point out what the record of the majority party has been on education. When the Republicans took control of the Congress, they did so with the promise to abolish the U.S. Department of Education. Their first act was to rescind $1.8 billion in fiscal year 1995 in education funding. In the next year they tried to do the same to the tune of $3.7 billion. In the 7 years between 1995 and 2001, each of the Labor-Health bills passed by the House Republicans was below President Clinton's request for education. The net result is that there would have been nearly $19 billion less spent on education between 1995 and 2005 if we had enacted the Republican Labor-Health bills into law.

Title I. If Congress had approved the House Republican Labor-H bills, we would have spent $2.8 billion less than we actually spent. After-school centers. If the Congress had approved the House Republican Labor-H bills, we would have spent $516 million less for after-school centers. Special education. If Congress had approved the House Republican Labor-H bills, we would have spent $2.7 billion less for special education. On Pell grants, for the last 3 years, the Republican majority has proposed to freeze Pell grants. If the Republican proposals in fiscal year 2006 are adopted, the purchasing power of Pell grants will continue on a downward spiral.

The plain fact is yes, the money went up for education because Democrats dragged the Republican Party, kicking and screaming, to those higher numbers. So I am glad the Republicans are now trying to take credit for something they were pushed into. It does not matter who gets the credit so long as the school districts get the money.

Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the minority leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant opposition to this bill. I say reluctant, because I along with many of my colleagues in the House have a proud tradition of supporting it.

I salute the distinguished chairman of the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Subcommittee. The gentleman from Ohio follows a tradition of excellence on both sides of the aisle in the leadership of this committee. Before him, our committee was led by John Porter of Illinois who acted in a very bipartisan way addressing the needs of America's families. Before that, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) chaired the committee. Before that, Mr. Natcher who chaired it for a long time. Mr. Natcher again acted in a very bipartisan way. He used to say of this bill, this is the people's bill. He knew full well that this is the one piece of legislation that addressed the aspirations of the American people, that tried to allay the concerns that kept them up at night, the economic security of their families, meaning the security of their jobs, the security of their pensions, the health and well-being of their families as well, and, of course, the education of their children, our investment in America's future.

So it is very sad to see the place that we are today. And why are we here? We are here because a very, very skimpy, in terms of investments in America's future. And generous in terms of tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, budget placed us in a place where the allocation for this subcommittee was one that made decisions very difficult. We say of this bill that it is ''lamb eat lamb.'' There is no way you can go into the bill and say, well, if we want to spend more money on education, we will just take it out of what? Children's health? Pension security? There is no good place to take money from in order to try to improve the situation or mitigate for the damage that has been caused by the cuts. Imagine, as our population growing and with inflation, this bill is about $6 billion effectively in cuts over last year; and, without even those considerations, $1.6 billion over fiscal year 2005.

Economists will tell you, and we all know just because we can observe it

ourselves, that one of the best investments we can make for America's future, for America's competitiveness and for the self-fulfillment of the American people and our children is our investment in education. In fact, economists will tell you that nothing brings more money back to the Treasury or grows the economy more than the education of the American people, early childhood education, K–12, higher education, postgraduate and lifetime learning for our workers. All of that is considered in this bill. All of that is shortchanged in this bill.

For one example, No Child Left Behind legislation. By the President's own legislation, not my figure, President Bush's figure, this bill for the fourth year straight cuts No Child Left Behind in terms of the authorization. We are now $40 billion in shortchanging No Child Left Behind, leaving millions of children behind. How can that be right? And children in title I, children who need special help in terms of reading, many of these children, 3 million of these children will not get help with reading and math that they were promised because this bill gives it $9.9 billion less than it deserves.

Remember, these are investments. How are they paid for? They pay for themselves because they return to the Treasury more than any tax cut and any kind of tax credit, any other instrument you can name. Educating the American people is a very wise investment.

The list goes on about the problems with the underfunding in terms of education. But the point to be made is in these cases, we have given the States a mandate to do a particular job, to reform education, and we have fallen $40 billion short in the money to match the mandates. No wonder people are squawking about No Child Left Behind. The money was not there to match the mandate.

And then on the issue of health care, there are so many examples of where this bill falls short. I will just focus on one, the National Institutes of Health. Many of us were part of the challenge to double the National Institutes of Health funding through the nineties. It seemed like a big task. We were determined to get it done. We realigned our priorities so that it would happen. We had a cooperative President in the White House, and it has happened.

□ 1315

But now in this bill, it will receive the lowest increase, .05 percent; but that represents a cut when we take into consideration inflation, and what it translates to is over 500 grants, since 2 years ago, 500 fewer grants will be able to be made.

People look to the National Institutes of Health with almost a reverential approach. They have the power to cure. Research is the answer for so many families in America. Every one of us, every family, is just one telephone call away from receiving a diagnosis or learning of an accident, which necessitates research at the National Institutes of Health.

And yet we are shortchanging the National Institutes of Health, which also has a pragmatic, practical aspect to it because, in order to be preeminent and excellent in science, we must be number one; and we cannot be number one if we must compete with a shortchanged budget for the National Institutes of Health. The list goes on, these disparities, whether we are talking about the cut in the bill that trims 84 percent, or $252 million taken from the health professions training.

This is one place where we can address health disparities in our country because by doing this, we will reduce the number of minority students who can enter the health professions. We will reduce the number of students, medical students, who will become primary care physicians. We will reduce the number of physicians who will be able to attend to the health needs of rural America, which is a very important aspect of the life of our country.

The bill cuts funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, we all know, by $100 million. It underfunds Head Start; freezes child care moneys; fails to raise the Pell grant by $100, as promised; freezes funding for most Ryan White programs to combat AIDS; and slashes the Community Services block grant in half. The list goes on and on. That is opposed to what this committee used to do and what this bill used to do.

In the late 1980s and the 1990s, especially in the 1990s, this subcommittee rose to the challenge of HIV/AIDS as it was making its assault on our country, with increasing the research, care, and prevention program initiatives in the bill. It has risen to the occasion by increasing funding drastically for breast cancer research and prostate cancer research and the rest. And now what are we doing but effectively giving a cut to the National Institutes of Health.

No bill better illustrates, I think, how America is great, because America is good, than this bill, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, because we met the needs of the American people. We did before, but not today. No bill illustrates how out of touch our budget priorities are, how completely out of touch the Republicans are in terms of meeting the needs of the American people. The bill should be about crucial investments in the future of America. They are grossly underfunded.

Mr. Chairman, this bill does not meet the needs of America's children. It does not meet the needs of America's workers. It does not meet the needs of America's seniors. It does not deserve our support.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I would like to state my concern with the manner in which Title I funds for No Child Left Behind are distributed.

Title I, the funds meant to provide aid to states and school districts to help educationally disadvantaged children achieve the same high standards as all other students, are increased in this bill by $100 million over last year, bringing the total funding to $12.7 billion.

However, Title I funds for Bridgeport, Connecticut, will be cut this year for the fourth year in a row under NCLB. According to the Department of Education, Bridgeport will receive $678,000 less in Title I funds for the next school year, going from $13.7 million to just over $13 million, and down from a high of $14.8 million in 2002.

I voted for NCLB. I support this legislation because it is a monumental step forward for American public education. I also believe NCLB grants unprecedented flexibility to local school districts, demands results in public education through strict accountability measures, empowers parents and provides a safety valve for children trapped in failing schools.

It is hard for me to fathom, however, that while we have increased funding for Title I by 52 percent since 2001, Bridgeport, one of the most disadvantaged school districts in the country, has received a cut of $1.8 million. I believe the law should make sense. The spirit of the bill is to provide funding to the neediest districts, and, quite frankly, cutting Bridgeport funding does not seem to reflect that intention.

While I realize it is not necessarily within the purview of this committee, I believe the formula needs to be fixed.

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program.

The Community Services Block Grant provides the core funding for our local community action agencies, allowing them to address the problems that leave individuals in poverty.

Through job skills and employment programs, through educational opportunities for young children like Head Start, and through nutritionally sound programs like WIC, community action agencies work to make their community a better place to live and to offer opportunities for the economically disadvantaged to be successful and break the chains of poverty.

This Congress has continually demonstrated its support for CSBG. In fact, the Conference Agreement on the FE 2006 Budget Resolution added $600 million to maintain CSBG funding at its current level and the letter I circulated with my colleagues, Representatives PHIL ENGLISH (R–PA) and BRIAN BAIRD (D–WA) in support of level funding for CSBG garnered 122 bipartisan signatures.

Yet the bill we are considering today cuts CSBG funding in half. At a time when demands on our community action agency services from the working poor, older Americans, and families struggling with unemployment continue to increase, it is essential that Congress maintain its commitment to CSBG.

In my home state of Connecticut, this 50% reduction in funds to CSBG will result in a serious reduction of social services to our most vulnerable communities, reduction in services assisting families moving from welfare to work, and will seriously impact our community action agencies' ability to leverage other community dollars. The Thames Valley Council for Community Action in New London County, for example, generates and leverages $27 in other resources for every $1 funded under CSBG.

Mr. Chairman, it is clear the CSBG dollars are a smart investment for this Congress and are essential to our nation's most vulnerable

citizens. While my colleagues and I intend to withdraw our amendment today, I thank the distinguished Chairman for the opportunity to debate this important issue here today and I look forward to working with him to increase funding through the remainder of the legislative process.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to state my opposition to the extension of the refusal clause provision.

The refusal clause exempts health care companies from any federal, state or local government law that ensures women have access to reproductive health services, including information about abortion.

If extended, this provision will continue to have many negative effects by overriding federal Title X guidelines that ensure women receive full medical information. A fundamental principle of Title X, the national family planning program, ensures pregnant women who request information about all their medical options, including abortion, be given that information, including a referral upon patient request.

I am also concerned this bill does not include an increase in funding for Title X. Each year approximately 4.5 million low-income women and men receive basic health care through 4,600 clinics nation wide that receive Title X funds. This program reduces unintended pregnancies and makes abortion less necessary. Had funding for Title X kept pace with inflation since 1980, with no additional increases, it would be funded today at double its current budget.

While Title X is receiving flat funding from last year, the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Act of 2006 gives abstinence-only sex education programs an increase of $11 million, to an all time funding high of $168 million. Unlike Title X, abstinence-only programs do not provide clinical health services.

Additionally, research shows comprehensive sex-education programs, which teach both abstinence and contraception, are the most effective. There is no federal program that earmarks dollars for comprehensive sex education.

I support a woman's right to choose whether to terminate a pregnancy subject to Roe v. Wade, but we can all recognize the importance of preventing unintended pregnancies.

Abortion is a very personal decision. While a woman's doctor, clergy, friends, family and public officials may have an opinion, the ultimate decision rests solely with her. It is vital for every woman to have access to as much information as she needs in order to make this decision.

I oppose these provisions and encourage my colleagues to do so as well.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, there was an oversight in the No Child Left Behind Act, NCLB required teachers to meet their states highly qualified teacher requirement by the end of the 2005–2006 school year, about a year from now. Paraprofessionals were required to meet their requirements four years after enactment of NCLB. That would be January 8th of next year, halfway through the school year. Everyone agrees that it was an oversight and that these two dates should be aligned. I discussed various ways to fix this oversight with the Education and Workforce Committee Chairman Boehner and the staff, with the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education Raymond Simon, and with the National Education Association.

Last week I received a letter from Deputy Secretary Simon which reads in part "to enable the Department to enforce these two requirements in an efficient, effective and coordinated manner, the Department will align the paraprofessional timeline with the teacher timeline." I will include the entire letter for the RECORD.

I want to thank the Department of Education, Dep. Sec. Simon, chairman of the Education and Workforce Committee John Boehner and the staff, particularly, Sally Lovejoy and the National Education Association for working to resolve this oversight in a quick and efficient manner.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
June 15, 2005.

Hon. MIKE SIMPSON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SIMPSON: Thank you for your recent questions about the time frame within which all paraprofessionals working in Title I-funded programs must meet certain qualifications.

The relevant qualifications and time frame for paraprofessionals are detailed in section 1119(d) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). In general, this section states that all Title I paraprofessionals hired before enactment of NCLB must demonstrate competency by no later than four years after the law's enactment, i.e., January 8. 2006.

As you may know, the ESEA permits all veteran teachers of core academic subjects to have until the end of the 2005–2006 school year to demonstrate that they meet the requirements of NCLB; yet, as mentioned above. Title I paraprofessionals have only until January 8, 2006–the middle of the school year. We agree that it is unusual to have a deadline in the middle of the school year, and believe that the paraprofessional and highly qualified teacher provisions should be consistent. The Department will continue to be supportive of States, school districts and schools, in implementing these particular requirements.

You have suggested that the timeline for Title I paraprofessionals be consistent with the timeline for teachers. Your suggestion is reasonable and practical. Therefore, to enable the Department to enforce these two requirements in an efficient, effective and coordinated manner. the Department will align the paraprofessional timeline with the teacher timeline.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Sincerely,

RAYMOND SIMON.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Chairman, this LHHS appropriation bill not only undermines what would otherwise be our nations greatest resource, its people, but as a document is not worthy of what I believe this country stands for.

As a matter of fact, as I look at what the Republican leadership lays out in this budget, I just don't know any more what we as a Nation stand for.

We obviously don't stand for equal and the best health care for every American, when you look at the imposition of an 11.9% cut in the programs of the Health Resources and Services Administration and the elimination of Sickle Cell programs, Universal Newborn Hearing, and Emergency Medical Services for Children.

We also don't believe that in this increasingly diverse country that our residents should be able to communicate fully with their healthcare provider—the health professions programs that are key to eliminating health care disparities are decimated.

It appears we don't understand or don't care that the African American community which is so devastated by HIV/AIDS has to have the resources itself to reverse its toll.

And we obviously don't care that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. This country would rather neglect prevention and early care in favor of the high tech, more expensive treatments that come too little and too late if at all to the poor, the rural, the people of color to make a significant difference.

But that is fully in keeping with why we are where we are in this bill in the first place. This is a country that prefers to have the poor and the middle class citizens bear every burden from war to illness to environmental pollution, just so the richest people in this country can get richer.

What have we come to? We reject the crumbs from the table of the rich. We want what we deserve, good health a decent education and the opportunity for a good job with a living wage.

Apparently the White house and the Republican leadership which has pushed this appropriation to the floor doesn't think so.

The culture of life they talk about apparently does not extend past birth.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this, to do whatever we can to block the tax cuts and to take our country back.

Let's really fund a culture of life by rejecting the tax cuts in favor of sharing the burdens and the bounty, and really have a budget that supports life.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to address something of great concern to the tens of thousands of students of all ages in my district: the need for more responsible funding for education.

The President's budget would have eliminated over 50 programs that benefit students. Unfortunately, the President called for the elimination of programs such as TRIO, GEAR UP and the Perkins program.

I was shocked to find these programs on the President's chopping block because they benefit the students who come from lower income families and are trying to be the first person in their family to go to college, and in some cases, to graduate from High School.

I commend Chairman LEWIS and Ranking Member OBEY for agreing to keep these programs so that many more students can achieve their goals of getting a good education.

While I'm glad to see TRIO and Perkins programs in this bill, it still does not do enough for students in districts like mine. Enrollment rates are increasing in our area and throughout the country. Yet we increase funding for education to a level that can not begin to meet that need. Every Congress, we shrink the amount of funding increases to education. This time, we've brought it to a new low by raising our education funding by 3.6 percent.

Under this bill, Title I funding is increased by $1 billion. The thousands of students who benefit from Title I funds will greatly appreciate this increase. However, this is still $7 billion short of what is authorized for Title I under No Child Left Behind.

I support the efforts the committee has made to restore the TRIO and Perkins programs and increase Title I funds. We should

always do our best to fully fund these initiatives. This bill falls short of what we should be investing in education.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to a bill that does not value America's children and families.

The average American wants Congress to do more to ensure that our children receive the help they need to succeed in school and in life.

Instead, this bill implements a budget that values tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans more than it values education for the least wealthy Americans.

In 2001, Congress passed the No Child Left Behind Act. We and the President agreed, or at least I thought we did, that Federal education policy must include both reforms and resources.

I strongly support NCLB's goals, although as we move forward, I want us to look closely at what needs to be done to make it work best.

But, I can tell you right now that one thing that needs to be done is to keep the promise that Congress and the President made to the American people to fully fund NCLB.

Yet, not only would this bill provide $13 billion less than was promised for NCLB for this year, it would actually cut funding for NCLB compared to last year.

Over 4 years, this Congress has underfunded NCLB by more than $40 billion.

This bill would increase funding for Title I by less than 1 percent, at a time when we need to do more than ever to close the achievement gap not only within our country, but between our country and many of our economic competitors around the world.

It would freeze funding for teacher training, even as we face a looming teacher shortage—and we know that the most important factor in child's education is a good teacher.

It would freeze funding for after-school centers, even though last year we were only able to fund 38 percent of applications.

And this bill would cut funding for education technology by 40 percent, even as technology becomes more and more important to learning.

Another area in which this bill would do less is special education.

I think every member knows that in 1975, Congress and the President promised to fund 40 percent of schools' special education costs. Last year, 30 years after we passed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, we funded only 19 percent of those costs. Under this bill, that percentage would go down to 18 percent. That's what this bill does—or more accurately, doesn't do—for elementary and secondary education.

For younger children, even though we're only serving about half of the children who are eligible for Head Start, this bill would increase funding by less than 1 percent.

And for college students, it would provide only a $50 increase for Pell grants, even though tuition at the average public college has gone up by $2,300 since 2001.

Finally, this bill would make drastic cuts to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which does so much to promote a diverse and free-thinking society.

Public broadcasting provides forums for many voices that otherwise would not be heard.

It provides our children with the best educational programs on television, such as Sesame Street, and is a valuable source for reliable news programs for millions of Americans.

By cutting funding for CPB, we are weakening our strongest source of unbiased, diverse, educational and cultural programming.

In short, this bill is a step backward—a step we can't afford.

In his new book, ''The World is Flat,'' the New York Times' Thomas Friedman explains that America's historical economic advantages have disappeared now that ''the world is flat, and anyone with smarts, access to Google and a cheap wireless laptop can join the innovation fray.''

Mr. Friedman's and others' remedy is to ''attract more young women and men to science and engineering.''

But, it will be impossible for our country to continue to lead the world in innovation as long as Congress and the President choose tax cuts for millionaires over investment in education.

Mr. Chairman, that choice does not reflect the values of the people in my district, nor do I think it reflects the values of most Americans.

And so, I ask my colleagues to join me in opposition to this bill.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3010 falls far short of helping rectify many of the problems facing our Nation's and specifically, my constituents' healthcare needs. There are a number of areas of this appropriations bill that will have a significant impact on the future of healthcare delivery for the underserved communities of this country. As the number of uninsured and underinsured continues to rise, the government programs which act as a safety net continue to be challenged to provide more care with less funding. While the President and his administration support the funding of Community Health Centers, CHCs, the implication of the funding shortfall with regards to the training of health care professionals is that there will be a lack of future physicians and health care providers to staff these very centers.

Specifically, three HHS programs targeting underrepresented minorities in the healthcare professions have been completely eliminated by this bill with no explanation from the committee. This evisceration totals $158 million that would otherwise directly lead to underrepresented minorities entering healthcare professions and potentially serving the very communities they grew up in and are hurting the most from the lack of access. The ''Centers of Excellence'' program, which last year contributed $33.6 million to health professions schools with significant minority enrollment, will no longer exist under this appropriations bill. In my district, the University of Illinois at Chicago has benefited from this program and stands to lose necessary funding to train a greater number of minority students.

The ''Health Careers Opportunity Program,'' HCOP, is also effectively eliminated by the $35.7 million cut from last year's funding again with no explanation from the committee. This program strives to build diversity in the health professions by developing a more competitive applicant pool. The program provides students from disadvantaged backgrounds an opportunity to develop the skills needed to successfully compete for admission to and graduation from health professions schools.

Lastly, the ''Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry'' program is effectively eliminated by the $88.8 million cut, again with no explanation from the committee. The aim of this program is to improve access to quality health care through the appropriate preparation, composition and distribution of the health professions workforce. The program emphasizes diversity, distribution and the quality of the health professions workforce as a means of improving access to care. Grants for training in primary care medicine and dentistry support academic administrative units, residency training, pre-doctoral training, faculty development, physician assistants, and general and pediatrics dentistry program areas. Like the previous two programs eliminated, this program specifically aims at increasing underrepresented minorities in healthcare professions with a focus on meeting the increased demand for primary care physicians and health care providers.

Overall, these programs are vital to meeting the needs of underserved communities in my district as well as those all around America. Eliminating their funding will create more holes in an already fragmented and fractured healthcare system. As the number of uninsured and underinsured Americans continues to rise, a greater number of health professionals will be needed to meet their demands. Cutting funding that would increase the numbers of these health professionals is not in the best interest of our constituents that are in need of increased access, quality professionals, and overall better care.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 3010, the Fiscal Year 2006 Labor HHS Appropriations Act.

This bill contains funding for many important programs to protect our working men and women, provide for the education of our Nation's children, and support healthcare needs.

Specifically, I want to commend Chairman REGULA and the Appropriations Committee for working with me to include increased funding in this bill to ensure that our country is better prepared against the emerging threat of a pandemic influenza. As the chairman noted so eloquently in his opening statement, this bill is about setting priorities and the chairman has rightfully focused increased resources on this very real threat to our Nation's health and security.

The chairman has rightfully included in this bill $530,000,000 for the Strategic National Stockpile, which is $63 million above the 2005 funding level to expand our Nation's strategic national stockpile of antiviral treatments as well as $120 million to ensure a year-round influenza vaccine production capacity in the U.S. and the development and implementation of rapidly expandable influenza production technologies.

The avian flu is a huge health risk and national security concern that we cannot ignore.

The Centers for Disease Control and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have both acknowledged that the avian flu is a leading and quickly emerging threat to our population and that of other nations.

Currently, the avian flu is very contagious among birds, including chickens, ducks, and turkeys. It is believed that most cases of this flu in humans has resulted from contact with sick birds.

Health experts warn that a global pandemic could occur if avian flu eventually undergoes genetic changes, making it easily contagious among humans. Such an event could create a

global pandemic, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people in the U.S. and worldwide.

Already, the avian flu has killed 54 people in Southeast Asia in the past year, and just last week we learned of new human cases in Vietnam and a new case in Indonesia.

In response, the World Health Organization has again issued warnings to all governments urging them to act swiftly to control the spread of flu before it mutates into a form that can be easily transmitted among humans and become far deadlier. And further, these same health experts have urged all countries to increase their stockpiles of available antiviral treatments so that we are prepared for a worst case scenario.

This morning, I read with great interest Mort Kondracke's column in Roll Call, where he cited a cover story in the summer edition of the journal Foreign Affairs as saying avian flu could be ''the next pandemic.'' According to his column, the journal goes on to refer to avian flu as being ''far more dangerous than the Spanish flu that killed 50 million people worldwide in 1918 and 1919, including 675,000 in the United States.''

Mr. Chairman, we must prevent what is happening in Southeast Asia from spreading and reaching the American continent. If Americans are left unprotected and unprepared for an outbreak, there could be dire consequences.

Today, the national Strategic Stockpile includes antiviral treatment for just one percent of the population. If an avian flu pandemic occurred today, this would leave millions of Americans susceptible to infection, and possibly death.

The threat of avian flu spreading across our borders is not going away, and neither can our commitment to protecting the American people from such a risk. The funding included in this bill for the purchase of antiviral vaccines and ongoing efforts to develop an effective vaccine against the avian flu is hugely necessary for the security and health of all Americans.

Again, I commend the chairman for placing the highest priority on this urgent need and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Community Service Block Grant and in opposition to the cuts to this program. The Community Services Block Grant program distributes Federal money to more than 1,100 community action agencies nationwide that use those funds to lessen the effects of poverty.

In my Congressional District, there are six Community Action Agencies: Blue Valley Community Action, Central Nebraska Community Services, Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska, Kearney, Goldenrod Hills Community Services, Northwest Community Action, and Panhandle Community Services. Each of these agencies provide invaluable services to the citizens of Nebraska.

Many people have asked about what CSBG funds do. In short, CSBG funds provide the glue that help Community Action Agencies coordinate funding and services across the spectrum of what families might need. An example of the success of CSBG was shared with me by Shelley Mayhew of the Blue Valley Crisis Intervention. Shelley worked with a young mother with a 5-year-old child who was abandoned, with no money or car, by her abusive and violent fiancé.

Unable to search for a job because of her inability to pay for childcare, lack of extended family support, lack of domestic violence services, and her lack of a car, since in rural Nebraska we have no mass transit system, this young mother was referred to Blue Valley Community Action Crisis Intervention. There, through the actions of staff at Blue Valley, the child was enrolled in school, the family received domestic violence counseling and found affordable housing, and the mother found a job that allows her to support her family. Today, this young mother is even enrolled in a program to help her prepare for homeownership. Shelly's caseworker says, ''I watched a family struggling and hopeless become self-sufficient and optimistic about the future. I feel very fortunate to be part of an agency that makes a difference in so many people's lives.''

This is just one story from my Congressional District. CSBG is a true State block grant program that allows States to establish and operate anti-poverty programs that meet the unique needs of their low-income communities. In Nebraska, it is critically important. I hope that the funding for this important program can be restored during the Conference Committee.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Chairman, I offer my amendment no behalf of the thousands of women fighting a fierce battle against gyneocologic cancers. I would like to first thank Chairman LEWIS and Chairman REGULA for giving me the opportunity to speak on a topic that is not only a legislative priority, but a personnel commitment.

My amendment would simply redirect $5 million within the HHS budget to the Office of Women's Health to coordinate a national education campaign to educate the public on gynecologic cancers.

Every 7 minutes a woman is diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer. In 2005, over 82,000 will be diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer and over 27,000 women will die. The most common gynecologic cancers include ovarian, cervical and uterine cancers.

Too many women are dying because they were diagnosed too late. Education and early detection are the keys to saving women's lives and reducing these statistics. If diagnosed in the early stages, the 5 year survivability rates are as high as 95 percent.

Gynecologic cancers, when detected early, can often be prevented from becoming fatal. Since all women are at risk—no matter their ethnic background or socioeconomic status—it is critical that we find a way to inform women about the steps they can take to maintain their health.

Due to the private and intimate nature of these cancers, oftentimes women are uncomfortable discussing issues surrounding gynecologic cancers with friends and family. It is vital that we have a national dialogue to provide accurate and timely information to the public.

By simply educating women about these cancers, we have an opportunity to save lives. The messages are simple: learn the symptoms, have an annual exam and talk to your doctor. Unfortunately, most women do not know these messages, which is why we need to pass today's amendment.

Dollars spent on education are an appropriate use of federal resources. Education empowers individuals to make the best choices regarding their health care.

Last year, I discovered first-hand how important early diagnosis and education can be. My Legislative Director was diagnosed with cervical cancer. Her journey led me to work with Representatives SANDER LEVIN, KAY GRANGER and ROSA DELAURO and introduce H.R. 1245, ''the Gynecologic Education and Awareness Act of 2005,'' which has 193 bipartisan cosponsors.

This bill, also know as ''Johanna's law,'' has allowed me the privilege and honor to meet and work with an amazing group of survivors, patients, doctors, and families who have lost loved ones to these awful cancers.

I would like to personally thank Sheryl Silver, who started this whole effort over 4 years ago. In honor of her sister, Johanna, who died of ovarian cancer, Sheryl focused her energy and resources on writing, lobbying and working this bill. It is a model of how our democracy should work.

In addition, I would like to thank the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists (SGO) and the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation for their tireless efforts in saving women's lives. They have been invaluable to this Legislative effort. Dr. Beth Karlan, from Cedars Sinai Medical Center, is the President of SGO and the doctor who saved my Legislative Director's life and deserves a special note of heartfelt gratitude.

I appreciate the opportunity in raising this issue today. I look forward to working with Chairman JERRY LEWIS and Chairman RALPH REGULA and appreciate their hard work and their willingness to work with all members on their issues.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to add my voice to those of millions of Americans who are outraged at the dramatic reduction in much-needed support for public television stations across the country. Under the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006, the Public Broadcasting Corporation will lose $100 million, a 25 percent reduction from last year's funding. In addition to such cuts, this measure also proposes the elimination of the highly successful ''Ready to Learn'' children's education service, as well as funds needed to upgrade aging satellite technology and make the conversion to digital programming that has been mandated by this very body. All told, these reductions amount to a nearly 50 percent decrease in funding for public broadcasting.

These reductions target a thriving network responsible for a wide range of intellectual and creative programming, much of it targeted toward children. Recently many Americans, and many in this chamber, have inveighed against the proliferation of sex and violence on television. They have rightly expressed frustration at the increasing difficulty of monitoring the objectionable material that appears on network stations. Yet these same members are now proposing a debilitating reduction in much-needed funding for the very network that provides quality substantive programming for children and serves as an educational resource for parents and teachers. These cuts will most dramatically impact local public television and radio stations, especially those in rural areas and those servicing minority audiences.

These budget cuts target the ''Ready to Learn'' children's program that has helped more than eight million American children improve their reading skills. This program has supported more than 6.5 hours of educational programming each weekday, and has even financed workshops for parents interested in helping their children learn how to read.

The cuts will also significantly affect the financial security of local public broadcasting affiliates; nearly 70 percent of funding allocated for the Public Broadcasting Corporation is transferred directly to these local stations. With these funds, local PBS stations like WNED and WBFO in my district in Western New York purchase national programs and produce their own local programming. In an age dominated by giant media conglomerates, PBS affiliates are often the only television station offering shows that are specifically targeted to their locality. This local perspective is particularly important in rural areas, like much of my district, that are deemed unprofitable by larger, for-profit media conglomerates. Moreover, Americans overwhelmingly trust and support PBS, even as their respect for the news media at-large has substantially decreased. As the sixth most-watched media outlet, PBS attracts the attention of more than 70 percent of American households at least once a month.

I have received hundreds of phone calls and letters from my constituents in Western New York who are outraged at this targeted attack on public broadcasting. I firmly believe that this Congress has a responsibility to fully support substantive programming for our constituents, particularly our youngest constituents. In an era when partisan bickering and raucous shouting matches have become increasingly prevalent on our Nation's television and radio stations, we have an opportunity to elevate the level of public discourse by supporting programming that seeks not only to entertain but also to educate.

By fully funding public broadcasting, we provide an unbiased, intellectual outlet for those Americans who do not have access to the gilded museums and vaunted cultural institutions of our nation's wealthiest cities. In a broadcast space increasingly dominated by rampant consumerism and the extreme elements of the political spectrum, we have an opportunity to back an enterprise devoted not to the acquisition of greater wealth, but to the betterment of our common culture. We must not allow our partisan differences to obscure the very real contribution of the Public Broadcasting Service, if not for ourselves than for the youngest members of our society.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, Americans have long relied on the Pell Grant program to help pay for higher education. For decades, the program has supported students as they strive to reach their potential. Now, at a time when tuition costs are rising significantly every year, the Pell Grant program has become even more important.

This year it is projected that 1.3 million students will see their Pell grants reduced, and another 90,000 will become ineligible entirely due to the administration formula tax table changes. I was going to offer an amendment with my colleague TIM BISHOP today which would have stopped future formula changes cutting more students. The amendment would have been ruled out of order.

Though the Bush Administration's change to the federal student aid formula was subtle, its effect is not. Just as states are raising the price tags for higher education, the Bush Administration tells students and their families that they must shoulder a greater share of the burden. Due to the fact the Pell grant formulas effect the rest of student aid the Bush student aid reduction will force students and families to pay $3.2 billion more overall for college this year.

And these aid cuts come at a time when tuition is rising at double-digit rates. Even without these cuts, students and working families are straining to pay for higher education. According to the College Board, tuition, room, and board at a 4-year public university costs an average of $11,354, which is $824 more than last year and $1,775 more than 2 years ago. In other words, tuition at public institutions has been increasing by almost ten percent each year. In fact, according to the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, tuition and fees at public institutions in New Jersey have increased by more than 40 percent over the past 5 years. In some states, the increase is more than 60 percent.

Given rising college costs, reducing eligibility for financial aid seems short-sighted at best, and at worst, insensitive and uncompassionate.

Five million students rely on these grants to help pay for college. However because of these changes 36 percent of the 5 million students who receive Pell will have their awards reduced. The Pell Grant program has long embodied what government can and should do: serve as a pillar to lean on for individuals working hard and using their talents to achieve their dreams. Unfortunately and inevitably, these cutbacks have priced students out of college, forcing them to postpone their education and put career goals on hold. And those who do go on to college do so only by taking on larger burdens, including private loans that must be repaid starting immediately after graduation.

We believe the current course is taking us in the wrong direction. At a time when the country faces international competition and outsourcing, at a time when education has never been more important, Congress should be expanding college opportunity, not shrinking it. More than just an individual accomplishment or a point of pride for a family, college education is a public good. Our economy, culture, and communities benefit from having more college graduates.

I ask my colleagues to work with us to ensure that no students see their student aid reduced.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, the Labor-HHS Education Appropriations bill (H.R. 3010) that we are considering today is a sad reflection of Congress' commitment to our Nation, as it represents a gross underfunding of key domestic priorities as well as widens the disparities gap.

Access to an affordable, high-quality, public education helps save our children and generations yet unborn from the clutches of poverty, crime, drugs, and hopelessness. I would ask what could be more important or more necessary than to make sure that those who wish to better themselves through a high quality education are able to achieve that goal unobstructed by the barriers of financial disadvantage?

Regrettably, this bill would close the door of opportunity to more students by providing the smallest increase in education funding in 10 years.

Specifically, H.R. 3010 eliminates 24 important education programs. It freezes funding for after school centers, maintains the broken promise of IDEA full funding, and underfunds Title I by $9.9 billion below the investment promised in NCLB, leaving 3 million needy children to struggle without the academic assistance we pledged to provide. Despite the need to expand the affordability of higher education, this bill would provide only a paltry $50 increase to the maximum Pell Grant award.

Mr. Chairman, I am also deeply troubled by the fact that this bill fails to move America in a direction in which being a minority is not a mortality factor.

The National Institute of Medicine concluded that: Americans of color tend to receive lower-quality health care than do Caucasians; Americans of color receive inferior medical care—compared to the majority population—even when the patients' incomes and insurance plans are the same; and these disparities contribute to higher death rates from heart disease, cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and other life-endangering conditions.

H.R. 3010 would expand the disparity in health care access by eliminating the Healthy Communities Access Program and ten health profession training programs. It would also cut by $871 million the Health Resources and Services Administration and freeze nearly all Ryan White AIDS Care programs at a time when AIDS disproportionately ravages communities of color.

H.R. 3010 would also leave the neediest with even less help by cutting the Community Services Block Grant by 50 percent.

Lastly, I know I echo the sentiments of many of my constituents and those around the country when I say—restore the funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). I received almost 200 calls from constituents concerned about the detrimental impact cuts to the CPB will impose.

In my state, the $100 million rescission in the bill means that Maryland Public Television will be cut by $1,192,198. For Maryland's public radio stations, it also translates into significant decreases in funding—WBJC by over $84,000; WESM by almost $63,000; WSCL by $55,000; and WEAA and WYPR, both based in my district, by $78,673 and $138,029 respectively. The CPB is an invaluable part of the educational and informational structure of our Nation—for both those young and the old. We should not deafen its voice by cutting nearly 50 percent of its budget.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3010 represents a misguided attempt to restore fiscal sanity on the backs of those least able to bear the heavy burden.

Our collective belief in the principles of fairness and equality demand that we do more than the Bush Administration and House Leadership—who only offer hollow promises to address these disparities. We should hold them accountable and force an actual delivery on these promises by restoring funding for the numerous critical domestic programs in this bill. America expects and deserves this accountability.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, today I rise to express my concern that this bill zeroes out funding for the Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) within the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriation Bill. FLAP is currently the only federal program that supports foreign language education at the elementary and secondary school level. It is widely understood that early language education is the key to language proficiency later on.

In order to start addressing the pressing need for skilled linguists and other language

professionals that currently exist, forty of my colleagues and I sent Chairman REGULA and Ranking Member OBEY a letter requesting $30 million for this program.

In the past, FLAP grants have helped elementary and secondary schools create and maintain high quality language programs in areas such as Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish and French.

Our Nation's language capabilities are underdeveloped because we have neglected to provide the language programs that currently exist. An increase in FLAP funding will pay large dividends in the future as new generations of Americans are exposed to foreign languages and cultures at a young age. Currently the demand for language services in the United States is greater than ever before. For reasons such as economic development, cultural growth and national security, Americans are learning that we need to have much better facility with all languages and dialects.

I understand that language education is one of the most pressing national security issues facing our Nation today. While the Defense Department, the State Department and our intelligence agencies have recently turned their attention to the language problem, their approach remains focused on immediate needs. However, programs such as FLAP are critical in addressing the long term problem by increasing interest in, and access to, language education.

The House has already gone on record this year in strong support of language education when it unanimously approved H. Res. 122, and established 2005 as the Year of Languages. I believe that an increase in FLAP funding would be an appropriate way to further show Congressional support for language education.

As this bill goes to conference I ask my colleagues to join me in demanding funding for foreign language education.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chair may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment that he has printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered read.

The Clerk will read.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, for the purpose of entering into a colloquy, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for yielding to me.

I rise today with the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) for the purpose of engaging the chairman in this colloquy about the National Youth Sports Program.

Mr. Chairman, this year due to funding constraints, the National Youth Sports Program was not funded in this appropriation bill. The National Youth Sports Program is an educational partnership that has worked successfully for 37 years. It provides low-income children, ages 10 to 16, a 5-week summer program offering sports and academic programs at colleges and universities nationwide.

This proven program also reaches beyond academics and sports to provide opportunities for learning about good nutrition, developing leadership skills, and developing good character. Currently, the program serves about 76,000 kids at 201 colleges and universities across the country. Participants benefit from close contact with caring adults and learn about discipline and self-esteem that organized sports provide. In addition, NYSP gives many participants the first opportunity to experience a college or university campus from the inside. In my home State of Wisconsin, close to 1,600 young people participate in this program.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. REGULA. I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and I thank him for his work on this bill.

Mr. Chairman, over 36 years of dealing with young people as a coach, recruiting, and as a teacher, I have witnessed an unraveling of our Nation's families. Young people in America currently face more overwhelming obstacles than ever before. Nearly one half of all children grow up without one biological parent or are in some difficult home environment.

The main value of this program, as I see it, Mr. Chairman, is that it does give some very needy children on a college campus great supervision and through the vehicle of sports encourages them to do well in school, provides some character-building experiences. I have experienced personally these programs. I have participated in them; so I see great value and really appreciate the chairman's willingness to at least consider our proposal.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, the committee acknowledges the good work that is done by the National Youth Sports Program, but was unfortunately unable to fund this program due to funding constraints.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. REGULA. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chairman, as the chairman is aware, earlier this year we did have a bipartisan letter of support from over 50 of our colleagues requesting a $20 million appropriation for NYSP. Given the importance of this program to many children throughout the country and the fact that NYSP has successfully leveraged Federal funding to secure substantial matching community investments, we would hope that if the funding is found on the Senate side that the House could be supportive, that the chairman could be supportive of the funding level coming out of the Senate in conference.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, the committee will do its best in the conference if additional funding is available to preserve the National Youth Sports Program.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks at this point.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I oppose the Republican education appropriations bill because it makes huge cuts to our critical education programs.

The Republican education measure will force millions of students, elderly, disabled and veterans to foot much of the bill for billions in unprecedented tax giveaways to corporations and the super rich.

This bill compromises our ability to build a highly skilled workforce and strong economy, just at the time when we need the investment the most.

THE REPUBLICAN EDUCATION BILL CUTS NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

The Republican education bill actually cuts overall funding for No Child Left Behind by 806 million dollars this year.

The timing could not be worse. Schools are continuing to work to meet the challenges of NCLB.

In 2006, all students are to be taught by a highly qualified teacher for the first time.

These reforms are critically needed, yet we aren't meeting our commitment to fund them.

Since its passage, President Bush and the Republican controlled Congress have broken their pledge to fully fund NCLB by a total of nearly $40 billion.

DENYING CRITICAL MATH AND READING SERVICES TO MILLIONS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

The Republican education bill cuts the Administration's Title I funding increase by 83 percent.

As a result, more than 3 million children will be denied critical services to improve their math and reading skills.

Current funding for Title I grants—which help low-income children improve their academic skills—is now $10 billion short of what President Bush and the Congress promised under NCLB.

THE REPUBLICAN EDUCATION BILL MAKES IT EVEN HARDER TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

Millions of students and families continue to struggle to cover rising college costs and soaring loan debt.

Yet this bill provides no real relief.

Instead, the Republican education bill provides a meager $50 increase to the maximum Pell grant scholarship—which doesn't even cover the rise of inflation.

In addition, it falls nearly $1,000 short of President Bush's $5,100 maximum Pell promise—despite the fact that last year's maximum Pell grant scholarship was worth nearly $800 less, in real terms, than it was 30 years ago.

As a result, students will shoulder huge new debts as college expenses continue to rise.

The Republican education bill also shortchanges teacher training by freezing Teacher Quality State Grants—which have been frozen or cut for 3 years in a row.

As a result, 56,000 fewer teachers would receive the high quality training promised under NCLB.

This education bill marks the first year in nearly a decade that we are actually losing ground on IDEA.

The Republican education bill funds IDEA at less than half of the amount we promised when we enacted the law.

Congress promised to cover 40 percent of the costs of education for children with special needs—yet this year, we'll only cover 18 percent.

We need to move forward to close the gap between the amount Congress promised and the amount that we provided—not backwards, as this bill does.

This bill raids critical services to children, the disabled, veterans and college students to pay for billions in unprecedented tax giveaways to corporations and the super rich.

I strongly oppose the Republican education bill because it will force massive cuts to our key education programs and shortchange millions of American children, students and workers.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the Republican education appropriations bill.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3010

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

For necessary expenses of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, including the purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles, the construction, alteration, and repair of buildings and other facilities, and the purchase of real property for training centers as authorized by such Act; $2,658,792,000 plus reimbursements, of which $1,708,792,000 is available for obligation for the period July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007; except that amounts determined by the Secretary of Labor to be necessary pursuant to sections 173(a)(4)(A) and 174(c) of such Act shall be available from October 1, 2005, until expended; and of which $950,000,000 is available for obligation for the period April 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007, to carry out chapter 4 of such Act: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, of the funds provided herein under section 137(c) of such Act of 1998, $212,000,000 shall be for activities described in section 132(a)(2)(A) of such Act and $1,193,264,000 shall be for activities described in section 132(a)(2)(B) of such Act: *Provided further*, That $125,000,000 shall be available for Community-Based Job Training Grants: *Provided further*, That $7,936,000 shall be for carrying out section 172 of such Act: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law or related regulation, $75,759,000 shall be for carrying out section 167 of such Act, including $71,213,000 for formula grants, $4,546,000 for migrant and seasonal housing (of which not less than 70 percent shall be for permanent housing), and $500,000 for other discretionary purposes: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the transfer limitation under section 133(b)(4) of such Act, up to 30 percent of such funds may be transferred by a local board if approved by the Governor: *Provided further*, That funds provided to carry out section 171(d) of such Act may be used for demonstration projects that provide assistance to new entrants in the workforce and incumbent workers: *Provided further*, That no funds from any other appropriation shall be used to provide meal services at or for Job Corps centers.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to enter into a colloquy with the gentleman from Texas (Chairman BARTON) of the Committee on Energy and Commerce to discuss an amendment which I introduced and which was adopted by the Committee on Appropriations to the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Fiscal Year 2006 appropriations bill. The Committee on Appropriations adopted my amendment, which blocks convicted sex offenders from receiving federally funded medication such as Viagra and other similar medication.

As the chairman may know, more than 800 sex offenders in 14 States have been reimbursed for Viagra and similar medication. The sex offenders being tracked for these statistics are level three sex offenders, which are the most threatening and dangerous of all convicted sex offenders.

The amendment, already incorporated in the bill before us, will prohibit any Federal funds under this act to be used for reimbursement to convicted sex offenders for Viagra or similar medication. Since this is an appropriations bill, it means that the effect of these provisions will last only for 1 year. I look forward to working with the gentleman from Texas (Chairman BARTON) on the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS) on the Committee on Ways and Means on legislation to stop this practice quickly and permanently.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DOOLITTLE. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from California, the author of the amendment, section 519 of the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Fiscal Year 2006 appropriation bill, for yielding to me.

Section 519, as authored by the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE), would prohibit Medicare, Medicaid, and other public health agencies from paying for erectile dysfunction medications to convicted sex offenders by modifying the medication coverage policies of entitlement programs established under the statutes within the jurisdiction of the Committee of Energy and Commerce, which I chair.

This provision is clearly, and I repeat, clearly, legislating on an appropriations bill, a clear violation of clause 2 of rule XXI of the rules of the House. Legislative changes affecting these public health programs should be properly considered by the authorizing committee of jurisdiction and not in an appropriations bill.

I am, however, very sympathetic to the goals of the sponsor of this provision, what the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) is trying to accomplish. I have with me a press report by the Associated Press just released today that says in California, the State that the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) is from, last year their program paid for 137 sex offenders to get these types of drugs, and I know the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE) wants to prevent that.

So I am not going to object today because I believe that under no circumstances should taxpayers' dollars be used to pay for providing these medications to convicted sex offenders. We do not want to send the wrong message to these individuals or to the State public health officials that have allowed this to happen.

I did send a letter to the Committee on Rules asking that this language remain subject to a point of order on the floor today; but given these unique circumstances, I have agreed to allow this provision to be included in the bill today.

I want to put the House on notice and the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), chairman of the full committee, and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), chairman of the subcommittee, that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will move legislation prohibiting convicted sex offenders from gaining access to these medications before the conference on this appropriations bill is complete.

This is the proper way for the House to address the issue. I would hope that all Members will support this legislation when it comes to the floor in the very near future.

[From the Associated Press]

STATE AGENCIES DIRECTED TO STOP PROVIDING SUCH DRUGS TO EX-CONVICTS

SAN FRANCISCO.—California taxpayers helped pay for Viagra and other impotence drugs for at least 137 registered sex offenders in the past year, the state Attorney General's office said.

An audit found that Medi-Cal—the state Medicaid agency that funds some health services programs for California's poor—spent $2.6 million to provide 5,855 men with Viagra and other erectile dysfunction drugs, including 137 men who were registered sex offenders, Nathan Barankin, spokesman for Attorney General Bill Lockyer, said Wednesday.

Lockyer's office received a list of Medi-Cal-funded Viagra recipients from the Department of Health Services and ran that list against the men whose whereabouts are registered with local law enforcement, Barankin said.

Last month, under federal pressure to prevent sex offenders from obtaining taxpayer-funded Viagra, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger directed state agencies to stop providing such ex-convicts with erectile dysfunction drugs.

The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services even warned it might cut federal funding for states that do not make serious efforts to cut convicted sex offenders off from these drugs.

State authorities across the country have been searching their databases after a New York state audit showed that 198 sex offenders there received government-reimbursed Viagra between January 2000 and March 2005.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DOOLITTLE. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

I too support the spirit and intent of the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE). And if there ever was common sense, it is the fact that taxpayer money should not be used to provide Viagra and similar medications to convicted sex offenders, those among the worst in the country. So this is a short-term solution; but we need a long-term solution, a bill that I have introduced; and it is understood that the chairman will move that legislation. It focuses on drug utilization review programs that provide the States with the flexibility to prevent convicted sex offenders from obtaining Viagra with taxpayer money.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I thank both these gentlemen and commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA), the author of the permanent legislation, and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON), the chairman of the primary committee with jurisdiction over this. This definitely needs to be made permanent. This is really just an interim step until that legislation can move.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DOOLITTLE. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), ranking member, for letting us have this colloquy.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I want to begin my remarks by acknowledging the obvious. The gentleman from California (Chairman LEWIS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), ranking member, dealt the hand that was given to them.

□ 1330

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Ranking Member OBEY) of the subcommittee and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), the chairman of the subcommittee, dealt the hand that was given to them.

But, my friends, when the budget is cut by $16 billion and you expect that the most vulnerable of America can raise their head and survive, you understand that a crisis is in the midst.

Now, I was prepared today to offer two amendments, because I believe that in helping that we can all work together. But I realize that the ranking member and the chairman have done everything that they could possibly do, and I buy into our leader's concept that this is simply borrowing from the lambs, the most vulnerable.

But I do want to acknowledge the two amendments that I would have offered today and share with my colleagues the reason for withdrawing them, because I hope that we will battle all the way to conference, restore the $16 billion that takes away from the most needy, but also from the Americans who depend on us the most.

Just a couple of days ago, the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations stood on the floor of the House and they said they came in $3.5 billion under mark, meaning that they spent less than they were authorized or able to do. But even with that $3.5 billion, we find ourselves cutting over 20 Health and Human Services programs and over 25 educational programs to educate our children.

I would have offered the following two amendments, one dealing with the hepatitis C virus, and I pay tribute to a former constituent of mine, Ed Wendt, who lost his life in the battle with hepatitis C and liver disease, a Vietnam war veteran, somebody with whom I stood in front of the Justice Department fighting against the discrimination of veterans who have hepatitis C virus. Although many of them do not know it, nearly 4 million Americans are currently infected and 35,000 new infections occur each year. HCV costs millions of dollars in health care and lost wages, and this amendment would have offered an additional $1.5 million to deal with this issue.

Hepatitis C impacts African Americans, children, and adolescents, renal dialysis patients, HIV-positive patients. We need help.

But I will not offer this amendment to continue the battle for more dollars for all Americans on all issues. Today on the floor of the House I saw a former colleague, Congresswoman Meek. Carrie Meek was a soldier on the battlefield for lupus research, and I was prepared to offer an amendment to increase the dollars for lupus because we have not determined the cause of lupus. But because of the need to spread the wealth and the need to provide resources that we do not have because the majority determined that the most vulnerable of America do not need our attention, I will not offer that amendment.

I rise to offer the impact or to emphasize the impact that we will be facing. Do my colleagues realize that we are cutting dollars from community health clinics, we are cutting dollars from training and primary care medicine and dentistry, sickle cell demonstration projects are being zeroed out, early learning opportunities programs are being zeroed out? In education, we are zeroing out comprehensive school reform, parental information and resource centers. We are zeroing out arts and education, alcohol abuse reduction; all of those are being zeroed out. And even though I will be supporting my colleagues on the Congressional Black Caucus, because we are appreciative of being able to save TRIO, we will also be standing here to say that because we believe in the mandate of the gentleman from North Carolina (Chairman WATT) for this Congress, closing the disparities gap for Americans, particularly minority Americans and African Americans, we can stand here today and say that this legislation is a travesty, for it impacts the elderly, it impacts the most vulnerable, the sickest of Americans, it impacts the youngest of Americans.

In Texas alone we will be losing some $9 billion in language acquisition in education, we will be losing $62 billion in education technology, $7 billion in assessments. We will be losing $27 billion in innovative education. We will be losing $13 billion in rural education. We will be losing another amount in special ed.

Mr. Chairman, this bill needs to go back to address the needs of the most vulnerable Americans and to close the disparities gap.

Mr. Chairman, let me first say thanks to you and the Ranking Member for your work on this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I had planned to offer two amendments but have decided to withdraw them due to existing funding cuts in the bill and the fact that there is not much room to transfer monies throughout the bill. Nevertheless, I feel it is very important to briefly discuss these amendments for they deal with two very pressing health issues (Lupus and Hepatitis-C). My first amendment, which was two fold, would have increased funding for the "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Disease Control, Research, and Training", by $2.5 million. The second half of this amendment would have increased funding to the "National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities" by $1.5 million. The purpose of these funding increases would have been to increase educational programs on Lupus for health care providers and the general public. In addition, my first amendment would have sought to expand the operation of the National Lupus Patient Registry. Lupus is a chronic, disabling, and potentially fatal condition in which the immune system attacks the body's own organs and tissues. Lupus strikes primarily women and is twice as common among people of color. Currently, it is estimated that 1.5 to 2 million Americans have Lupus. There is no cure for Lupus, no new drugs have been approved to treat the disease in nearly forty years, and no valid medical measure to diagnose and track the disease's progression exists. This is a serious disease and we must focus more attention on it if we are to find a cure.

My second amendment would also have increased funding for "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Disease Control, Research, and Training" for the purpose of increasing Hepatitis-C research activities. Particularly at risk for Hepatitis-C are African-Americans, children and adolescents, renal dialysis patients, HIV/HCV positive patients, and patients with hemophilia. Although many of them do not know it, nearly four million Americans are currently infected, and 35,000 new infections occur each year. This insidious virus takes thousands of lives annually—primarily through cirrhosis and liver cancer. HCV costs millions of dollars in healthcare and lost wages each year, but it receives inadequate attention from the public, the medical field, and the federal government.

Hepatitis-C is an inflammation of the liver including tenderness, and sometimes permanent damage. Hepatitis-C can be caused by various viruses or by substances such as chemicals, drugs, and alcohol. Hepatitis C virus is one of six known types of the hepatitis virus. I would urge my colleagues to take a closer look at this devastating disease.

I would also like to take a moment to express my concerns with some of the many funding cuts for Title VII programs in this year's appropriations bill. While I am pleased to see that funding was provided for Minority Centers of Excellence ($12 million) and Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students ($35 million), I am disappointed that Area Health Education Centers, Health Education and Training Centers, and Health Professions Training Programs were all zeroed out. These programs have been addressing the needs of medically underserved communities in Texas since 1991 by playing a key role in providing health services and health care professionals for our most vulnerable populations. I would hope that I would be able to work with the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member as this bill moves through conference to see if we can find some funding for these very important programs.

I am pleased to see that the Committee provided an increase over last year's funding level for Ryan White AIDS Programs. Specifically, the bill appropriates $2.1 billion for the programs, which is $10 million (2%) more than the current level but equal to the administration's request. This total includes $610 million for the emergency assistance program—which provides grants to metropolitan areas with very high numbers of AIDS cases—$1.1 billion for comprehensive-care programs, $196 million for the early-intervention program, and $73 million for the Pediatric HIV/AIDS program.

Head Start also received an increase in funding. The bill provides $6.9 billion for the program. This is $56 million more than the current level but slightly less than the administration's request. I would like to work with the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member to increase funding to the Administration's request during conference. The total for Head Start includes $5.5 billion in FY 2006 billion in advance appropriations from a prior year. The measure also includes $1.4 billion in advance FY 2007 appropriations.

Unfortunately, the bill only provides $14.7 billion for the Education for the Disadvantaged Children Program. It saddens me to say that this amount is $115 million less than the current level and $1.7 billion less than the Administration's request. I hope more funding can be provided for this important program during conference.

Before closing, I would like to express my dismay with the $100 million decrease in funding for Corporation for Public Broadcasting. A loss in CPB funding would seriously hamper PBS' ability to acquire the top quality children's educational programming that is used in classrooms, day care centers and millions of American households to educate, entertain and provide a safe harbor from the violent, commercial and crass content found in the commercial marketplace. PBS provides valuable services that improve classroom teaching and assist homeschoolers. These could be reduced or eliminated if federal funding is cut. These services include PBS TeacherSource, a service that provides pre-K through 12 educators with nearly 4,000 free lesson plans, teachers' guides, and homeschooling guidance; and PBS TeacherLine, which provides high-quality professional teacher development through more than 90 online-facilitated courses in reading, mathematics, science and technology integration. We must not cut funding for this valuable program.

Again, I thank the Chairman and the Ranking Member for their work on this bill, and I hope we can all work to further fund the programs mentioned in my statement as we move to conference.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to strike the last word.

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Chairman, I had two amendments that I was going to offer on the Corporation of Public Broadcasting, and they have to do with restricting funding for opening a new office that would monitor dissenting and ideological statements.

Mr. Chairman, today I am offering an amendment that will help end the partisan attacks on public broadcasting by prohibiting the funding of the new Office of Ombudsmen at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The creation of such office is partisan, unnecessary, and contrary to the spirit of the law that created CPB, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Corporation of Public Broadcasting, CPB, Chairman, Kenneth Tomlinson, has inserted politics into our public media and has taken the public out. Recently we learned that Mr. Tomlinson secretly coordinated with a White House official to formulate ''guiding principles'' for the appointment of two partisan ombudsmen to monitor and critique all public broadcasting content. Furthermore, the ombudsmen were appointed by Tomlinson based on their purported political ideology—''one for the left and one for the right.'' These actions are in violation of the original mandate established by the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967. This historic act forbids ''political or other tests'' from being used in employee actions and prohibits interference by Federal officials over public media content. Congress intended that the CPB serve as a firewall against outside political pressures, and the creation of the ombudsmen office at the CPB clearly contradicts that spirit.

Secondly, hiring outside ombudsmen at CPB is completely unnecessary. NPR already has an in-house ombudsman. In response to the unfounded accusations of liberal bias, the PBS board recently selected an independent ombudsman that is in line with the original bill's language, which states that the ''production and acquisition of programs'' is supposed to be ''evaluated on the basis of comparative merit by panels or outside experts, representing diverse interests and perspectives appointed by the corporations.'' There is clearly no need to spend additional taxpayer's money for the monitoring of public broadcasting programming, especially through the lens of political ideology.

The amendment I am offering today simply restores what was already in place by legal precedent by prohibiting the funding of the Office of Ombudsmen at CPB. This amendment is in the spirit of the 1967 act, which forbade ''any direction, supervision, or control over the content or distribution of public telecommunications programs and services.''

The American people, in poll after poll, have judged PBS to be ''fair and balanced'' compared to network and cable television. We do not need outside operatives to intervene. Furthermore, in these times of fiscal crisis for PBS, the last thing we need is to spend taxpayers' money on partisan media police. My amendment will help return balance and objectivity to our public media, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, once again our public broadcasting system is under attack by reactionary forces inside the beltway. This time, it is suffering a two-pronged assault; one on content, one on funding, and both politically motivated.

Congressman HINCHEY and I are offering an amendment to reinforce existing law and buffer PBS from the kind of political attacks that Corporation of Public Broadcasting, CPB Chairman, Kenneth Tomlinson, has brought upon Big Bird and Elmo. Mr. Tomlinson has revealed his personal crusade to discredit and destroy public broadcasting by unjustly accusing PBS and NPR of liberal bias, and working behind the scenes to stack the CPB's board and executive offices with operatives who share his ideological views.

According to recent reports, Tomlinson is promoting Patricia Harrison, the former co-chairwoman of the Republican National Committee, to be CPB's next president. Mr. Tomlinson also secretly coordinated with a White House official to formulate ''guiding principles'' for the appointment of two partisan ombudsmen to monitor and critique all public broadcasting content. Tomlinson suppressed a public poll showing that 80 percent of Americans judge PBS to be ''fair and balanced'' compared to network and cable television. Finally, Tomlinson diverted taxpayers' money to hire a partisan researcher for a stealth study to track ''anti-Bush'' and ''anti-TOM DELAY'' comments by the guests of NOW with Bill Moyers—a move that currently is being investigated by the Inspector General.

Mr. Chairman, the law is clear on this. The Public Broadcasting Act of 1967 clearly forbids ''any direction, supervision, or control over the content or distribution of public telecommunications programs and services.'' Congress established the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to ''encourage the development of public radio and television broadcasting'' and to ''afford (public broadcasting) maximum protection from extraneous interference and control.'' Under the direction of Tomlinson, however, the CPB has engaged in a deliberate campaign to inject politics into public broadcasting.

The taxpayer-funded CPB is supposed to serve as a firewall between Washington, DC, politics and public broadcasting. Mr. Chairman, we must take the politics out of public broadcasting—and put the public back in. Our amendment will prohibit Mr. Tomlinson from exercising any direction, supervision, or control over the content or distribution of public broadcasting. It would also reaffirm the longstanding policy that public broadcasting must be free from outside interference. This is about the future of a vital public trust, a resource that is owned and enjoyed by everyone, and not allowing it to be hijacked by the nefarious agenda of a few political operatives. It is a shame that it has even come to arguing

for safeguards we used to take for granted, but the actions of Mr. Tomlinson demand it. I urge my colleagues to support our amendment.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. OBEY

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. OBEY:

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

SEC. ____. The amounts otherwise provided in this Act for the following accounts and activities are hereby reduced by the following amounts, and none of the funds made available in this Act may be used to carry out the rescission specified in this Act under the heading ''Corporation for Public Broadcasting'':

(1) ''Department of Labor—Employment and Training Administration—Training and Employment Services'', $58,000,000.

(2) ''Department of Labor—Departmental Management—Salaries and Expenses'', $4,640,000.

(3) ''Department of Health and Human Services—Health Resources and Services Administration—Health Resources and Services'', $2,920,000.

(4) ''Department of Education—Higher Education'', $27,000,000.

(5) ''Department of Education—Departmental Management—Program Administration'', $8,380,000.

Mr. OBEY (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that debate on this amendment and any amendments thereto be limited to 30 minutes to be equally divided and controlled by the proponent and myself as the opponent.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the amendment will be considered at this point in the reading and, without objection, the debate will be considered within the time specified.

There was no objection.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, we all know what this amendment is. It is very simple, and I will not take very much time on explain it.

We simply strike the $100 million rescission that was included in the Labor-HHS bill for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. This restores the $100 million in funding for CPB, which distributes the majority of those funds to over 1,000 public television and radio stations nationwide, and uses the remaining funds to support national programming and public broadcasting systems.

It is offset by modest reductions in low-priority demonstration programs and administrative accounts in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Department. I think those reductions will not do serious harm to any of the administrative budgets involved.

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

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to offer this amendment with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Ranking Member OBEY) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH).

What we have today is a new remake of an old show: the misguided effort to deny the American people the quality, thought-provoking, and insightful programming of PBS.

Ten years ago, when the right wing launched an all-out assault on public television, Americans understood what was at stake and rallied around PBS. The Republican leadership retreated, and public broadcasting was saved.

Today, the majority is again trying to pull the plug on public television and radio. This time, well over a million Americans have signed petitions calling for the restoration of CPB's operating funds, and thousands more have contacted congressional offices in opposition to these devastating cuts.

Families across the country turn to public radio and television for educational programs, job training, the latest digital services, balanced news, local information; the very types of programs and services commercial television stations simply do not offer because they just are not profitable.

Local public stations are already struggling to provide these quality programs with limited dollars. This $100 million rescission, 25 percent of CPB's operating budget, could force many stations to fade to black.

Do we want to live in a society where pop culture dictates all that is offered on the airwaves? Do we want to live in a society in which the only characters that appear on Sesame Street and other children's programs are the ones that gross the highest profits, rather than those who deliver the most compelling lessons to our kids?

We have an opportunity today to send the same strong and successful message that beat back these cuts to public broadcasting 10 years ago. I urge my colleagues to restore this critical funding to CPB by voting in favor of the Obey-Lowey-Leach amendment.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY).

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Chairman, I understand one of the objections to the Obey amendment will be that it takes money from worker training programs and community health services. But I want to state that as a child psychologist, I cannot overstate the need to make the ability of quality, wholesome media a priority for our children, and I am certainly concerned about reducing these funds that would affect children's programming, as I am sure every Member is.

In southwestern Pennsylvania, it has been the home of WQED, the first community-owned TV station, production center for many PBS programs, and also the home for Fred Rogers' programs with Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood.

It is extremely important, and I am hoping in conference, as I expect this amendment may fail, in conference the chairman may work to help restore some programming funds for public broadcasting. I believe it is important to have nonviolent, noncommercial programs, because so many other programs still have so much in there that appears to be just infomercials for children's programming.

So I ask that as this proceeds, that the chairman work in conference and in other areas to help restore some of the programming funds that would help us with such important children's programming.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), one of the cosponsors of the amendment, and I appreciate very much his involvement in this activity.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Chairman, I thank my distinguished friend for yielding me this time.

I would like to just take a moment to discuss what might seem esoteric, that is a definitional issue. The word ''public'' means ''of or pertaining to the whole community.''

I mention this because public broadcasting is not intended to be a reflection of the views of any government. It is not government broadcasting we are talking about; it is public broadcasting. That was made clear when Congress created this particular program that so many of Americans hear and feel every day of their lives.

Public broadcasting simply was not to be the microphone of the government. Perspectives reflected are expected to be honest and of the highest quality, hopefully reflecting a variety of views. But all governments, Republican or Democratic, all government officials, left, right and center, should expect to be criticized and find views reflected that they do not agree with. It is simply better for society to have a questioning, skeptical press and, most particularly, a skeptical, questioning public broadcasting system than one that is slavishly supportive of any perspective, especially a perspective that might be considered a government one.

Here, all of us have heard a lot of criticism of public broadcasting, particularly journalists like Bill Moyers and Dan Schorr. Let me say, I do not think either would consider themselves a card-carrying arch-conservative. But the fact of the matter is that there have probably been no journalists in the last several generations who have uplifted public discourse more than these two men. We, all of us, will not agree with anything or everything that they say, but we certainly can respect them.

Let me end for the moment with the notion that public broadcasting is about increasing the civility level of public discourse. It is also about increasing the appreciation level for the American arts. I cannot think of any publicly funded endeavor that has done more for uplifting what we consider to be the values that underpin public policy rather than simply reflect perspectives on public policy itself. I cannot think of any publicly funded endeavor that has done more to bring out the best in the American arts.

□ 1345

And so I would strongly urge my colleagues to reflect that these institutions of the Public Broadcasting System deserve our respect and our support.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, it is a privilege to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Chairman, today we are talking about deficits, debt and tight spending. We are talking about tight veterans budgets and funding our troops. But the other side of the aisle will not let us even cut from the most obvious sources. I would like to let them know, and the other Members, let them know what PBS does not want you to know, Big Bird is a billionaire.

What they do not want you to know is that the marketing rights for Sesame Street and Barney total $1.3 billion. Merchandise from PBS can be found in every toy store across America, and yet that money does not appear on the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's balance sheet. Americans should be shocked.

This is the height of absurdity, a massive corporation shielding its profits so that it can continue to feed at the Federal trough. Where is the Democratic outrage at this? If this were a Fortune 500 company, we would be hearing breathless condemnations from the other side. But there is actually more. The average household income of a listener of NPR is approximately $75,000. Guess what? This means the taxpayers are being soaked so that the affluent people can get their news commercial-free.

This debate shows that many people have truly met a government program they could not cut. Mr. Speaker, Big Bird is strong enough to fly on his own. If we cannot get this billionaire off the public trough, than I ask how can we ever hope to cut spending.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the point that is being made. I think the listening public, the interested public, should know that the Federal funding for programs like Sesame Street, the popular children's programs, frankly only 2.5 percent of that comes from the Federal Government. Indeed, the billionaire could clearly take care of that.

And one more point. For all those people who are calling our offices from San Francisco and New York and otherwise across the country, if each would just send another dollar, they would not have to bother with this; they would save that in the phone bills.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I could not agree with you more. And that exactly should be the message, that those who want to support public broadcasting should do it through their personal checkbook.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL).

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is necessary because my friends on the other side know the cost of everything and the value of nothing. I rise in strong support of the amendment to restore funding to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

This is money already authorized by the Congress. Now my friends on the other side of the aisle are trying to take it away. Today's debate is laced with irony because to millions of Americans there is simply no debate over how important public broadcasting is to them and their children.

It is an educational and cultural enrichment to our whole society, and it is a success story of which we can be proud. I urge that we adopt the amendment which actually should be $200 million, instead of $100 million, because that is the amount that has been cut over here.

I urge my colleagues to adopt the amendment. I commend the authors, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) for their amendment.

The amendment should not have been needed. But the House can cure the mistakes of the Appropriations Committee by adopting the amendment by an overwhelming vote. Public broadcasting is a highly valued national investment. It generates extraordinary returns for local communities across our Nation. It preserves the highest quality programming and commitment to public service.

Public broadcasting must remain not only fully funded but insulated from political pressures which are now being placed upon it. Every Democratic Member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce recently signed a letter in support of restoring full funding to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, including funding for the digital conversion and an upgraded satellite interconnection system.

Some of these vital items remain zeroed out. But I hope we can rectify those matters later. Mr. Chairman, this important amendment values our children, and the in-depth journalism and life-long learning that sustains our democracy. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment. If we do not, we will be sorry and the Nation will disapprove of our decision.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose this amendment. I want to point out a number of reasons, not that I dislike public broadcasting or public television; I think they do great programming. My grandchildren love Elmo and Big Bird, and Between the Lions. I like a number of the programs.

But keep in mind, that this was created at a time, what, some 30-plus years ago when we did not have the huge variety of programming that is available today. And keep in mind, of course, that we have limited amounts of money.

I know that there has been a lot of conversation out across the country and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting is involved here, and National Public Radio, they have the microphones available to reach people who are calling us. But I am not sure that those who call realize what would be eliminated if we were to adopt this amendment.

Just let me enumerate those. What this amendment does to make up the 100 million for CPB is takes $58 million out of the Department of Labor. For what purpose? Employment and training and administration, training and employment services. Takes away from young people's training opportunities. That is extremely important in today's world, where we have 32 percent of our high school graduates, not graduates, 32 percent of our high school students that do not graduate.

That is a national statistic. And we offer programs here, GEDs, training, all kinds of things to give them a chance later on as they realize their mistake in not finishing high school.

But this would take away, this amendment would take away from the Department of Labor employment and training administration services, $58 million. So that means some young man and some young woman across this Nation who suddenly realize how important it is to their future and to their country and to their community and to their family that they get additional training would not have that opportunity so that we can have public broadcasting.

Now, I point out that only 15 percent of the money that provides for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting comes from the Federal Government. And it has been pointed out that this would eliminate a number of these programs. But I would point out that Elmo and Big Bird and the Lions all make a lot of money, as was brought to our attention earlier today.

And they have opportunities to raise a lot of funds. All of us have seen the fund-raising. But we do not see fund-

raising out there to give young people a new opportunity to be retrained so that they can be employed. So let us not take that away. Another item that this would take away: the Department of Labor salaries and expenses.

We need people at the Department of Labor to manage the programs, to ensure that workers' safety is taken care of, to ensure that workers' rights are protected. We are not going to have a fund-raising program to do that, as can be the case with public broadcasting.

Third item. Takes away from the Department of Health and Human Services, health resources and services administration, health resources and services, $2.9 million.

Well, what is important to the people in this Nation is health: health research, health management; NIH. Keep in mind that the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control are both part of the Department of Health and Human Services. We do not do fund-raising for them. But we are going to take the money away, or propose to take it away, for the public broadcasting where they have lots of opportunity to raise money in the private sector.

Fourth item that is taken away by this amendment, that would be reduced, is the Department of Education, higher education. $27 million would be taken out of the Department of Education to fund the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. We have heard a lot of discussion today how important it is to have higher education, Pell grants, not enough. We have heard other items are not enough; and yet here we are proposing, in an amendment, to take away $27 million that is vital to the future of young people in higher education programs.

Lastly, Department of Education, program administration, $8 million-plus. Someone has commented today that we originally wanted to get rid of the Department of Education. But we are not. We have a great number of programs here in the Department of Education to improve teacher quality, principals, to improve opportunity for young people, to provide, through the TRIO and through the other programs of that type, an opportunity to provide for the historically black colleges. All of this money has to be administered.

And this would take away the money to do part of that. So I want to say to all of my colleagues, I realize all that you have been getting in the way of phone calls; but I dare say that if you said to those that call you, well, if we do what you are requesting me to do, would you be willing to eliminate the Department of Labor training services; the Department of Labor management; department of Health and Human Services resources; Department of Education higher education, and so on, I suspect that, if they were given the choice, that they would say, oh, wait a minute, these are important to us. They are important to my family. They are important to my community. They are important to the young people who are my neighbors and friends.

And given the fact that the Corporation for Public Broadcasting has the ability to raise a lot of money, has the ability to fund the development of programs like Elmo and Big Bird. Go into a store, you will see a lot of these things on sale. I know that they produce a lot of profit for those that sell them.

So let me say to my colleagues today, when you cast this vote, keep in mind that you are trading off to give CPB more money, that they are very successful in raising money in the private sector; you are trading off against that all of these educational opportunities that will be limited to the tune of $100 million total.

□ 1400

Members should weigh which is more beneficial to the constituents we represent.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, how much remains on both sides?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) has 7 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

(Mr. SHAYS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Obey-Lowey-Leach amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Obey/Lowey/Leach amendment to H.R. 3010, the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Act of 2006.

This amendment would restore the $100 million that this bill cuts from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, CPB.

I support CPB, NPR and PBS because they provide Americans of all ages with a broad range of valuable programmIng.

CPB helps fund local stations all across America, and if we implement these cuts, the impact on local services, community support and vital programming will be significantly damaging.

Local public broadcasting stations are leaders in education, news and information, and are attracting growing numbers of listeners as they air unique programs.

Restoring the $100 million cut will allow CPB to continue funding the important community service contributions of local public television and radio stations.

I support this amendment and encourage my colleagues to do so as well.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot believe some of the comments I have just heard from my good friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA).

Let me simply say with respect to the offsets we have in this amendment, with respect to the Labor Department all this does is to reduce funding for pilot and demonstrations in the department from $74 million in the committee bill to $16 million. It still leaves a significant amount of money in this account.

This is an area where the committee itself has indicated that they do not have sufficient information from the agency to even know how they are spending that money. So it seems to me that we are simply following the committee shot across the agency bow.

With respect to the Labor Department, departmental management, this essentially cuts the increase over last year for departmental management, excluding the International Labor Affairs Bureau. Large amounts of money in that department are being spent for activities that are clearly not authorized, and some procurement practices now being exercised by the agency do not meet the standards that we will want to have to defend in public.

With respect to HRSA program management, I cannot believe any objection is being made to the reduction in this account. The bill itself eliminates 11 programs in HRSA. If all of these programs are going to be eliminated, certainly there are fewer bodies that are needed to manage them, and this is simply consistent with the programmatic actions already taken by the committee.

With respect to the funds for the improvement of education, this amendment merely trims the additional funding provided in the committee over the administration's request for this item. None of these items are going to have any significant impact on the accounts involved.

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

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time. More importantly, I thank the chairman for bringing fiscal discipline and leadership to the appropriations process.

I rise today not so much as a Member of Congress from Indiana but as the chairman of the largest caucus in the House of Representatives. The Republican Study Committee boasts over 100 members, men and women who are committed to fiscal discipline and traditional moral values. And so when the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) brings to the floor a Labor-HHS appropriations bill that makes the tough decisions to put our fiscal house in order, I have to rise, even on a controversial issue like Big Bird, to stand with this chairman and to thank him.

The stakes are high; $7.7 trillion is the current running money on the national debt. According to CBO, our fiscal 2004 national deficit number is $413 billion. In order to bring this bill in

and to keep discretionary spending below last year's level, this legislation literally eliminates 57 programs encompassed in this bill and asks many programs to accept up to a 50 percent cut. Asking the Corporation for Public Broadcasting that receives only 15 percent of its funding from the Federal Government to accept what amounts to a 22 percent reduction as we attempt to put our fiscal house in order is reasonable and responsible and precisely that which the American people elected the Republican majority to do.

We have no higher stewardship, no higher calling than to come onto this floor and into this Chamber and make the tough decisions. And put in the context of recognizing that the Corporation for Public Broadcasting receives 85 percent of its funding from sources beyond the Federal Government, in the context of its overall budget we are simply asking them to do with 4 percent less.

I rise in opposition to the amendment. I stand in strong conservative support of the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman Regula) and his desire to make the tough decisions and put our fiscal house in order.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, how much time remains?

The Acting CHAIRMAN (Mr. GILLMOR). The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Obey amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Obey-Lowey-Leach amendment to restore funding to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

PBS is exceptional because it's local. Unlike the mammoth international media conglomerates that dominate commercial TV, who answer only to their shareholders, the 348 PBS stations are locally owned and operated—accountable to the local communities they serve.

The bulk of CPB funding—67 percent—goes directly to local stations, allowing them to serve their communities with the excellent and highly valued programming that is the hallmark of PBS. This cut will slice between 30–40 percent out of most stations' overall budgets.

My district in New York is served by PBS channel Thirteen/WNET. If this cut to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting is passed, Thirteen's budget would be cut by as much as $5 million. I want to be very clear about what that means for my constituents: A substantial number of local programs produced entirely out of discretionary funding would be eliminated. These are programs like New York Voices, Inside Albany, REEL New York, Women's History Month, Cantos Latinos, Harmony & Spirit: Chinese Americans in New York, Korean-American Spirit, The Irish in America, and New York Kids, outreach service programs to schools and other community partners would be completely cut, at least 40 jobs would be lost, and in addition the indirect impact of cuts would affect nation-wide programing like Great Performances, Wide Angle, and the Newshour with Jim Lehrer, and of course Sesame Street, as we've heard so much about today.

With its gold standard historical and cultural programming, PBS captures the culture and history of America. As we Americans face vast new challenges in a post-9/11 world, PBS helps us to understand who we are and where we have been—and to help us to see where we're going.

It is imperative that we restore CPB funding to ensure PBS's ability to continue to serve our country and our local communities in this vital role.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) has 1 minute remaining. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH).

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Chairman, I think by perspective we should understand that there is no possibility all Americans can agree all the time or appreciate equally all aspects of the American arts. But what we all can do is respect honesty and quality and first amendment rights. And it is these qualities exercised in an uplifting, nondivisive way that public broadcasting symbolizes. So I again urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

(Ms. ESHOO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Obey amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment because it is our only chance to restore the $100 million that have been cut from public broadcasting.

Mr. Chairman, the cuts to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting in this bill are stunningly shortsighted.

At a time when we're all concerned about the lack of decent programming on television and radio, public broadcasting offers consistent quality.

Yet the majority is cutting 46 percent from the budget that supports the broadcast of programs like the News Hour with Jim Lehrer and National Public Radio's All Things Considered, as well as documentary programs like The American Experience.

The majority also completely eliminates the program that helps fund Sesame Street, Arthur, Between the Lions, and other broadcasts that help prepare children for school.

For parents concerned about what their children are exposed to on television, what are the alternatives to PBS's educational shows? In looking at the television section of the Washington Post, here are some of the television section of the Washington Post, here are some of the programs running opposite Sesame Street: Jerry Springer, Divorce Court, Maury, Texas Justice, Judge Hatchett, Judge Joe Brown, Family Feud, Guiding Light and General Hospital.

So why does the majority want to cut this funding? They say it's to reduce the deficit. What they are ensuring is a deficit of education, information, and analytical thinking.

Does the majority expect the American people to take their argument seriously?

Already this year the majority has rammed through a $290 billion tax cut for the country's wealthiest families and an energy bill larded with billions for oil and gas producers. None of these costs are accounted for in their budget.

And now we're going to plug the budget deficit by cutting Sesame Street?

Mr. Chairman, the argument for these cuts are ridiculous. We should reinstate the budget for public broadcasting. Vote for the Obey amendment.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), ranking member on the subcommittee with jurisdiction in this matter.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Obey-Lowey-Leach amendment.

To the Republicans: Keep your hands off of Big Bird. Sesame Street is balanced. Big Bird is there, but so is Oscar the Grouch to represent the Republican point of view. So every program has a balance to it.

But Ken Tomlinson, this new Republican head of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, has decided that there is a problem with public television and he has gone out to find the problem. And when he looks in the mirror the problem is he.

We are out here today because Ken Tomlinson has now opened the floodgates of criticism for a network which in polling is recognized as the most respected network in America. And after national security, in polling decided by the American people, it is the Federal program they like most after the Defense Department. But the Republicans and Ken Tomlinson today have named the former co-chairwoman of the Republican National Committee to be the new head, the new President of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

So Tomlinson's answer to the absence of political balance is to name the Republican co-chair of their national committee. That is all you have to know about what the Republican Party is doing here on the House floor today.

Here is what public television is from 6 a.m. in the morning on, for 12 hours in a row: It is Zoom; it is Maya and Miguel; it is Arthur; it is the Berenstein Bears; Clifford the Big Red Dog; Dragon Tales; George Shrinks; Barney and Friends; Sesame Street. Until you hit 6 o'clock, when it is the News Hour with Jim Lehrer. It is NOVA. It is The American Experience.

They are attacking the Children's Television Network. They are turning CPB from Corporation for Public Broadcasting into Corporation for Political Boondoggle. That is the whole agenda that they have here today.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) has 1 minute remaining. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN).

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Obey amendment and also the 81 percent of the American people who said the Republican-controlled Congress is out of tune with their values and this is a perfect example.

Once again, the Republicans are out of step with mainstream America. This fact is made evident in the recent CBS poll taken that showed that the Republican dominated Congress' popularity is hovering around 30 percent, an outright embarrassing figure.

Public broadcasting is extremely important, and should not be simply ignored by conservatives here in Congress. For millions of parents, public broadcasting represents a children's television network of amazing excellence and value. At a cost of just over $1 per year per person, what parents and children get from free, over-the-air public television and public radio is an incredible bargain.

Now, I say to my colleagues, we are talking about a corporation (The Corporation for Public Broadcasting or CPB) that is a taxpayer-funded agency that provides critical dollars to public broadcasting across the country, and is considered by many, if not most of America, to be a "highly reliable source of information."

I remember when I first came to Congress, and Speaker Newt Gingrich had a similar plan, which was to "zero out" public broadcasting altogether. At that time, just as they are doing now, the Republicans were claiming that there was an extreme liberal bias in the programming. And then, as now, they tried to do away with the programming, but more practical voices prevailed and the funding was eventually restored. So here once again, led by Kenneth Tomlinson, the Republican who is now chairman of the corporation, the Republican Party wants to move PBS to the right wing of the political spectrum, and at the same time streamline their funding. I say to them that, along with Representative OBEY, I emphatically will fight to have this horrific cut in funding restored, and strongly support this amendment.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Members recognized for unanimous-consent requests should not embellish such requests with oratory.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield for the purpose of making a unanimous-consent request to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON).

(Ms. CARSON asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of public broadcasting.

Mr. Chairman, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting provides an essential public service and we ought to pass this amendment to restore funding for a program that works.

This budget cut hurts our children and the least fortunate in our community the most. PBS is especially critical for low-income Americans who may not be able to send their children to preschool. For millions of Americans, PBS programs like Sesame Street and Reading Rainbow are the only educational resources available to their children. PBS programs produce the most popular videos used by American teachers in the classroom.

According to a recent poll, 82% of the public thinks money given to PBS is money well spent. But if this amendment doesn't pass, PBS affiliate WFYI in my district will lose $1 million, or ⅓ of the entire payroll for a station that reaches over a million households and 500,000 viewers every week. This is unacceptable.

But even more unacceptable is the threat this poses to the community services that WFYI provides on a daily basis to people in my district.

It provides workshops in day care centers for the most disadvantaged in Indiana.

For millions of Americans, PBS programs like Sesame Street and Reading Rainbow are the only educational resources available to their chIldren at home.

But WFYI also helps prepare low-income pre-schoolers for the first grade.

My hometown station sponsors over 400 volunteers who read to more than 2,000 Hoosiers who can't see the printed word. And there's much, much more.

Mr. Chairman, this station is not the exception. It is the norm. These services are the most threatened by this budget cut. No other broadcaster will ever offer the same level of community service that public television provides.

Let us pass the Obey amendment and restore full funding for public broadcasting.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I enthusiastically support the Obey amendment to restore PBS funds.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. OBEY, that seeks to prevent the use of funds in H.R. 3020 to carry out the recission of the "Corporation for Public Broadcasting." This recission would have amounted to a 45 percent cut to local Public Radio and Television stations in FY 2006.

Under the legislation as drafted, rural stations and those serving minority populations would suffer greatly with respect to their operating budget. The grants that fall under the account affected comprise anywhere from 15 to 85 percent of their budgets. Most stations would be forced to layoff employees, to shut down local production—which would include local public affairs programs—and to cut back on local outreach. Mr. Chairman, public television is the backbone of mass media communications for most of the minority population—which includes in large part, our children who need guidance and education.

In Houston, to be specific, KUHF–FM would have suffered a cut of 46.4 percent or $228,197 of its funding. Similarly, KUHT–TV would have suffered a 44.4 percent or $679,049 cut of its funding. These amounts translate to severe loss in operating budget for these stations.

Relative to the State of Texas, over $6,263,296 or 42.8 percent of its funding would have been cut under the bill as drafted.

For the reasons stated above, Mr. Chairman, I fully support the Obey amendment.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

I am a little tired, frankly, about hearing how wealthy Big Bird is. Your own witnesses here indicate that a very small amount of the money that we are talking about here goes to Sesame Street and Big Bird.

The money goes where you are cutting: the infrastructure. Big Bird will be around, but many small stations will not. We will lose the ability to create more "Big Birds" in the future. And it may well be to the point that as you slowly starve the infrastructure for public broadcasting, that the only way Big Bird will be watched is on a commercial station, on a cable station with commercials on it.

But where are we going to provide the other educational elements? Already there are a whole range of items here that you are ignoring, and you are undermining the fabric of that public station infrastructure that allows it to be seen in the first place.

Ask your local stations about the impact of what you are doing to their ability for people to be able to watch this quality programming.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, how much time remains on each side?

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) has 1½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Obey amendment.

Mr. Chairman, now we've heard it all. The Majority in the House has attacked the poor and the sick with their cuts to Medicaid; they have given away billions of dollars in tax breaks to corporations and the rich, and now they want to string up Big Bird.

The Drastic cuts that this bill will inflict on the Corporation for Public Broadcasting are dangerous to our freethinking and diverse society. Public Broadcasting provides a forum for groups who otherwise would not be heard and provides underserved areas with quality programming.

It helps to teach our children with the best educational programs on television like Sesame Street and Arthur. These shows not only help our children learn, but also motivate them to turn off the TV and pick up a book to read about their favorite characters featured on these shows.

Publc broadcasting is a favorite source for reliable information for Americans. Shows like Now and The Newshour are trusted by Americans to give them the straight story about current events in our world. By cutting funding to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting we are attacking our strongest source of unbiased, diverse, and cultured programming available.

These proposed cuts are just another step in the Bush Administration's agenda to dismantle Public Broadcasting and silence one of the last objective voices in American media. The President's recent attempts to politicize PBS by bringing in a partisan activist to be President of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting are shameful.

I urge my colleagues to support the Obey amendment to restore the funding it needs and protect the Corporation for Public Broadcasting as a powerful voice of the people.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in very strong support of this amendment in support of public broadcasting.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Obey-Lowey-Leach Amendment that would recoup full funding for the Corporation of Public Broadcasting for Fiscal Year 2006 because it will maintain the highest quality programming available to the American people today.

The Labor-HHS Appropriations Act before us today will eliminate $100 million in Federal funding for the CPB.

This bill will eliminate existing funding earmarked for interconnecting local stations and the transition to digital broadcasting—both necessary modernizations to carry public broadcasting through this century. Money to fund these improvements will be taken from general operating expenses, further limiting public broadcasters' resources.

Public broadcasting provides unique programming not found on major broadcast stations or cable television. Its programming aims to increase awareness, provide multiple viewpoints, treat complex social issues completely, and provide objective forums for deliberation. Public broadcasting serves no partisan master.

It is the most ''fair and balanced'' programming available. Its listening audience, polls have shown, is ⅓ liberal, ⅓ conservative, and ⅓ middle of the road politically.

Newt Gingrich tried to zero out public broadcasting subsidies 10 years ago. He acknowledged before an audience recently an ironic evolution. He listens to NPR every morning now as he drives to work.

While most television programming provides few outlets targeted and appropriate for young children, public broadcasting offers families unparalleled excellence and value. Whether it is Sesame Street or Reading Rainbow, public programs have taught generations of children practical grammatical and arithmetic skills while expanding their imagination and creativity. At a cost of just over $1 per year per person, what parents and children get from free, over-the-air public television and public radio is an incredible bargain and a national asset.

In Arlington, WETA, an invaluable FM and television station that serves us in Northern Virginia and Washington, DC, estimates that the proposed cuts will result in the loss of $1.6 million. Like most stations, WETA operates on a limited budget and the magnitude of this cut threatens the cancellation of programming such as ''Talk of the Nation'', ''Seasame Street'' or ''Marketplace.'' I'm even more afraid for rural radio and television stations that are even more reliant on public funding.

America won't accept a cut in these services. The harm they would do to children's education and the marketplace of ideas outweighs what little effect these cuts would have in the reduction of government spending. The Ameircan people understand we have a robust economy today. These cuts in programming are to pay for the tax cuts we've enacted over the last 5 years for the wealthiest among us.

If anything, we demand an expansion of public broadcasting. We want more programming that promotes detail, diversity, and balance. We need programs that take creative risks to engage the public in thoughtful discourse.

I urge my colleagues to support the Obey-Lowey-Leach Amendment and restore funding for the CPB. Do it for your own children.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I know the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) has the right to close. How much time do I have remaining?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, let me say the choice before the House is simple. I think the American people recognize that public television and public radio are both national treasures. I think also that we all recognize that there has been a systematic attack on both for quite some time.

What is before us today is a very simple choice. We can either stand with those who are determined to see to it that public radio and public television continue to function reasonably effectively, or we can take an action today which will gut the ability of many of the stations to continue to produce quality programming and meet the needs of local areas.

□ 1415

Some objection has been raised to the offsets. The fact is, under the budget resolution, tough choices are required. You cannot get the offsets out of thin air. These offsets do as little damage to management accounts as is humanly possible. If anyone does not like the offsets involved, then I would suggest they amend the budget resolution so that we do not have to provide them.

But the choice is very simply: Are you going to support public broadcasting or are you not? And the vote will tell the tale.

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

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, let me say, reiterate, I am a fan of public broadcasting and public radio; and, of course, my family members like Elmo and Big Bird and Between the Lions.

I do not have a closed mind on this subject. I am sure it will come up in conference in making agreement with the other body; but let me say to my colleagues, right now you are choosing between public television, and we provided $300 million in the bill, keep in mind there. We are not taking it all away. There is $300 million there. This is only 25 percent of this that we are talking about.

On the other side of the scales, you are going to hurt employment and training for young people. You are going to hurt the Department of Labor. You are going to hurt the Department of Health and Human Services that provides the Centers for Disease Control, that provides the National Institutes of Health on health research. You are going to hurt the Department of Education and their higher education programs and their departmental management.

I think when we put it on the scale, on one side is public television, we are giving them $300 million in this bill. They have the capacity to raise a lot of money in the public sector. On the other side of the scale are young people that need an opportunity for job retraining, that need an opportunity to participate in the American Dream. Those Departments have no ability to go out and raise money as does the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment. It is not the last word on this subject, but understand the trade-offs that I think are very damaging to young people and their opportunities in terms of higher education and job retraining.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Obey-Lowey-Leach amendment, which restores the full, previously appropriated level of funding to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, or CPB. As someone who has contributed personally to both NPR and PBS, the committee's scant proposal for CPB funding comes as a supreme disappointment.

Public television and radio stations are locally controlled. The primary mission of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting is to enable those local stations to remain independent and free of advertising by providing a guaranteed, content-independent source of funding. For this reason, the Corporation's funding is set 2 years in advance. Mr. Chairman, I hope my colleagues can keep that in mind: the funding that the Obey-Lowey-Leach amendment seeks to restore has already been passed. In 2003, I voted along with 241 of my colleagues to appropriate $400 million for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting in fiscal year 2006. That the committee now seeks to override the will of the whole House is simply unfair to the stations and their viewers.

Each week, more than 80 million people watch PBS. Without even counting the 30 million who listen to NPR during that same period, that's a minimum of 80 million Americans who ask us each week to support this amendment. They may not leave their family rooms,

they may not pick up the phone, but make no mistake: they're voting with their remote controls. Each and every week, they're telling us how they feel.

Opponents of CPB funding regularly claim that Federal funding cuts will have no significant effect on public programming, and that public television can easily absorb any funding cut. But look at the facts: the Corporation for Public Broadcasting provides critical, irreplaceable support to some of public television's most popular programs. Had the proposed funding cuts been enacted for the current year, they would have caused a 20 percent drop in funding for Reading Rainbow. A 20 percent drop in funding for Sesame Street. A 54 percent drop in funding for Mister Rogers. A 27 percent drop in funding for NOVA, and a 27 percent drop in funding for the NewsHour, to which millions turn each night for balanced news coverage. And opponents call that "no significant effect"?

Under the No Child Left Behind Act, Congress established two public television programs designed to facilitate education and learning: Ready to Learn, and Ready to Teach. Together, these two programs requested a total of $49 million for the coming budget year, which they would use to support educational programming like Sesame Street, Reading Rainbow, and Clifford the Big Red Dog. Rather than meet their request, the Appropriations Committee chose to rescind all 2006 funding from each of these programs, which we established just 3 years ago.

Mr. Chairman, these cuts are unwise. Entire generations of children have grown up watching Big Bird and Snuffleupagus; entire generations have learned to love books while reading along with LeVar Burton; entire generations have been taught to follow their dreams by Mister Fred Rogers and his characters. In an age when more and more children are spending more and more time in front of the television, public TV is one of the very last cuts we can afford to make. For that reason, Mr. Chairman, and for all the reasons above, I urge my colleagues to support the Obey-Lowey-Leach amendment, and to restore full funding to the CPB.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in absolute opposition to the proposed appropriation cuts to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The CPB has been funding, great American treasures including PBS and National Public Radio, free of political influence or favoritism. These entities have become staples of society and to cut or diminish their badly needed funding is plainly, wrong.

Mr. Chairman, during a time in which this body claims to be the saviors of family values, I find it odd that it chooses to undermine public broadcasting, which truly embodies family values and clean programming.

The television and radio can be a precarious place for young and impressionable minds.

Much of what is sent over the airwaves is unsafe for the development children. The excessive violence and sex that is often found on TV is alarming to parents who are constantly looking for a viable alternative to the negative influences prevalent on television.

Mr. Speaker, PBS has been that oasis and refugee for families. Its educational and wholesome programming allows parents and children alike, to watch shows that place an emphasis on the positive aspects of American culture. Too often modern entertainers glorify the worst of our society and it is imperative that we counter that influence with the positive shows found on PBS and NPR.

I urge my colleagues here today to rise up in support of CPB, wholesome broadcasting and family values by rejecting these cuts to CPB.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Chairman, for years, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting has provided countless Americans of all ages with high-quality, innovative programming.

But today, House Republicans have renewed their efforts against public broadcasting by reducing funding to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting by $100 million. That is a 25 percent reduction in funding and would have a devastating effect on public television and public radio. If enacted, public broadcasting stations in Kansas City, Missouri serving my Congressional District would stand to lose over half a million dollars.

As a former radio talk show host on KCUR, the Kansas City affiliate of National Public Radio, I understand the importance of public broadcasting. These days, commercial television and radio provides us with more information about the runaway bride than the runaway budget, and more about the Desperate Housewives than the desperate lives of those whose Medicaid has been cut. Public broadcasting has, for over 40 years, provided the American people with the type of excellent educational, cultural and news programming that is rarely found on television. Whose children didn't grow up watching Big Bird, Arthur, or Clifford?

We cannot afford to lose this important national resource. So today, I will vote in favor of the Obey-Lowey-Leach amendment to restore the $100 million that was cut from public broadcasting. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Obey-Lowey-Leach amendment to H.R. 3010. This amendment would restore $100 million that was cut from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting in subcommittee earlier this month. Public broadcasting is important for small communities across the country, even all the way out in the U.S. Territory of Guam. Small public broadcasting stations like KGTF Channel 12 in Guam are an important avenue for expression of local identity and community discussion.

I am particularly concerned that the proposed cuts to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) may disproportionately affect the CPB's commitment to quality programming for minority communities through the National Minority Consortia. For example, Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC), which primarily receives its funding from CPB, develops Pacific Island media content and talent that leads to a deeper understanding of Pacific Island history, culture, and contemporary issues. Without continued funding from CPB, PIC would be unable to produce meaningful programs like Dances of Life or The Meaning of Food that have given indigenous communities in the Pacific a voice in our national conversation on race and culture. This August, PIC will be conducting a filmmaking workshop in Guam to build a greater capacity for cultural expression in the video medium.

As KGTF celebrates its 35th year broadcasting in Guam, I hope to be able to tell them that the future looks bright for public broadcasting and that Congress is appreciative and supportive of their excellent work. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this amendment and restore funding to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The Acting CHAIRMAN (Mr. GILLMOR). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) will be postponed.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I do so to try to report to the House what is happening with respect to a unanimous consent request.

The gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) announced to the House earlier, and I concurred, that we are trying to make an attempt to get the House out today. We indicated that would require a lot of cooperation from both sides.

I think everyone understands how this bill is going to wind up. Much as I detest this bill and will vote against it, it is not going to be changed very much between now and the time it finally reaches final passage. No amount of fixing can fix this bill, in my view, because of the inadequate allocation.

The problem we have is that despite the gentleman from Ohio's (Mr. REGULA) best efforts and my best efforts and that of our staffs, at this point, there are still some 20 Republican amendments that people seem to be hell-bent on offering, and there are approximately 27 Democratic amendments that people seem to be hell-bent on offering.

If all of those amendments are offered, we will have to have at least 6½ hours of debate time. In order to finish today, because of events beyond our control, we have to be finished with debating by 4:30. Obviously, unless we get a much greater sense of give, not only will we be here tomorrow, we will be here a long time tomorrow.

So if Members are serious about wanting to get out today, it would be nice if they recognized that that means that we cannot dispose of 47 amendments in 2 hours.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) makes it very clear. We are trying to eliminate some potential amendments with colloquies, and I hope that some of the Members will consider withdrawing their amendments.

We are making a real effort to try to finish it today; and with cooperation of all the Members, I think this can be accomplished. As the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) points out, I do

not think the bill will be changed much in the final analysis by whatever amount of discussion we have.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FOSSELLA

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. FOSSELLA:

Page 10, strike lines 3 through 7, and insert the following:

WORKERS COMPENSATION PROGRAMS

Of the amounts made available under this heading in chapter 8 of division B of the Department of Defense and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States Act, 2002 (Public Law 107–117), $50,000,000 shall be available for payment to the New York State Uninsured Employers Fund for reimbursement of claims related to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and for reimbursement of claims related to the first response emergency services personnel who were injured, were disabled, or died due to such terrorist attacks, and $75,000,000 shall be made available upon enactment of this Act for purposes related to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, with priority given to administer baseline and follow-up screening and clinical examinations and long-term health monitoring, analysis, and treatment for emergency services personnel and rescue and recovery personnel: *Provided,* That such amounts are each designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

Mr. FOSSELLA (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman reserves a point of order.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that debate on this amendment and any amendments thereto be limited to 15 minutes to be equally divided and controlled by the proponent and myself, the opponent.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) is recognized for 7½ minutes.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

First, I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) for not only the great work he does but also entertaining this, allowing us to submit this amendment and engaging in a colloquy.

We all know that September 11, 2001, was many things. It was the worst attack in our country's history. It was a devastating loss. Almost 3,000 individuals lost their lives. We are still recovering from the ravages of what happened on that day; and after that, bringing America together, Congress, along with the President of the United States, committed itself to New York. This has been appreciated.

But sadly, what has happened is for many people who rushed into Ground Zero selflessly, not thinking of themselves or their well-being, in an effort to rescue others who could have been victim to that dreadful attack, they became the heroes of our time. What has happened is many of those individuals who were injured immediately have been dealt with, whether it is worker's compensation or providing for their health care; but there is that segment of the population, those heroes, thousands of them perhaps, who rushed into Ground Zero who are now discovering the health effects of having to give almost their lives to rescue others.

We also know that it could be weeks, months, or years before some of these side effects show up, perhaps a respiratory problem, perhaps leg or arm injuries, that will only get worse over time.

What we intend to do today is to seek the restoration of $125 million to this appropriations budget. We believe, in a bipartisan way, that 9/11 is not over. Many, many people who thought nothing about giving of themselves for the sake of their fellow man are now just coming to learn that they may need our help.

Congress, rightly, responded to say to New York, we will be there to help; we will continue in our efforts to ensure that happens. It is imperative that this at least $125 million be restored, that the rescission that occurred be undone; and it is, I think, paramount that we stand united to show and to demonstrate to anybody who rushed into those burning buildings on 9/11, that this country will not forget the heroics, will not forget their efforts, and we will stand with them as long as they need our help.

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

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We understand the importance of this, and originally we provided, that is, the government, the Federal Government, $175 million for this purpose; but only a limited amount of that has been spent in the last 2½ years, to be exact, $51 million out of the $175 million. In 2003, $44 million; in 2004, $6 million; in 2005, no money.

So what we are proposing is to rescind this and urging that it be reappropriated as the needs arise to meet whatever challenges. I think there is a problem a little bit in the language in that the money cannot really address the needs that are out there, and this is why a reappropriation or reauthorization would make it possible.

I think all of us are in agreement that we want to provide the money. It is just that the mechanics of it and doing that are not appropriate at this point.

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

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), my colleague.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time, and I thank him and the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) for their commitment and work on restoring these moneys; and I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) for agreeing to this colloquy. I know that the rescission of 9/11 funds was not the gentleman's idea and that he has been put into a difficult position with OMB; but we sincerely appreciate the gentleman's help.

I would also like to thank the gentleman from California (Chairman LEWIS) and, of course, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Ranking Member OBEY), and all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who responded with great commitment in helping New York City with the recovery.

Finally, I need to mention the names of some of the rescue workers who have come here today to Washington to put a human face on those who selflessly gave of themselves on 9/11 and still need our help. They are here with us today in the gallery. They are Marvin Bethea; John Feal; Mike McCormack, the rescue worker who literally found the flag on 9/11; John Sferarzo; Scott Shields; and Ron Vega. These men responded selflessly to the largest emergency of our time. They risked their lives to save others; and, today, they are first responders once again, but this time to save the health and compensation aid needed for their fellow workers at Ground Zero. They should be proud of the progress that we are making here today, but there is still much more that needs to be done.

It has been reported that 10 times the claims have been turned down by worker's compensation in New York State, and there is no question that there are still many workers who need health aid. Many of them are literally here today trying to speak with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle about their need.

I think it is absolutely an insult not only to the 9/11 workers but to all emergency aid workers to deny them the aid and compensation that they need, especially those that were hurt on 9/11.

We are asking for this money to be restored. It was allocated. It was part of the commitment this country made to helping New York and its workers and its people recover, and I will say that the New York delegation is totally united on this in our effort to preserve this money for the rescue workers and volunteers.

Again, we thank all for their commitment and hard work.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from upstate New York (Mr. WALSH), who has really led the effort to secure the funding for New York since 9/11.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me and for his leadership on this really, really emotional and important issue for our State and our Nation.

In the ensuing Federal action, we provided almost $21 billion to rebuild New York City and to rebuild the lives of these individuals. Less than $1 billion is going toward the health and well-being of human beings. All the other $20 billion went to rebuild the city. Of that, we are now being asked to rescind $125 million that was not spent on worker's compensation claims.

Today, I also met with some of these individuals. Some of them are sick. They have mental health problems. They have physical health problems. Some of them have no health insurance. We need to find a way, and I appreciate the gentleman from Ohio's (Chairman REGULA) statement about finding a way, because we do want this money to be spent. We do not want to leave any soldiers on the battlefield. We do not want to leave any wounds unhealed.

So with the gentleman from Ohio's (Mr. REGULA) help as we go forward, I think we can find a way to get this resolved, and I thank the gentleman.

□ 1430

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

(Mrs. LOWEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank my colleagues for their commitment and work on restoring these monies. None of us could have imagined that we would find ourselves here today, fighting to hold onto $125 million set aside for workers and responders who helped search for survivors and assist victims in the aftermath of September 11.

In my judgment, the committee's rescission of $125 million appropriated by Congress for New York State workers' compensation claims and related expenses breaks the President's promise to New York. The Office of Budget and Management has argued that these funds are no longer needed, but nothing could be further from the truth. What we do know is that the health needs of September 11 responders continue to be great and the Federal response continues to be incomplete. There have been ongoing concerns about the injuries and chronic illnesses sustained by first responders and other individuals who work or volunteered at the site in the weeks and months following the attack. The men and women were exposed to toxic materials, included asbestos, fiberglass, PCBs; and many may not even exhibit symptoms of sickness for years to come.

We simply cannot rescind the funds to assist those victims before we even review the full needs of September 11.

I rise in support of the Maloney amendment and thank my colleague from New York for her leadership on this issue.

When President Bush stood on the rubble of the World Trade Center, and when he sat in the Oval Office with New York's Congressional delegation almost four years ago, no one doubted his promise to give our State and city the funds we needed to recover from the terrorist attack on our Nation.

None of us could have imagined that we would find ourselves here today, fighting to hold onto $125 million set aside for workers and responders who helped search for survivors and assist victims in the aftermath of September 11.

In my judgment, this Committee's rescission of $125 million appropriated by Congress for New York State Worker's Compensation claims and related expenses breaks the President's promise to New York.

The Office of Budget and Management has argued that these funds are no longer needed, but nothing could be farther from the truth.

What we do know is that the health needs of September 11th responders continue to be great, and the federal response continues to be incomplete.

Since September 11, there have been ongoing concerns about the injuries and chronic illnesses sustained by first responders and other individuals who worked or volunteered at the site in the weeks and months following the attack.

These men and women were exposed to toxic materials, including asbestos, fiberglass, and PCBs, and many may not even exhibit symptoms or sickness for years to come. We simply cannot rescind the funds to assist those victims before we even review the full needs of September 11 responders.

If any of these funds are not needed for workers compensation payments, then we should redirect the money to supplement the federal response to the ongoing medical needs of September 11th responders.

When New York needed help, volunteers from New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Ohio, and even as far as Florida and California—and the list goes on—came to aid the victims of this tragic attack. I hope you will join me in fighting to preserve the funds to assist these individuals should they become ill as a result of their efforts in the aftermath of September 11th.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, the World Trade Center was in my district. I have dealt with hundreds of first responders who responded. The majority of all the first responders have now come down with respiratory ailments, and yet the State has betrayed them and we are betraying them because the insurance company that handles workers' comp has contested the worker comp claims at a rate of 10 times the normal rate of contest. And now we are going to rescind the money?

We have a hero who testified at a hearing last week that he got awards for rescuing people, and then at the workers' comp hearing, they said he was not even there.

The fact is thousands of people have come down with illnesses. Thousands more probably will. It would be the height of hypocrisy to rescind these funds and not have these funds available for the medical treatment of these people whom we know are sick. And, unfortunately, we know more will get sick, and the funds to treat those already sick are not there. I urge adoption of this amendment.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SWEENEY).

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in full and strong support of this amendment. I agree with the comments of colleagues in support of this amendment. I know that our great chairman is working very diligently and hard to make sure that what I consider to be a mistake does not indeed happen. I think we all need to focus on a number of points.

One of those points is this was decided by somebody at OMB in an effort to do a good thing, which was try to save some money; but it was not well-thought-out. It overturns the intent of this body and the intent of the other body a couple of years ago. We ought not let that process continue.

This is not just about New Yorkers. This is about all of us. This is about the commitments we make. There were 40,000 volunteers who went to the site. They were from all over the Nation. We need to honor that commitment.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. REGULA. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Chairman, I understanding we are in tight fiscal times. However, given the circumstances the workers face, will you work with me and my New York colleagues and others as we move towards conference and think creatively on this issue and work with the administration to attempt to find a restoration of this much-needed funding?

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's comments and recognize this is a legitimate and important issue that needs to be addressed. The brave people who responded to the attacks on September 11 will always be remembered in the hearts of Americans, and I recognize that they need additional help.

While there is concern about the dormancy of this funding over the last few years, and questions over whether or not the needs match the available funding, I am pleased to hear that the State of New York plans on starting an actuarial review to determine just how much money is needed to address the problem.

In light of the gentleman's comments today, I will work with the gentleman, the administration, and the other body in an attempt to find ways of addressing these workers' needs as the bill moves forward.

Over the long term, I look forward to examining the needs of 9/11 responders in light of the actuarial review results, and working with the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) and colleagues from New York State to maintain Congress' commitment to these heroes.

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

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

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN (Mr. GILLMOR). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The amendment is withdrawn.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

In order to avoid offering an amendment, I rise today to engage the chairman in a colloquy to discuss funding for the Healthy Communities Access Program, HCAP. HCAP funds the development of community-wide health care networks which organize and coordinate care for low-income and uninsured individuals. Through shared resources, HCAP networks help improve health care access, reduce emergency room use, and save a lot of money. HCAP is a flexible, bottoms-up approach that can be tailored to meet a community's unique needs. Without a coordinated community-based approach, the uninsured simply end up in the emergency room or go without care. Both results add to our growing health care crisis.

Since 2000, HCAP has leveraged $6 in the community for every $1 in Federal grant funds, and has saved $1.9 billion annually through increased efficiency in health care systems. It has provided access to health care for 6.2 million more uninsured and vulnerable people.

Five communities in my State of Tennessee have won HCAP grants since 2000, and I have worked closely with one of our current grantees, the Medical Foundation of Chattanooga. The HCAP coalition partners in Chattanooga have used this small investment to serve the uninsured.

While I understand well this year's budgetary constraints, I strongly believe programs like HCAP are providing essential support for improving access to care, reducing cost to the Federal Government, and making communities more self-sustaining. The HCAP program embodies exactly the kind of innovative approach to health care access and cost we must address across the Nation.

I ask the chairman to continue to work with me throughout the process to ensure this program can continue.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WAMP. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for yielding and thank him for his work on the Committee on Appropriations to restore the HCAP funding.

The subcommittee has worked wonders with the allocation you have been given, and I know you are supportive of the HCAP program and have seen the tremendous outcomes achieved in communities with HCAP funding.

In Houston, we have utilized CAP funding to put together the necessary collaboratives to help solve our health care access problems. Unfortunately, this bill completely eliminates the CAP program at a time when the level of uninsured individuals in this country has reached 45 million and growing.

We know all too well that now is not the time to limit access to primary and preventive health care services in our community. Without this health care access, our uninsured constituents tend to seek health care from our hospital emergency rooms where costs are skyrocketing and beds are scarce.

In Harris County, 57 percent of diagnoses in our safety net hospital ERs could be treated in a primary care clinic. With HCAP funds, communities can shepherd folks to the appropriate health care home and put together the partnerships needed to develop additional community health centers for all of our uninsured.

This is truly a case where an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. I appreciate the willingness of the chairman to work with us on this issue, and hopefully we can restore the funding on this worthy program in conference.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WAMP. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I know that many Members support the Healthy Communities Access Program. I have seen an HCAP program in Ohio that seemed to work very well.

The President's budget proposed to terminate HCAP; and given Members' interest in other programs that were not funded in the budget, we felt we had to accept the President's proposal to restore others, like the pediatric GME program. And, of course, we increased the community health centers programs.

I will certainly try to work with our Senate colleagues to provide some funding for the HCAP in conference.

Mr. POE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to engage in a colloquy, and I appreciate the tough spending decisions the gentleman has had to make on this bill. I intended to offer two amendments in the Labor-HHS-Education appropriation bill because I am concerned about the money that is being spent the wrong way by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

At the NIH, the Institute of Child Health and Human Development has been commissioned by Congress to promote research to improve and save kids lives in the areas of Down syndrome, autism, vaccination, birth defects and infectious disease; but they are spending money in other nonresearch ways.

Since 1997, the NIH has been spending up to $175,000 a year to operate the Milk Matters Campaign, which was first created in the 1990s. The campaign features Bo Vine, the spokescow. This is a drawing of Bo Vine the spokescow. Also, money is spent not on research for disease but on coloring books. Here is one that the taxpayers fund called ''Milk Matters'' with Buddy the Brush.

Taxpayers fund these programs, but the money authorized by Congress was to go for research in these two areas. Some say it is not much money, but we need to keep Bo Vine the spokescow from becoming a herd and stampeding through the trough of taxpayer money.

Every year Congress is lobbied to increase funding for live-saving programs at the National Institutes of Health, and every year we are presented with a plea that more money is needed for research. So the money Congress takes from the taxpayers of America should be spent on saving lives and not on Web games and Bo Vine the cow.

Also in this bill is funding for a program at the Center For Disease Research. It is called the VERB youth activity program to Federal fund things like basketball games. This program's authorization has expired and the President has asked for the program to be terminated; yet today we are funding this program with $11.2 million of taxpayer money. The Centers for Disease Control is asking for more money for life-saving research, yet they are spending money on programs that are not authorized anymore.

Mr. Chairman, would the gentleman be willing to work with me and other fiscally responsible colleagues to protect taxpayer money from wasteful spending at the NIH and the CDC, and work with us to ensure that NIH and the CDC spend the money in the way it is appropriated in fiscal year 2006?

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. POE. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I do not think the gentleman is questioning the value of milk as a healthy food, but maybe the way it is being sold.

I look forward to working with the gentleman as we head into conference. We do not want these things to happen either.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

For necessary expenses of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, including the purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles, the construction, alteration, and repair of buildings and other facilities, and the purchase of real property for training centers as authorized by the Act; $2,463,000,000 plus reimbursements, of which $2,363,000,000 is available for obligation for the period October 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007, and of which $100,000,000 is available for the period

October 1, 2006, through June 30, 2009, for necessary expenses of construction, rehabilitation, and acquisition of Job Corps centers.

Of the funds provided under this heading in division G of Public Law 108–7 to carry out section 173(a)(4)(A) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, $20,000,000 is rescinded.

Of the funds provided under this heading in division B of Public Law 107–117, $5,000,000 is rescinded.

Of the funds provided under this heading in division F of Public Law 108–447 for Community-Based Job Training Grants, $125,000,000 is rescinded.

The Secretary of Labor shall take no action to amend, through regulatory or administration action, the definition established in 20 CFR 667.220 for functions and activities under title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 until such time as legislation reauthorizing the Act is enacted.

COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT FOR OLDER AMERICANS

To carry out title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, $436,678,000.

FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AND ALLOWANCES

For payments during the current fiscal year of trade adjustment benefit payments and allowances under part I and section 246; and for training, allowances for job search and relocation, and related State administrative expenses under part II of chapter 2, title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (including the benefits and services described under sections 123(c)(2) and 151 (b) and (c) of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Reform Act of 2002, Public Law 107–210), $966,400,000, together with such amounts as may be necessary to be charged to the subsequent appropriation for payments for any period subsequent to September 15 of the current year.

STATE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OPERATIONS

For authorized administrative expenses, $130,985,000, together with not to exceed $3,299,381,000 (including not to exceed $1,228,000 which may be used for amortization payments to States which had independent retirement plans in their State employment service agencies prior to 1980 and including $10,000,000 which may be used to conduct in-person reemployment and eligibility assessments of unemployment insurance beneficiaries in one-stop career centers), which may be expended from the Employment Security Administration Account in the Unemployment Trust Fund including the cost of administering section 51 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, section 7(d) of the Wagner-Peyser Act, as amended, the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, the Immigration Act of 1990, and the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, and of which the sums available in the allocation for activities authorized by title III of the Social Security Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 502–504), and the sums available in the allocation for necessary administrative expenses for carrying out 5 U.S.C. 8501–8523, shall be available for obligation by the States through December 31, 2006, except that funds used for automation acquisitions shall be available for obligation by the States through September 30, 2008; of which $130,985,000, together with not to exceed $672,700,000 of the amount which may be expended from said trust fund, shall be available for obligation for the period July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007, to fund activities under the Act of June 6, 1933, as amended, including the cost of penalty mail authorized under 39 U.S.C. 3202(a)(1)(E) made available to States in lieu of allotments for such purpose: *Provided*, That to the extent that the Average Weekly Insured Unemployment (AWIU) for fiscal year 2006 is projected by the Department of Labor to exceed 2,984,000, an additional $28,600,000 shall be available for obligation for every 100,000 increase in the AWIU level (including a pro rata amount for any increment less than 100,000) from the Employment Security Administration Account of the Unemployment Trust Fund: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated in this Act which are used to establish a national one-stop career center system, or which are used to support the national activities of the Federal-State unemployment insurance or immigration programs, may be obligated in contracts, grants or agreements with non-State entities: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this Act for activities authorized under the Wagner-Peyser Act, as amended, and title III of the Social Security Act, may be used by the States to fund integrated Employment Service and Unemployment Insurance automation efforts, notwithstanding cost allocation principles prescribed under Office of Management and Budget Circular A–87.

In addition to amounts made available above, and subject to the same terms and conditions, $10,000,000 to conduct in-person reemployment and eligibility assessments of unemployment insurance beneficiaries in one-stop career centers, and $30,000,000 to prevent and detect fraudulent unemployment benefits claims filed using personal information stolen from unsuspecting workers: *Provided*, That not later than 180 days following the end of fiscal year 2006, the Secretary shall provide a report to the Congress which includes:

(1) the amount spent for in-person reemployment and eligibility assessments of UI beneficiaries in One-Stop Career Centers, as well as funds made available and expended to prevent and detect fraudulent claims for unemployment benefits filed using workers' stolen personal information;

(2) the number of scheduled in-person reemployment and eligibility assessments, the number of individuals who failed to appear for scheduled assessments, actions taken as a result of individuals not appearing for an assessment (e.g., benefits terminated), results of assessments (e.g., referred to reemployment services, found in compliance with program requirements), estimated savings resulting from cessation of benefits, and estimated savings as a result of accelerated reemployment; and

(3) the estimated number of UI benefit claims filed using stolen identification that are discovered at the time of initial filing, with an estimate of the resulting savings; and the estimated number of ID theft-related continued claims stopped, with an estimate of the amount paid on such fraudulent claims and an estimate of the resulting savings from their termination.

ADVANCES TO THE UNEMPLOYMENT TRUST FUND AND OTHER FUNDS

For repayable advances to the Unemployment Trust Fund as authorized by sections 905(d) and 1203 of the Social Security Act, as amended, and to the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund as authorized by section 9501(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended; and for nonrepayable advances to the Unemployment Trust Fund as authorized by section 8509 of title 5, United States Code, and to the ''Federal unemployment benefits and allowances'' account, to remain available until September 30, 2007, $465,000,000.

In addition, for making repayable advances to the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund in the current fiscal year after September 15, 2006, for costs incurred by the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund in the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary.

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

For expenses of administering employment and training programs, $118,123,000, together with not to exceed $87,988,000, which may be expended from the Employment Security Administration Account in the Unemployment Trust Fund: *Provided*, That not to exceed $3,000,000 shall be available for contracts that are not competitively bid.

WORKERS COMPENSATION PROGRAMS

(RESCISSION)

Of the funds provided under this heading in the Emergency Supplemental Act, 2002 (Public Law 107–117, division B), $120,000,000 is rescinded.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Employee Benefits Security Administration, $137,000,000.

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION FUND

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation is authorized to make such expenditures, including financial assistance authorized by section 104 of Public Law 96–364, within limits of funds and borrowing authority available to such Corporation, and in accord with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 104 of the Government Corporation Control Act, as amended (31 U.S.C. 9104), as may be necessary in carrying out the program, including associated administrative expenses, through September 30, 2006, for such Corporation: *Provided*, That none of the funds available to the Corporation for fiscal year 2006 shall be available for obligations for administrative expenses in excess of $296,977,728: *Provided further*, That obligations in excess of such amount may be incurred after approval by the Office of Management and Budget and the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Employment Standards Administration, including reimbursement to State, Federal, and local agencies and their employees for inspection services rendered, $414,284,000, together with $2,048,000 which may be expended from the Special Fund in accordance with sections 39(c), 44(d) and 44(j) of the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Labor is authorized to establish and, in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 3302, collect and deposit in the Treasury fees for processing applications and issuing certificates under sections 11(d) and 14 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended (29 U.S.C. 211(d) and 214) and for processing applications and issuing registrations under title I of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

SPECIAL BENEFITS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation, benefits, and expenses (except administrative expenses) accruing during the current or any prior fiscal year authorized by title 5, chapter 81 of the United States Code; continuation of benefits as provided for under the heading ''Civilian War Benefits'' in the Federal Security Agency Appropriation Act, 1947; the Employees' Compensation Commission Appropriation Act, 1944; sections 4(c) and 5(f) of the War Claims Act of 1948 (50 U.S.C. App. 2012); and 50 percent of the additional compensation and benefits required by

section 10(h) of the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, as amended, $237,000,000, together with such amounts as may be necessary to be charged to the subsequent year appropriation for the payment of compensation and other benefits for any period subsequent to August 15 of the current year: *Provided*, That amounts appropriated may be used under section 8104 of title 5, United States Code, by the Secretary of Labor to reimburse an employer, who is not the employer at the time of injury, for portions of the salary of a reemployed, disabled beneficiary: *Provided further*, That balances of reimbursements unobligated on September 30, 2005, shall remain available until expended for the payment of compensation, benefits, and expenses: *Provided further*, That in addition there shall be transferred to this appropriation from the Postal Service and from any other corporation or instrumentality required under section 8147(c) of title 5, United States Code, to pay an amount for its fair share of the cost of administration, such sums as the Secretary determines to be the cost of administration for employees of such fair share entities through September 30, 2006: *Provided further*, That of those funds transferred to this account from the fair share entities to pay the cost of administration of the Federal Employees' Compensation Act, $45,001,000 shall be made available to the Secretary as follows:

(1) for enhancement and maintenance of automated data processing systems and telecommunications systems, $13,305,000;

(2) for automated workload processing operations, including document imaging, centralized mail intake and medical bill processing, $18,454,000;

(3) for periodic roll management and medical review, $13,242,000; and

(4) the remaining funds shall be paid into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts:

Provided further, That the Secretary may require that any person filing a notice of injury or a claim for benefits under chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, or 33 U.S.C. 901 et seq., provide as part of such notice and claim, such identifying information (including Social Security account number) as such regulations may prescribe.

SPECIAL BENEFITS FOR DISABLED COAL MINERS

For carrying out title IV of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, as amended by Public Law 107–275, (the ''Act''), $232,250,000, to remain available until expended.

For making after July 31 of the current fiscal year, benefit payments to individuals under title IV of the Act, for costs incurred in the current fiscal year, such amounts as may be necessary.

For making benefit payments under title IV for the first quarter of fiscal year 2007, $74,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES, ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to administer the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Act, $96,081,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Labor is authorized to transfer to any executive agency with authority under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Act, including within the Department of Labor, such sums as may be necessary in fiscal year 2006 to carry out those authorities: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may require that any person filing a claim for benefits under the Act provide as part of such claim, such identifying information (including Social Security account number) as may be prescribed.

BLACK LUNG DISABILITY TRUST FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

In fiscal year 2006 and thereafter, such sums as may be necessary from the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund, to remain available until expended, for payment of all benefits authorized by section 9501(d) (1), (2), (4), and (7) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended; and interest on advances, as authorized by section 9501(c)(2) of that Act. In addition, the following amounts shall be available from the Fund for fiscal year 2006 for expenses of operation and administration of the Black Lung Benefits program, as authorized by section 9501(d)(5): $33,050,000 for transfer to the Employment Standards Administration ''Salaries and Expenses''; $24,239,000 for transfer to Departmental Management, ''Salaries and Expenses''; $344,000 for transfer to Departmental Management, ''Office of Inspector General''; and $356,000 for payments into miscellaneous receipts for the expenses of the Department of the Treasury.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, $477,199,000, including not to exceed $92,013,000 which shall be the maximum amount available for grants to States under section 23(g) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (the ''Act''), which grants shall be no less than 50 percent of the costs of State occupational safety and health programs required to be incurred under plans approved by the Secretary under section 18 of the Act; and, in addition, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration may retain up to $750,000 per fiscal year of training institute course tuition fees, otherwise authorized by law to be collected, and may utilize such sums for occupational safety and health training and education grants: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, the Secretary of Labor is authorized, during the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, to collect and retain fees for services provided to Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories, and may utilize such sums, in accordance with the provisions of 29 U.S.C. 9a, to administer national and international laboratory recognition programs that ensure the safety of equipment and products used by workers in the workplace: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated under this paragraph shall be obligated or expended to prescribe, issue, administer, or enforce any standard, rule, regulation, or order under the Act which is applicable to any person who is engaged in a farming operation which does not maintain a temporary labor camp and employs 10 or fewer employees: *Provided further*, That no funds appropriated under this paragraph shall be obligated or expended to administer or enforce any standard, rule, regulation, or order under the Act with respect to any employer of 10 or fewer employees who is included within a category having a Days Away, Restricted, or Transferred (DART) occupational injury and illness rate, at the most precise industrial classification code for which such data are published, less than the national average rate as such rates are most recently published by the Secretary, acting through the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in accordance with section 24 of that Act (29 U.S.C. 673), except—

(1) to provide, as authorized by such Act, consultation, technical assistance, educational and training services, and to conduct surveys and studies;

(2) to conduct an inspection or investigation in response to an employee complaint, to issue a citation for violations found during such inspection, and to assess a penalty for violations which are not corrected within a reasonable abatement period and for any willful violations found;

(3) to take any action authorized by such Act with respect to imminent dangers;

(4) to take any action authorized by such Act with respect to health hazards;

(5) to take any action authorized by such Act with respect to a report of an employment accident which is fatal to one or more employees or which results in hospitalization of two or more employees, and to take any action pursuant to such investigation authorized by such Act; and

(6) to take any action authorized by such Act with respect to complaints of discrimination against employees for exercising rights under such Act:

Provided further, That the foregoing proviso shall not apply to any person who is engaged in a farming operation which does not maintain a temporary labor camp and employs 10 or fewer employees: *Provided further*, That not less than $3,200,000 shall be used to extend funding for the Institutional Competency Building training grants which commenced in September 2000, for program activities for the period of September 30, 2006, to September 30, 2007, provided that a grantee has demonstrated satisfactory performance: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated under this paragraph shall be obligated or expended to administer or enforce the provisions of 29 CFR 1910.134(f)(2) (General Industry Respiratory Protection Standard) to the extent that such provisions require the annual fit testing (after the initial fit testing) of respirators for occupational exposure to tuberculosis.

□ 1445

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MR. PETERSON OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN (Mr. GILLMOR). The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 22 offered by Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania:

Page 16, line 4, insert after the dollar amount the following: ''(reduced by $37,336,000)''.

Page 25, line 16, insert after the dollar amount the following: ''(increased by $37,336,000)''.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that debate on this amendment and any amendments thereto be limited to 15 minutes to be divided equally and controlled by the proponent and myself, the opponent.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON).

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I have great respect for the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and the incredibly difficult task he and his staff have had before them to write this bill. I think he did a remarkable job and I want to commend him.

My amendment would simply make a modest adjustment to the bill by restoring funding for two vital rural health programs to their fiscal year 2005 levels. Specifically, my amendment allows for increases to rural outreach grants by $28.511 million and $8.825 million to rural health research. This $37 million increase is offset by a reduction to OSHA.

As Members may know, rural programs across the Federal budget continue to be proposed for cuts or elimination. As cochairman of the Congressional Rural Caucus, I feel obligated to rise and share my concern. Some argue that the Medicare bill we passed last year fixed rural health care and that we do not need to continue to fund rural programs, but this is comparing apples to oranges. The Medicare bill increased reimbursements for rural hospitals and doctors, while outreach grants that we are dealing with generally do not involve hospitals. Outreach funds go to a variety of providers that saw no benefit from the Medicare prescription drug bill, such as public health departments, community health centers, rural health clinics, mental health providers, and other community-based organizations that provide the finest care to our poorest.

Outreach grants run for 3 years with applicants being eligible for up to $200,000 per year. Outreach grants emphasize collaboration by key community groups, requiring at least three health care providers to come together to apply for the funding. The idea of the grants is to provide start-up funds to innovative approaches to health problems in rural areas with the applicants using the 3 years to make the program self-sustaining. According to a study by the University of Minnesota, more than 80 percent of programs established with outreach grants were still operating 5 years after Federal funding expired.

My amendment also restores funding for the $9 million rural health research program. This money supports eight rural health research centers around the country and also supports the Secretary's National Advisory Committee on Rural Health, which is composed of national leaders on rural health care and has an important role in shaping administration policy. The rural research centers help us understand how CMS payments interact with the reality of rural health practice, including the wage index issues researched by the University of North Carolina and physician payment issues researched in the past by the Rural Policy Research Institute in Nebraska.

The rural research line also funds the Secretary's National Advisory Committee on Rural Health which submits an annual report to the Secretary, the only rural-specific report our Secretary of Health may ever see in a given year. This funding line also carries out the function of evaluating Federal regulations within the Office of Rural Health Policy. Eliminating this program would effectively cut off the only rural policy shop within HHS.

If rural health fails, there are no winners. People travel long distances to more affordable, less accessible health care settings in our suburban areas. No one wins. Families are displaced, people are long distances from their loved ones and their support team, and the system pays considerably more, so there is no savings.

This is the worst possible time to eliminate funding for these programs. As the health care world continues to evolve, we have to ensure that rural America has a seat at the table of Congress and the administration. We need to restore funding for these two vital rural health programs I have just shared with you.

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

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I have to reluctantly rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment. He is a valuable member of our subcommittee and is certainly a strong voice for programs providing health care in rural areas. As the gentleman knows, we have tried to respond as much as possible within the constraints of the budget. That program seemed to be the highest priority rural health program for our Members. I realize the outreach program is popular among Members but we just felt we had to restore some of the other cuts proposed, like pediatric GME.

Unfortunately, the offset in the amendment is unacceptable and any cut in OSHA would savage the agency's ability to maintain its safety programs. This is a clear example of we wish we had more money, but we do not, and we are trying to make the best use of what we have.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. REGULA. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I am strongly opposed to this amendment. I take a back seat to no one in my support for rural health care. I have offered numerous amendments in the past to add to its budget. But this amendment gets the money to restore funding for rural health care in an outrageous fashion, because it takes it from the agency that is supposed to protect workers' health and lives.

In 2003, more than 5,500 workers were killed in this country by job injuries. That is 15 workers every day. In the steel industry, there has been a major increase in workplace fatalities the last 2 years. The impact of those fatalities is enormous. According to Liberty Mutual, the Nation's largest Workmen's Compensation company, the direct cost of these injuries and illness is $1 billion a week, and the total cost is between $200 and $300 billion a year.

The present budget proposal for OSHA in this bill is $477 million, which is less than $4.60 for every private sector worker. Under the current OSHA budget, OSHA can inspect workplaces on an average of once every 108 years, and this amendment will make that worse.

This is a case where, again, the budget resolution is totally inadequate. Neither of these programs should be cut. The problem is that this amendment takes money away from a program which will save workers' lives. I would urge a ''no'' vote. I most reluctantly take this position because I am strongly in favor of rural health care but not at the expense of workers' lives.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am not going to take a lot of time here to defend the cut in OSHA, but I will say that I have a lot of friends that work in plants and refineries and mills in my district, and if there is an agency that could better utilize their enforcement dollars, it is OSHA. I have many union workers, close friends of mine, that talk about the nonsense-type things that OSHA comes in and tinkers with when they could come in and instruct, because most employers today want to run a safe shop. If they had the process where they would come in and instruct, go after the real safety issues instead of the nit-picking issues that they do, I do not believe this small cut in OSHA would cost us one life. If OSHA used modern technology, they could double what they do in saving lives.

I want to say this in conclusion. Rural health care is struggling in America. We have always been at the short end of the payment system. We have always had to deal with less payment for the very same procedures. I was in the food business. I was in the retail business. Only in health care does the smallest get paid the least. When you go to a small store, you expect to pay a little more. But the big hospitals, the big institutions who have the volume, who have the multitude of customers and use those expensive pieces of equipment morning, noon, and night get paid more. It is the most unfair part. And why should rural citizens not have adequate equal access to good health care?

But let me tell you what happens too often. They leave their families, drive hundreds of miles away to an urban center that they are not even comfortable in, and the system will pay 50 percent more for the same health care that could be given to them in their own community. Nobody wins. And sometimes people die.

Mr. Chairman, I will reluctantly withdraw this amendment in hopes that the chairman and the ranking member will see that these two programs do not go unfunded in the final conference report.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will yield, I am sympathetic. I come from a rural district myself and live on a farm, as a matter of fact. I understand what the gentleman

is saying. He illustrates the fact that we have had to make very difficult priority judgments. Certainly I for one, and I know the gentleman from Wisconsin has a rural district, too, would be sympathetic to this in conference. We obviously cannot promise anything, but I hear my colleague's comments and his arguments and would certainly keep these in mind.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. I thank the chairman and the ranking member. I will hope and pray that they come through for rural America.

Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the amendment is withdrawn.

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. OWENS

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. OWENS:

In title I, in the item relating to ''OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION—SALARIES AND EXPENSES'', strike '': *Provided further,* That none of the funds appropriated under this paragraph shall be obligated or expended to administer or enforce the provisions of 29 CFR 1910.134(f)(2) (General Industry Respiratory Protection Standard) to the extent that such provisions require the annual fit testing (after the initial fit testing) of respirators for occupational exposure to tuberculosis''.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the debate on this amendment and any amendments thereto be limited to 10 minutes to be equally divided and controlled by the proponent and myself, the opponent.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

□ 1500

The Acting CHAIRMAN (Mr. GILLMOR). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS).

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. OWENS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment in support of OSHA and the safety of workers, in contrast to the last amendment offered which tried to trivialize the importance of workers' safety. My amendment is to protect first responders and receivers from bioterrorism and its deadly consequences. Several distinguished colleagues have joined me in offering this amendment: they are the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE), who co-chairs the Nurse Caucus; the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), who is senior Democrat on the Committee on Education and the Workforce; and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), who is the ranking Democrat on the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment simply strikes a dangerous provision in the underlying bill that would leave first responders and receivers without the most basic protection against bioterrorist attacks. This provision bans the annual fit testing of respirators or masks for our front-line heroes. Why is such a provision there? It is part of the effort to trivialize the whole concept of workers' safety. Why single out a small matter like this and deny the fit testing of respirators and masks for our front-line heroes?

Unless this provision is deleted, let me spell out the commonsense consequences, and bear in mind the fact that even on the Hill here when we had the anthrax attacks, the danger of people being exposed who were not protected was dramatized; and during the series of anthrax attacks, the two people who were casualties, who are unrecognized, unsung heroes, they are dead, were postal workers who died as a result of not being protected from anthrax. So to trivialize this situation, I think, is one more step in the attempt by the majority party to make OSHA seem like an irrelevant inconsequential agency.

In the event of an attack, emergency medical technicians from a local fire department would be the first on the scene to help scores of victims with the same unexplained illness. Unless they have respirators that fit properly, these emergency medical workers would themselves face exposure to the deadly bio-agent. Likewise, nurses in a local hospital would routinely have first contact with patients brought in with similar unexplained symptoms. Unless they had respirators, they would pass it on to other people.

Mr. Chairman, the provision in this bill that bans such fit testing of respirators clearly undermines a core tenet of preparedness in the event of a bio-terrorist attack. I would urge each Member to consider the fact that we were given opportunities to go get fitted for masks, to get used to how the masks go on, and most Members of Congress did not go; but those who did go found just to be fitted with a mask and get used to the idea is very difficult. By the time such an attack is under way, it is flat out too late to start fit testing respirators for individual workers.

The only Federal rule we have that requires the annual fit testing of respirators for these workers is the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's tuberculosis prevention standard. Yet the bill we are now considering would prohibit OSHA from enforcing this requirement.

At a time when the Bush administration continues to issue daily color-coded terrorist alerts, it makes absolutely no sense to weaken the only standard we have to protect first responders and receivers from bioterrorism. We already know that in the hands of terrorists, airborne pathogens would quite literally become weapons of mass destruction capable of causing life-threatening illnesses and death for hundreds of thousands, and perhaps millions, of Americans.

Examples of these pathogens include multidrug-resistant TB, smallpox, and pneumonic plague, among others. Elsewhere in this bill, we are appropriating $500 million for hospitals to purchase equipment for this purpose. We also are appropriating $30 million for hospitals to educate their workers, but we picked out this situation that says but we cannot have a standard which ensures responders and receivers would be protected by having a prefitting.

It would only cost about $11.7 million to fit test all the first responders and receivers in fiscal year 2006, and one third of the amount appropriated for hospital funding for workforce education on bioterrorism could be used for this purpose. Talk about a lack of common sense and egregious failure to act responsibly, this is it. And it is only there because of this great contempt for workers' safety and for OSHA.

The respirators first responders use, N95 masks, are 95 percent efficient at deterring pathogens if and only if they fit properly. According to the manufacturer of these respirators, and this is laid out in the instructions for use, there must be annual fit testing to ensure a proper fit. Even slight changes posed by weight gain or loss, dental work, or normal aging can interfere.

If we are going to carry out our duties in terms of homeland security, then this small step must be taken. Remove and ban this provision.

JUNE 22, 2005.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of nearly one million first responders and nurses represented by our organizations, we are writing to urge you to support an amendment to the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill that would protect health care workers and first responders from unnecessary risk when exposed to tuberculosis (TB) as well as other natural or man-made airborne biological agents. The amendment to be offered by Representatives Major R. Owens and Steven C. LaTourette would remove a provision in the bill that prohibits the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) from enforcing the annual fit testing of respirator masks that employers are required to provide workers who are at risk of exposure to TB.

In December 2003, OSHA extended its respirator standard (29 CFR 1910.134) to apply to workplaces where there is a risk of exposure to TB. This requirement would protect nurses, first responders and other health care workers in workplaces where tuberculosis cases have previously presented. As

part of the respirator standard, employers are required to conduct an annual fit test, to ensure that an employee's respirator mask fits properly and provides the expected protection. When developing the respirator standard, OSHA determined that an annual fit test was necessary due to changes in a worker's weight, dental work and other factors that affect the facial seal of the respirator mask.

Properly fitted respirators not only safeguard against TB, but against additional airborne hazards such as SARS, anthrax, avian flu, monkey pox and other biological agents that could be released in a terrorist attack. Annual fit testing against TB will ensure that nurses and responders are prepared in advance from airborne biological threats. The need for a properly fitted respirator mask was demonstrated in Toronto during the SARS outbreak when several health care workers whose respirators had not been fit tested contracted SARS. Because the cost of the annual fit testing is small—estimated by OSHA at $10.7 million nationally—it is a wise investment to be made for those most vulnerable to TB and on the frontline of any biological threat or attack.

While many states have made progress against TB infection rates since the early 1990s, it is still a serious threat to many nurses and first responders. Furthermore, drug resistant TB is still a daily risk for nurses and first responders who care for immigrant, homeless, incarcerated and long-term populations.

The annual fit testing requirement is not unique to tuberculosis. The respirator standard requires other industries to conduct an annual fit test where there is risk of exposure to other airborne hazards. Indeed, health care facilities are required to conduct annual fit testing when the presence of other contaminants, such as ethylene oxide and formaldehyde, require the use of respirators. First responders and nurses at risk of exposure to tuberculosis should be afforded the same protections as workers who are at risk of exposure to other airborne hazards. Moreover, the annual fit test serves the public interest by reducing the possibility that first responders and nurses will become vectors of TB and other diseases.

For all of these reasons, we strongly urge you to support the Owens-LaTourette amendment and to help protect first responders and nurses from unnecessary and serious health risks.

Sincerely,

AFL–CIO; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; American Federation of Teachers; American Nurses Association; Communications Workers of America; International Association of Fire Fighters; International Brotherhood of Teamsters; International Union, United Auto Workers; Service Employees International Union; United American Nurses; United Food and Commerical Workers International Union; United Steelworkers.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman from New York has expired.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) for yielding me this time.

I join the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) in opposing the Owens amendment and would submit to my colleagues that this amendment offers this very straightforward question to Members of the House today: whether to continue the effective job that the Centers for Disease Control are doing currently to fight tuberculosis in the United States or whether, on the other hand, to adopt the Owens amendment and implement an expensive new regulation to allow OSHA to become involved in infectious disease control. That is the basic question.

I know that many of us in the House of Representatives and many people across the country are concerned about the issue of rising health care costs. And I will tell the Members that this amendment, if adopted today, would increase the cost of health care for Americans. It may sound reasonable and narrowly drawn at first, dealing only with the fit testing of respirators used to prevent tuberculosis; but I would invite Members to call their hospital administrators and find out what they have to say about this amendment, and what they will tell them is this will be an expensive new regulation for hospitals, and it will increase health care costs for Americans.

I think most of us agree that the correct people to fight infectious disease are the health care professionals in our hospitals, and the best agency to regulate and provide guidelines for these health care professionals is the Centers for Disease Control. They have been doing it since 1992, and they have been doing a good job of it.

This amendment is a back-door method of allowing OSHA a foothold in the regulation of infectious diseases, and I do not think we want to do that today. And one reason we do not want to do it is the success of CDC.

I direct the attention of my colleagues to this chart here. I do not know if every Member can see it, but we can see that tuberculosis rates are the lowest they have been since 1953, and they continue to drop. On the other chart, ''Reported TB cases in the United States, 1982 to 2003'', along about 1992 when CDC started providing guidelines for our health care facilities for regulation of tuberculosis, the TB rate started to drop, and it has continuously dropped.

CDC is winning the war against tuberculosis in this country. I thank the chairman for including this in the legislation last year. It is now the law of the land. I thank the chairman for keeping the legislation this year, and I urge my colleagues to stay with a proven record in fighting tuberculosis by voting ''no'' on the Owens amendment.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in opposition to the amendment. It was included in the bill last year. It was offered as an amendment in full committee markup and passed and was retained in the conference report. This is good language, allows the committee to exercise its oversight rights, and tuberculosis outbreaks and hospitals ought to be regulated by the CDC, not OSHA. CDC is this Nation's primary infectious disease control agency, and we do not need other agencies to enact regulations that are not backed up by sound science in a misguided attempt to control infectious diseases. That is the CDC role. For that reason I oppose the amendment.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the amendment offered by my friend and colleague from New York.

As public officials, we face many difficult decisions. This issue should not be one.

The amendment before us this morning would strike a provision in this bill that bans OSHA from conducting fit tests of the respirator masks worn by our first responders.

These masks are crucial to the survival of our first responders and it is only common sense that these masks must fit properly to perform as expected.

We would never ask our soldiers on the battlefield to go into combat with equipment that mayor may not perform as expected. Our first responders who are our domestic defenders deserve the same treatment.

We must do everything we can to help those who sacrifice so much to protect us.

Only yesterday, a group of 80 arms control and security experts released a survey commissioned by Senator LUGAR of Indiana which says that they believe there is a 70 percent chance of a WMD attack in the next 10 years.

We all agree that we should focus our efforts on preventing any future WMD attack, but we must ensure that our first responders are adequately protected should an attack take place.

I strongly support the amendment offered by Mr. OWENS and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the amendment by Representatives STEVEN LATOURETTE, GEORGE MILLER, MAJOR OWENS, and BENNIE THOMPSON, to the Labor/HHS appropriations bill to strike a provision that bans the annual fit-testing of respirators for first responders and first receivers.

As many working Americans know, this ban on annual fit-testing undermines our national preparedness and that of our first responders in the event of a bio-terrorism attack. In the wake of the tragedies of September 11, 2001, it seems irresponsible for us to ban the annual fit-testing of respirators.

We all have heard about the dangers of airborne pathogens becoming ''weapons of mass destruction.'' The only federal rule mandating annual fit-testing of respirators for workers is the Occupational Health and Safety Administration's, OSHA, TB prevention standard. The bill before us would prohibit OSHA from enforcing this requirement.

This amendment is supported by the AFL–CIO, AFSCME, American Nurses Association, ANA, International Association of Fire Fighters, IAFF, and the International Safety Equipment Association, ISEA.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS).

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) will be postponed.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH).

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Chairman, I, along with the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD), was considering proposing an amendment to restore funds for the Community Service Block Grant program. Earlier this year, 121 of my colleagues and I sent a letter to the chairman and to the ranking member respectfully requesting that adequate funding be provided for the CSBG program. Recognizing the challenges that the chairman faced, we were disappointed that the bill provided 50 percent less funding than the previous year.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, we did receive their correspondence, and I appreciate the gentleman's concerns. They are not unlike the supporters of many other popular programs. I would also thank the gentleman for understanding the tight fiscal constraints that my committee is facing this year.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. REGULA. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, the chairman is absolutely right. We do not intend to diminish attention and concern for other programs within this measure, which we recognize represents a very tight balancing act. However, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues in the House the ramifications of cutting this vital program.

CSBG ensures that America's low-income families and communities have access to quality programs that help meet their local needs. If this cut were to take place, current and future services would be eliminated or disrupted for about 6.5 million low-income individuals and 3 million families, including almost 2 million children.

As the chairman knows, CSBG supplies the core funding for more than 1,100 grantees, primarily Community Action Agencies nationwide. A cut in funding would put many important services provided by these agencies at risk. This includes domestic violence services, food banks, health and dental clinics, entrepreneurship skills and financing, asset development, job development and skills training, and youth training. And the list goes on.

I would like to use an example of one such organization in my district, the Greater Erie Community Action Committee, or GECAC. This cut would considerably limit GECAC's ability to provide tailor-made services and initiatives that help vulnerable families in Erie, Pennsylvania. An important facet of CSBG is the flexibility that allows GECAC to deliver community-designed responses to our unique needs.

Mr. Chairman, the bottom line is that we have seen great progress for many of America's poorer families as a result of this program. CSBG has provided invaluable assistance to our neediest families and gives individuals the necessary tools to help them get back on their feet.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, certainly I appreciate the gentleman's concerns, and I hope that we can work together in the coming months.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will further yield, I thank the gentleman for the opportunity to discuss this important issue this afternoon.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

I rise for the purpose of entering into a colloquy with the gentlewoman from Washington (Miss MCMORRIS).

Miss MCMORRIS. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. REGULA. I yield to the gentlewoman from Washington.

Miss MCMORRIS. Mr. Chairman, I rise for the purpose of entering into a colloquy with the chairman, and I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

I appreciate the chairman's leadership on the Labor-HHS and Education bill, and I especially appreciate his allowing me some time to highlight the significant role training in primary medicine plays in rural health and dental care.

My district in eastern Washington stretches from the Canadian border to the Oregon border and covers 23,000 square miles. As I travel around the district and hear from doctors, individuals, and families, I am told of the many challenges facing small rural communities in terms of access to health care.

□ 1515

In Congress, one of my top priorities is to ensure those in my district from Spokane, which is the largest medical center between Seattle and Minneapolis, to the more rural communities have access to quality, affordable health care.

It concerns me that eastern Washington and throughout rural America, we are seeing an increasing shortage of health care professionals. Already, 20 percent of the United States is impacted by health care personnel shortages. We need doctors, nurses, lab technicians and, especially in rural areas, we have a critical need for training in primary care medicine and dentistry.

Congress has recognized these challenges and has worked to preserve rural communities' access to health care by investing in the Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry program under Title VII of the Public Health Care Service Act, and administered in the Health Resources and Services Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services. This funding plays a critical role in supporting programs that help train and bring health care professionals to rural areas of our country.

One of the regional programs that has benefited from Title VII grants is the rural health training program, referred to as WWAMI, which stands for Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho. This rural health training residency network trains its graduate students at rural sites within these five States, with the supposition that doctors practice where they were trained. Statistics show that this method has proven itself effective time and time again. Retention rates of doctors who have been trained in rural areas within these States show that 89 percent of physicians who have been trained in rural areas have chosen to practice in those rural areas. Federal grants have been instrumental in the development of this innovative program. Congress needs to continue to invest in training in primary care medicine and dentistry because, in areas of critical need, it is a vital resource used to ensure access to health care.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) will be able to address this issue in conference so that primary care training programs receive some Federal funding in fiscal year 06.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentlewoman for bringing the issue of training primary care physicians for service in rural areas to the attention of all of the Members.

All of us who represent rural areas share the gentlewoman's concern. It is very difficult for me to recommend not funding many of the health professions training programs. I certainly pledge to the gentlewoman that I will try to address this problem when we are in conference with our Senate colleagues.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for yielding me time, and I apologize for speaking out of order on an amendment that I did not understand the rules for providing debate time for.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Owens-LaTourette amendment. This bill before us endangers the lives of our Nation's nurses and our first responders, and it threatens the ability of our country to keep control of tuberculosis, and it blocks a critical requirement that nurses, EMTs, firefighters, and other first responders are fitted annually for tight-fitting respirators.

Mr. Chairman, these respirators are masks that protect these emergency responders, these health care professionals, from being exposed to deadly

diseases like tuberculosis or anthrax or any of the bioterrorist agents that could be used in a terrorist attack.

For these respirators to be effective, they must fit properly. And since people's faces change over the years as they gain or lose weight, they must be checked on an annual basis, which is currently required by law. It is a commonsense law.

Language inserted into this bill would eliminate that requirement. The Owens-LaTourette amendment would protect current law and the requirement for annual fit-testing of respirators. Retaining the requirements that respirators be fit-tested annually is essential to our efforts to control tuberculosis and to respond to bioterrorism.

If these respirators do not fit properly, the emergency responders we are counting on to prevent the spread of contagion, disease, and death may become infected themselves, and that would increase the number of patients we have to deal with and reduce our ability to effectively respond. It would certainly affect the ability of caregivers to respond. This is not the right way to prepare our Nation for bioterrorism or public health emergencies.

I urge my colleagues to support nurses, to support EMTs, firefighters, and other first responders by voting for the Owens-LaTourette amendment.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the time be extended by 10 additional minutes, for a total of 15 minutes in time, and that I be allowed to yield that time to other Members.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

(Mr. WATT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATT. Mr. Chairman, I am here as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, and to talk about the bill before us.

When I became Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus earlier this year, I encouraged my colleagues in the caucus to refocus their energies, and they agreed to do so, on the basic historical purpose of the Congressional Black Caucus: closing disparities that exist between African Americans and other Americans in this country.

That enabled us to develop, in a daylong retreat, an agenda around closing disparities in this country. It enabled us to give that agenda to the President of the United States on January 17 of this year, and to say to the President of the United States, we will not evaluate you on whether you are a Republican or a Democrat; we will evaluate you solely on whether you are proposing an agenda, an appropriation, a proposal that will close or widen the disparities that exist between African Americans and other Americans in this country. It enabled us to come, when we engaged in this debate on the budget and offer a Congressional Black Caucus budget that focused on the agenda of closing disparities between African Americans and other Americans. It enabled us to develop a legislative and an appropriations agenda that focused on that same objective.

So why are we here today? Because this bill literally blows up our whole domestic agenda that the Congressional Black Caucus has adopted. In health care, in education, in justice, and in all of the things that we believe are important, we believe this bill moves us in the wrong direction.

In our CBC budget, we proposed to roll back the tax cuts on people who make the highest amount of money in our country, people over $200,000 a year, and to get $20 billion, approximately, out of that rollback from which we could do our agenda. That was not allowed.

We cannot do what we want to do in the context of this bill because the only thing we could do in this bill, if we offered an amendment, would be to rob Peter to pay Paul. We would be taking from one worthy purpose to give to another.

But we cannot sit by and allow this bill, which rolls back adult training grants, U.S. employment services, youth training grants, Job Corps, community service block grants, LIHEAP, No Child Left Behind, and zeroes out a total of 48 programs that would have the effect of closing disparities between us and other Americans.

We must stand, and that is why we have asked for the time today.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) to talk about the health disparities that this bill will not help close.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Chairman, this bill not only undermines our Nation's greatest resources, our people, but as a document, it is not worthy of what this country stands for. As a matter of fact, when I look at it, I just do not know what the Nation stands for.

It obviously does not stand, this bill says that it does not stand for equal and the best health care for every American when we look at the cuts in programs that provide needed services, maternal and child health, sickle cell programs, the HCAP program, rural health program, community health centers, and the failure to extend full Medicaid to the territories. It also says that the country does not believe that in this increasingly diverse country, that our residents should be able to communicate with their health care provider.

The health profession programs that are key to eliminating health care disparities are decimated, an 84 percent cut. That is scholarships, loan repayments, and outreach programs. It appears that they do not accept that the African American community, which is so devastated by HIV/AIDS, has to have adequate resources itself to reverse its toll, and that AIDS patients across this country need adequate ADAP funding to get the treatment they need.

This budget does not care, obviously, that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. This country, it says that this country would rather neglect prevention and early care in favor of high-tech, more expensive payments that come too little too late, if at all, to the poor, the rural, and the people of color to make a difference. This bill would make this country one that prefers to have the poor and the middle-class citizens bear every burden, from war to environmental pollution and to illness, just so that its richest people can get richer.

On behalf of my constituents and people of color across this country, I say we reject the crumbs from the tables of the rich. We want what we deserve: good health, a decent education, and the opportunity for a good job with a living wage.

This bill sends the wrong message. The culture of life that we hear so much about, apparently, this bill does not want it extended past birth.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this bill, to do whatever we can to block the tax cuts, and to take our country back. I say, let us really fund our culture of life. Let us fund those programs that are being eliminated from sickle cell, from training, and maternal and child health and, all of the programs that keep our communities healthy. Let us really fund the culture of life by rejecting tax cuts in favor of sharing the burdens and the bounty of this country, by investing in our people and their health, and really have a budget that supports life.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS).

(Mr. OWENS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chairman, the Congressional Black Caucus has always held up education as our number one priority. At the heart of our agenda to end disparities this year is a bill which calls for the Federal Government to require that all States equalize their distribution of education funds. It is a major problem across the country. Columbia University has recently started a project which identifies 28 States where there are lawsuits underway, just requiring basically that the States distribute education funds equally to minority areas and to rural areas as a first step toward ending disparities.

When Lyndon Johnson proposed Title I in the Elementary Education Assistance Act, he proposed it to go into the areas with the greatest needs, the greatest poverty. He was offering a way to help eliminate disparities. When we proposed that Title I funding be raised to the level of the promise, we promised enough money for it to have $13.2

billion this year and over the period of time that the legislation has existed. If we had lived up to the promise, we would have had $40 billion going into the system which basically is designed to help end disparities.

□ 1530

Title I money goes to the poorest areas of our country. Title I money goes, in big cities, to areas like my district. Title I money goes to areas where you will find the largest amount of health problems, you find the largest amount of people who are being put in prisons.

You will find the greatest rate of unemployment. So title I money is targeted to help end disparities. But it is not happening at the rate that it should, because of the fact that we are cutting back on our investment in education.

The people who live in the areas helped by title I funds are people who are important to the America of the future as anyone else. These are major human resources. We should invest in these human resources, follow the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) in terms of setting aside money for priority education programs.

If you reached into the tax cuts and gave less of a cut to the richest people in America, you could easily fund the promise of title I as well as many of these other education programs. But this budget reverses what has been happening over the last few years. For the first time, we have frozen education and actually gone backwards in some instances, because the rising cost of living means that you cannot have the same funding and get the same results when the costs are going up.

Not only has No Child Left Behind received what is really a cut, but the promise of funding IDEA, Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, with greater funds has been thrown away. The bill freezes after-school centers; education technology has been slashed. And on and on it goes. We are not investing in a major area of human resources that our Nation needs.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Chairman, solely for the purpose of a unanimous consent request, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE.)

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise to associate myself with my colleagues to promote a better quality of life for all Americans and African Americans who are suffering greatly from the disparities that are found in health and education.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Chairman, solely for the purpose of a unanimous consent request, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN.)

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I too would like to associate myself with the comments from the Congressional Black Caucus. I would want to assure the chairman of the caucus that I think that what we are doing now is most appropriate.

Mr. Chairman, let me first say thanks to you and the Ranking Member for your work on this bill.

Despite the hard work that went into this bill, I will not be voting in favor of the bill.

More specifically, the bill cuts all funding for Area Health Education Centers, Health Education and Training Centers, and Health Professions Training Programs. All of these programs fall under Title VII and are very important to my constituents. These programs have been addressing the needs of medically underserved communities in Texas since 1991 by playing a key role in providing health services and health care professionals for our most vulnerable populations.

The bill also cuts funding in other important programs. For example, the bill provides the smallest increase for NIH in 36 years. It reduces the overall Centers for Disease Control and Prevention budget. Further it ends HHS contributions to the Global AIDS Fund. The bill also cuts substance abuse prevention and treatment and produces a continued decline in the number of research grants. While the bill provides a small increase for Head Start, it does not adopt the President's proposal to spend $45 million on new pilot programs under which State governments would take over management of the program in nine States. The bill also freezes appropriations on the Child Care Block Grant at the FY05 level of $2.083 billion, making it the fourth year in a row which this program has been either frozen or cut.

Unfortunately, the bill only provides $14.7 billion for the Education for the Disadvantaged Children Program. It saddens me to say that this amount is $115 million less than the current level and $1.7 billion less than the Administration's request. I hope more funding can be provided for this important program during conference.

Before closing, I would like to express my dismay with the $100 million decrease in funding for Corporation for Public Broadcasting. A loss in CPB funding would seriously hamper PBS' ability to acquire the top quality children's educational programming that is used in classrooms, day care centers and millions of American households to educate, entertain and provide a safe harbor from the violent, commercial and crass content found in the commercial marketplace. PBS provides valuable services that improve classroom teaching and assist homeschoolers. These could be reduced or eliminated if federal funding is cut. These services include PBS TeacherSource, a service that provides pre-K through 12 educators with nearly 4,000 free lesson plans, teachers' guides, and homeschooling guidance; and PBS TeacherLine, which provides high-quality professional teacher development through more than 90 online-facilitated courses in reading, mathematics, science and technology integration. We must not cut funding for this valuable program.

Let me also take a moment to speak on the Congressional Black Caucus Closing Disparities Agenda. Closing the achievement and opportunity gaps in education, assuring quality health care for every American, focusing on employment and economic security, building wealth and business development, ensuring justice for all, guaranteeing retirement security for all Americans, and increasing equity in foreign policy are all important issues that we as members of the Congressional Black Caucus strive to make advancements in every day.

The CBC acknowledges the unfortunate fact that disparities between African-Americans and white Americans continue to exist in 2005 in every aspect of our lives and that the historical mission of the CBC has not yet been fully accomplished. It is important to note that providing high-quality education to all public school students is very critical to achieving our objectives in all areas of our Agenda.

More specifically, we must continue supporting early childhood nutrition, Head Start and movements toward universal pre-schools. Providing education and assistance appropriate to the needs of each individual student to fulfill the promise of No Child Left Behind, dropout prevention, after-school programs, school modernization and infrastructure and equipment enhancement is important.

Increasing the availability of Pell Grants, scholarships, loan assistance and other specialized programs to enable and provide incentives to more African-American students to obtain college, graduate or professional degrees or otherwise receive training and retraining to meet changing job needs is also very important. The preservation and improving of Historically Black Colleges and Universities is also essential to our growth as a people. The following are some of the dramatic disparities that the CBC believes would be reduced by the above priorities:

In 2003, 39 percent of African-American 4th grade students could read at or above a basic reading level compared to 74 percent of white 4th grade students, and 39 percent of African-American 8th grade students performed at or above a basic math level compared to 79 percent of white 8th grade students;

High school completion rates—83.7 percent for African-Americans, and 91.8 percent for whites;

Bachelor Degree recipients—16.4 percent for African-Americans, and 31.7 percent for whites; and

Digital Divide—41.3 percent of African-Americans are capable of accessing the Internet, compared to 61.5 percent of whites.

Another important area of the CBC agenda centers on health care disparities. The twentieth century saw major advances in health care, health status, and longevity. Despite these gains, differential morbidity and mortality between Caucasian populations and people of color persist; creating what the CBC believes is one of the most pressing health problems affecting America today. Recent reports on racial and ethnic health disparities document the relatively poor health of African Americans, American Indians, Latinos, Asian Americans, and other underrepresented groups when compared to white Americans. Not only are these groups often less healthy, but they also tend to have shorter life expectancies, greatly increased rates of infant mortality, high rates of chronic disease such as diabetes, worse outcomes once diagnosed with an illness, and less access to health care.

Among the dramatic disparities the CBC believes could be reduced by taking action are:

In December 2004, the American Journal of Public Health reported that 886,000 more African-Americans died between 1991 and 2000

than would have died had equal health care been available;

While African-Americans comprised approximately 12 percent of the U.S. population in 2000, they represented 19.6 percent of the uninsured;

African-American men experience twice the average death rate from prostate cancer;

In 2002, the African-American AIDS diagnosis rate was 11 times the white diagnosis rate (23 times more for women and 9 times more for men);

African-Americans are two times more likely to have diabetes than whites, four times more likely to see their diabetes progress to end-stage renal disease and four times more likely to have a stroke; and

African-Americans are only 2.9 percent of doctors, 9.2 percent of nurses, 1.5 percent of dentists and 0.4 percent of health care administrators, yet African-Americans comprise 12 percent of the population.

As Congressional Black Caucus members, we will continue to work towards closing the gaps in education, health care, and employment.

I thank the Chairman for my time.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Chairman, solely for the purpose of a unanimous consent request, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN.)

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I too would like to associate myself with the comments from the Congressional Black Caucus. I would want to assure the chairman of the caucus that I think that what we are doing now is most appropriate.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Chairman, solely for the purpose of seeking a unanimous consent request, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER).

(Mr. CLEAVER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the bill.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, today I rise to say this: you know for the sake of $140,000 tax cuts for those making more than a million dollars, Republicans continue to force working men and women, our children, and the poor to pay, putting the priorities of the wealthy over basic investments in education, health care in our communities. It is immoral; it is just downright wrong.

This bill widens the disparities which the Congressional Black Caucus is trying to close. The Republican leadership is totally detached from the realities on AIDS funding, by freezing funding for the Ryan White AIDS Care Program and ending the Global AIDS Fund Contribution. Critical support for HIV/AIDS patients is totally denied. They are detached from the reality on human services. Slashing the community services block grant program in half only hurts the poorest who have no other place to turn. They are detached from the reality of job training, cutting adult job training programs by $31 million, which makes it much more difficult for the 7.6 million Americans who are out of work to get ahead.

The Republican leadership is detached from the reality on youth services. Cutting services for successful programs by 36 million young people not only undermines our efforts to help our youth and become successful in life, but it helps generate a whole cycle of hopelessness and despair.

Let me just say, I think the Republican leadership is totally detached from the reality on education. Cutting funding for No Child Left Behind by $806 million only shortchanges public education. This bill fails to live up to any standard of morality. In fact, it really does take morality to a new low.

If this bill is to reflect our values of compassion, Mr. Chairman, it needs to stop taking from the poor and giving to the rich. This bill does nothing to close the glaring disparities put forth by the Congressional Black Caucus that we are trying to close.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this bill.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS.)

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, recognizing the fact that serious disparities continue to exist for African Americans in practically all aspects of life, the Congressional Black Caucus has focused much of its attention this session on closing these gaps and reducing those disparities.

Unfortunately, this budget, this appropriation in many ways dashed the hopes of those who had thought and hoped that maybe it would provide some help. Instead, it cuts at the heart of many of these programs and areas of concentration, which are absolutely essential if we are to reduce these gaps. This budget cuts job training, job development programs, health services, education.

We reduce educational opportunities and cut funds for prisoner reentry and successful reintegration of these individuals back into normal life as self-sufficient and contributing members of society.

I would hope, I would urge, I would implore, I would importune conferees that as you go to conference, please look seriously at putting money back into reentry programs so that these individuals, both juveniles and adults, can lead happy, productive, contributing lives; and let the 630,000 individuals who come home from prison each year have some help to become productive citizens.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, we have very many disparities in the criminal justice system, particularly the juvenile justice system. But many of these programs have been terminated to fund tax cuts, primarily for those with incomes over $200,000.

One of those programs is the Reintegration of Youthful Offenders program sponsored by the Department of Labor. It helps young people get jobs, and we know that those with jobs are much less likely to commit crimes in the future.

We could fund this program by eliminating the earmark of $10 million for random nonsuspicion-based drug testing. Studies show that that drug testing does not reduce drug use, and that is why that kind of drug testing is opposed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Public Health Association, and the National Education Association.

I would hope that as we go forward, adjustments in the budget to re-fund the Reintegration of Youthful Offender program and un-fund the earmark for $10 million for the random nonsuspicion-based drug testing could be made.

This amendment would be supported by the American Correctional Association, the Association for Addictive Professionals, and the National Association of Social Workers.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Chairman, I yield for a unanimous consent request to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY).

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise because the racial disparity in unemployment, median family income, average household net worth, over-65 poverty rate, and infant mortality is not decreasing, it is increasing.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Chairman, I yield solely for purposes of a unanimous consent request to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

(Mr. SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise to say that there are extraordinary discrepancies faced by African Americans and associate my remarks with the eloquent remarks of those who have preceded me from the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Chairman, I yield solely for a unanimous consent request to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise against this bill. It has cut every program to help the poor and elderly in the entire government. It would be shameful to vote for it.

I object to this bill. This bill cuts every program designated to assist poor children and the elderly. It's shameful that anyone will vote for it.

Mr. WATT. Mr. Chairman, I rise to say to my colleagues, 15 minutes, an

hour and 15 minutes, 15 days would not be enough time for us to tell you how bad this bill is and how devastating it will be in opening disparities that already exist wider and wider and wider.

When we rise into the full House, we intend to offer a copy of the Congressional Black Caucus agenda, the legislative agenda, and a listing of 48 programs that are zeroed out by this bill. I do not know how we think there is going to be any kind of movement toward a closing of the disparities that exist between rich and poor, black and white in this country if we continue to go down the road we are going.

We have drained all of our resources off to war, to tax cuts, and left nothing to address the needs of our own country and our own people.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BRADLEY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire:

Page 16, line 4, insert ''(reduced by $25,000,000)'' after the aggregate dollar amount.

Page 70, line 23, insert ''(increased by $50,000,000)'' after the aggregate dollar amount.

Page 78, line 15, insert ''(reduced by $25,000,000)'' after the aggregate dollar amount.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the debate on this amendment and any amendments thereto be limited to 10 minutes, to be equally divided and controlled by the proponent and myself, the opponent.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to begin by thanking the graciousness of the chairman of the subcommittee, as well as the chairman of the full committee, and the staff who have worked with us today to try and find an acceptable offset so that we can increase the amount of dollars in special education funding in this appropriations bill.

Unfortunately, we were unable to reach an agreement, and so I am proceeding with this amendment to increase appropriated dollars in this bill by $50 million and to take $25 million from OSHA, as well as $25 million from the Department of Education, both from the administrative accounts, in both of those Departments, to fund this additional request for special education.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, and as the chairman of the subcommittee and the chairman of the full committee know, we have made tremendous progress in funding our commitment to special education over the years. Yet we are falling short.

Since 1976, we have increased the percentage of special education from about 7 percent to now approximately 20 percent. But having said that, and having talked about the progress that we have made, when we first passed the Individuals with Education Disability Act in 1975, the Federal Government committed to fund 40 percent of the cost of special education. Today, though we have made significant progress, as I said, going from 7 percent to 20 percent, we are still 20 percent short.

Since I have been a Member of Congress, we have also appropriated in each budget that I have voted for, and the corresponding appropriations bills, nearly $1 billion more for special education in 2003 and in 2004. And in the 2005 budget this year, we budgeted $500 million, which I believe during tight budget times was an appropriate figure.

Unfortunately, in the appropriations process, that figure of $500 million was cut to $150 million. My amendment today, if accepted, would restore $50 million of that funding and increase the special ed funding.

□ 1545

Now, as I suspect most of my colleagues find when they do town hall meetings, as I do, that a constant question arises, When will the Federal Government fully fund its commitment to special education?

This is a question that I answer repeatedly in my home State of New Hampshire. As people struggle with the high cost of property taxes and all of the mandates that are put upon them both by the Federal Government and by State governments, they ask me when will the Federal Government fulfill its commitment to fully funding special education.

Well, I realize this amendment is a modest amendment, adding $50 million to the appropriated level for special education; nevertheless, it is important to continue to seek to do everything that we can to maintain our commitment to special education funding.

Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I reluctantly rise in opposition to this amendment. I am a very strong supporter of the IDEA programs and we did put additional money in, as much as we were able to do given the constraints of what was given to us to work with. It is quite obvious there are a lot of good programs that we are not able to fund to the level we would like to. We did put $150 million increase in this bill, and anyone that has been listening to the debate today knows that there are a lot of favorite programs and a lot of good programs that we are not able to give the level of funding to that people would like to have.

But here we are talking about offsetting this, taking this money out of OSHA. Now, I understand the concern for these children, these students, but I also have a great concern for people who are in the workplace and need to be protected with safety inspections, need to be protected with the OSHA efforts to ensure that the workplace is safe and so on. And if we cut the funding for OSHA to fund this program, I do not think we are being fair to people who depend on OSHA to ensure that they have a safe place to work. And also it would have the effect of denying OSHA the money they need to go into places of employment and give them advice on how to make it safer.

Well, that is very important to the employer. It is important to the employee, and it is important to all the people who are part of this Nation's workforce. And here we have got a perfect example of having to make some very difficult trade-offs because IDEA is vital, too, in terms of opportunity for young people who have some type of a special need.

I wish we could do both. But we had to make priority judgments when we put this bill together. So we tried to increase IDEA and at the same time maintain OSHA to a level that would ensure worker safety. And for this reason I have to oppose this amendment because this, like many others, has a wonderful and a worthy intent; but in terms of priorities between the safety of the workplace and putting more in, and we do put a lot into the IDEA program, over $11 billion, we just have to make the choice.

Under those circumstances I would have to oppose the amendment.

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

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time to close on this amendment.

With all due respect to the chairman of the subcommittee, who I know has worked very hard over the years to increase our commitment to special education, I thank him for that and fully respect him for that. And I also understand the difficulty of the choices that we have to make.

Nevertheless, my amendment will help us, in some small but significant way, keep the commitment that the Federal Government made in 1975 when it passed the IDEA law, keep the commitment to local taxpayers, to State-funded and local-funded education efforts that we mandate right here in Washington. It will help us keep that commitment, and I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

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

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

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY).

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

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded

vote, and pending that, I make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

(Mr. MENENDEZ asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Chairman, I believe the budget we pass is reflective of the values we hold as a country and the vision we have for our Nation. And the budget resolution and appropriations bills, such as the ones we are debating here, are moral documents and we should treat them as such.

The bill before us is in clear disregard of the values that makes this country great. This is a bill that will do a disservice to our Nation and will only weaken its future. At a time when we can find the money to fund tax cuts of $140,000 for the lucky few who make over a million dollars a year, at a price tag of $10.7 billion next year alone, it is inexcusable and I find it immoral, that the first thing that goes is our investment in our children's future.

Mr. Chairman, educators in schools across the country have been working hard to implement the changes No Child Left Behind asked of them to achieve: to raise proficiency, to demonstrate results. And they have been working to do this despite a persistent underfunding of the law totaling nearly $30 billion in the 4 years since we passed No Child Left Behind. This bill would increase that deficit to $40 billion.

Now we are asking more of our schools than ever before. And yes, they can meet higher standards and they can increase performance, but we must provide them with the resources that we promised in this legislation.

Now, I served on a school board, Mr. Chairman. I know the struggle of impossible budgets and having to choose between new textbooks, better technology, music classes and meeting the capital challenges of a school district. No Child Left Behind promised a strong Federal partnership for our schools and educators, but this works only if we act as true partners. Yet this bill actually cuts funding for No Child Left Behind by more than $800 million from last year and by more than a billion dollars less than even the President's request.

In addition to slashing a number of the President's requests, this bill provides only half of his proposed increase for Pell grants, something the President himself has touted as a top priority.

Now, instead, this bill flat-funds, or cuts program after program. I believe it is a slap in the face to our young people that as we ask them to reach new heights and as they find themselves reaching higher costs in terms of college tuition, the only increase to financial aid in this bill, the only increase is a mere $50 to the maximum Pell grant. College tuition for a public university in my State has risen more than $1,500 over 4 years. In that time, the actual average Pell award increased a meager $432.

Mr. Chairman, I know the value of a Pell grant. I benefited from one. As the first in my family to attend college, receiving that aid gave me critical financial support, but also a boost of confidence that I could succeed. There are now nearly 5 million students who benefit from Pell grants, approximately 100,000 in my State alone. But not for long. Under a formula change by this administration, at least 90,000 students would lose their award and another 1.3 million would see reductions in their awards this year.

So in the end, what is the real value of a $50 increase? Not much, Mr. Chairman. Our young people deserve a real effort to help them finance their dreams of college. But that is not part of the vision Republicans have for our country. And we see clearly in this bill what their vision is not.

It is not a vision that includes the opportunity for all children regardless of background or income to attend college, or the chance for every child to have the best teachers, the best education, and the best chance to succeed regardless of the happenstance of where they were born.

Instead, what we get is the realization of the priorities of the President and this Republican Congress.

Tax cuts in the name of our children's future are not my priorities, Mr. Chairman. Our children deserve better. Our country deserves better. This bill does not represent our values. It does not represent the values of families in this country, and it certainly does not represent the values of the people I serve in New Jersey.

I urge my colleagues to vote against the bill. At the end of the day, it is a poor excuse for providing the caliber of education that the future of the country deserves.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. REGULA. I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for yielding to me so that I might engage in a colloquy with him to discuss the funding for the consolidated health centers program.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), as we all know, has been a tremendous supporter of health centers, and I appreciate his taking the time today to discuss how we can strengthen and expand the program next year.

As the gentlemen is well aware, Members of both sides of the aisle have risen in support of this critically important program over the years and I thank him for his great leadership in this regard. Within this bill and under these tight allocations, the subcommittee was able to provide an increase of $100 million for this program for fiscal year 2006, bringing overall spending to $1.817 billion.

While this is a step in the right direction, it is my hope that the gentleman will continue to work throughout the process to increase funding for the program closer to the President's request of $2.038 billion. As we search for ways to control Medicaid cost, reduce emergency room visits and keep people healthy, community health centers have served as a shining example, Mr. Chairman, of what works. The only problem is that we do not have more them of them across the country in communities of need.

This bill is the means to expand the program to more people, especially those who lack health insurance. And it is my hope that we do as much as possible in this regard to save money and keep people healthy in the future. I cannot emphasize strongly enough the important role that community health centers play in providing care to the millions of Americans who lack health insurance. For some, the only medical attention they receive comes from the local health center.

I applaud the subcommittee's approval of a $100 million increase. Much of that funding, unfortunately, is already committed, leaving very few additional resources to strengthen current health centers or expand to new communities outside the President's new initiative for poor counties. This year HHS actually canceled the last competition for new health centers site funding due to the lack of available funds. As the chairman is very well aware, many communities apply numerous times before they are selected. And with fewer and fewer opportunities, many communities may become discouraged by the process and withdraw from this model of care.

So I would ask the chairman to work throughout the process to increase the funding for this program to further expand access to care in a manner closer to the $304 million increase by the President. And a letter to that effect was signed by more than half of the House earlier this year.

□ 1600

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. REGULA. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for his time and greatly appreciate his leadership on behalf of health centers across the country. I also appreciate the years of work that the gentleman from Florida has put in on behalf of health centers, and I dare say the current expansion would not have occurred without his leadership.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to add to the gentleman's remarks by discussing

the need to strengthen existing centers, like the one in my congressional district, Uvalde County Clinic. Although Uvalde County Clinic has a remarkable record of controlling costs while serving thousands of patients, they are still seeing cost increases that are forcing them to make decisions on what services to continue and which to cut back if increased funding is not available.

As a matter of fact, their funding has been cut this year since HHS has not yet sent out the base grant adjustments provided by this bill last year due to the new policy of reducing each center's grant by the across-the-board cuts approved last year.

As the chairman is aware, over the past few years, the President's budget has not included increased funding for existing centers to meet the rising costs, but each year we have ensured that some portion of the increase was provided for base grant adjustments. Unfortunately, this bill does not include any funding for base grant adjustments, and I would hope as we move through the process we are able to find a way to set aside some funding for existing centers for base grant adjustments.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's commitment to this program and hope that he will continue to work through the legislative process to ensure that the funding for the health centers program can be closer to the President's request and also include specific funding for base grant adjustments in the final bill.

Again, Mr. Chairman, the chairman has been a true champion of the health center program, and I look forward to our continued work together to expand community health centers to those most in need.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I thank both gentlemen, and I think what they are discussing is vitally important. I wish we could do more. I am a big fan of the community health centers. They help with the relief, the pressure on emergency rooms; and they give people without any other access to health care a place to go in an emergency.

I am pleased that both gentlemen are actively pushing; and I might also tell my colleagues, we have a great ally in the President of the United States. He believes in the health center program. In fact, we were not able to do as much as he requested in his budget because of other competing needs, but I hope as this body in the years to come will continue to strengthen the health centers.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Mine Safety and Health Administration, $280,490,000, including purchase and bestowal of certificates and trophies in connection with mine rescue and first-aid work, and the hire of passenger motor vehicles, including up to $2,000,000 for mine rescue and recovery activities; in addition, not to exceed $750,000 may be collected by the National Mine Health and Safety Academy for room, board, tuition, and the sale of training materials, otherwise authorized by law to be collected, to be available for mine safety and health education and training activities, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302; and, in addition, the Mine Safety and Health Administration may retain up to $1,000,000 from fees collected for the approval and certification of equipment, materials, and explosives for use in mines, and may utilize such sums for such activities; the Secretary is authorized to accept lands, buildings, equipment, and other contributions from public and private sources and to prosecute projects in cooperation with other agencies, Federal, State, or private; the Mine Safety and Health Administration is authorized to promote health and safety education and training in the mining community through cooperative programs with States, industry, and safety associations; the Secretary is authorized to recognize the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association as a principal safety association and, notwithstanding any other provision of law, may provide funds and, with or without reimbursement, personnel, including service of Mine Safety and Health Administration officials as officers in local chapters or in the national organization; and any funds available to the department may be used, with the approval of the Secretary, to provide for the costs of mine rescue and survival operations in the event of a major disaster.

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, including advances or reimbursements to State, Federal, and local agencies and their employees for services rendered, $464,678,000, together with not to exceed $77,845,000, which may be expended from the Employment Security Administration Account in the Unemployment Trust Fund, of which $5,000,000 may be used to fund the mass layoff statistics program under section 15 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491–2).

OFFICE OF DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT POLICY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the Office of Disability Employment Policy to provide leadership, develop policy and initiatives, and award grants furthering the objective of eliminating barriers to the training and employment of people with disabilities, $27,934,000.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for Departmental Management, including the hire of three sedans, $244,112,000 of which $6,944,000 to remain available until September 30, 2007, is for Frances Perkins Building Security Enhancements, and $29,760,000 is for the acquisition of Departmental information technology, architecture, infrastructure, equipment, software and related needs, which will be allocated by the Department's Chief Information Officer in accordance with the Department's capital investment management process to assure a sound investment strategy; together with not to exceed $311,000, which may be expended from the Employment Security Administration Account in the Unemployment Trust Fund.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Not to exceed $194,834,000 may be derived from the Employment Security Administration Account in the Unemployment Trust Fund to carry out the provisions of 38 U.S.C. 4100–4113, 4211–4215, and 4321–4327, and Public Law 103–353, and which shall be available for obligation by the States through December 31, 2006, of which $1,984,000 is for the National Veterans' Employment and Training Services Institute. To carry out the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Programs (38 U.S.C. 2021) and the Veterans Workforce Investment Programs (29 U.S.C. 2913), $29,500,000, of which $7,500,000 shall be available for obligation for the period July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For salaries and expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, $65,211,000, together with not to exceed $5,608,000, which may be expended from the Employment Security Administration Account in the Unemployment Trust Fund.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Chairman LEWIS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA). I planned to offer an amendment, which is at the desk, but after discussing at length the merits of it with the chairman of the full committee and the chairman of the subcommittee, we reached an understanding that the importance of women's health and, particularly, gynecological awareness, is sufficient that we will be able to make every effort to try to find dollars to move gynecological awareness through the ordinary process without an amendment.

I certainly want to thank the chairman for his help on this. I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), who also wants to quickly make a couple of comments on the effort to raise gynecological awareness, one of the great and unheard-of killers of American women.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ISSA. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding. Excuse my froggy voice, I have got a little bit of a cold.

This is a silent killer. Even a primary physician many times misses a woman who has a gynecological cancer, and it is something where education is extremely important, very important.

I join with my colleague in asking the chairman of the committee in conference to do whatever funding is necessary or agreeable to make sure that there is an educational process so that women are informed on what can be done to protect themselves. If they get this cancer early, 95 percent of the women can survive more than 5 years, but this year 27,000 women will die because they do not know about it.

I join with the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) in urging the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), our chairman, to deal with this problem.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ISSA. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan, the coauthor of this legislation.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding,

and I want to join all of my colleagues in emphasizing the importance of this and congratulating the chairman and everybody concerned with willingness to take action on this.

As mentioned, this indeed is a serious problem. Each year about 80,000 women are diagnosed with gynecological cancers. If they are detected early, they are among the most curable. If they are not, they are among the most deadly, and so this education effort is so critical.

So I know the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) cares so much about this. I do hope and trust that a way will be found to address this issue. So many lives are at stake.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ISSA. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from San Diego for his bringing this item to our attention. I also thank very much the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

There is no doubt that the committee is very interested in this challenge. We intend to take their message to the conference and look forward to working with them and doing everything that is possible in the conference agreement.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

For the acquisition of a new core accounting system for the Department of Labor, including hardware and software infrastructure and the costs associated with implementation thereof, $6,230,000.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds appropriated in this title for the Job Corps shall be used to pay the compensation of an individual, either as direct costs or any proration as an indirect cost, at a rate in excess of Executive Level II.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 102. Not to exceed 1 percent of any discretionary funds (pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended) which are appropriated for the current fiscal year for the Department of Labor in this Act may be transferred between appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 3 percent by any such transfer: *Provided*, That an appropriation may be increased by up to an additional 2 percent subject to approval by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority granted by this section shall be available only to meet emergency needs and shall not be used to create any new program or to fund any project or activity for which no funds are provided in this Act: *Provided further*, That the Appropriations Committees of both Houses of Congress are notified at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

SEC. 103. In accordance with Executive Order No. 13126, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available pursuant to this Act shall be obligated or expended for the procurement of goods mined, produced, manufactured, or harvested or services rendered, whole or in part, by forced or indentured child labor in industries and host countries already identified by the United States Department of Labor prior to enactment of this Act.

SEC. 104. For purposes of chapter 8 of division B of the Department of Defense and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States Act, 2002 (Public Law 107–117), payments made by the New York Workers' Compensation Board to the New York Crime Victims Board and the New York State Insurance Fund before the date of the enactment of this Act shall be deemed to have been made for workers compensation programs.

This title may be cited as the ''Department of Labor Appropriations Act, 2006''.

TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES

For carrying out titles II, III, IV, VII, VIII, X, XII, XIX, and XXVI of the Public Health Service Act, section 427(a) of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act, title V and sections 1128E, 711, and 1820 of the Social Security Act, the Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986, as amended, the Native Hawaiian Health Care Act of 1988, as amended, the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act of 2000, and the Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act, as amended, and for expenses necessary to support activities related to countering potential biological, disease, nuclear, radiological and chemical threats to civilian populations, $6,446,357,000, of which $39,180,000 from general revenues, notwithstanding section 1820(j) of the Social Security Act, shall be available for carrying out the Medicare rural hospital flexibility grants program under section 1820 of such Act: *Provided*, That of the funds made available under this heading, $222,000 shall be available until expended for facilities renovations at the Gillis W. Long Hansen's Disease Center: *Provided further*, That in addition to fees authorized by section 427(b) of the Health Care Quality Improvement Act of 1986, fees shall be collected for the full disclosure of information under the Act sufficient to recover the full costs of operating the National Practitioner Data Bank, and shall remain available until expended to carry out that Act: *Provided further*, That fees collected for the full disclosure of information under the ''Health Care Fraud and Abuse Data Collection Program'', authorized by section 1128E(d)(2) of the Social Security Act, shall be sufficient to recover the full costs of operating the program, and shall remain available until expended to carry out that Act: *Provided further*, That $26,000,000 of the funding provided for Health Centers shall be used for high-need counties, notwithstanding section 330(s)(2)(B) of the Public Health Service Act: *Provided further*, That no more than $45,000,000 is available until expended for carrying out the provisions of Public Law 104–73: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, $285,963,000 shall be for the program under title X of the Public Health Service Act to provide for voluntary family planning projects: *Provided further*, That amounts provided to said projects under such title shall not be expended for abortions, that all pregnancy counseling shall be nondirective, and that such amounts shall not be expended for any activity (including the publication or distribution of literature) that in any way tends to promote public support or opposition to any legislative proposal or candidate for public office: *Provided further*, That $797,521,000 shall be for State AIDS Drug Assistance Programs authorized by section 2616 of the Public Health Service Act: *Provided further*, That in addition to amounts provided herein, $25,000,000 shall be available from amounts available under section 241 of the Public Health Service Act to carry out Parts A, B, C, and D of title XXVI of the Public Health Service Act to fund section 2691 Special Projects of National Significance: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding section 502(a)(1) of the Social Security Act, not to exceed $116,124,000 is available for carrying out special projects of regional and national significance pursuant to section 501(a)(2) of such Act.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MRS. JOHNSON OF CONNECTICUT

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut:

Page 25, line 16, after the dollar amount insert ''(increased by $11,200,000)''.

Page 29, line 1, after the dollar amount insert ''(reduced by $11,200,000)''.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the debate on this amendment and any amendment thereto be limited to 10 minutes to be equally divided and controlled by the proponent and myself, the opponent.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. OBEY. Could the Clerk reread the amendment again?

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the amendment.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order on the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) will control 5 minutes and the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) will control 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON).

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I offer this amendment because one of the things that has concerned the Members of this body is the plight of the uninsured in America. The community health centers reach out to help the uninsured, and they are very effective and very important to that health care system, available to those who are either underinsured or uninsured.

But the HCAP grants are becoming equally important because they enable the community health centers to create a whole network in neighborhoods and urban communities that can reach out to the uninsured and the underinsured and bring them into the system and provide them with a patient home and the kind of support that they need.

Many of these people have chronic illnesses. Many of these people are a

very high cost to the system because they do not get care until they land in the emergency room or the hospital.

This amendment to provide some funds for the HCAP program is modest. It merely moves money from the CDC budget, from the VERB program, which is funding for an anti-obesity media campaign that is now duplicative of Federal and private sector programs. Even the Bush administration's OMB says, ''There is no longer a need for this Federal program.''

I would maintain that now that every school board is conscious of the problem of obesity and so many groups, including McDonald's, have taken on this cause, that it is not necessary to spend the Federal money on the obesity campaign; but it is absolutely crucial that we put some placeholder dollars in the budget for the HCAP program.

This program is in 45 States across the country and has already provided access to care for 6.2 million uninsured and vulnerable Americans and has placed about the same number of children and parents, children and adults, into either Medicaid or CHIP.

In Waterbury, Connecticut, the biggest city in my district, the HCAP program started only a year and a half ago. It has already provided 750 low-income city residents with case managers who help them coordinate complex care regimens, make sure they have access to low-cost medications and track their progress. This same program has enrolled 450 patients, HIV/AIDS patients and diabetes patients in the appropriate kind of management program to monitor their conditions and keep them healthy and out of the hospital, better quality of life to the patient, savings to society.

Eighty physicians because of HCAP, 80 physicians from Waterbury have signed up to provide their fair share of specialty care to this uninsured population, and the hospitals have donated lab services.

Ultimately, this HCAP grant is going to electronically provide electronic health records for 120,000 patients in the greater Waterbury area through every hospital and doctor's office so that this kind of patient coming into the system with no insurance but complex needs can immediately have their medical record accessed by their physician; their medication protocol accessed by their physician; the history of their care accessed by their physician. Therefore, the physician is able to provide to these uninsured and very ill people timely, fast, high-quality care.

So the HCAP program has been extremely helpful to building beyond the community health centers out into the community a system to provide access to medical care for uninsured people, and that is why I am so interested in the passage of my amendment that just would move a little money from a program that is at the end of its useful life into this critical area so there would be a placeholder on which we could build in conference.

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

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me say to the gentlewoman, I am very empathetic to the question that she is raising. I must say that at this moment the committee is quite anxious to see us go forward with the funding in the VERB program, to measure further its effectiveness.

We are very empathetic to that which the gentlewoman is discussing, and we do intend to raise this question with the Senate. It is not an issue that will go undiscussed, and I am very hopeful as we will go forward that we will be able to be responsive to the gentlewoman's request.

□ 1615

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LEWIS of California. I yield to the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, does the gentleman feel confident even without any placeholder, should, say, the Senate fail to provide a placeholder, as they have in the past, that we will be able to address this in conference?

Mr. LEWIS of California. I have every reason to believe that we will be able to address it in conference.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman would continue to yield, I appreciate the good work the Committee on Appropriations and the subcommittee has done.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN (Mr. PUTNAM). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The amendment is withdrawn.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

HEALTH EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the program, as authorized by title VII of the Public Health Service Act, as amended. For administrative expenses to carry out the guaranteed loan program, including section 709 of the Public Health Service Act, $2,916,000.

VACCINE INJURY COMPENSATION PROGRAM TRUST FUND

For payments from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program Trust Fund, such sums as may be necessary for claims associated with vaccine-related injury or death with respect to vaccines administered after September 30, 1988, pursuant to subtitle 2 of title XXI of the Public Health Service Act, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That for necessary administrative expenses, not to exceed $3,500,000 shall be available from the Trust Fund to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

DISEASE CONTROL, RESEARCH, AND TRAINING

To carry out titles II, III, VII, XI, XV, XVII, XIX, XXI, and XXVI of the Public Health Service Act, sections 101, 102, 103, 201, 202, 203, 301, and 501 of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, sections 20, 21, and 22 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, title IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and section 501 of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980, and for expenses necessary to support activities related to countering potential biological, disease, nuclear, radiological and chemical threats to civilian populations; including purchase and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries; and purchase, hire, maintenance, and operation of aircraft, $5,945,991,000, of which $30,000,000 shall remain available until expended for equipment, and construction and renovation of facilities; of which $30,000,000 of the amounts available for immunization activities shall remain available until expended; of which $530,000,000 shall remain available until expended for the Strategic National Stockpile; and of which $123,883,000 for international HIV/AIDS shall remain available until September 30, 2007. In addition, such sums as may be derived from authorized user fees, which shall be credited to this account: *Provided*, That in addition to amounts provided herein, the following amounts shall be available from amounts available under section 241 of the Public Health Service Act:

(1) $12,794,000 to carry out the National Immunization Surveys;

(2) $3,516,000 to carry out the National Center for Health Statistics surveys;

(3) $24,751,000 to carry out information systems standards development and architecture and applications-based research used at local public health levels;

(4) $463,000 for Health Marketing evaluations;

(5) $31,000,000 to carry out Public Health Research; and

(6) $87,071,000 to carry out research activities within the National Occupational Research Agenda:

Provided further, That none of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may be used, in whole or in part, to advocate or promote gun control: *Provided further*, That up to $30,000,000 shall be made available until expended for Individual Learning Accounts for full-time equivalent employees of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: *Provided further*, That the Director may redirect the total amount made available under authority of Public Law 101–502, section 3, dated November 3, 1990, to activities the Director may so designate: *Provided further*, That the Congress is to be notified promptly of any such transfer: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $12,500,000 may be available for making grants under section 1509 of the Public Health Service Act to not more than 15 States, tribes, or tribal organizations: *Provided further*, That without regard to existing statute, funds appropriated may be used to proceed, at the discretion of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, with property acquisition, including a long-term ground lease for construction on non-Federal land, to support the construction of a replacement laboratory in the Fort Collins, Colorado area: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated, $10,000 is for official reception and representation expenses when specifically approved by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: *Provided further*, That employees of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Public Health Service, both civilian and Commissioned Officers, detailed to States, municipalities, or other organizations under authority of section 214 of the Public Health Service Act for purposes related to homeland security, shall be treated as non-Federal employees for reporting purposes only and shall

not be included within any personnel ceiling applicable to the Agency, Service, or the Department of Health and Human Services during the period of detail or assignment.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CAPUANO

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. CAPUANO:

Page 29, line 1, insert after the dollar amount the following: ''(increased by $5,000,000) (reduced by $5,000,000)''.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, this is a very small problem, but a very big problem to a handful of small people that need our help.

Basically, there is a program now run out of the CDC. It is called Reach 2010. It allows community-based coalitions, mostly community health centers, to focus on eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities in six priority areas: infant mortality, breast and cervical cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, HIV–AIDS and child immunizations.

The reason this issue has come up is because in the last several years this program has received money from the NIH National Center For Minority Health and Health Disparities. But because of the budget crunches they have faced, they have let it be known they intend to cut back their portion of the program, which will definitely cut programs on the street that are truly helping people.

This proposal would restore that $5 million into the CDC budget by reducing another part of the budget that, even with this cut, will still be $50 million above the President's request.

I know most Members already know there are health disparities in the country, but just a few statistics to frame the debate. When it comes to infant mortality, black infants are 2.3 times more likely to die than white infants.

Cardiovascular disease, African Americans have a 30 percent higher rate of cardiovascular disease and a 41 percent higher rate of strokes. Just today, a coalition of health care providers in Boston came out with a study that confirmed what everybody knew. The black men in Boston die, on average, 5 years sooner than white men. Blacks are twice as likely to die from diabetes as whites.

Again, these are not new statistics, this is not a new issue to people. It is an issue we have been trying to deal with, and because of the budget crunch so many people are facing, this particular program faces a small, yet important cut that we are trying to restore.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CAPUANO. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, let me say I think the gentleman's amendment is a good one. It is an important program and an important initiative, and I would hope that the committee would accept it.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I very much appreciate the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) bringing this to our attention. The gentleman knows the difficulty we are facing in terms of funding overall, but it was very significant that the gentleman brought this matter to the committee's attention, and your advocacy is going to be very helpful to us as we go to conference.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment, understanding that this is an issue that has sort of crept up on Members, and the chairman will do his best.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The amendment is withdrawn.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to cancer, $4,841,774,000, of which up to $8,000,000 may be used for facilities repairs and improvements at the NCI-Frederick Federally Funded Research and Development Center in Frederick, Maryland.

NATIONAL HEART, LUNG, AND BLOOD INSTITUTE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to cardiovascular, lung, and blood diseases, and blood and blood products, $2,951,270,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DENTAL AND CRANIOFACIAL RESEARCH

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to dental disease, $393,269,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DIABETES AND DIGESTIVE AND KIDNEY DISEASES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to diabetes and digestive and kidney disease, $1,722,146,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS AND STROKE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to neurological disorders and stroke, $1,550,260,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to allergy and infectious diseases, $4,359,395,000: *Provided*, That up to $30,000,000 shall be for extramural facilities construction grants to enhance the Nation's capability to do research on biological and other agents.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GENERAL MEDICAL SCIENCES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to general medical sciences, $1,955,170,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to child health and human development, $1,277,544,000.

NATIONAL EYE INSTITUTE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to eye diseases and visual disorders, $673,491,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES

For carrying out sections 301 and 311 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to environmental health sciences, $647,608,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to aging, $1,057,203,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ARTHRITIS AND MUSCULOSKELETAL AND SKIN DISEASES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to arthritis and musculoskeletal and skin diseases, $513,063,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DEAFNESS AND OTHER COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to deafness and other communication disorders, $397,432,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NURSING RESEARCH

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to nursing research, $138,729,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON ALCOHOL ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to alcohol abuse and alcoholism, $440,333,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DRUG ABUSE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to drug abuse, $1,010,130,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to mental health, $1,417,692,000.

NATIONAL HUMAN GENOME RESEARCH INSTITUTE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to human genome research, $490,959,000.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BIOMEDICAL IMAGING AND BIOENGINEERING

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to biomedical imaging and bioengineering research, $299,808,000.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR RESEARCH RESOURCES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to research resources and general research support grants, $1,100,203,000: *Provided*, That none of these funds shall be used to pay recipients of the general research support grants program any amount for indirect expenses in connection with such grants.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to complementary and alternative medicine, $122,692,000.

NATIONAL CENTER ON MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH DISPARITIES

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to minority health and health disparities research, $197,379,000.

JOHN E. FOGARTY INTERNATIONAL CENTER

For carrying out the activities at the John E. Fogarty International Center, $67,048,000.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

For carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to health information communications,

$318,091,000, of which $4,000,000 shall be available until expended for improvement of information systems: *Provided*, That in fiscal year 2006, the Library may enter into personal services contracts for the provision of services in facilities owned, operated, or constructed under the jurisdiction of the National Institutes of Health: *Provided further*, That in addition to amounts provided herein, $8,200,000 shall be available from amounts available under section 241 of the Public Health Service Act to carry out National Information Center on Health Services Research and Health Care Technology and related health services.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For carrying out the responsibilities of the Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health, $482,216,000, of which up to $10,000,000 shall be used to carry out section 217 of this Act: *Provided*, That funding shall be available for the purchase of not to exceed 29 passenger motor vehicles for replacement only: *Provided further*, That the Director may direct up to 1 percent of the total amount made available in this or any other Act to all National Institutes of Health appropriations to activities the Director may so designate: *Provided further*, That no such appropriation shall be decreased by more than 1 percent by any such transfers and that the Congress is promptly notified of the transfer: *Provided further*, That the National Institutes of Health is authorized to collect third party payments for the cost of clinical services that are incurred in National Institutes of Health research facilities and that such payments shall be credited to the National Institutes of Health Management Fund: *Provided further*, That all funds credited to the National Institutes of Health Management Fund shall remain available for 1 fiscal year after the fiscal year in which they are deposited: *Provided further*, That up to $500,000 shall be available to carry out section 499 of the Public Health Service Act: *Provided further*, That in addition to the transfer authority provided above, a uniform percentage of the amounts appropriated in this Act to each Institute and Center may be transferred and utilized for the National Institutes of Health Roadmap for Medical Research: *Provided further*, That the amount utilized under the preceding proviso shall not exceed $250,000,000 without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: *Provided further*, That amounts transferred and utilized under the preceding two provisos shall be in addition to amounts made available for the Roadmap for Medical Research from the Director's Discretionary Fund and to any amounts allocated to activities related to the Roadmap through the normal research priority-setting process of individual Institutes and Centers: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided $10,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses when specifically approved by the Director of NIH.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For the study of, construction of, renovation of, and acquisition of equipment for, facilities of or used by the National Institutes of Health, including the acquisition of real property, $81,900,000, to remain available until expended.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

For carrying out titles V and XIX of the Public Health Service Act (''PHS Act'') with respect to substance abuse and mental health services, the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Act, and section 301 of the PHS Act with respect to program management, $3,230,744,000: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 520A(f)(2) of the PHS Act, no funds appropriated for carrying out section 520A are available for carrying out section 1971 of the PHS Act: *Provided further*, That in addition to amounts provided herein, the following amounts shall be available under section 241 of the PHS Act:

(1) $79,200,000 to carry out subpart II of part B of title XIX of the PHS Act to fund section 1935(b) technical assistance, national data, data collection and evaluation activities, and further that the total available under this Act for section 1935(b) activities shall not exceed 5 percent of the amounts appropriated for subpart II of part B of title XIX;

(2) $21,803,000 to carry out subpart I of part B of title XIX of the PHS Act to fund section 1920(b) technical assistance, national data, data collection and evaluation activities, and further that the total available under this Act for section 1920(b) activities shall not exceed 5 percent of the amounts appropriated for subpart I of part B of title XIX;

(3) $16,000,000 to carry out national surveys on drug abuse; and

(4) $4,300,000 to evaluate substance abuse treatment programs.

AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

For carrying out titles III and IX of the Public Health Service Act, and part A of title XI of the Social Security Act, $318,695,000; and in addition, amounts received from Freedom of Information Act fees, reimbursable and interagency agreements, and the sale of data shall be credited to this appropriation and shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That no amount shall be made available pursuant to section 927(c) of the Public Health Service Act for fiscal year 2006.

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES

GRANTS TO STATES FOR MEDICAID

For carrying out, except as otherwise provided, titles XI and XIX of the Social Security Act, $156,954,419,000, to remain available until expended.

For making, after May 31, 2006, payments to States under title XIX of the Social Security Act for the last quarter of fiscal year 2006 for unanticipated costs, incurred for the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary.

For making payments to States or in the case of section 1928 on behalf of States under title XIX of the Social Security Act for the first quarter of fiscal year 2007, $62,783,825,000, to remain available until expended.

Payment under title XIX may be made for any quarter with respect to a State plan or plan amendment in effect during such quarter, if submitted in or prior to such quarter and approved in that or any subsequent quarter.

PAYMENTS TO HEALTH CARE TRUST FUNDS

For payment to the Federal Hospital Insurance and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds, as provided under section 1844, 1860D–16, and 1860D–31 of the Social Security Act, sections 103(c) and 111(d) of the Social Security Amendments of 1965, section 278(d) of Public Law 97–248, and for administrative expenses incurred pursuant to section 201(g) of the Social Security Act, $177,742,200,000.

In addition, for making matching payments under section 1844, and benefit payments under 1860D–16 and 1860D–31 of the Social Security Act, not anticipated in budget estimates, such sums as may be necessary.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

For carrying out, except as otherwise provided, titles XI, XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act, titles XIII and XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, and the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988, not to exceed $3,180,284,000, to be transferred from the Federal Hospital Insurance and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds, as authorized by section 201(g) of the Social Security Act; together with all funds collected in accordance with section 353 of the Public Health Service Act and section 1857(e)(2) of the Social Security Act, and such sums as may be collected from authorized user fees and the sale of data, which shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That all funds derived in accordance with 31 U.S.C. 9701 from organizations established under title XIII of the Public Health Service Act shall be credited to and available for carrying out the purposes of this appropriation: *Provided further*, That $24,205,000, to remain available until September 30, 2007, is for contract costs for CMS's Systems Revitalization Plan: *Provided further*, That $79,934,000, to remain available until September 30, 2007, is for contract costs for the Healthcare Integrated General Ledger Accounting System: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading are available for the Healthy Start, Grow Smart program under which the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services may, directly or through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, produce and distribute informational materials including, but not limited to, pamphlets and brochures on infant and toddler health care to expectant parents enrolled in the Medicaid program and to parents and guardians enrolled in such program with infants and children: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Health and Human Services is directed to collect fees in fiscal year 2006 from Medicare Advantage organizations pursuant to section 1857(e)(2) of the Social Security Act and from eligible organizations with risk-sharing contracts under section 1876 of that Act pursuant to section 1876(k)(4)(D) of that Act.

HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE FUND

For carrying out subsections (d) and (e) of section 1308 of the Public Health Service Act, any amounts received by the Secretary in connection with loans and loan guarantees under title XIII of the Public Health Service Act, to be available without fiscal year limitation for the payment of outstanding obligations. During fiscal year 2006, no commitments for direct loans or loan guarantees shall be made.

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

For making payments to States or other non-Federal entities under titles I, IV–D, X, XI, XIV, and XVI of the Social Security Act and the Act of July 5, 1960 (24 U.S.C. ch. 9), $2,121,643,000, to remain available until expended; and for such purposes for the first quarter of fiscal year 2007, $1,200,000,000, to remain available until expended.

For making payments to each State for carrying out the program of Aid to Families with Dependent Children under title IV–A of the Social Security Act before the effective date of the program of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) with respect to such State, such sums as may be necessary: *Provided*, That the sum of the amounts available to a State with respect to expenditures under such title IV–A in fiscal year 1997 under this appropriation and under such title IV–A as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation

Act of 1996 shall not exceed the limitations under section 116(b) of such Act.

For making, after May 31 of the current fiscal year, payments to States or other non-Federal entities under titles I, IV–D, X, XI, XIV, and XVI of the Social Security Act and the Act of July 5, 1960 (24 U.S.C. ch. 9), for the last 3 months of the current fiscal year for unanticipated costs, incurred for the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, in 1992 this Congress passed the Energy Policy Act of 1992. In that act was a requirement that all Federal agencies have to make sure that 75 percent of all vehicles they purchase each year are alternatively fueled vehicles. These vehicles run on ethanol or biodiesel or other alternatives fuels. However, very few agencies are actually meeting this requirement. In fact, highlighted in a recent lawsuit, the Federal Government was found not to be in compliance with the act, but no agency did worse than the Department of Labor last year. The Department of Labor was only able to achieve a 19 percent goal.

The goal of EPAct was to reduce our dependence on foreign oil by 30 percent by 2010. The department only purchased 5,000 gallons of E85 and 200 gallons of biodiesel, yet it purchased over 5.3 million gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel. Not only is this bad in terms of helping us reduce our dependence on foreign oil, it is also a bad fiscal move as E85 is selling for less than regular gasoline in many areas of the country.

Mr. Chairman, it is my hope that when this bill is in conference, some language can be added that will encourage the department to do a better job at meeting the requirements set forth by Congress to help reduce our dependence on foreign oil. How can we expect the average consumer to reduce oil use when we cannot even get our own Federal agencies to take the steps necessary to make our Nation more secure?

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SHIMKUS. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman from Illinois makes a very good point. We should be leading the way. The Federal Government should be a model. With the energy problems that confront us, we have to look to alternative fuels as one of the ways through which this can be achieved. I commend the gentleman for his comments and hope that the Department of Labor is listening.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

For making payments under title XXVI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, $1,984,799,000.

REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE

For necessary expenses for refugee and entrant assistance activities and for costs associated with the care and placement of unaccompanied alien children authorized by title IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act and section 501 of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980 (Public Law 96–422), for carrying out section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296), and for carrying out the Torture Victims Relief Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–179), $560,919,000, of which up to $9,915,000 shall be available to carry out the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–193): *Provided,* That funds appropriated under this heading pursuant to section 414(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act and section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 for fiscal year 2006 shall be available for the costs of assistance provided and other activities to remain available through September 30, 2008.

PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR THE CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

For carrying out sections 658A through 658R of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990), $2,082,910,000 shall be used to supplement, not supplant State general revenue funds for child care assistance for low-income families: *Provided,* That $18,967,040 shall be available for child care resource and referral and school-aged child care activities, of which $992,000 shall be for the Child Care Aware toll-free hotline: *Provided further,* That, in addition to the amounts required to be reserved by the States under section 658G, $270,490,624 shall be reserved by the States for activities authorized under section 658G, of which $99,200,000 shall be for activities that improve the quality of infant and toddler care: *Provided further,* That $9,920,000 shall be for use by the Secretary for child care research, demonstration, and evaluation activities.

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

For making grants to States pursuant to section 2002 of the Social Security Act, $1,700,000,000: *Provided,* That notwithstanding subparagraph (B) of section 404(d)(2) of such Act, the applicable percent specified under such subparagraph for a State to carry out State programs pursuant to title XX of such Act shall be 10 percent.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES PROGRAMS

For carrying out, except as otherwise provided, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, the Head Start Act, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, sections 310 and 316 of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, as amended, the Native American Programs Act of 1974, title II of Public Law 95–266 (adoption opportunities), the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (Public Law 105–89), sections 1201 and 1211 of the Children's Health Act of 2000, the Abandoned Infants Assistance Act of 1988, sections 261 and 291 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, part B(1) of title IV and sections 413, 429A, 1110, and 1115 of the Social Security Act, and sections 40155, 40211, and 40241 of Public Law 103–322; for making payments under the Community Services Block Grant Act, sections 439(h), 473A, and 477(i) of the Social Security Act, and title IV of Public Law 105–285, and for necessary administrative expenses to carry out said Acts and titles I, IV, V, X, XI, XIV, XVI, and XX of the Social Security Act, the Act of July 5, 1960 (24 U.S.C. ch. 9), the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, title IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act, section 501 of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980, sections 40155, 40211, and 40241 of Public Law 103–322, and section 126 and titles IV and V of Public Law 100–485, $8,688,707,000, of which $31,846,000, to remain available until September 30, 2007, shall be for grants to States for adoption incentive payments, as authorized by section 473A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670–679) and may be made for adoptions completed before September 30, 2006: *Provided,* That $6,899,000,000 shall be for making payments under the Head Start Act, of which $1,400,000,000 shall become available October 1, 2006, and remain available through September 30, 2007: *Provided further,* That $384,672,000 shall be for making payments under the Community Services Block Grant Act: *Provided further,* That not less than $7,242,000 shall be for section 680(3)(B) of the Community Services Block Grant Act: *Provided further,* That in addition to amounts provided herein, $8,000,000 shall be available from amounts available under section 241 of the Public Health Service Act to carry out the provisions of section 1110 of the Social Security Act: *Provided further,* That to the extent Community Services Block Grant funds are distributed as grant funds by a State to an eligible entity as provided under the Act, and have not been expended by such entity, they shall remain with such entity for carryover into the next fiscal year for expenditure by such entity consistent with program purposes: *Provided further,* That the Secretary shall establish procedures regarding the disposition of intangible property which permits grant funds, or intangible assets acquired with funds authorized under section 680 of the Community Services Block Grant Act, as amended, to become the sole property of such grantees after a period of not more than 12 years after the end of the grant for purposes and uses consistent with the original grant: *Provided further,* That funds appropriated for section 680(a)(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act, as amended, shall be available for financing construction and rehabilitation and loans or investments in private business enterprises owned by community development corporations: *Provided further,* That $75,000,000 is for a compassion capital fund to provide grants to charitable organizations to emulate model social service programs and to encourage research on the best practices of social service organizations: *Provided further,* That $14,879,000 shall be for activities authorized by the Help America Vote Act of 2002, of which $9,919,000 shall be for payments to States to promote access for voters with disabilities, and of which $4,960,000 shall be for payments to States for protection and advocacy systems for voters with disabilities: *Provided further,* That $110,000,000 shall be for making competitive grants to provide abstinence education (as defined by section 510(b)(2) of the Social Security Act) to adolescents, and for Federal costs of administering the grant: *Provided further,* That grants under the immediately preceding proviso shall be made only to public and private entities which agree that, with respect to an adolescent to whom the entities provide abstinence education under such grant, the entities will not provide to that adolescent any other education regarding sexual conduct, except that, in the case of an entity expressly required by law to provide health information or services the adolescent shall not be precluded from seeking health information or services from the entity in a different setting than the setting in which abstinence education was provided: *Provided further,* That within amounts provided herein for abstinence education for adolescents, up to $10,000,000 may be available for a national abstinence education campaign: *Provided further,* That in addition to amounts provided herein for abstinence education for adolescents, $4,500,000 shall be available from amounts available under section 241 of the Public Health Service Act to carry out evaluations (including longitudinal evaluations) of adolescent pregnancy prevention approaches: *Provided further,* That $2,000,000

shall be for improving the Public Assistance Reporting Information System, including grants to States to support data collection for a study of the system's effectiveness.

PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES

For carrying out section 436 of the Social Security Act, $305,000,000 and for section 437, $99,000,000.

PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION ASSISTANCE

For making payments to States or other non-Federal entities under title IV–E of the Social Security Act, $4,852,800,000.

For making payments to States or other non-Federal entities under title IV–E of the Act, for the first quarter of fiscal year 2007, $1,730,000,000.

For making, after May 31 of the current fiscal year, payments to States or other non-Federal entities under section 474 of title IV–E, for the last 3 months of the current fiscal year for unanticipated costs, incurred for the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary.

ADMINISTRATION ON AGING

AGING SERVICES PROGRAMS

For carrying out, to the extent not otherwise provided, the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended, and section 398 of the Public Health Service Act, $1,376,217,000, of which $5,500,000 shall be available for activities regarding medication management, screening, and education to prevent incorrect medication and adverse drug reactions.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

GENERAL DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided, for general departmental management, including hire of six sedans, and for carrying out titles III, XVII, XX, and XXI of the Public Health Service Act, the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission Act, and research studies under section 1110 of the Social Security Act $338,695,000, together with $5,851,000 to be transferred and expended as authorized by section 201(g)(1) of the Social Security Act from the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Supplemental Medical Insurance Trust Fund, and $39,552,000 from the amounts available under section 241 of the Public Health Service Act to carry out national health or human services research and evaluation activities: *Provided,* That of the funds made available under this heading for carrying out title XX of the Public Health Service Act, $13,120,000 shall be for activities specified under section 2003(b)(2), all of which shall be for prevention service demonstration grants under section 510(b)(2) of title V of the Social Security Act, as amended, without application of the limitation of section 2010(c) of said title XX: *Provided further,* That of this amount, $52,415,000 shall be for minority AIDS prevention and treatment activities; and $5,952,000 shall be to assist Afghanistan in the development of maternal and child health clinics, consistent with section 103(a)(4)(H) of the Afghanistan Freedom Support Act of 2002.

MEDICARE APPEALS

For expenses necessary for administrative law judges responsible for hearing cases under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (and related provisions of title XI of such Act), $60,000,000, to be transferred in appropriate part from the Federal Hospital Insurance and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Funds.

HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

For expenses necessary for the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, including grants, contracts and cooperative agreements for the development and advancement of an interoperable national health information technology infrastructure, $58,100,000: *Provided,* That in addition to amounts provided herein, $16,900,000 shall be available from amounts under section 241 of the Public Health Service Act to carry out health information technology network development.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of Inspector General, including the hire of passenger motor vehicles for investigations, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, $39,813,000: *Provided,* That of such amount, necessary sums are available for providing protective services to the Secretary and investigating non-payment of child support cases for which non-payment is a Federal offense under 18 U.S.C. 228.

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

For expenses necessary for the Office for Civil Rights, $31,682,000, together with not to exceed $3,314,000 to be transferred and expended as authorized by section 201(g)(1) of the Social Security Act from the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Supplemental Medical Insurance Trust Fund.

RETIREMENT PAY AND MEDICAL BENEFITS FOR COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

For retirement pay and medical benefits of Public Health Service Commissioned Officers as authorized by law, for payments under the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan and Survivor Benefit Plan, and for medical care of dependents and retired personnel under the Dependents' Medical Care Act (10 U.S.C. ch. 55), such amounts as may be required during the current fiscal year.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES EMERGENCY FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary to support activities related to countering potential biological, disease, nuclear, radiological and chemical threats to civilian populations, and to ensure a year-round influenza vaccine production capacity, the development and implementation of rapidly expandable influenza vaccine production technologies, and if determined necessary by the Secretary, the purchase of influenza vaccine, $183,589,000: *Provided,* That $120,000,000 of amounts available for influenza preparedness shall remain available until expended: *Provided further,* That, in addition to the amount above, $8,589,000 shall be transferred from amounts appropriated under the head ''Disease Control, Research, and Training'' for activities authorized by section 319F–2(a) of the Public Health Service Act to be utilized consistent with section 319F–2(c)(7)(B)(ii) of such Act.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. Funds appropriated in this title shall be available for not to exceed $50,000 for official reception and representation expenses when specifically approved by the Secretary.

SEC. 202. The Secretary shall make available through assignment not more than 60 employees of the Public Health Service to assist in child survival activities and to work in AIDS programs through and with funds provided by the Agency for International Development, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund or the World Health Organization.

SEC. 203. None of the funds appropriated under this Act may be used to implement section 399F(b) of the Public Health Service Act or section 1503 of the National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act of 1993, Public Law 103–43.

SEC. 204. None of the funds appropriated in this Act for the National Institutes of Health, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration shall be used to pay the salary of an individual, through a grant or other extramural mechanism, at a rate in excess of Executive Level I.

SEC. 205. None of the funds appropriated in this title for Head Start shall be used to pay the compensation of an individual, either as direct costs or any proration as an indirect cost, at a rate in excess of Executive Level II.

SEC. 206. None of the funds appropriated in this Act may be expended pursuant to section 241 of the Public Health Service Act, except for funds specifically provided for in this Act, or for other taps and assessments made by any office located in the Department of Health and Human Services, prior to the Secretary's preparation and submission of a report to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and of the House detailing the planned uses of such funds.

SEC. 207. Notwithstanding section 241(a) of the Public Health Service Act, such portion as the Secretary shall determine, but not more than 1.3 percent, of any amounts appropriated for programs authorized under said Act shall be made available for the evaluation (directly, or by grants or contracts) of the implementation and effectiveness of such programs.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 208. Not to exceed 1 percent of any discretionary funds (pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended) which are appropriated for the current fiscal year for the Department of Health and Human Services in this Act may be transferred between appropriations, but no such appropriation shall be increased by more than 3 percent by any such transfer: *Provided,* That an appropriation may be increased by up to an additional 2 percent subject to approval by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further,* That the transfer authority granted by this section shall be available only to meet emergency needs and shall not be used to create any new program or to fund any project or activity for which no funds are provided in this Act: *Provided further,* That the Appropriations Committees of both Houses of Congress are notified at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 209. The Director of the National Institutes of Health, jointly with the Director of the Office of AIDS Research, may transfer up to 3 percent among institutes and centers from the total amounts identified by these two Directors as funding for research pertaining to the human immunodeficiency virus: *Provided,* That the Congress is promptly notified of the transfer.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 210. Of the amounts made available in this Act for the National Institutes of Health, the amount for research related to the human immunodeficiency virus, as jointly determined by the Director of the National Institutes of Health and the Director of the Office of AIDS Research, shall be made available to the ''Office of AIDS Research'' account. The Director of the Office of AIDS Research shall transfer from such account amounts necessary to carry out section 2353(d)(3) of the Public Health Service Act.

SEC. 211. None of the funds appropriated in this Act may be made available to any entity under title X of the Public Health Service Act unless the applicant for the award certifies to the Secretary that it encourages family participation in the decision of minors to seek family planning services and that it provides counseling to minors on how

to resist attempts to coerce minors into engaging in sexual activities.

SEC. 212. None of the funds appropriated by this Act (including funds appropriated to any trust fund) may be used to carry out the Medicare Advantage program if the Secretary denies participation in such program to an otherwise eligible entity (including a Provider Sponsored Organization) because the entity informs the Secretary that it will not provide, pay for, provide coverage of, or provide referrals for abortions: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall make appropriate prospective adjustments to the capitation payment to such an entity (based on an actuarially sound estimate of the expected costs of providing the service to such entity's enrollees): *Provided further*, That nothing in this section shall be construed to change the Medicare program's coverage for such services and a Medicare Advantage organization described in this section shall be responsible for informing enrollees where to obtain information about all Medicare covered services.

SEC. 213. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no provider of services under title X of the Public Health Service Act shall be exempt from any State law requiring notification or the reporting of child abuse, child molestation, sexual abuse, rape, or incest.

SEC. 214. (a) Except as provided by subsection (e) none of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to withhold substance abuse funding from a State pursuant to section 1926 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x–26) if such State certifies to the Secretary of Health and Human Services by May 1, 2006, that the State will commit additional State funds, in accordance with subsection (b), to ensure compliance with State laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to individuals under 18 years of age.

(b) The amount of funds to be committed by a State under subsection (a) shall be equal to 1 percent of such State's substance abuse block grant allocation for each percentage point by which the State misses the retailer compliance rate goal established by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 1926 of such Act.

(c) The State is to maintain State expenditures in fiscal year 2006 for tobacco prevention programs and for compliance activities at a level that is not less than the level of such expenditures maintained by the State for fiscal year 2005, and adding to that level the additional funds for tobacco compliance activities required under subsection (a). The State is to submit a report to the Secretary on all fiscal year 2005 State expenditures and all fiscal year 2006 obligations for tobacco prevention and compliance activities by program activity by July 31, 2006.

(d) The Secretary shall exercise discretion in enforcing the timing of the State obligation of the additional funds required by the certification described in subsection (a) as late as July 31, 2006.

(e) None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to withhold substance abuse funding pursuant to section 1926 from a territory that receives less than $1,000,000.

SEC. 215. In order for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to carry out international health activities, including HIV/AIDS and other infectious disease, chronic and environmental disease, and other health activities abroad during fiscal year 2006, the Secretary of Health and Human Services—

(1) may exercise authority equivalent to that available to the Secretary of State in section 2(c) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2669(c)). The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall consult with the Secretary of State and relevant Chief of Mission to ensure that the authority provided in this section is exercised in a manner consistent with section 207 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3927) and other applicable statutes administered by the Department of State, and

(2) is authorized to provide such funds by advance or reimbursement to the Secretary of State as may be necessary to pay the costs of acquisition, lease, alteration, renovation, and management of facilities outside of the United States for the use of the Department of Health and Human Services. The Department of State shall cooperate fully with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to ensure that the Department of Health and Human Services has secure, safe, functional facilities that comply with applicable regulation governing location, setback, and other facilities requirements and serve the purposes established by this Act. The Secretary of Health and Human Services is authorized, in consultation with the Secretary of State, through grant or cooperative agreement, to make available to public or nonprofit private institutions or agencies in participating foreign countries, funds to acquire, lease, alter, or renovate facilities in those countries as necessary to conduct programs of assistance for international health activities, including activities relating to HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, chronic and environmental diseases, and other health activities abroad.

SEC. 216. The Division of Federal Occupational Health hereafter may utilize personal services contracting to employ professional management/administrative and occupational health professionals.

SEC. 217. (a) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director of the National Institutes of Health may use funds available under section 402(i) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 282(i)) to enter into transactions (other than contracts, cooperative agreements, or grants) to carry out research in support of the NIH Roadmap for Medical Research.

(b) PEER REVIEW.—In entering into transactions under subsection (a), the Director of the National Institutes of Health may utilize such peer review procedures (including consultation with appropriate scientific experts) as the Director determines to be appropriate to obtain assessments of scientific and technical merit. Such procedures shall apply to such transactions in lieu of the peer review and advisory council review procedures that would otherwise be required under sections 301(a)(3), 405(b)(1)(B), 405(b)(2), 406(a)(3)(A), 492, and 494 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 241, 284(b)(1)(B), 284(b)(2), 284a(a)(3)(A), 289a, and 289c).

SEC. 218. Funds which are available for Individual Learning Accounts for employees of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry may be transferred to ''Disease Control, Research, and Training,'' to be available only for Individual Learning Accounts: *Provided*, That such funds may be used for any individual full-time equivalent employee while such employee is employed either by CDC or ATSDR.

SEC. 219. $15,912,000 of the unobligated balance of the Health Professions Student Loan program authorized in subpart II, Federally-Supported Student Loan Funds, of title VII of the Public Health Service Act is rescinded.

This title may be cited as the ''Department of Health and Human Services Appropriations Act, 2006''.

TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

EDUCATION FOR THE DISADVANTAGED

For carrying out title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (''ESEA'') and section 418A of the Higher Education Act of 1965, $14,728,735,000, of which $7,144,426,000 shall become available on July 1, 2006, and shall remain available through September 30, 2007, and of which $7,383,301,000 shall become available on October 1, 2006, and shall remain available through September 30, 2007, for academic year 2006–2007: *Provided*, That $6,934,854,000 shall be available for basic grants under section 1124: *Provided further*, That up to $3,472,000 of these funds shall be available to the Secretary of Education on October 1, 2005, to obtain annually updated educational-agency-level census poverty data from the Bureau of the Census: *Provided further*, That $1,365,031,000 shall be available for concentration grants under section 1124A: *Provided further*, That $2,269,843,000 shall be available for targeted grants under section 1125: *Provided further*, That $2,269,843,000 shall be available for education finance incentive grants under section 1125A: *Provided further*, That $9,424,000 shall be available to carry out part E of title I: *Provided further*, That $10,000,000 shall be available for comprehensive school reform grants under part F of the ESEA.

IMPACT AID

For carrying out programs of financial assistance to federally affected schools authorized by title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, $1,240,862,000, of which $1,102,896,000 shall be for basic support payments under section 8003(b), $49,966,000 shall be for payments for children with disabilities under section 8003(d), $18,000,000 shall be for construction under section 8007 and shall remain available through September 30, 2007, $65,000,000 shall be for Federal property payments under section 8002, and $5,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for facilities maintenance under section 8008: *Provided*, That for purposes of computing the amount of a payment for an eligible local educational agency under section 8003(a) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. 7703(a)) for school year 2005–2006, children enrolled in a school of such agency that would otherwise be eligible for payment under section 8003(a)(1)(B) of such Act, but due to the deployment of both parents or legal guardians, or a parent or legal guardian having sole custody of such children, or due to the death of a military parent or legal guardian while on active duty (so long as such children reside on Federal property as described in section 8003(a)(1)(B)), are no longer eligible under such section, shall be considered as eligible students under such section, provided such students remain in average daily attendance at a school in the same local educational agency they attended prior to their change in eligibility status.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

For carrying out school improvement activities authorized by titles II, part B of title IV, part A of title V, parts A and B of title VI, and parts B and C of title VII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (''ESEA''); the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; section 203 of the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002; the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003; and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, $5,393,765,000, of which $3,805,882,000 shall become available on July 1, 2006, and remain available through September 30, 2007, and of which $1,435,000,000 shall become available on October 1, 2006, and shall remain available through September 30, 2007, for academic year 2006–2007: *Provided*, That $411,680,000 shall be for State assessments and related activities authorized under sections 6111 and 6112 of the ESEA: *Provided further*, That $56,825,000 shall be available to carry out section 203 of the Educational

Technical Assistance Act of 2002: *Provided further*, That $12,132,000 shall be available to carry out the Supplemental Education Grants program for the Federated States of Micronesia, and $6,051,000 shall be available to carry out the Supplemental Education Grants program for the Republic of the Marshall Islands: *Provided further*, That up to 5 percent of these amounts may be reserved by the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands to administer the Supplemental Education Grants programs and to obtain technical assistance, oversight and consultancy services in the administration of these grants and to reimburse the United States Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education for such services.

INDIAN EDUCATION

For expenses necessary to carry out, to the extent not otherwise provided, title VII, part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, $119,889,000.

INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT

For carrying out activities authorized by part G of title I, subpart 5 of part A and parts C and D of title II, parts B, C, and D of title V, and section 1504 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (''ESEA''), $708,522,000: *Provided*, That $36,981,000 shall be for subpart 2 of part B of title V: *Provided further*, That $127,000,000 shall be available to carry out part D of title V of the ESEA, of which $100,000,000 of the funds for subpart 1 shall be for competitive grants to local educational agencies, including charter schools that are local educational agencies, or States, or partnerships of (1) a local educational agency, a State, or both and (2) at least one non-profit organization to develop and implement performance-based teacher and principal compensation systems in high-need areas: *Provided further*, That such performance-based compensation systems must consider gains in student achievement, among other factors, and may reward educators who choose to work in hard-to-staff schools: *Provided further*, That up to $700,000 of the funds available under title V, part D, subpart 1 of the ESEA may be used for evaluation of the program carried out under the DC School Choice Incentive Act of 2003.

□ 1630

Mr. REGULA. 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. SHIMKUS) having assumed the chair, Mr. PUTNAM, Chairman 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. 3010), making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

LIMITATION ON AMENDMENTS DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3010, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole of H.R. 3010 pursuant to House Resolution 337, notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no further amendment to the bill, as amended, may be offered except pro forma amendments offered at any point in the reading by the chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees for the purpose of debate, the additional amendments specified in this order, and amendments en bloc specified in this order; it shall be in order at any time for the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations or a designee, after consultation with the ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations, to offer amendments en bloc as follows: Amendments en bloc shall consist of amendments that may be offered under this order, or germane modifications of any such amendment; such amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, except that modifications shall be reported, shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole; all points of order against such amendments en bloc are waived; the original proponent of an amendment included in such amendments en bloc may insert a statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD immediately before the disposition of the amendments en bloc.

The additional amendments specified in this order are as follows:

amendments printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and numbered 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 24;

an amendment by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) regarding coverage of certain drugs;

an amendment by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) regarding enforcement of certain compliance agreements;

an amendment by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) regarding grants under the Public Health Service Act;

an amendment by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) regarding designations of critical access hospitals;

an amendment by the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) regarding certain appointments to Federal advisory committees;

an amendment by the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) regarding United Airline pension plans;

an amendment by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) regarding the content or distribution of public telecommunications programs and services under the Communications Act of 1934;

an amendment by the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) regarding military recruiters;

an amendment by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) regarding funding levels and income tax rates;

an amendment by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) regarding special allowances under the Higher Education Act;

an amendment by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) regarding interoperable information technology;

an amendment by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) regarding funding for the Medicaid Commission;

amendments by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) regarding veterans programs of the Department of Labor, LIHEAP, section 503 of H.R. 3010, or a limitation on the use of certain education funds; and

an amendment by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) regarding funding for certain education programs.

Each additional amendment may be offered only by the Member named in this request or a designee, or by the Member who caused it to be printed in the RECORD or a designee, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except that the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations and the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies each may offer one pro forma amendment for the purpose of debate; and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole; and an amendment shall be considered to fit the description stated in this request if it addresses in whole or in part the object described.

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

Mr. OBEY. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I think the Members need to understand what is happening. As we indicated at the beginning of the debate, the gentleman from Ohio and I were trying to work things out so that we could finish debate on this bill this afternoon. That, unfortunately, has not been possible. We have had quite a bit of cooperation from some Members and quite a bit less from others. As a result, it appears that at this moment we still have 26 amendments to consider. As you know, there is an event which some Members of the Congress feel required to attend tonight, not the gentleman from Ohio and not the gentleman from Wisconsin, but because of that event, we are going to be required to begin voting very shortly. An offer was made to continue to debate this bill throughout that event, allowing Members to return afterwards, but that offer was not accepted, and so the problem we have now is that, despite our best efforts, we will be here tomorrow, and, if this unanimous consent agreement is accepted, we might be finished by 3 or 4 o'clock.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say one other thing. I would ask Members in the future if they are offering amendments

to any appropriations bill to please be attentive enough to what is going on on the floor so that we do not pass their amendment in the reading of the bill. If we do that, then there are misunderstandings, somebody thinks somebody else was double-crossed or misled, and we wind up with frayed tempers. The committee cannot be expected to take care of Members who do not take care of their own interests.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 337 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. 3010.

□ 1643

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. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, with Mr. TERRY (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, the bill was open for amendment from page 68, line 21, through page 69, line 19.

The Chair will describe the supplemental order of the House after disposing of unfinished business.

SEQUENTIAL VOTES POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order: amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS), an amendment offered by the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY).

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. OBEY

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The Clerk designated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 284, noes 140, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 305]

AYES—284

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boehlert
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Camp
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Case
Castle
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Drake
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Foley
Ford
Fossella
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (NY)
Kirk
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (KY)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Ney
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Platts
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Simmons
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Sweeney
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (PA)
Wexler
Whitfield
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)

NOES—140

Akin
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Beauprez
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Cannon
Cantor
Carter
Chabot
Chocola
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cox
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Deal (GA)
DeLay
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Dreier
Emerson
Everett
Feeney
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett (NJ)
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Gutknecht
Hall
Harris
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Issa
Istook
Jindal
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline
Knollenberg
Lewis (CA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
McCrery
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris
Mica
Miller, Gary
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Osborne
Otter
Oxley
Pearce
Pence
Pitts
Poe
Pombo
Price (GA)
Putnam
Radanovich
Regula
Rehberg
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Turner
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wicker
Wilson (SC)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—9

Bass
Boyd
Davis, Tom
Harman
Lewis (GA)
Meek (FL)
Ryan (OH)
Udall (NM)
Wilson (NM)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The Acting CHAIRMAN (Mr. TERRY) (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1706

Messrs. CALVERT, ROGERS of Michigan, HEFLEY, COLE of Oklahoma, and McKEON changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Messrs. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, MURPHY, and SODREL, and Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Chairman, on rollcall No. 305, the Obey Amendment, I was recorded as voting "no" and wished to vote "aye."

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. OWENS

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The Clerk designated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 206, noes 216, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 306]

AYES—206

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Case
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Ford
Frank (MA)
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
Kucinich
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Melancon
Menendez
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Platts
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shays
Sherman
Shimkus
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (PA)
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOES—216

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Beauprez
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boustany
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cox
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis (KY)
Davis, Jo Ann
Deal (GA)
DeLay
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Feeney
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Gutknecht
Hall
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, Sam
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
Latham
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marshall
McCaul (TX)
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Osborne
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Poe
Pombo
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schwarz (MI)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Sherwood
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Sodrel
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Taylor (NC)
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—11

Bass
Boyd
Davis, Tom
Harman
Jones (NC)
Lewis (GA)
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Reyes
Udall (NM)
Wilson (NM)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The Acting CHAIRMAN (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1714

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BRADLEY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The Clerk designated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 161, noes 262, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 307]

AYES—161

Akin
Barrow
Bean
Beauprez
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Boozman
Boren
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Camp
Cannon
Capito
Case
Chandler
Chocola
Cleaver
Coble
Cole (OK)
Cooper
Costello
Cubin
Davis (CA)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Drake
Duncan
Edwards
English (PA)
Etheridge
Everett
Feeney
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gordon
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hart
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Hoekstra
Hooley
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Inslee
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Jones (NC)
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kind
King (IA)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Kuhl (NY)
Langevin
Latham
Leach
Lewis (KY)
Lipinski
Lungren, Daniel E.
Manzullo
Markey
Matheson
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McIntyre
McMorris
Meehan
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Moore (KS)
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Musgrave
Neugebauer
Nussle
Osborne
Otter
Pastor
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Ramstad
Reichert
Renzi
Rohrabacher
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Simmons
Simpson
Smith (WA)
Souder
Stearns
Tanner
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Tierney
Udall (CO)
Upton
Walden (OR)
Wasserman Schultz
Weiner
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wu
Young (AK)

NOES—262

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Buyer
Calvert
Cantor
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Castle

Chabot
Clay
Clyburn
Conaway
Conyers
Costa
Cox
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frelinghuysen
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hall
Harris
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
King (NY)
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaHood
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Marchant
Marshall
Matsui
McCarthy
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McKeon
McKinney
McNulty
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (PA)
Pombo
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shaw
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Towns
Turner
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walsh
Wamp
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weldon (FL)
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wynn
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—10

Barrett (SC)
Bass
Boyd
Davis, Tom
Harman
Lewis (GA)
Meek (FL)
Reyes
Udall (NM)
Wilson (NM)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The Acting CHAIRMAN (Mr. TERRY) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1722

Mr. PORTER and Miss McMORRIS changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, no further amendment to the bill, as amended, may be offered except pro forma amendments offered at any point in the reading by the chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees for the purpose of debate, the additional amendments specified in the order, and amendments en bloc specified in this order.

It shall be in order at any time for the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations or a designee, after consultation with the ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations, to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments that may be offered under the order, or germane modifications of any such amendment. Such amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, except that modifications shall be reported, shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The original proponent of an amendment included in such amendments en bloc may insert a statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD immediately before the disposition of the amendments en bloc.

The additional amendments specified in the order are:

amendments printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and numbered 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 24;

an amendment by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) regarding coverage of certain drugs;

an amendment by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) regarding enforcement of certain compliance agreements;

an amendment by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) regarding grants under the Public Health Service Act;

an amendment by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) regarding designations of critical access hospitals;

an amendment by the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) regarding certain appointments to Federal advisory committees;

an amendment by the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) regarding United Airline pension plans;

an amendment by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) regarding the content or distribution of public telecommunications programs and services under the Communications Act of 1934;

an amendment by the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) regarding military recruiters;

an amendment by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) regarding funding levels and income tax rates;

an amendment by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) regarding special allowances under the Higher Education Act;

an amendment by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) regarding interoperable information technology;

an amendment by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) regarding funding for the Medicaid Commission;

amendments by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) regarding veterans programs of the Department of Labor, LIHEAP, section 503 of H.R. 3010, or a limitation on the use of certain education funds; and

an amendment by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) regarding funding for certain education programs.

Each additional amendment may be offered only by the Member named in the request or a designee, or by the Member who caused it to be printed in the RECORD or a designee, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except that the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations and the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies each may offer one pro forma amendment for the purpose of debate; and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word and yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JINDAL).

Mr. JINDAL. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to request that in lieu of offering my amendment, which will provide that a small portion of the $50 million in health information technology grants that are already allocated to the agency for health care research and quality are designated to small and rural hospitals to implement bedside bar-coded medication technology, that we agree to work together to achieve improvements in health care quality by implementing technology initiatives in our small and rural hospitals.

Mr. Chairman, quality of health care is the driving force for implementing technological changes in the administration of medications in hospitals. More than one-third of adverse drug events occur during the administration to patients.

The estimated cost of preventable errors in the inpatient setting is a staggering $2 billion annually. Hand-held devices that scan bar codes on medication bags, patient wristbands, and nurse badges can help eliminate those errors by tracking medical information and alerting hospital staff before a mistake is made.

In fact, a study by the University of Wisconsin shows that medication-dispensing errors can be reduced from 1.43 percent 0.13 percent with the use of bar code technology. Unfortunately, the penetration of these devices is small. Less than 10 percent of hospitals have implemented such systems.

The second driving force for implementing bar code technology is cost. The cost burden relative to the ever-rising demand for health care is not going to be met without implementing

technological advancements in health care organizations.

The United States spends over $1.2 trillion a year on health care. We could have a dramatic impact on reducing the amount of paperwork on the administrative side by using bar code technology that automatically captures patient data and eliminates some of the costly administrative burdens that take hospital staff away from patient care.

Moreover, the quality of life in rural America depends on having access to quality, affordable health care.

Mr. Chairman, will you agree to work with me to improve the quality of health care in small and rural hospitals as this bill moves forward in the legislative process?

□ 1730

Mr. REGULA. Yes. I thank the gentleman for bringing this important issue to my attention and to the attention of the House of Representatives.

I agree that the quality of health care in rural America is an important issue. And regrettably in a tight fiscal environment, some reductions have been made to rural health care programs. I look forward to working with the gentleman to help find funding streams from which to draw from to help improve the technology available to patients of health care providers in rural America.

Mr. JINDAL. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. REGULA. 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. MARCHANT) having assumed the chair, Mr. TERRY, Acting Chairman 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. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday on official business.

Had I been here, I would have cast the following votes: Roll Call 297, no. Roll Call 298, no. Roll Call 299, aye. Roll Call 300, no. Roll Call 301, no. Roll Call 302, aye. Roll Call 303, no. Roll Call 304, no.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2005, TO FILE A REPORT ON H.R. 2864, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure have until midnight, Friday, June 24, 2005, to file a report to accompany the bill H.R. 2864, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2567

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2567.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 415

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 415.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and I missed Roll Call vote 259. Had I been present I would have voted nay.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and I missed several votes. Had I been present I would have voted the following: Roll Call vote 293, aye. Roll Call vote 294, no. Roll Call vote 295, no. Roll Call vote 296, nay. Roll Call vote 297, no. Roll Call vote 298, no. Roll Call vote 299, aye. Roll Call vote 300, no. Roll Call vote 301, no. Roll call vote 302, aye. Roll Call vote 303, aye.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

SAVE PUBLIC BROADCASTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. CHANDLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, it was with alarm and a great sense of shock that I learned of the proposal to cut public broadcasting. Public broadcasting provides unbiased, in-depth coverage of public policy issues, exposure to the arts and culture, and quality family-friendly educational program.

Cutting funding for public broadcasting would damage the fabric of public discourse and citizen oversight, the very basis of representative government. By encouraging and informing public debate, public broadcasting makes a lasting contribution to community across the country and has historically enjoyed broad bipartisan support.

In Kentucky, Governors from both parties have worked with Kentucky Educational Television to create the largest PBS member network in America, serving 640,000 Kentuckians each week. The proposed cut that we debated today would have had a crippling impact on the ability of KET and other public broadcasters to inform the public and enrich the curriculum taught to school children in the district of every single Member of this body.

The question on everyone's minds was why?

As educators and parents across our Nation contend with inadequate resources for public schools, why drastically scale back support for programming that enhances basic education and provides many students, especially those in rural schools, with their only exposure to the arts, music and the humanities? As policymakers work to improve early childhood education, why eliminate support for good programs like Sesame Street and Clifford the Big Red Dog which improve reading and literacy skills for millions of children?

As parents express concern about indecent content in the shows that their children watch, why turn our back on the only station I can allow my three children, Lucie, Albert and Branham, to watch without supervision?

And as the public seeks refuge from an increasingly disappointing, and, in some cases, outright partisan media, why rescind support for highly respected objective news programs like the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer and Frontline?

Why cripple excellent radio stations like WUKY and WEKU in my district, jeopardizing shows like Morning Edition and All Things Considered?

Why indeed? I cannot answer such questions. The very notion of turning away from the future of public broadcasting is preposterous. I am fearful this is an administration effort to either censor public broadcasters or intimidate them into favorably reporting on the current administration. I sincerely hope not. Objectivity and facts know nothing of partisan politics.

The opponents of public broadcasting should take note, we will never stop fighting to preserve public broadcasting's independence. Public broadcasting is a true civic treasury, a shining example of what good government policy can do to improve our quality of life and strengthen the American Republic by engaging citizens in public affairs.

As Thomas Jefferson once said, Whenever people are well informed, they can be trusted with their own government.

Maintaining our commitment to public broadcasting will help keep the very people who elect us well informed, and in doing so, help to promote the integrity and proper functioning of this very body itself.

I applaud the Members of this body who rose to the defense of public broadcasting earlier today by voting to restore funding to a cherished American institution.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST STANLEY ''STOSH'' LAPINSKI

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to express condolences of a grateful Nation.

I rise to honor the life of Army Specialist Stanley, also known as Stosh, Lapinski. Specialist Lapinski was a recent victim of a terrorist roadside bomb.

During his last conversation before he was killed, Sergeant Lapinski told his parents not to worry about him and he would be fine.

While Stosh did not make it home from Iraq, I am honored to join the Lapinski family for his burial at Arlington National Cemetery next week.

A grateful Nation has brought him home to the honors and accolades he well deserves.

Nothing I could say today would heal the wounds of the Lapinski family. After speaking to them, however, I can tell you that they want their son's sacrifice to be remembered for the good and honorable actions he was doing in Iraq.

His service showed the true American spirit. While the Lapinskis lost their son, they know that he died preserving and fighting for democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Americans to join me in honoring a true American hero.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCAUL of Texas). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

MERCURY AND AUTISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I have been down here a lot talking about autism over the years and my committee had many hearings on the issue of autism. My grandson became autistic after receiving 9 shots in one day, 7 of which contained mercury, in a product called thimerosal. And he is doing better but it has been a very difficult time for me and my family.

I strongly believe that there is a link between the mercury that is in the thimerosal in the vaccines and children developing neurological disorders such as autism. In fact, according to a recent study released by collaboration of U.S. medical researchers from Johns Hopkins University, Northeastern University in Boston, and the University of Nebraska and Tufts University that was published in the Vancouver Sun in February of last year and was officially released in the April 2004 edition of the scientific journal Molecular Psychiatry, ''A recent review of vaccine-related adverse events in the U.S. found a significant correlation between shots containing thimerosal,'' i.e. mercury ''and autism.''

The study further concluded that the use of thimerosal-containing shots could account for the rising rates of autism since the early 1980s when more thimerosal-containing vaccinations were added to the government-mandated childhood vaccination schedule.

Scientific evidence aside, we have seen an increase from 1 in 10,000 children who are autistic to 1 in 166 since they started using thimerosal in many, many vaccines in the early eighties and children started getting more of these shots.

I am not against vaccinations but I do believe, as many of my colleagues, including the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) believe, that mercury should be taken out of all childhood vaccines and in fact all vaccines.

We need to ask ourselves one simple question: What is right? The answer I think is very clear. Get mercury out of all vaccinations.

In reality the answer that is given by far too many officials in our government, health agencies and some Members of Congress, sorry, we cannot help you, and the need to protect the pharmaceutical industry is so great, we cannot do much about it.

□ 1745

Some in my party keep talking about changing the law to protect the drug companies against so-called frivolous lawsuits, and we have to do something to help these families who had their children damaged by the mercury vaccines. I am against class action lawsuits in general. I am for tort reform, but we have got to do something to help these families.

We have tried to talk to the pharmaceutical industry about protecting them while at the same time changing the Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund in a way that will protect these families and help those who have been damaged, but so far we have gotten absolutely nowhere with them; and it is something I think we need to continue to work on.

Just recently, there was an article that was published in a magazine I normally do not read. It is called Rolling Stone, but this article was brought to my attention, and I think everybody in this body ought to read that article. It was written by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., somebody who I normally do not read, but I have to tell my colleagues it is a very well-written article. It goes into great detail and scientific research studies on mercury-connected mental disorders caused by the thimerosal in the mercury in these vaccinations.

I would submit to all my colleagues they really need to read this article. I am going to send a Dear Colleague out to all of my colleagues in the House and the Senate over the next couple of days. It is a fairly lengthy article, but it goes into how government officials met with pharmaceutical company officials and deliberately covered up the connection, deliberately covered up the connection between the thimerosal in vaccines and the problems that are being created, neurological problems that have been created in these children, including autism.

All of my colleagues ought to read this and realize that we have had a collaboration between health officials in our government and the pharmaceutical industry to protect themselves from class action lawsuits at the expense of these young kids and families who have been damaged by neurological disorders, including autism.

So I submit to my colleagues who may be in their offices or here tonight, please read this article. It is extremely important. I do not want to hurt the pharmaceutical industry. I would like to protect them from class action lawsuits; but at the same time, we need to change that Vaccine Injury Compensation Fund to take care of these kids that have been damaged and help their families.

DEADLY IMMUNITY

(By Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.)

JUNE 16, 2005.—In June 2000, a group of top government scientists and health officials gathered for a meeting at the isolated Simpsonwood conference center in Norcross, Ga. Convened by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the meeting was held at this Methodist retreat center, nestled in wooded farmland next to the Chattahoochee River, to ensure complete secrecy. The agency had issued no public announcement of the session—only private invitations to 52 attendees. There were high-level officials from the CDC and the Food and Drug Administration, the top vaccine specialist from the World Health Organization in Geneva, and representatives of every major vaccine manufacturer, including GlaxoSmithKline, Merck, Wyeth and Aventis Pasteur. All of the scientific data under discussion, CDC officials repeatedly reminded the participants, was strictly ''embargoed.'' There would be no

making photocopies of documents, no taking papers with them when they left.

The federal officials and industry representatives had assembled to discuss a disturbing new study that raised alarming questions about the safety of a host of common childhood vaccines administered to infants and young children. According to a CDC epidemiologist named Tom Verstraeten, who had analyzed the agency's massive database containing the medical records of 100,000 children, a mercury based preservative in the vaccines—thimerosal—appeared to be responsible for a dramatic increase in autism and a host of other neurological disorders among children. ''I was actually stunned by what I saw,'' Verstraeten told those assembled at Simpsonwood, citing the staggering number of earlier studies that indicate a link between thimerosal and speech delays, attention-deficit disorder, hyperactivity and autism. Since 1991, when the CDC and the FDA had recommended that three additional vaccines laced with the preservative be given to extremely young infants—in one case, within hours of birth—the estimated number of cases of autism had increased fifteen fold, from one in every 2,500 children to one in 166 children.

Even for scientists and doctors accustomed to confronting issues of life and death, the findings were frightening. ''You can play with this all you want,'' Dr. Bill Weil, a consultant for the American Academy of Pediatrics, told the group. The results ''are statistically significant.'' Dr. Richard Johnston, an immunologist and pediatrician from the University of Colorado whose grandson had been born early on the morning of the meeting's first day, was even more alarmed. ''My gut feeling?'' he said. ''Forgive this personal comment—I do not want my grandson to get a thimerosal-containing vaccine until we know better what is going on.''

But instead of taking immediate steps to alert the public and rid the vaccine supply of thimerosal, the officials and executives at Simpsonwood spent most of the next two days discussing how to cover up the damaging data. According to transcripts obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, many at the meeting were concerned about how the damaging revelations about thimerosal would affect the vaccine industry's bottom line.

''We are in a bad position from the standpoint of defending any lawsuits,'' said Dr. Robert Brent, a pediatrician at the Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Delaware. ''This will be a resource to our very busy plaintiff attorneys in this country.'' Dr. Bob Chen, head of vaccine safety for the CDC, expressed relief that'' given the sensitivity of the information, we have been able to keep it out of the hands of, let's say, less responsible hands.'' Dr. John Clements, vaccines advisor at the World Health Organization, declared flatly that the study ''should not have been done at all'' and warned that the results ''will be taken by others and will be used in ways beyond the control of this group. The research results have to be handled.''

In fact, the government has proved to be far more adept at handling the damage than at protecting children's health. The CDC paid the Institute of Medicine to conduct a new study to whitewash the risks of thimerosal, ordering researchers to ''rule out'' the chemical's link to autism. It withheld Verstraeten's findings, even though they had been slated for immediate publication, and told other scientists that his original data had been ''lost'' and could not be replicated. And to thwart the Freedom of Information Act, it handed its giant database of vaccine records over to a private company, declaring it off-limits to researchers. By the time Verstraeten finally published his study in 2003, he had gone to work for GlaxoSmithKline and reworked his data to bury the link between thimerosal and autism.

Vaccine manufacturers had already begun to phase thimerosal out of injections given to American infants—but they continued to sell off their mercury-based supplies of vaccines until last year. The CDC and FDA gave them a hand, buying up the tainted vaccines for export to developing countries and allowing drug companies to continue using the preservative in some American vaccines—including several pediatric flu shots as well as tetanus boosters routinely given to 11-year-olds.

The drug companies are also getting help from powerful lawmakers in Washington. Senate Majority Leader BILL FRIST, who has received $873,000 in contributions from the pharmaceutical industry, has been working to immunize vaccine makers from liability in 4,200 lawsuits that have been filed by the parents of injured children. On five separate occasions, FRIST has tried to seal all of the government's vaccine-related documents—including the Simpsonwood transcripts—and shield Eli Lilly, the developer of thimerosal, from subpoenas. In 2002, the day after Frist quietly slipped a rider known as the ''Eli Lilly Protection Act'' into a homeland security bill, the company contributed $10,000 to his campaign and bought 5,000 copies of his book on bioterrorism. Congress repealed the measure in 2003—but earlier this year, Frist slipped another provision into an anti-terrorism bill that would deny compensation to children suffering from vaccine-related brain disorders. ''The lawsuits are of such magnitude that they could put vaccine producers out of business and limit our capacity to deal with a biological attack by terrorists,'' says Andy Olsen, a legislative assistant to Frist.

Even many conservatives are shocked by the government's effort to cover up the dangers of thimerosal. Rep. Dan Burton, a Republican from Indiana, oversaw a three-year investigation of thimerosal after his grandson was diagnosed with autism. ''Thimerosal used as a preservative in vaccines is directly related to the autism epidemic,'' his House Government Reform Committee concluded in its final report. ''This epidemic in all probability may have been prevented or curtailed had the FDA not been asleep at the switch regarding a lack of safety data regarding injected thimerosal, a known neurotoxin.'' The FDA and other public-health agencies failed to act, the committee added, out of ''institutional malfeasance for self protection'' and ''misplaced protectionism of the pharmaceutical industry.''

The story of how government health agencies colluded with Big Pharmacy to hide the risks of thimerosal from the public is a chilling case study of institutional arrogance, power and greed. I was drawn into the controversy only reluctantly. As an attorney and environmentalist who has spent years working on issues of mercury toxicity, I frequently met mothers of autistic children who were absolutely convinced that their kids had been injured by vaccines. Privately, I was skeptical. I doubted that autism could be blamed on a single source, and I certainly understood the government's need to reassure parents that vaccinations are safe; the eradication of deadly childhood diseases depends on it. I tended to agree with skeptics like Rep. Henry Waxman, a Democrat from California, who criticized his colleagues on the House Government Reform Committee for leaping to conclusions about autism and vaccinations. ''Why should we scare people about immunization,'' Waxman pointed out at one hearing, ''until we know the facts?''

It was only after reading the Simpsonwood transcripts, studying the leading scientific research and talking with many of the nation's preeminent authorities on mercury that I became convinced that the link between thimerosal and the epidemic of childhood neurological disorders is real. Five of my own children are members of the Thimerosal Generation—those born between 1989 and 2003—who received heavy doses of mercury from vaccines. ''The elementary grades are overwhelmed with children who have symptoms of neurological or immune-system damage,'' Patti White, a school nurse, told the House Government Reform Committee in 1999. ''Vaccines are supposed to be making us healthier; however, in 25 years of nursing I have never seen so many damaged, sick kids. Something very, very wrong is happening to our children.'' More than 500,000 kids currently suffer from autism, and pediatricians diagnose more than 40,000 new cases every year. The disease was unknown until 1943, when it was identified and diagnosed among children born in the months after thimerosal was first added to baby vaccines in 1931.

Some skeptics dispute that the rise in autism is caused by thimerosal-tainted vaccinations. They argue that the increase is a result of better diagnosis—a theory that seems questionable at best, given that most of the new cases of autism are clustered within a single generation of children. ''If the epidemic is truly an artifact of poor diagnosis,'' scoffs Dr. Boyd Haley, one of the world's authorities on mercury toxicity, ''then where are all the 20-year-old autistics?'' Other researchers point out that Americans are exposed to a greater cumulative ''load'' of mercury than ever before, from contaminated fish to dental fillings, and suggest that thimerosal in vaccines may be only part of a much larger problem. It's a concern that certainly deserves far more attention than it has received—but it overlooks the fact that the mercury concentrations in vaccines dwarf other sources of exposure to our children.

What is most striking is the lengths to which many of the leading detectives have gone to ignore—and cover up—the evidence against thimerosal. From the very beginning, the scientific case against the mercury additive has been overwhelming. The preservative, which is used to stem fungi and bacterial growth in vaccines, contains ethylmercury, a potent neurotoxin. Truckloads of studies have shown that mercury tends to accumulate in the brains of primates and other animals after they are injected with vaccines—and that the developing brains of infants are particularly susceptible. In 1977, a Russian study found that adults exposed to much lower concentrations of ethylmercury than those given to American children still suffered brain damage years later. Russia banned thimerosal from children's vaccines 20 years ago, and Denmark, Austria, Japan, Great Britain and all the Scandinavian countries have since followed suit.

''You couldn't even construct a study that shows thimerosal is safe,'' says Haley, who heads the chemistry department at the University of Kentucky. ''It's just too darn toxic. If you inject thimerosal into an animal, its brain will sicken. If you apply it to living tissue, the cells die. If you put it in a petri dish, the culture dies. Knowing these things, it would be shocking if one could inject it into an infant without causing damage.''

Internal documents reveal that Eli Lilly, which first developed thimerosal, knew from the start that its product could cause damage—and even death—in both animals and humans. In 1930, the company tested thimerosal by administering it to 22 patients with terminal meningitis, all of whom died within weeks of being injected—a fact Lilly didn't

bother to report in its study declaring thimerosal safe. In 1935, researchers at another vaccine manufacturer, Pittman-Moore, warned Lilly that its claims about thimerosal's safety ''did not check with ours.'' Half the dogs Pittman injected with thimerosal-based vaccines became sick, leading researchers there to declare the preservative ''unsatisfactory as a serum intended for use on dogs.''

In the decades that followed, the evidence against thimerosal continued to mount. During the Second World War, when the Department of Defense used the preservative in vaccines on soldiers, it required Lilly to label it ''poison.'' In 1967, a study in Applied Microbiology found that thimerosal killed mice when added to injected vaccines. Four years later, Lilly's own studies discerned that thimerosal was ''toxic to tissue cells'' in concentrations as low as one part per million—100 times weaker than the concentration in a typical vaccine. Even so, the company continued to promote thimerosal as ''nontoxic'' and also incorporated it into topical disinfectants. In 1977, 10 babies at a Toronto hospital died when an antiseptic preserved with thimerosal was dabbed onto their umbilical cords.

In 1982, the FDA proposed a ban on over-the-counter products that contained thimerosal, and in 1991 the agency considered banning it from animal vaccines. But tragically, that same year, the CDC recommended that infants be injected with a series of mercury-laced vaccines. Newborns would be vaccinated for hepatitis B within 24 hours of birth, and 2-month-old infants would be immunized for haemophilus influenzae B and diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis.

The drug industry knew the additional vaccines posed a danger. The same year that the CDC approved the new vaccines, Dr. Maurice Hilleman, one of the fathers of Merck's vaccine programs, warned the company that 6-month-olds who were administered the shots would suffer dangerous exposure to mercury. He recommended that thimerosal be discontinued, ''especially when used on infants and children,'' noting that the industry knew of nontoxic alternatives. ''The best way to go,'' he added, ''is to switch to dispensing the actual vaccines without adding preservatives.''

For Merck and other drug companies, however, the obstacle was money. Thimerosal enables the pharmaceutical industry to package vaccines in vials that contain multiple doses, which require additional protection because they are more easily contaminated by multiple needle entries. The larger vials cost half as much to produce as smaller, single-dose vials, making it cheaper for international agencies to distribute them to impoverished regions at risk of epidemics. Faced with this ''cost consideration,'' Merck ignored Hilleman's warnings, and government officials continued to push more and more thimerosal-based vaccines for children. Before 1989, American preschoolers received 11 vaccinations—for polio, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis and measles-mumps-rubella. A decade later, thanks to federal recommendations, children were receiving a total of 22 immunizations by the time they reached first grade.

As the number of vaccines increased, the rate of autism among children exploded. During the 1990s, 40 million children were injected with thimerosal-based vaccines, receiving unprecedented levels of mercury during a period critical for brain development. Despite the well-documented dangers of thimerosal, it appears that no one bothered to add up the cumulative dose of mercury that children would receive from the mandated vaccines. ''What took the FDA so long to do the calculations?'' Peter Patriarca, director of viral products for the agency, asked in an e-mail to the CDC in 1999. ''Why didn't CDC and the advisory bodies do these calculations when they rapidly expanded the childhood immunization schedule?''

But by that time, the damage was done. Infants who received all their vaccines, plus boosters, by the age of six months were being injected with a total of 187 micrograms of ethylmercury—a level 40 percent greater than the EPA's limit for daily exposure to methylmercury, a related neurotoxin. Although the vaccine industry insists that ethylmercury poses little danger because it breaks down rapidly and is removed by the body, several studies—including one published in April by the National Institutes of Health—suggest that ethylmercury is actually more toxic to developing brains and stays in the brain longer than methylmercury. Under the expanded schedule of vaccinations, multiple shots were often administered on a single day: At two months, when the infant brain is still at a critical stage of development, children routinely received three inoculations that delivered 99 times the approved limit of mercury.

Officials responsible for childhood immunizations insist that the additional vaccines were necessary to protect infants from disease and that thimerosal is still essential in developing nations, which, they often claim, cannot afford the single-dose vials that don't require a preservative. Dr. Paul Offit, one of CDC's top vaccine advisors, told me, ''I think if we really have an influenza pandemic—and certainly we will in the next 20 years, because we always do—there's no way on God's earth that we immunize 280 million people with single-dose vials. There has to be multidose vials.''

But while public-health officials may have been well-intentioned, many of those on the CDC advisory committee who backed the additional vaccines had close ties to the industry. Dr. Sam Katz, the committee's chair, was a paid consultant for most of the major vaccine makers and shares a patent on a measles vaccine with Merck, which also manufactures the hepatitis B vaccine. Dr. Neal Halsey, another committee member, worked as a researcher for the vaccine companies and received honoraria from Abbott Labs for his research on the hepatitis B vaccine.

Indeed, in the tight circle of scientists who work on vaccines, such conflicts of interest are common. Rep. Burton says that the CDC ''routinely allows scientists with blatant conflicts of interest to serve on intellectual advisory committees that make recommendations on new vaccines,'' even though they have ''interests in the products and companies for which they are supposed to be providing unbiased oversight.'' The House Government Reform Committee discovered that four of the eight CDC advisors who approved guidelines for a rotavirus vaccine ''had financial ties to the pharmaceutical companies that were developing different versions of the vaccine.''

Offit, who shares a patent on one of the vaccines, acknowledged to me that he ''would make money'' if his vote eventually leads to a marketable product. But he dismissed my suggestion that a scientist's direct financial stake in CDC approval might bias his judgment. ''It provides no conflict for me,'' he insists. ''I have simply been informed by the process, not corrupted by it. When I sat around that table, my sole intent was trying to make recommendations that best benefited the children in this country. It's offensive to say that physicians and public-health people are in the pocket of industry and thus are making decisions that they know are unsafe for children. It's just not the way it works.''

Other vaccine scientists and regulators gave me similar assurances. Like Offit, they view themselves as enlightened guardians of children's health, proud of their ''partnerships'' with pharmaceutical companies, immune to the seductions of personal profit, besieged by irrational activists whose anti-vaccine campaigns are endangering children's health. They are often resentful of questioning. ''Science,'' says Offit, ''is best left to scientists.''

Still, some government officials were alarmed by the apparent conflicts of interest. In his e-mail to CDC administrators in 1999, Paul Patriarca of the FDA blasted federal regulators for failing to adequately scrutinize the danger posed by the added baby vaccines. ''I'm not sure there will be an easy way out of the potential perception that the FDA, CDC and immunization-policy bodies may have been asleep at the switch re: thimerosal until now,'' Patriarca wrote. The close ties between regulatory officials and the pharmaceutical industry, he added, ''will also raise questions about various advisory bodies regarding aggressive recommendations for use'' of thimerosal in child vaccines.

If federal regulators and government scientists failed to grasp the potential risks of thimerosal over the years, no one could claim ignorance after the secret meeting at Simpsonwood. But rather than conduct more studies to test the link to autism and other forms of brain damage, the CDC placed politics over science. The agency turned its database on childhood vaccines—which had been developed largely at taxpayer expense—over to a private agency, America's Health Insurance Plans, ensuring that it could not be used for additional research. It also instructed the Institute of Medicine, an advisory organization that is part of the National Academy of Sciences, to produce a study debunking the link between thimerosal and brain disorders. The CDC ''wants us to declare, well, that these things are pretty safe,'' Dr. Marie McCormick, who chaired the IOM's Immunization Safety Review Committee, told her fellow researchers when they first met in January 2001. ''We are not ever going to come down that [autism] is a true side effect'' of thimerosal exposure. According to transcripts of the meeting, the committee's chief staffer, Kathleen Stratton, predicted that the IOM would conclude that the evidence was ''inadequate to accept or reject a causal relation'' between thimerosal and autism. That, she added, was the result ''Walt wants''—a reference to Dr. Walter Orenstein, director of the National Immunization Program for the CDC.

For those who had devoted their lives to promoting vaccination, the revelations about thimerosal threatened to undermine everything they had worked for. ''We've got a dragon by the tail here,'' said Dr. Michael Kaback, another committee member. ''The more negative that [our] presentation is, the less likely people are to use vaccination, immunization—and we know what the results of that will be. We are kind of caught in a trap. How we work our way out of the trap, I think is the charge.''

Even in public, federal officials made it clear that their primary goal in studying thimerosal was to dispel doubts about vaccines. ''Four current studies are taking place to rule out the proposed link between autism and thimerosal,'' Dr. Gordon Douglas, then-director of strategic planning for vaccine research at the National Institutes of Health, assured a Princeton University gathering in May 2001. ''In order to undo the harmful effects of research claiming to link the [measles] vaccine to an elevated risk of autism, we need to conduct and publicize additional studies to assure parents of safety.'' Douglas

formerly served as president of vaccinations for Merck, where he ignored warnings about thimerosal's risks.

In May of last year, the Institute of Medicine issued its final report. Its conclusion: There is no proven link between autism and thimerosal in vaccines. Rather than reviewing the large body of literature describing the toxicity of thimerosal, the report relied on four disastrously flawed epidemiological studies examining European countries, where children received much smaller doses of thimerosal than American kids. It also cited a new version of the Verstraeten study, published in the journal Pediatrics, that had been reworked to reduce the link between thimerosal and autism. The new study included children too young to have been diagnosed with autism and overlooked others who showed signs of the disease. The IOM declared the case closed and—in a startling position for a scientific body—recommended that no further research be conducted.

The report may have satisfied the CDC, but it convinced no one. Rep. David Weldon, a Republican physician from Florida who serves on the House Government Reform Committee, attacked the Institute of Medicine, saying it relied on a handful of studies that were ''fatally flawed'' by ''poor design'' and failed to represent ''all the available scientific and medical research.'' CDC officials are not interested in an honest search for the truth, Weldon told me, because ''an association between vaccines and autism would force them to admit that their policies irreparably damaged thousands of children. Who would want to make that conclusion about themselves?''

Under pressure from Congress, parents and a few of its own panel members, the Institute of Medicine reluctantly convened a second panel to review the findings of the first. In February, the new panel, composed of different scientists, criticized the earlier panel for its lack of transparency and urged the CDC to make its vaccine database available to the public.

So far, though, only two scientists have managed to gain access. Dr. Mark Geier, president of the Genetics Center of America, and his son, David, spent a year battling to obtain the medical records from the CDC. Since August 2002, when members of Congress pressured the agency to turn over the data, the Geiers have completed six studies that demonstrate a powerful correlation between thimerosal and neurological damage in children. One study, which compares the cumulative dose of mercury received by children born between 1981 and 1985 with those born between 1990 and 1996, found a ''very significant relationship'' between autism and vaccines. Another study of educational performance found that kids who received higher doses of thimerosal in vaccines were nearly three times as likely to be diagnosed with autism and more than three times as likely to suffer from speech disorders and mental retardation. Another soon-to-be-published study shows that autism rates are in decline following the recent elimination of thimerosal from most vaccines.

As the federal government worked to prevent scientists from studying vaccines, others have stepped in to study the link to autism. In April, reporter Dan Olmsted of UPI undertook one of the more interesting studies himself. Searching for children who had not been exposed to mercury in vaccines—the kind of population that scientists typically use as a ''control'' in experiments—Olmsted scoured the Amish of Lancaster County, Penn., who refuse to immunize their infants. Given the national rate of autism, Olmsted calculated that there should be 130 autistics among the Amish. He found only four. One had been exposed to high levels of mercury from a power plant. The other three—including one child adopted from outside the Amish community—had received their vaccines.

At the state level, many officials have also conducted in-depth reviews of thimerosal. While the Institute of Medicine was busy whitewashing the risks, the Iowa Legislature was carefully combing through all of the available scientific and biological data. ''After three years of review, I became convinced there was sufficient credible research to show a link between mercury and the increased incidences in autism,'' says state Sen. Ken Veenstra, a Republican who oversaw the investigation. ''The fact that Iowa's 700 percent increase in autism began in the 1990s, right after more and more vaccines were added to the children's vaccine schedules, is solid evidence alone.'' Last year, Iowa became the first state to ban mercury in vaccines, followed by California. Similar bans are now under consideration in 32 other states.

But instead of following suit, the FDA continues to allow manufacturers to include thimerosal in scores of over-the-counter medications as well as steroids and injected collagen. Even more alarming, the government continues to ship vaccines preserved with thimerosal to developing countries—some of which are now experiencing a sudden explosion in autism rates. In China, where the disease was virtually unknown prior to the introduction of thimerosal by U.S. drug manufacturers in 1999, news reports indicate that there are now more than 1.8 million autistics. Although reliable numbers are hard to come by, autistic disorders also appear to be soaring in India, Argentina, Nicaragua and other developing countries that are now using thimerosal-laced vaccines. The World Health Organization continues to insist thimerosal is safe, but it promises to keep the possibility that it is linked to neurological disorders ''under review.''

I devoted time to study this issue because I believe that this is a moral crisis that must be addressed. If, as the evidence suggests, our public-health authorities knowingly allowed the pharmaceutical industry to poison an entire generation of American children, their actions arguably constitute one of the biggest scandals in the annals of American medicine. ''The CDC is guilty of incompetence and gross negligence,'' says Mark Blaxill, vice president of Safe Minds, a nonprofit organization concerned about the role of mercury in medicines. ''The damage caused by vaccine exposure is massive. It's bigger than asbestos, bigger than tobacco, bigger than anything you've ever seen.'' It's hard to calculate the damage to our country—and to the international efforts to eradicate epidemic diseases—if Third World nations come to believe that America's most heralded foreign-aid initiative is poisoning their children. It's not difficult to predict how this scenario will be interpreted by America's enemies abroad. The scientists and researchers—many of them sincere, even idealistic—who are participating in efforts to hide the science on thimerosal claim that they are trying to advance the lofty goal of protecting children in developing nations from disease pandemics. They are badly misguided. Their failure to come clean on thimerosal will come back horribly to haunt our country and the world's poorest populations.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my time out of order.

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

There was no objection.

THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING—PROVIDING INDEPENDENT FAMILY PROGRAMMING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and its contributions to our shared American experience.

On November 7, 1967, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967, creating the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and bringing about the genesis of one of our Nation's most cherished educational and cultural institutions.

Before signing the bill, President Johnson presented his vision for this new public communications enterprise, stating that the ''time had come to enlist the computer and the satellite, as well as the television and the radio, and to enlist them in the cause of education.''

Since Congress created this not-for-profit entity, it has become one of the most relied-upon sources of news and educational programming for all Americans, especially for our children.

Mr. Speaker, as the father of two small children, I can speak directly to the love that our kids have for educational programming, such as Sesame Street, Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, Arthur, Clifford the Big Red Dog. They have captured the imaginations and challenged the minds of our children for decades. In fact, these programs are also a hit with parents, and often present the only alternative to inappropriate daytime programming that is available on network and for-profit television stations.

The mission of the Public Broadcasting Act was realized when the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, CPB, created the nonprofit Public Broadcasting Service in 1969 and the National Public Radio in 1970. American families now had television and radio stations they could call their own.

Much like the Chamber in which we stand, the people's House, these airwaves and programming supported by the CPB also belong to the individuals we have the privilege to represent in Congress, and I have heard from hundreds of my constituents who have shared personal stories of the impact of PBS and NPR on their lives and the lives of their children.

KPCC, for example, in my district is just one of the many superb affiliates of NPR around the Nation. My constituents rely on KPCC, as they do on public broadcasting generally for news, informational programming, and educational programming for their kids;

and I applaud the significant contributions they have made and others and the individual public broadcasting stations.

The legislation brought before the House today would have effectively gutted this fine institution of critical funding necessary to accomplish the vision laid out by President Johnson. The base bill would have cut a staggering $100 million, stripping the Corporation for Public Broadcasting of one-quarter of its funding.

Critics maintain that the CPB has strayed from its mandate of independence and impartiality. In fact, polls show a large majority of Americans think that the news and information programming is more trustworthy, more independent than that of network and cable programming. A majority of viewers also think PBS is a valuable educational and cultural resource. A poll commissioned by the board of directors confirmed that 48 percent of those surveyed believe that funding for public broadcasting should be increased, not decreased.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, am concerned about the independence of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting; and today, I reluctantly join with many of my colleagues in calling on the President to ask for the resignation of chairman of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting Kenneth Tomlinson. Mr. Tomlinson has actively sought to undermine, underfund, and ultimately dismantle the very organization he has been appointed to lead.

As the leader of CPB, Mr. Tomlinson should be advocating for the continued vitality of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Instead, he seems bent on politicizing its content, undermining the objectivity of its news analysis, and turning it into yet another partisan organ. Mr. Tomlinson has withheld publicly funded polls that show strong support for public broadcasting, and more recently, expressed his desire to nominate Patricia Harrison as the new president.

The nomination of Ms. Harrison, a former cochair of the Republican National Committee, further calls into question the impartiality of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and flies in the face of the mandate of President Johnson that the corporation was to be carefully guarded from government and party control. Mr. Tomlinson, regrettably, has not proved to be a good steward of the immense public trust placed in his charge.

Mr. Speaker, on that day in 1967, President Johnson had high hopes for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and said, ''Today we rededicate a part of the airwaves, which belong to all the people, and we dedicate them for the enlightenment of all the people.''

Today, I am proud we have beaten back this assault on public broadcasting and taken an important step to renew our commitment to public broadcasting and restore the funding and independence necessary to ensure that our children and their children will continue to enjoy quality, independent public broadcasting.

SUPPORTING CLEAR LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, next week I will introduce legislation that received wide bipartisan support in the last Congress, the Clear Law Enforcement for Removal of Criminal Illegal Aliens Act, better known as CLEAR.

This bill seeks to address a major crisis in our country: the lack of enforcement of our immigration laws.

The CLEAR Act makes clear that State and local law enforcement can and should help Federal agencies enforce these laws.

We have no problem asking local law enforcement to help enforce Federal drug laws. We have no problem asking local agencies to help in Federal manhunts for murderers and terrorists. We even have no problem with deputy and police enforcing Federal laws against cigarette sales to minors.

Yet when the issue of immigration enforcement arises, so do the squeals that immigration is a Federal responsibility and should not be pushed off on the States. They are right. It is a Federal responsibility. The problem is that the Federal Government is not taking their responsibility very serious.

Mr. Speaker, the catastrophe of illegal immigration has already been pushed off on the States by the Federal Government flatly refusing to do its duty of enforcing the law. Our police and deputies spend billions combating illegal immigrant crime, including organized foreign gangs. This could have been prevented by vigorous Federal enforcement at the border.

Our local jails are full of criminal illegal aliens, costing the States billions per year. This could have been prevented by vigorous Federal enforcement at the border.

Our local hospital emergency rooms are full of indigent illegal aliens who drive up the cost of health care to a point that hardworking Americans can basically no longer afford it. This could have been prevented by vigorous Federal enforcement at the border.

Our local schools are filled with children of illegal immigrants who pay little or no local taxes, but drive up property taxes for hardworking American families to cover the skyrocketing costs of bilingual and special education. This could have been prevented by vigorous Federal enforcement at our borders.

Our police routinely find illegals, including those with criminal records. They call the Federal Government, which does nothing other than force our police to release these criminals back on to our streets. There are about 500,000 of them out there.

This has got to stop, and this is a fair bill, and it is intended to stop that.

Washington had its chance to enforce the law, and it has failed the Nation. Now it is time we stop putting obstacles in the way of our police, deputies, and State patrol helping to get this job done.

Under the CLEAR Act, local law enforcement is authorized to not only arrest illegal aliens but to transport them to the nearest Federal detention centers, including across State lines; and if DHS does not pick them up immediately, under CLEAR, the Federal Government pays the tab for that, as appropriate.

CLEAR authorizes new Federal resources to support local law enforcement, including immigration law training, 20 new Federal detention centers and more if they are needed.

The CLEAR Act makes illegal immigration a criminal offense, not just a civil offense. Repeat offenders will face serious jail time, not a free ride back to the border.

Mr. Speaker, next week this House will have a chance to start getting serious about fighting our national crisis of illegal immigration. I urge every Member in this House to join us as an original cosponsor.

SMART SECURITY AND THE NEED FOR AN IRAQ PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to take a good hard look at the role the United States is playing in Iraq and whether it is in our national interests to maintain a military presence there.

We need to acknowledge the fact that Iraq's insurgency is growing in strength, not diminishing. It is the very presence of our 150,000-or-so American troops in Iraq that unites the growing collection of insurgent forces.

Since our military presence encourages further fighting, this war will continue as long as the United States troops remain in Iraq, appearing to be occupiers of their country. That is why Congress must accept that we cannot possibly be successful through military means alone.

During consideration of the defense authorization bill on May 25 for fiscal year 2006, I offered an amendment urging the President to develop a plan for the withdrawal of troops from Iraq. Surprisingly, this is the first time the House formally debated the possibility of withdrawal from Iraq, and that was over a 2-year period. While my amendment was defeated, it is clear that Congress is starting to get serious about the need to end the war in Iraq. 128 Members, including five Republicans, voted for this important amendment, but there is much more work to be done.

The Iraq war has now raged on for more than 2 years, and we are no closer

to winning this conflict than we were when President Bush declared an end to major combat operations under an arrogant banner declaring ''Mission Accomplished.''

Despite this lack of progress, the war has exacted a deeply troubling human and financial toll. In just over 2 years of war, almost 1,800 American soldiers and an estimated 25,000 innocent Iraqi bystanders have been killed. The Pentagon lists the number of Americans wounded as over 12,000; but that does not take into consideration the invisible wounds many of our soldiers have brought home, the painful mental trauma they have contracted from months and years of fighting, watching their friends being killed or wounded by the insurgents, and killing and wounding others themselves, a lot to live with when they finally come home.

□ 1800

When accounting for these psychological injuries, the number of wounded jumps to more than 40,000 soldiers. Given what is at stake here, do the American people not deserve a plan? Do our brave men and women who are selflessly sacrificing their time and energy, not to mention their arms, legs and lives for this war, not deserve a plan? And it would be helpful for their families to know what the plan is in Iraq.

We have asked the President to address Iraq's lack of security. We have asked him to come up with a plan for ending the war. He has not; so we will.

After we bring the troops home, we do have a plan. There is a plan. It is a plan that would secure America for the future, the SMART Security resolution, which I recently reintroduced with the support of 50 of my House colleagues. SMART is Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism for the 21st Century, and it will help address the threats we face as a Nation. SMART Security will ensure America's security by reaching out and engaging the Iraqi people.

Instead of rushing off to war for the wrong reasons, SMART Security encourages the United States to work with other nations to address the most pressing global problems. Because not every international problem has a military answer, SMART Security will prevent terrorism by addressing the very conditions that give rise to terrorism in the very first place: poverty, despair, resource scarcity and lack of proper education, as an example.

SMART Security also encourages democracy building, human rights education, conflict resolution through nonmilitary means, educational opportunities, and strengthening civil programs in the developing world. These are the best ways to encourage democracy in countries like Iraq, not through wars that cost thousands of unnecessary deaths and cost billions of dollars. The SMART approach is the best way to reach out to Iraq. It is time we stopped putting all of our eggs in the military basket and started getting smart about our national security.

STOP COUNTERFEIT POLLS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McCAUL of Texas). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I want to call attention to the June 25 Bulgarian and July 3 Albanian parliamentary elections. Voters in these developing economies deserve the opportunity to exercise the freedoms that were unavailable to them for so long.

As the world's greatest democracy, we should strive to foster the ideals of freedom in these developing democracies. Free and fair elections are the first essential step in this long and arduous process.

As a member of the International Anti-Piracy Caucus, I am a proud supporter of international intellectual property protection.

As Albania and Bulgaria move through the election process, they should understand that part of the process of becoming free is making sure that applicable laws are in force both locally and internationally. Failure to punish those that disregard laws will mean that these countries will not become accepted players on the world stage for some time to come.

Part of the process for providing free and fair elections is respecting and enforcing the intellectual property rights of American businesses assisting in these elections.

Therefore, I call upon the sitting governments of these two nations, including their justice ministries and central election commissions, to condemn the distribution of counterfeit Gallup polls that are being used to distort the democratic process during their parliamentary elections.

Promotion of democracy is one of the core pillars of our national security policy. Bulgaria and Albania are both important allies in the war on terror. It is essential that the elected leadership of these two great nations remain committed to defeating, preserving, and extending freedom and the rule of law. The citizens of these great countries have already made substantial progress in the fight for democracy. It is unfortunate, however, that a small segment of society has chosen to act nefariously in an attempt to distort the election process by misuse of the Gallup name.

George H. Gallup, the founder of the Gallup Poll, felt that providing a voice to all people around the world would strengthen societies to help ensure accountability of elected representatives. Unfortunately, Mr. Gallup's mission is being tainted by a group of counterfeiters in both Bulgaria and Albania.

These organizations are conducting electoral polling under the Gallup name without permission or license, while all the while receiving American support through USAID. These actions constitute a clear violation of Gallup's intellectual property rights and, perhaps more importantly, taint the reputation that Gallup has rightfully earned during its 70 years of existence.

While it is true that Gallup is a major employer with its headquarters in my district, Gallup has been active across the country during their existence, providing polling in every Presidential election and several senatorial and congressional elections during that time period. Gallup might employ a number of my constituents, but it is a strong national company with a solid international reputation as well. To see this reputation tarnished with the aid of taxpayer dollars is not only a serious mismanagement of government funds but reprehensible conduct as well.

Mr. Speaker, USAID ought to provide better oversight of the work conducted under their name overseas, and I have called upon them to provide an explanation regarding this matter. Additionally, Congress should do all it can to help ensure that American companies and American intellectual property rights are protected overseas without the willful and wanton negligence of American governmental institutions.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in this call for free and fair elections in Bulgaria and Albania, and support my request to stop the counterfeit polls from being distributed.

IRAQ SOLUTION LIES WITH UNITED NATIONS INVOLVEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McHENRY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to amplify on the Iraq proposal that I made last night in the House. I believe the solution in Iraq lies with the United Nations and that it is time for direct U.N. involvement to replace U.S. forces and to allow our troops to return home safely and in an orderly way.

The evidence is mounting that America's current approach in Iraq will not work. When was the last time anybody heard the word ''coalition'' to describe the military activity in Iraq? The world largely perceives the United States as going it alone in Iraq. Furthermore, large portions of the Arab world believe in the insurgency rhetoric that America is an occupier in Iraq for selfish oil reasons and not to serve the needs of the Iraqi people.

Administration claims about the insurgency do not square with the news coming out of Iraq every day or with the sober assessment by America's best military leaders. U.S. and Iraq civilian casualties are mounting. That is what Americans see every night on the news. What Americans want is a sober assessment of Iraq that reflects reality and

for the Congress and the administration to work together to come up with a solution. Americans are sick of the politics. They want a solution that will protect U.S. soldiers and make what they are fighting and dying for, and what has taken untold numbers of Iraqi lives, worth the enormous sacrifice.

We need a new strategy in Iraq. We need a new plan. This one is not working. The more the administration denies it, the more time we waste and the more lives we lose because we do not do what we need to do. We do not need permanent bases in Iraq. Every day that goes by with the current war scenario, this country loses credibility around the world.

Every concrete block that we lay is sowing seeds of mistrust, anger, and resentment that will affect us for generations. Consider that we are still dealing with Vietnam 30 years later trying to establish relationships with them. It is time to involve the rest of the world in Iraq and stop anyone from calling this is the U.S.-Iraq war. Only the United Nations has the international imprimatur to lead an international coalition in Iraq. Only the United Nations can credibly install a peace-enforcing force in Iraq that is seen as such by the entire world.

We did a similar thing under UNTAC in Cambodia. We have done it before. I have never supported this war, but I would gratefully support a Republican resolution to get the U.N. into Iraq. This would be a positive development to safeguard U.S. ground forces and send a positive signal to a skeptical Arab world that America's intentions are not what the insurgents claim them to be.

We need a bold stroke in Iraq if we are to succeed in stopping the loss of lives and spread of terror. We cannot just fight insurgents in the streets day by day if there is any hope of peace in Iraq. The world has to believe we are only there to benefit Iraq. As long as the war is called and perceived as the U.S.-Iraq war, the insurgents have new ammunition to recruit, terrorize, maim, and kill.

We have an opportunity to work together as Americans, not Democrats and Republicans, but to create a plan that creates a new role for the U.S. in Iraq, contributing to the U.N. peace-enforcing force. We have an opportunity to safeguard American lives we are replacing, not withdrawing U.S. soldiers from Iraq.

Today, too many military experts in our country quietly say that the Iraq war could go on for the indefinite future. David Hackworth, the most decorated Vietnam veteran, said we are going to be there 30 years. We cannot afford the price in dollars, and more importantly, in loss or shattered lives for our soldiers.

The way to win the war in Iraq is to allow the world, not the United States, to lead the war in Iraq. Since the Republicans are the majority party in the House, I willingly submit my proposal to the Republicans to call their own, get the President on board, turn it into legislation that we can pass by unanimous consent.

The best military option for the United States in Iraq is to act under the command and direction of the United Nations. U.N. leadership offers the best chance for a lasting peace and the fastest orderly way for American troops to return home.

Mr. Speaker, please put politics aside and let us act together. Yesterday, 82 members of the Iraq parliament submitted a letter to their speakers saying get the troops out of Baghdad. We ought to be working with them and make it happen, but it will take both Republicans and Democrats to do it.

THE NEED FOR THE RETURN OF FEDERALISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the 10th amendment states: ''The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited to it by the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.''

These historic words, penned by our Founding Fathers, some of the most ingenious political minds the world has ever known, set forth an important principle: the Federal Government may exercise specific powers that are listed in the Constitution, and the States and the people may exercise all remaining powers.

Unfortunately, as the authors of the Constitution have long since passed, so too have many of their ideals for our system of government, from an ever-expanding Federal Government that for decades has crept into many facets of once locally controlled areas, to a Federal judiciary that in many instances completely ignores the intent of federalism, all resulting in a Federal Government that has become wildly inefficient and a hemorrhaging bureaucracy.

In an effort to draw attention to this nationally destructive trend, I have recently founded the Congressional States and Community Rights Caucus, which will be a forum to work to ensure that the Federal Government is operating under the intent of the 10th amendment of our Bill of Rights. I look forward to working with my like-minded colleagues who share the sentiment that the Federal Government has taken authority over too many areas from State governments and are operating them in an inefficient manner.

This is not a new concept. It goes back over some last 10 years and even back further than that. Our Founders were very clear when establishing our system of government. They intended to set up a Republic of sovereign States capable of self-governing with a small central government with clearly defined, limited powers.

Our Constitution must be thought of as a social contract between people and the government. We must think of the most important document as a trade where our forefathers gave up certain specific rights in exchange for limited services specified, most notably, for defense of the people and the Nation.

□ 1815

When we refer to federalism, we refer to only powers specifically listed in the Constitution are to be administered by the Federal Government. All others are to be left to the States, local government, or to the people themselves. James Madison wrote this in Federal paper No. 45: The powers delegated to the Federal Government are few and defined, he said. The powers reserved to the several States will extend to all the objects which, in the ordinary course of affairs, concern the lives, liberties and properties of the people, and the internal order, improvement and prosperity of the State.

Of course, we know we have gone much further than this now. Throughout the last few generations especially, the intent of the 10th amendment of a limited government has been shredding away. Over the years in many areas, national crises and otherwise, many of the government's powers have grown on the Federal level, particularly in social service areas, through a centralized Federal Government.

Limited government was a gift to the American people. More accurately, it was got by blood, sweat, and tears that were shed by our forefathers who sought to break away from their mother country, Great Britain, and also by subsequent generations who worked for this great experiment of personal liberty.

There are those who support a big government, who have no faith in the people whatsoever to care for themselves, who feel a few should provide for the many. They believe that high taxes and high spending is the most efficient way to provide services. Of course, we know that history proves them not true. Those who support a big government might contend that those like myself are really antigovernment, but that is not true as well. Our Federal Government serves an important purpose, but our Nation is better off when that purpose is limited.

Mr. Speaker, those who support federalism as I do, those who strictly adhere to the 10th amendment, know that a large, burdensome, bureaucratic government is not the most efficient way to get the services to the American people. You see, State taxpayers and Federal taxpayers are not two separate groups of people but they are individuals who are taxed twice.

Think about that for a moment. Americans from all around the country send their money to Washington only for Washington to lose some of it, waste some it, and spend some of it on

areas and ways that you and I might not agree with. In fact, you have taxpayers from one State who are subsidizing services for taxpayers in another State. For instance, in my State of New Jersey, I know that for every dollar that we send to Washington, we only receive back 54 cents from the Federal Government. That does not make sense to me and I know that is not fair.

Our recent leaders have tried to right this position of our Federal Government back to where our Founding Fathers had it. In his first inaugural address in 1981, President Reagan said, ''It is my intention to curb the size and influence of the Federal establishment and to demand recognition of the distinction between the powers granted to the Federal Government and those reserved to the States or to the people. All of us need to be reminded that the Federal Government did not create the States; the States created the Federal Government.''

In light of the looming fiscal crisis of our Federal budget and the domestic programs that are simply not reaching their intended goals, I believe it is imperative to highlight the need to return to a system intended under the reserve clause of the Constitution. I invite and encourage my colleagues to join the caucus and help us return control to those who know what is best, to the people. All of our constituents deserve the most efficient and effective government, a government in accord with our Constitution.

PRISONER ABUSE INVESTIGATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCHENRY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the call for an independent commission to review accusations of abuse of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and other places continues to grow. This is not a partisan issue. Members from both sides of the aisle, citizens who consider themselves progressives and citizens who consider themselves conservatives, have joined the call for such a commission. Opinion polls reflect the American people's deep concern about prisoner abuse. The security of our Nation is profoundly impacted by our reputation, by how we are viewed by the rest of the world.

Our response to terrorism is based on contrasting our values to theirs. We are conducting an ideological war in parallel with police and military operations. The outcome of both the ideological struggle and the armed struggle hinge to a significant extent on this great test of values.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is great shame that attention has been diverted in recent days from the fundamental issues to the words used by one Senator, a Senator whom I much admire and greatly respect, who has admitted that the words he used were too strong and who has apologized to those whom he may have offended. The issue raised by the Senator was timely, on target, and central to our Nation's best interests, despite the fact that his specific words failed to properly frame his message.

It is imperative that we remain focused on the issue that the Senator called to our attention and not allow ourselves to be dissuaded, deterred, or discouraged from pursuing a thorough public inquiry into prisoner abuse in much the same manner as the commission we created to examine September 11.

Do some of the policies of our government endanger our troops by disparaging the image of America? Are our own troops endangered by our strained and unique interpretation of the Geneva Conventions? Has our approach to human intelligence distorted and limited our ability to understand and respond to the insurgency in Iraq and the terrorist threat in general? Do the incidents of abuse flow from decisions taken at the highest levels with regard to the conduct of American intelligence?

These are urgent and critical questions that cannot be answered adequately in the inquiries launched to date. We owe a great debt to those who have spoken out, calling for an independent commission, sometimes at great personal cost. I thank them for their leadership.

We owe a great debt to Senator RICHARD DURBIN for helping cause Americans to look seriously at this issue of prisoner abuse by our intelligence agencies and our military. I thank the Senator.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. OSBORNE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to use the time of the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

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

There was no objection.

SOMATIC CELL NUCLEAR TRANSFER IS HUMAN CLONING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the bioethical issues that we have been debating for the past several years, and particularly over the last couple of months, deal with fundamental questions about the value of human life and the meaning of human dignity. Every poll conducted on the subject of human embryo cloning for research indicates that 70 to 80 percent of the American people oppose human embryo cloning for research purposes. Cloning advocates know that the American public is adamantly opposed to their goals, so they have crafted new speech in an attempt to deliberately mislead Members of Congress, the media, grassroots advocates and the American public.

One of the leading patient advocacy groups for human cloning research is the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and they have been sanitizing the language and playing semantic games with a willing media and an unaware American public.

Let me give you a few examples. Last year when representatives of the JDRF stopped by my office, they shared with my staff that they endorsed stem cell research involving somatic cell nuclear transfer. When my staff replied that somatic cell nuclear transfer, or SCNT, was the cloning of human embryos, the JDRF advocates in my office responded that they had been told by those training them for their Hill visit that SCNT did not create a human embryo because sperm was not used. Indeed, the literature in their own hands stated the following: ''When scientists use SCNT to create stem cells, no sperm is used and the resulting cell has no chance of developing into a human being because it is never placed in a uterus. This is a fundamentally different procedure from reproductive cloning, as was used by scientists in 1996 to create Dolly the sheep.''

This statement is misleading on several counts. JDRF is flat-out wrong when they state that SCNT is a ''fundamentally different procedure from reproductive cloning, as was used by scientists in 1996 to create Dolly the sheep.'' Dr. Ian Wilmut, Dolly's own creator, does not agree with the JDRF statement. Dr. Wilmut stated clearly in a peer-reviewed article, ''the unique feature of Dolly was that she was the first mammal to be cloned from an adult somatic body cell.'' Then he goes on to say, ''The success of somatic cell nuclear transfer was used in creating Dolly.''

Cloning supporter and then-NIH Director Harold Varmus testified in 1998 stating, ''in the Dolly experiment, a lamb was produced using the technology of somatic cell nuclear transfer.''

JDRF implies that sperm is necessary to develop an embryo capable of growing into a human. This notion is completely inaccurate, as hundreds of animals have been created through SCNT using no sperm. Was Dolly not a sheep because sperm was not involved? JDRF characterizes the resulting product of SCNT as merely a cell with no chance of developing into a ''human.'' But President Clinton's own Bioethics

Advisory Commission disagrees with this statement. In 1997 his commission stated, ''the commission began its discussions fully recognizing that any effort in humans to transfer a somatic cell nucleus into an enucleated egg involves the creation of an embryo, with the apparent potential to be implanted in utero and developed to term.''

Many of the JDRF advocates that have visited Members of Congress are not to be faulted for this misinformation. They are simply sharing with you what those running JDRF's Hill advocacy program have told them. In fact, the patients and families selected to participate in the 2005 JDRF Children's Congress in Washington were required to assign a loyalty oath agreeing to support the JDRF position on these issues. The loyalty oath found on that application, which I have blown up, and I have next to me right here states, ''If there is a discussion of such controversial topics as embryonic stem cell research, I will either embrace the JDRF legislative position on such topics or will not work against the JDRF position.''

This statement clearly calls for applicants to be willing to embrace ethically questionable research or be willing to muzzle their personal and moral convictions. Let us have an honest debate on embryonic stem cell research and let us have an honest debate on human cloning and what it is. It is somatic cell nuclear transfer.

CONGRESS OUT OF TOUCH WITH AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, to see just how out of touch the Republican Congress is with the American people, look no further than the recent CBS poll taken just last week. In the poll, it clearly says that 81 percent of the American public believes that Congress does not share their priorities. This, Mr. Speaker, is just how out of touch the Republican leadership is with the American people. They just do not get it. And today's debate is just one more example of that. Cutting public broadcasting. I cannot tell you how many dozens and dozens of my constituents have been calling me on this issue telling me and my staff emphatically that they absolutely do not want to see any cuts in public radio and TV broadcasting. But their wishes, their calls, their complaints, their desires, their priorities are falling on deaf ears.

In reality, the Labor-HHS bill that was on the floor today and will be back tomorrow shows once again how the Republican Party's outright irresponsible tax cuts for the rich have exhausted the budget. So when they say we have to cut money for things like job training, assistance for the unemployed, No Child Left Behind, community services block grants, training programs for health professionals, the health communities access program, a program which helps serve the uninsured; as well as children's health block grants and freezing after-school centers, I say to them, on behalf of the American people, four out of five of whom do not support the Republican leadership, shame, shame, shame.

We are also spending $1 billion a week in Iraq. That is $4 billion a month. Yet this administration has zeroed out funding for Amtrak.

□ 1830

Just 1 week of investment in Iraq would significantly improve passenger rail for the entire country for an entire year. I just want someone to explain to the American public why investing in transportation in Iraq is so much more important than investing in passenger rail right here in the United States of America.

Today right here in America we have 50 million people without health insurance. We have the highest trade deficit in the history of this country, and we have a $477 billion Federal deficit. We have a $375 billion shortfall in transportation funding, and we still do not know what happened to the weapons of mass destruction.

I close by posing this question: Is bankrupting this great country the top priority of this administration? I must repeat that. Is bankrupting this great country the top priority of this administration? They are certainly big on bankrupting Amtrak and doing away with passenger trains. I stand here to question the priorities of the House leadership, the priorities of the other body, and definitely to question those of the policymakers or the bean counters over in the White House.

Like 81 percent of the American public, I am growing tired and weary of the Republican majority and the priorities of this administration. I call on my colleagues to change directions, to give up privatizing Social Security, to give up selling out our health care system to the pharmaceuticals, and to listen to the American public and get in tune with their real needs.

URGING SUPPORT FOR H.R. 2892, REVERSE MORTGAGES TO HELP AMERICA'S SENIORS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCHENRY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to discuss the best ways to strengthen retirement security for our Nation's seniors, I have looked into numerous programs to lessen the burden that our seniors face in rising health care costs, transportation, and homeownership.

As a long-time Bucks County Commissioner and now as a Member of Congress, I have received many phone calls, many letters from seniors looking to find ways to stay in their homes and pay their bills. How many seniors do the Members know who are struggling financially because they do not have a steady income stream coming in, but are sitting on a valuable asset that is not working for them, an asset that they cannot cash in: the home that they want to stay in for their retirement?

Last week, Mr. Speaker, I introduced H.R. 2892. This legislation is bipartisan and is endorsed by AARP. It will eliminate the volume cap on the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Home Equity Conversion Mortgage, commonly referred to as the FHA-insured reverse mortgage program. A reverse mortgage is a unique loan that enables senior homeowners to remain in their homes and be financially independent by converting part of the equity in their homes into tax-free income without having to sell the home, does not require them to give up title, or to take on new mortgage payments. The funds from a reverse mortgage can be used for needs that every senior faces like health care costs, prescription drug costs, in-home care, prevention of foreclosure, paying off existing debts, home repairs, modification, or simple daily living expenses.

Reverse mortgages are aptly named because the payment stream is reversed. Instead of making monthly payments to the lender, as with a regular mortgage, the lender makes payments to the senior homeowner. This unique loan enables senior homeowners who are house rich but cash poor to convert part of their equity in their homes into tax-free income and allow the homeowner great flexibility in choosing how to receive the money. They can opt to receive a lump sum, fixed monthly payments, a line of credit, or a combination of the three. No monthly payments are required during the term of the loan, and it is paid back only when the resident sells the home, passes away, or has permanently moved out of the home.

A key part of the reverse mortgage program is mandatory counseling. To make sure that no one rushes into a mortgage that they are unprepared for, the program requires mandatory counseling prior to applying for a reverse mortgage to ensure that the homeowner has a plan to use the payments in a responsible and beneficial manner. The reverse mortgage program has been successful and popular with senior homeowners, so much so that the rapid growth in these mortgages created a near crisis this April when concerns arose that the cap was going to be reached, leading to a suspension of the program.

While the cap was raised from $150,000 to $250,000 in the 2005 emergency supplemental appropriation bill, this is just a temporary solution. AARP stated that the only complete removal of the volume cap, which is

my bill, H.R. 2892, will prevent the possibility of future program disruptions that will be detrimental to seniors.

The importance of sustaining the FHA reverse mortgage program was further emphasized to me this past Monday while I was visiting in my district in Pennsylvania with several senior homeowners who recently obtained reverse mortgages.

Their stories are the same. They have worked their whole lives to obtain this home and to pay for the home. They have raised their children in the home. They have retired into their homes, and they live on Social Security income with basically no remaining savings. They have converted the equity in their home so that they can repair their homes, they can increase their standard of living, and they can live out their senior years with dignity in their own home.

Mr. Speaker, I think every Member of Congress can agree that seniors must have the option to stay in their homes as long as they wish. Lifelong homeownership is the American Dream. My legislation, H.R. 2892, would provide relief for those seniors faced with losing their homes. As we celebrate National Homeownership Month, it is fitting that Congress enact legislation that will allow existing homeowners to remain homeowners.

Today I call on all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in this vital effort and to co-sponsor H.R. 2892.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CARSON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DFAS BRAC COMMISSIONER VISIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of a wonderful facility, the DFAS center in Cleveland, the Defense Finance and Accounting Services Center in the city of Cleveland, originally founded in 1942 as the Navy Bureau of Supplies and Accounts. It was renamed in 1955, and then DFAS was created in 1991, established six field sites in 1995, a reorganization in 2000, and unfortunately this year DFAS in Cleveland has become a victim of a BRAC reorganization.

I am pleased to stand here today with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) from the Tenth Congressional District from Ohio, and we were joined earlier today by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) from the 14th Congressional District. And in that process, we had an opportunity to meet with the BRAC Commissioner. He was a wonderful general by the name of ''Fig'' Newton, who came to give us a site visit on this particular issue.

And I am pleased to now engage in a colloquy with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me and want to say what a pleasure and honor it is to work with her and with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) as well in our effort to save over 1,000 jobs at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in Cleveland, Ohio.

This is a center which is important for the entire Nation because this is a center which processes payroll for a total of 5.7 million Department of Defense employees, military, civilian, and retired, including 2 million Armed Forces members, Navy Active Reserve, Air Force Reserve and Guard, and Army Reserve; 2.4 million military retirees and annuitants. They also do work for the Department of Energy and the Office of Health and Human Services and for various armed service headquarters' elements.

I want to say that this center has been recognized and acknowledged across this country for the tremendous work which the people there do. They do the best accounting work; and now, despite the fact that they have been doing great work for decades, they are finding that the rug is being pulled out from them by a BRAC that does not even save any money.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. And, reclaiming my time, the interesting thing about this BRAC facility in the city of Cleveland, it has developed a system for garnishment, which is one of the ways in which we are able to collect child support for young people across this country. They have developed a system for retired annuitant pay that is one of the finest systems in the country. It just seems to me that they could not be considering the economic situation in the city of Cleveland in deciding to take this BRAC on.

I yield to the gentleman from Ohio to talk about that.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman is correct. Unfortunately, in the city whose responsibilities we share as Members of the Congress to represent the people here in the Federal Government, our city has had one of the highest poverty rates in America, and one of the criteria which must be taken into account during a BRAC are the economic conditions within the community. And it is clear that the economic conditions in the city of Cleveland were not taken into account, and that is one of the bases of the appeal that we are making to the BRAC Commission in Buffalo on Monday.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, it is very interesting that today we had an opportunity to have a rally with the DFAS workers and more than 1,000 of these workers came out in support of keeping their jobs. I am confident that with the work that we will do that we will be able to establish in this BRAC hearing on Monday in the city of Buffalo that the city of Cleveland deserves to hold on to this facility and that the 1,200 people along with the 1,000 people in county jobs who facilitate these services will be able to stay on.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) for the tremendous leadership that she has shown in rallying the community. She really has performed a powerful service, as well as the work of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE), in building the case.

Keep in mind the BRAC Commission has the authority to change the Department's recommendations if it determines that the Secretary deviated substantially from the force structure and/or selection criteria, and I believe that the Department of Defense has clearly deviated from the selection criteria in two areas: the Secretary is required to consider, among several things, the military value and the economic impact on existing communities in the vicinity of the military installations, and the Department of Defense has erroneously ranked the military value for DFAS Cleveland low and states that a .01 percent within the Cleveland metropolitan statistical area has minimal economic impact.

We look forward to taking our case to Buffalo.

GEAR UP FACTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, pretty much everybody tonight has been upset about something, and often when I come to the floor, I am too. But I wanted to share some good news, actually some good news inside the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, which is very tight in funding, and it involves the GEAR UP program, which I believe is a very important program, and, in fact, the President has proposed to zero it out and the Committee on Appropriations had put $306 million, the same funding as fiscal year 2005, in this.

It is a program that, from the first time we funded it in 1999, had only $120 million in it after we finally got it appropriated; and now it is up to $306 million in spite of a very tight budget.

I would like to give just a brief history of this program. The gentleman from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), when I was first elected in the class of 1994, came to me with this proposal of how to reach minority and low-income kids and give them some hope that someday they might be able to get student loans and someday might be able to get scholarships and aid, because it is one thing for a middle

class or upper class suburban family where somewhere between prenatal care and child care the parents are already getting their college catalogues out and trying to encourage them to go to college versus many families where they have never had anybody go to college, where they do not really feel there is going to be a chance.

And sometimes in Head Start and elementary school, when we go visit, we see the bright hopes in these kids' eyes and they want to be this and they want to be that, but somewhere around junior high they start to lose these hopes. That is why the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) originally called this program High Hopes, because at eighth grade we now have a program that moves on through the high school years and the bulk of these dollars, half of it, go roughly to scholarships and half of it to help go into the schools to provide financial advice, to provide support, to basically tell these kids that if they keep a 2.0 grade average, and depending upon the State's program in Indiana where they have some other supplemental things, that they will guarantee them to get into a State university with financial aid, that they will be eligible for scholarship aid but will be guaranteed financial aid, that they will be worked through with this financial aid, that they will continue to receive some support.

And I believe that this program was a very critical program that, as we first moved it through committee, it was clear that we were very close in the votes. And with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and then Congressman McIntosh and me, it wound up to be a tie vote, and Joe Scarborough, who is now on TV, cast the deciding vote, which caused quite a bit of uproar on our side, but we got it authorized. Then it moved through the appropriations process where we continued to move that, and by that time President Clinton adopted the program and changed the name to GEAR UP and helped push this program.

□ 1845

In fact, one of my more difficult moments was when we went to the signing ceremony, and then Congressman Lindsey Graham and I went to the ceremony, and our goal was particularly not to be in the picture with President Clinton. As a conservative Republican, it could have been the death of me politically. But we went to the White House, and when I left I made it through without a picture, and when I turned around, there was the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) and he said, somebody wants to talk to you, and the whole press corps was there, and there is President Clinton. He starts talking to me about this program and thanking me for my help, with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) on this program. The bottom line was, I thought my career was going to be over.

But, secondly, it showed that you can do things in a bipartisan way. What I saw in the President's eyes was a commitment to these kids. What we have seen is the dangers of a lot of these programs, is when the Presidency changes the program gets abandoned.

Mr. Speaker, we have continued and expanded this program, even under a Republican administration, in a bipartisan way. At a time when we are divided on so many different issues, to be able to take an education program that is targeted for low-income kids across this country and continue to fund this is a tremendous credit, first to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) and his committed leadership, to the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman REGULA) in continuing to fund this, and it is a credit to this House that we at least have this program in place, supplemented with TRIO programs and other things, where we can tell young people in America that we can help provide some assistance to them and that, indeed, while you may not get exactly equal chances to everybody else, we are going to give you an opportunity in America, and we are going to give at least some assistance so you too can have some hope in this country.

And if we are going to compete worldwide, as Thomas Friedman in his great book says about the flattening of the earth, we have to have everybody in this country understand that if we are going to compete, we have to succeed. So it is important that we have some programs to supplement the family support system and the lack of some of the educational history in these high-risk families. Because they too have to get up to much higher competitive standards, and we have not been able to do this, and the GEAR UP program is one small step in that direction.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the subcommittee and the full committee and the United States Senate for continuing to fund the GEAR UP program.

LABOR–HHS BILL VIOLATES SENIORS' PRIVACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCHENRY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, when the House passed the so-called Medicare Modernization Act, the purported prescription drug benefit for seniors in the dark of the night, after holding the vote open for 3 hours by a small margin, a lot of Members did not know fully what was in the bill. We know we were lied to about the cost and that it was withheld from the Congress. There were a lot of other provisions people did not realize were in there.

But there is one that we still have a chance to correct tomorrow with an amendment I am going to offer. Seniors are going to be outraged if my amendment is not accepted.

The bill waives all privacy rights for seniors on Medicare and Medicaid. That is, the Secretary of Health and Human Services is, notwithstanding any other provision of law, able to disclose their personal information to private insurance companies who supposedly will not share it with anybody beyond their company. It is bad enough it is going to a bunch of private insurance companies, but we know, with the interconnectedness of these companies and problems with data retention, that these seniors are likely to have their data widely shared; in addition to which, that means these seniors will be solicited over the phone by mail, aggressively, by private prescription drug plans, insurance companies, obviously trying to sell them something they probably will not really understand.

Now, some people on that side will say, well, how else are we going to market this plan? You do it the way we do the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan. The government compiles all the data, you send it to all the eligible people, and then you, the consumer, have a choice. They look at the ones they are interested in, they have a 1–800 number, a Web site, they contact them. We do not give the personal information about every Federal employee or Member of Congress to private insurance companies to solicit us; why should we do that to every senior in America? They will be outraged.

Mr. Speaker, it is a simple amendment. It just says that this will not go into effect, and then the Secretary of Health and Human Services can work out a much better plan for marketing this program that does not violate the sanctity, the privacy of all, every one of America's seniors. That would be an outrage, and they will notice.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DICK HOYT, THE STRONGEST DAD IN THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to a man who is not from my districts or even from my State, but who certainly must be one of the most wonderful men of whom I have ever read. The story of Dick Hoyt of Holland, Massachusetts is one of the most amazing, inspiring stories I have ever read.

Rick Reilly, a columnist for Sports Illustrated, wrote about Mr. Hoyt in a column published in that magazine the week before last. Mr. Reilly described it as a love story that began 43 years ago when Mr. Hoyt's son Rick ''was strangled by the umbilical cord during birth, leaving him brain damaged and unable to control his limbs.''

The Hoyts were told Rick would be a vegetable for the rest of his life and that they should put him in an institution. They refused.

When Rick was 11, they took him to engineers at Tufts University to ask

them if there was some way to allow him to communicate. They were told, no way, nothing was going on in Rick's brain.

''Tell him a joke,'' Mr. Hoyt said. ''They did. Rick laughed.'' They had noticed the way Rick's eyes followed them around the room. There was a lot going on in Rick's brain.

The engineers rigged up a computer that Rick could peck letters on by hitting it with a stick attached to the side of his head. His first words were, ''Go Bruins!''

After a high school classmate of Rick's was paralyzed in an accident, and a charity run was organized, Rick pecked out the words, ''Dad, I want to do that.''

Mr. Hoyt, who called himself a porker, pushed Rick in that race, and Rick typed out ''Dad, when we were running, it felt like I was not disabled anymore.''

Now, here comes the amazing part.

Since that first race, Dick Hoyt has pushed Rick in 85 marathons, 26.2 miles each. Twenty-four times they have run in the Boston Marathon.

Listen to Rick Reilly's column: ''Their best time, 2 hours 40, minutes in 1992; only 35 minutes off the world record which, in case you don't keep track of these things, happens to be held by a guy who was not pushing another man in a wheelchair at the time.''

Now Dick Hoyt is 65, his son is 43. They have done 212 triathlons, including four grueling, 15-hour Ironmans in Hawaii, 8 triathlons altogether where the father not only pushed his son 26.2 miles in a wheelchair, but also pulled him 2.4 miles in a dinghy while swimming, and pedaled him 112 miles in a seat on the handlebars, all in the same day.

Columnist Reilly wrote, ''I try to be a good father, but compared with Dick Hoyt I suck.''

What a special son. What a special father. What a special story.

I thank Rick Reilly for writing such a wonderful column.

It is an honor to pay tribute to a man like Dick Hoyt.

I am sure that his special relationship with his son has inspired countless numbers across the land and has, in a very unique way, made this Nation a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is the most inspiring story I have ever read. I would like to attach the column from Sports Illustrated to my remarks here tonight and call them to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

[From Sports Illustrated]

STRONGEST DAD IN THE WORLD

(By Rick Reilly)

I try to be a good father. Give my kids mulligans. Work nights to pay for their text messaging. Take them to swimsuit shoots.

But compared with Dick Hoyt, I suck.

Eighty-five times he's pushed his disabled son, Rick, 26.2 miles in marathons. Eight times he's not only pushed him 26.2 miles in a wheelchair but also towed him 2.4 miles in a dinghy while swimming and pedaled him 112 miles in a seat on the handlebars—all in the same day.

Dick's also pulled him cross-country skiing, taken him on his back mountain climbing and once hauled him across the U.S. on a bike. Makes taking your son bowling look a little lame, right?

And what has Rick done for his father? Not much—except save his life.

This love story began in Winchester, Mass., 43 years ago, when Rick was strangled by the umbilical cord during birth, leaving him brain-damaged and unable to control his limbs.

''He'll be a vegetable the rest of his life;'' Dick says doctors told him and his wife, Judy, when Rick was nine months old. ''Put him in an institution.''

But the Hoyts weren't buying it. They noticed the way Rick's eyes followed them around the room. When Rick was 11 they took him to the engineering department at Tufts University and asked if there was anything to help the boy communicate. ''No way,'' Dick says he was told. ''There's nothing going on in his brain.''

''Tell him a joke,'' Dick countered. They did. Rick laughed. Turns out a lot was going on in his brain.

Rigged up with a computer that allowed him to control the cursor by touching a switch with the side of his head, Rick was finally able to communicate. First words? ''Go Bruins!'' And after a high school classmate was paralyzed in an accident and the school organized a charity run for him, Rick pecked out, ''Dad, I want to do that.''

Yeah, right. How was Dick, a self-described ''porker'' who never ran more than a mile at a time, going to push his son five miles? Still, he tried. ''Then it was me who was handicapped,'' Dick says. ''I was sore for two weeks.''

That day changed Rick's life. ''Dad,'' he typed, ''when we were running, it felt like I wasn't disabled anymore!''

And that sentence changed Dick's life. He became obsessed with giving Rick that feeling as often as he could. He got into such hard-belly shape that he and Rick were ready to try the 1979 Boston Marathon.

''No way,'' Dick was told by a race official. The Hoyts weren't quite a single runner, and they weren't quite a wheelchair competitor. For a few years Dick and Rick just joined the massive field and ran anyway, then they found a way to get into the race officially: In 1983 they ran another marathon so fast they made the qualifying time for Boston the following year.

Then somebody said, ''Hey, Dick, why not a triathlon?''

How's a guy who never learned to swim and hadn't ridden a bike since he was six going to haul his 110-pound kid through a triathlon? Still, Dick tried.

Now they've done 212 triathlons, including four grueling 15-hour Ironmans in Hawaii. It must be a buzzkill to be a 25-year-old stud getting passed by an old guy towing a grown man in a dinghy, don't you think?

Hey, Dick, why not see how you'd do on your own? ''No way,'' he says. Dick does it purely for ''the awesome feeling'' he gets seeing Rick with a cantaloupe smile as they run, swim and ride together.

This year, at ages 65 and 43, Dick and Rick finished their 24th Boston Marathon, in 5,083rd place out of more than 20,000 starters. Their best time'? Two hours, 40 minutes in 1992—only 35 minutes off the world record, which, in case you don't keep track of these things, happens to be held by a guy who was not pushing another man in a wheelchair at the time.

''No question about it,'' Rick types. ''My dad is the Father of the Century.''

And Dick got something else out of all this too. Two years ago he had a mild heart attack during a race. Doctors found that one of his arteries was 95% clogged. ''If you hadn't been in such great shape,'' one doctor told him, ''you probably would've died 15 years ago.''

So, in a way, Dick and Rick saved each other's life.

Rick, who has his own apartment (he gets home care) and works in Boston, and Dick, retired from the military and living in Holland, Mass., always find ways to be together. They give speeches around the country and compete in some backbreaking race every weekend, including this Father's Day.

That night, Rick will buy his dad dinner, but the thing he really wants to give him is a gift he can never buy.

''The thing I'd most like,'' Rick types, ''is that my dad sit in the chair and I push him once.''

STILL NO ENERGY POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PETERSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk, sadly, about the fact that America once again is completing another month, another halfway through another year, with no energy policy.

Is it important that we have an energy policy? Should we have an energy policy? Well, I happen to think we should. With oil approaching $60 a barrel and natural gas at $7.50 today, that is the highest fuel prices this country has faced, ever.

Gasoline, we hear a lot about. In the last 20 years, gasoline prices have increased 86 percent. It is on the news every night. We talk about it as if it is a tragedy. Now, it is painful, because it costs all of us more to drive than we would like. But we have choices there: what size vehicle, what kind of mileage it has, and what trips we take.

But in natural gas, the people that use natural gas heat their homes, provide their air-conditioning, run their businesses. They cannot make those same choices. Natural gas prices have increased in the same length of time 550 percent. I want to tell my colleagues, if you heard complaints last winter about natural gas prices for heating our homes, next year is going to be a lot more difficult. Because the gas we put in the ground today will have been paid $7.50 for, and last year at this time it was less than $5 that we were putting into the ground. We put it in storage in the ground at this time of year so we have enough in the winter.

We are now 62 to 64 percent dependent on foreign countries for oil. On natural gas, we are 88 percent self-sufficient. We import about 11 percent from Canada and 1 percent is from liquefied natural gas. Like I said before, $60-a-barrel oil is painful but, in my view, $7.50 and continuing rising natural gas prices has the ability to kill our economy, and I will tell my colleagues why.

We are an island to ourselves with natural gas prices. When we pay $55 or

$60 for oil, the whole world pays that, all our competitors pay that, and we are a very competitive global economy. But when we pay $7.50 for natural gas, Canada pays about $6. Europe is in the $5 range. China, our big competitor, pays $4, giving them another advantage on top of cheap labor and all the other ways they manipulate the economy.

Trinidad in northern South America, $1.60. Russia, 90 cents, North Africa, 80 cents. Because of these prices for natural gas and a government here in Washington who will do nothing about it, three industries are leaving our country that are some of the best-paying jobs we have left. Twenty-one fertilizer factories that our farmers depend on closed last year. Why? Because their number one ingredient to make fertilizer is natural gas as an ingredient and as a fuel to make it. The petrochemical companies, again, 40 to 55 percent of their cost is natural gas. They are leaving as we speak. The polymers in plastics, the best jobs in America, are leaving as we speak.

We could be totally self-sufficient on natural gas if we made the right decisions. We need to open up many areas of the West that have been locked up, and we need to streamline the permitting process so that natural gas can move forward timely. We need to open up the Outer Continental Shelf, where there is enough gas to totally supply this country for 50, 60 years without any question.

With the clean fuel, natural gas is the clean fuel. No NO_X, no SO_X, a fourth of the $C0_2$; it is the nonpolluting fuel, it is the one we ought to be using. We could be using it in vehicles, we could be using it in a lot of ways that we are not using it today to need less oil. But we must open the production of natural gas on our Outer Continental Shelf. Every country in the world, Canada, does and sells it to us. They drill in our Great Lakes and sell it to us. Europe, Germany, England, Norway, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand all produce gas on the Outer Continental Shelf, with no negative impact.

A natural gas well is not an environmental hazard. It is a 6-inch hole in the ground with a steel casing cemented at the bottom and at the top, and you let gas out. It is a gas that is a clean burning fuel. And when you are 40 or 50 miles offshore, nobody knows they are there. There are fine beaches where natural gas is produced. There is fine recreation, there is fine fisheries.

Natural gas is the bridge to the future of America's economy, and if this Congress does not do something about it, they are going to give the best jobs in America to the rest of the world. In fact, last year one of our major chemical companies moved 2,000 jobs to Germany; not a cheap market.

Mr. Speaker, my conclusion is the number one issue facing the economy of this country is the availability and the price of natural gas and the decision is in our hands, this Congress' hands, and we need to make it soon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GINGREY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KELLER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

IMPLEMENTING THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109–36)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents to implement the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (the ''Agreement''). The Agreement represents an historic development in our relations with Central America and the Dominican Republic and reflects the commitment of the United States to supporting democracy, regional integration, and economic growth and opportunity in a region that has transitioned to peaceful, democratic societies.

In negotiating this Agreement, my Administration was guided by the objectives set out in the Trade Act of 2002. Central America and the Dominican Republic constitute our second largest export market in Latin America and our tenth largest export market in the world. The Agreement will create significant new opportunities for American workers, farmers, ranchers, and businesses by opening new markets and eliminating barriers. United States agricultural exports will obtain better access to the millions of consumers in Central America and the Dominican Republic.

Under the Agreement, tariffs on approximately 80 percent of U.S. exports will be eliminated immediately. The Agreement will help to level the playing field because about 80 percent of Central America's imports already enjoy duty-free access to our market. By providing for the effective enforcement of labor and environmental laws, combined with strong remedies for noncompliance, the Agreement will contribute to improved worker rights and high levels of environmental protection in Central America and the Dominican Republic.

By supporting this Agreement, the United States can stand with those in the region who stand for democracy and freedom, who are fighting corruption and crime, and who support the rule of law. A stable, democratic, and growing Central America and Dominican Republic strengthens the United States economically and provides greater security for our citizens.

The Agreement is in our national interest, and I urge the Congress to approve it expeditiously.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *June 23, 2005.*

□ 1900

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE WESTERN BALKANS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109–37)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCHENRY) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the Federal Register for publication, stating that the Western Balkans emergency is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2005. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the Federal Register on June 25, 2004, 69 FR 36005.

The crisis constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting (i) extremist violence in the Republic of Macedonia, and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on June 26, 2001, has not been resolved. Subsequent to the declaration of the national emergency, I amended Executive Order 13219 in Executive Order 13304 of May 28, 2003, to address acts obstructing implementation of the Ohrid Framework

Agreement of 2001 in the Republic of Macedonia, which have also become a concern. The acts of extremist violence and obstructionist activity outlined in Executive Order 13219, as amended, are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the Western Balkans and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *June 23, 2005*.

HONORING THE FALLEN IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, there are 1,917 American military personnel who have given their lives in the service of our Nation in Iraq and Afghanistan. We owe these brave men and women, and their families, a debt of gratitude that can never fully be repaid.

It is our responsibility to honor the ultimate sacrifice that our men and women in uniform have made while serving our country. We often invoke their sacrifices in general. Seldom do we take the time to thank them individually.

My colleagues and I would like to take this hour and recognize these individual heroes on the floor of the people's House, their House. Over the next hour, and continuing next week until we finish, we will read the name and rank of each servicemember who has fallen in the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters of war.

By reading these names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, we hope to ensure that our Nation never forgets their sacrifice, and their families will know that their loved ones will be part of the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

As President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, your loved one, ''stands in the unbroken line of Patriots who have dared to die that freedom might live, and grow and increase its blessings. Freedom lives, and through it he lives, in a way that humbles the undertakings of most men.''

God bless, and keep each of the brave Americans whose memory we now honor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK).

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, as I continue, I just want to apologize for the inevitable mispronunciation that may come in. I hope that no one will think that this in any way denigrates the respect and admiration that we have for these brave people and the deep sympathy we extend to their families.

1. Master Sergeant Evander E. Andrews
2. Specialist John J. Edmunds
3. Private First Class Kristofor T. Stonesifer
4. Machinist's Mate Fireman Apprentice Bryant L. Davis
5. Engineman First Class Vincent Parker
6. Electronics Technician Third Class Benjamin Johnson
7. CIA Johnny Michael Spann
8. Private Giovanny Maria
9. Electrician's Mate Fireman Apprentice Michael Jakes, Jr.
10. Staff Sergeant Brian C. Prosser
11. Master Sergeant Jefferson D. Davis
12. Sergeant First Class Daniel H. Petithory
13. Sergeant First Class Nathan R. Chapman
14. Captain Matthew W. Bancroft
15. Lance Corporal Bryan P. Bertrand
16. Gunnery Sergeant Stephen L. Bryson
17. Captain Daniel G. McCollum
18. Staff Sergeant Scott N. Germosen
19. Sergeant Jeannette L. Winters
20. Sergeant Nathan P. Hays
21. Staff Sergeant Dwight J. Morgan
22. Staff Sergeant Walter F. Cohee III
23. Specialist Jason A. Disney
24. Major Curtis D. Feistner
25. Captain Bartt D. Owens
26. Chief Warrant Officer Jody L. Egnor
27. Staff Sergeant James P. Dorrity
28. Staff Sergeant Kerry W. Frith
29. Specialist Thomas F. Allison
30. Master Sergeant William L. McDaniel II
31. Staff Sergeant Juan M. Ridout
32. Specialist Curtis A. Carter
33. Chief Warrant Officer Stanley L. Harriman
34. Senior Airman Jason D. Cunningham
35. Technical Sergeant John A. Chapman
36. Sergeant Peter P. Crose
37. Specialist Marc A. Anderson
38. Private First Class Matthew A. Commons
39. Aviation Boatswain's Mate-Handling First Class Neil C. Roberts
40. Sergeant Philip J. Svitak
41. Chief Petty Officer Matthew J. Bourgeois
42. Staff Sergeant Brian T. Craig
43. Sergeant First Class Daniel A. Romero
44. Sergeant Jamie O. Maugans
45. Staff Sergeant Justin J. Galewski
46. Sergeant Gene A. Vance Jr.
47. Staff Sergeant Anissa A. Shero
48. Technical Sergeant Sean M. Corlew
49. Sergeant First Class Peter P. Tycz II
50. Sergeant First Class Christopher J. Speer
51. Sergeant Ryan D. Foraker
52. Lance Corporal Antonio J. Sledd
53. Private James H. Ebbers
54. Specialist Pedro Pena
55. Sergeant Steven Checo
56. Chief Warrant Officer Thomas J. Gibbons
57. Staff Sergeant Daniel Leon Kisling Jr.
58. Sergeant Gregory Michael Frampton
59. Chief Warrant Officer Mark O'Steen
60. Sergeant Michael C. Barry
61. Operations Officer Helge Boes
62. Specialist Brian Michael Clemens
63. Specialist Rodrigo Gonzalez-Garza
64. Sergeant William John Tracy Jr.
65. Chief Warrant Officer Timothy Wayne Moehling
66. Chief Warrant Officer John D. Smith
67. Private First Class Spence A. McNeil
68. Private First Class James R. Dillon Jr.
69. Navy Petty Officer Third Class Jason Profitt
70. Staff Sergeant John ''Mike'' Teal
71. Lieutenant Colonel John Stein
72. Senior Airman Jason Thomas Plite
73. First Lieutenant Tamara Long Archuleta
74. Staff Sergeant Jason Carlyle Hicks
75. Master Sergeant Michael Maltz
76. Sergeant Orlando Morales
77. Staff Sergeant Jacob L. Frazier
78. Private Jerod R. Dennis
79. Airman First Class Raymond Losano
80. Sergeant First Class John E. Taylor
81. Captain Seth R. Michaud
82. First Class Petty Officer Thomas E. Retzer
83. Specialist Kelvin Feliciano Gutierrez
84. Sergeant Christopher Geiger
85. Petty Officer First Class David Tapper

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

Mr. JONES of North Carolina.

1. Sergeant First Class Mitchell A. Lane
2. Specialist Chad C. Fuller
3. Private First Class Adam L. Thomas
4. Private First Class Evan W. O'Neill
5. Private First Class Kristian E. Parker
6. Lieutenant Colonel Paul W. Kimbrough
7. Navy Petty Officer Darrell Jones
8. Civilian contractor William Carlson
9. Civilian contractor Christopher Glenn Mueller
10. Staff Sergeant Paul A. Sweeney
11. Sergeant Jay A. Blessing
12. Staff Sergeant Thomas A. Walkup Jr.
13. Major Steven Plumhoff
14. Technical Sergeant Howard A. Walters
15. Sergeant Major Phillip R. Albert
16. Technical Sergeant William J. Kerwood

17. Sergeant Theodore L. Perreault
18. Sergeant Roy A. Wood
19. Staff Sergeant Shawn M. Clemens
20. Specialist Robert J. Cook
21. Specialist Adam G. Kinser
22. Sergeant First Class Curtis Mancini
23. Staff Sergeant James D. Mowris
24. Specialist Justin A. Scott
25. Sergeant Danton K. Seitsinger
26. Sergeant Benjamin L. Gilman
27. Sergeant Nicholes Darwin Golding
28. Specialist David E. Hall
29. Staff Sergeant Anthony S. Lagman
30. Sergeant Michael J. Esposito Jr.
31. Command Sergeant Major Dennis Jallah
32. Commander Adrian Basil Szwec
33. Master Sergeant Herbert R. Claunch
34. Specialist Patrick D. Tillman
35. Specialist Phillip L. Witkowski
36. Private First Class Brandon James Wadman
37. Corporal Ronald R. Payne Jr.
38. Chief Warrant Officer Bruce E. Price
39. Petty Officer First Class Brian J. Ouellette
40. Captain Daniel W. Eggers
41. Staff Sergeant Robert J. Mogensen
42. Private First Class Joseph A. Jeffries
43. Corporal David M. Fraise

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD).

Mr. NORWOOD.

44. Lance Corporal Russell P. White
45. Private First Class Daniel B. McClenney
46. Lance Corporal Juston Tyler Thacker
47. Staff Sergeant Robert K. McGee
48. Specialist Julie R. Hickey
49. Specialist Juan Torres
50. Sergeant Bobby E. Beasley
51. Staff Sergeant Craig W. Cherry
52. Sergeant Daniel Lee Galvan
53. Staff Sergeant Robert S. Goodwin
54. Staff Sergeant Tony B. Olaes
55. Specialist Wesley R. Wells
56. Staff Sergeant Alan L. Rogers
57. Staff Sergeant Brian S. Hobbs
58. Specialist Kyle Ka Eo Fernandez
59. Corporal William M. Amundson Jr.
60. Airman First Class Jesse M. Samek
61. Corporal Billy Gomez
62. Specialist James C. Kearney III
63. Sergeant Michael C. O'Neill
64. Corporal Dale E. Fracker Jr.
65. Corporal Jacob R. Fleischer
66. Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. McMahon
67. Chief Warrant Officer Travis W. Grogan
68. Specialist Harley Miller
69. Specialist Isaac E. Diaz
70. Sergeant First Class Pedro A. Munoz
71. Sergeant Jeremy R. Wright
72. Specialist Richard M. Crane
73. Petty Officer First Class Alec Mazur
74. Staff Sergeant Shane M. Koele
75. Captain Michael T. Fiscus
76. Master Sergeant Michael T. Hiester
77. Specialist Brett M. Hershey
78. Private First Class Norman K. Snyder
79. Sergeant Major Barbaralien Banks
80. Master Sergeant Edwin A. Matoscolon
81. Sergeant James Shawn Lee
82. Captain David S. Connolly
83. Specialist Chrystal Gaye Stout
84. Sergeant Stephen C. High
85. Chief Warrant Officer Clint J. Prather
86. Chief Warrant Officer David Ayala

□ 1915

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE.

1. Major Jay Thomas Aubin
2. Captain Ryan Anthony Beaupre
3. Corporal Brian Matthew Kennedy
4. Staff Sgt. Kendall D. Waters-Bey
5. Second Lieutenant Therrel Shane Childers
6. Lance Corporal Jose Antonio Gutierrez
7. Lieutenant Thomas Mullen Adams
8. Specialist Brandon Scott Tobler
9. Sergeant Nicolas Michael Hodson
10. Lance Corporal Eric James Orlowski
11. Captain Christopher Scott Seifert
12. Second Lieutenant Frederick Eben Pokorney Jr.
13. Sergeant Michael Edward Bitz
14. Lance Corporal Thomas Alan Blair
15. Lance Corporal Brian Rory Buesing
16. Lance Corporal David Keith Fribley
17. Corporal Jose Angel Garibay
18. Corporal Jorge Alonso Gonzalez
19. Staff Sergeant Phillip Andrew Jordan
20. Lance Corporal Patrick Ray Nixon
21. Corporal Randal Kent Rosacker
22. Lance Corporal Thomas Jonathan Slocum
23. Lance Corporal Michael Jason Williams
24. Sergeant George Edward Buggs
25. Specialist Jamaal Rashard Addison
26. Master Sergeant Robert John Dowdy
27. Private Ruben Estrella-Soto
28. Private First Class Howard Johnson II
29. Chief Warrant Officer Johnny Villareal Mata
30. Specialist James Michael Kiehl
31. Private First Class Lori Ann Piestewa
32. Private Brandon Ulysses Sloan
33. Sergeant Donald Ralph Walters
34. Corporal Evan Tyler James
35. Sergeant Bradley Steven Korthaus
36. Specialist Gregory Paul Sanders
37. Hospital Corpsman Third Class Michael Vann Johnson Jr.
38. Private First Class Francisco Abraham Martinez-Flores
39. Staff Sergeant Donald Charles May Jr.
40. Lance Corporal Patrick Terence O'Day
41. Corporal Robert Marcus Rodriguez
42. Major Gregory Lewis Stone
43. Major Kevin Gerard Nave
44. Gunnery Sergeant Joseph Menusa
45. Lance Corporal Jesus Alberto Suarez del Solar
46. Sergeant Roderic Antoine Solomon
47. Sergeant Fernando Padilla-Ramirez
48. Lance Corporal William Wayne White
49. Private First Class Michael Russell Creighton-Weldon
50. Private First Class Diego Fernando Rincon
51. Corporal Michael Edward Curtin
52. Sergeant Eugene Williams
53. Staff Sergeant James Wilford Cawley
54. Sergeant Michael Vernon Lalush
55. Captain Aaron Joseph Contreras
56. Sergeant Brian Daniel McGinnis
57. Specialist Brandon Jacob Rowe
58. Specialist William Andrew Jeffries
59. Sergeant Jacob Lee Butler
60. Lance Corporal Joseph Basil Maglione III
61. Lance Corporal Brian Edward Anderson
62. Private First Class Christian Daniel Gurtner
63. Master Sergeant George Andrew Fernandez
64. Captain James Francis Adamouski
65. Specialist Matthew George Boule
66. Chief Warrant Officer Erik Anders Halvorsen
67. Chief Warrant Officer Scott Jamar
68. Chief Warrant Officer Eric Allen Smith

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

Ms. WOOLSEY.

69. Sergeant Michael Francis Pedersen
70. Specialist Donald Samuel Oaks Jr.
71. Sergeant First Class Randall Scott Rehn
72. Sergeant Todd James Robbins
73. Staff Sergeant Nino Dugue Livaudais
74. Specialist Ryan Patrick Long
75. Captain Russell Brian Rippetoe
76. Private First Class Chad Eric Bales
77. Corporal Mark Asher Evnin
78. Corporal Erik Hernandez Silva
79. Staff Sergeant Wilbert Davis
80. Captain Edward Jason Korn
81. Captain Benjamin Wilson Sammis
82. Captain Tristan Neil Aitken

83. Private First Class Wilfred Davyrussell Bellard
84. Specialist Daniel Francis Cunningham Jr.
85. Private Devon Demilo Jones
86. Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith
87. Captain Travis Allen Ford
88. Corporal Bernard George Gooden
89. First Lieutenant Brian Michael McPhillips
90. Sergeant Duane Roy Rios
91. Specialist Larry Kenyatta Brown
92. Staff Sergeant Stevon Alexander Booker
93. First Sergeant Edward Smith
94. Private First Class Gregory Paul Huxley Jr.
95. Private Kelley Stephen Prewitt
96. Staff Sergeant Lincoln Daniel Hollinsaid
97. Lance Corporal Andrew Julian Aviles
98. Corporal Jesus Martin Antonio Medellin
99. Second Lieutenant Jeffrey Joseph Kaylor
100. Private First Class Anthony Scott Miller
101. Specialist George Arthur Mitchell Jr.
102. Corporal Henry Levon Brown
103. Private First Class Juan Guadalupe Garza Jr.
104. Private First Class Jason Michael Meyer
105. Staff Sergeant Robert Anthony Stever
106. Staff Sergeant Scott Douglas Sather

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER).

Ms. SLAUGHTER.

1. Gunnery Sergeant Jeffrey Edward Bohr Jr.
2. Staff Sergeant Terry Wayne Hemingway
3. Staff Sergeant Riayan Augusto Tejeda
4. Corporal Jesus Angel Gonzalez
5. Lance Corporal David Edward Owens Jr.
6. Specialist Gil Mercado
7. Private First Class John Eli Brown
8. Specialist Thomas Arthur Foley III
9. Corporal Armando Ariel Gonzalez
10. Specialist Richard Allen Goward
11. Private First Class Joseph Patrick Mayek
12. Corporal Jason David Mileo
13. Corporal John Travis Rivero
14. Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Todd Arnold
15. Specialist Roy Russell Buckley
16. Chief Warrant Officer Robert William Channell Jr.
17. Lance Corporal Alan Dinh Lam
18. Specialist Edward John Anguiano
19. Sergeant Troy David Jenkins
20. First Lieutenant Osbaldo Orozco
21. Specialist Narson Bertil Sullivan
22. First Sergeant Joe Jesus Garza
23. Sergeant Sean C. Reynolds
24. Private Jason L. Deibler
25. Chief Warrant Officer Brian K. Van Dusen
26. Chief Warrant Officer Hans N. Gukeisen
27. Corporal Richard P. Carl
28. Lance Corporal Cedric E. Bruns
29. Lance Corporal Matthew R. Smith
30. Lance Corporal Jakub Henryk Kowalik
31. Private First Class Jose F. Gonzalez Rodriguez
32. Staff Sergeant Patrick Lee Griffin Jr.
33. Lance Corporal Nicholas Brian Klieboeker
34. Specialist David T. Nutt
35. Master Sergeant William L. Payne
36. Corporal Douglas Jose Marencoreyes
37. Specialist Rasheed Sahib
38. Captain Andrew David LaMont
39. Lance Corporal Jason William Moore
40. First Lieutenant Timothy Louis Ryan
41. Lieutenant Nathan Dennis White
42. Sergeant Kirk Allen Straseskie
43. Lieutenant Colonel Dominic Rocco Baragona

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY).

Mr. HINCHEY.

44. Specialist Nathaniel A. Caldwell
45. Private David Evans Jr.
46. Private First Class Jeremiah D. Smith
47. Major Matthew E. Schram
48. Staff Sergeant Brett J. Petriken
49. Private Kenneth A. Nalley
50. Sergeant Keman L. Mitchell
51. Staff Sergeant Michael B. Quinn
52. Sergeant Thomas F. Broomhead
53. Staff Sergeant Kenneth R. Bradley
54. Specialist Jose A. Perez III
55. Specialist Kyle A. Griffin
56. Specialist Michael T. Gleason
57. Specialist Zachariah W. Long
58. Sergeant Jonathan W. Lambert
59. Sergeant Atanasio Haro Marin Jr.
60. Private First Class Branden F. Oberleitner
61. Petty Officer Third Class Doyle W. Bollinger Jr.
62. Sergeant Travis L. Burkhardt
63. Private Jesse M. Halling
64. Sergeant Michael E. Dooley
65. Private First Class Gavin L. Neighbor
66. Specialist John K. Klinesmith Jr.
67. Staff Sergeant Andrew R. Pokorny
68. Private First Class Ryan R. Cox
69. Specialist Joseph D. Suell
70. Private Shawn D. Pahnke
71. Sergeant Michael L. Tosto
72. Private Robert L. Frantz
73. Private First Class Michael R. Deuel
74. Staff Sergeant William T. Latham
75. Specialist Paul T. Nakamura
76. Specialist Orenthial Javon Smith
77. Sergeant First Class Gladimir Philippe
78. Specialist Cedric Lamont Lennon
79. Private First Class Kevin C. Ott
80. Lance Corporal Gregory E. MacDonald
81. Specialist Andrew F. Chris
82. Specialist Richard P. Orengo

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.

1. Specialist Corey A. Hubbell
2. Corporal Tomas Sotelo Jr.
3. Sergeant Timothy M. Conneway
4. First Sergeant Christopher D. Coffin
5. Corporal Travis J. Bradachnall
6. Private First Class Edward J. Herrgott
7. Private First Class Corey L. Small
8. Specialist Jeffrey M. Wershow
9. Sergeant David B. Parson
10. Staff Sergeant Barry Sanford Sr.
11. Specialist Chad L. Keith
12. Private Robert L. McKinley
13. Sergeant First Class Craig A. Boling
14. Sergeant Melissa Valles
15. Lance Corporal Jason Tetrault
16. Sergeant Roger Dale Rowe
17. Sergeant First Class Dan H. Gabrielson
18. Specialist Christian C. Schultz
19. Specialist Joshua M. Neusche
20. Captain Paul J. Cassidy
21. Sergeant Jaror C. Puello-Coronado
22. Sergeant Michael T. Crockett
23. Lance Corporal Cory Ryan Geurin
24. Specialist Ramon Reyes Torres
25. Petty Officer Third Class David J. Moreno
26. Sergeant Mason Douglas Whetstone
27. Specialist Joel L. Bertoldie
28. Second Lieutenant Jonathan D. Rozier
29. Sergeant First Class Christopher R. Willoughby
30. Sergeant Jason D. Jordan
31. Sergeant Justin W. Garvey
32. Corporal Mark Anthony Bibby
33. Specialist Jon P. Fettig
34. Specialist Brett T. Christian
35. Captain Joshua T. Byers
36. Staff Sergeant Hector R. Perez
37. Private First Class Raheen Tyson Heighter
38. Corporal Evan Asa Ashcraft
39. Sergeant Juan M. Serrano
40. Specialist Wilfredo Perez Jr.
41. Sergeant Daniel K. Methvin
42. Private First Class Jonathan M. Cheatham
43. Specialist Jonathan P. Barnes
44. Sergeant Heath A. McMillin
45. Specialist William J. Maher III
46. Sergeant Nathaniel Hart Jr.
47. Captain Leif E. Nott
48. Specialist James I. Lambert III
49. Private Michael J. Deutsch
50. Specialist Justin W. Hebert
51. Staff Sergeant David L. Loyd
52. Specialist Ronald D. Allen Jr.
53. Specialist Farao K. Letufuga
54. Sergeant Leonard D. Simmons
55. Staff Sergeant Brian R. Hellerman

56. Private Kyle C. Gilbert
57. Specialist Zeferino E. Colunga
58. Private First Class Duane E. Longstreth
59. Private First Class Brandon Ramsey
60. Private Matthew D. Bush
61. Sergeant Floyd G. Knighten Jr.
62. Specialist Levi B. Kinchen
63. Staff Sergeant David S. Perry
64. Private First Class Daniel R. Parker
65. Staff Sergeant Richard S. Eaton Jr.
66. Private First Class Timmy R. Brown Jr.
67. Sergeant Taft V. Williams
68. Sergeant Steven W. White
69. Private First Class David M. Kirchhoff
70. Specialist Eric R. Hull
71. Specialist Kenneth W. Harris Jr.
72. Staff Sergeant Bobby C. Franklin
73. Lieutenant Kylan A. Jones-Huffman
74. Private First Class Michael S. Adams
75. Specialist Stephen M. Scott
76. Private First Class Vorn J. Mack
77. Private First Class Pablo Manzano
78. Specialist Darryl T. Dent
79. Lieutenant Colonel Anthony L. Sherman
80. Specialist Rafael L. Navea
81. Sergeant Gregory A. Belanger
82. Staff Sergeant Mark A. Lawton
83. Kristian E. Parker
84. Sergeant Sean K. Cataudella

□ 1930

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of their valor, courage and sacrifice, Sergeant Charles Todd Caldwell.

1. Staff Sergeant Cameron B. Sarno
2. Staff Sergeant Joseph Camara
3. Private First Class Christopher A. Sisson
4. Technical Sergeant Bruce E. Brown
5. Specialist Jarrett B. Thompson
6. Specialist Ryan G. Carlock
7. Staff Sergeant Joseph E. Robsky Jr.
8. Sergeant Henry Ybarra III
9. Master Sergeant Kevin N. Morehead
10. Sergeant First Class William M. Bennett
11. Sergeant Trevor A. Blumberg
12. Specialist Alyssa R. Peterson
13. Staff Sergeant Kevin C. Kimmerly
14. Specialist James C. Wright
15. Sergeant Anthony O. Thompson
16. Specialist Richard Arriaga
17. Captain Brian R. Faunce
18. Staff Sergeant Frederick L. Miller Jr.
19. Sergeant David Travis Friedric
20. Specialist Lunsford B. Brown II
21. Specialist Paul J. Sturino
22. Specialist Michael Andrade
23. Captain Robert L. Lucero
24. Sergeant First Class Robert E. Rooney
25. Specialist Kyle G. Thomas
26. Sergeant Darrin K. Potter
27. Staff Sergeant Christopher E. Cutchall
28. Sergeant Andrew Joseph Baddick
29. Specialist Dustin K. McGaugh
30. Specialist Simeon Hunte
31. Private First Class Analaura Esparza Gutierrez
32. Command Sergeant James Blankenbecler
33. Private First Class Charles M. Sims
34. Specialist James H. Pirtle
35. Second Lieutenant Richard Torres
36. Private First Class Kerry D. Scott
37. Specialist Spencer Timothy Karol
38. Staff Sergeant Christopher W. Swisher
39. Specialist Joseph C. Norquist
40. Specialist James E. Powell
41. Private First Class Stephen E. Wyatt
42. Specialist Donald L. Wheeler
43. Private Benjamin L. Freeman
44. Specialist Douglas J. Weismantle
45. Private First Class Jose Casanova
46. Lieutenant Colonel Kim S. Orlando
47. Corporal Sean R. Grilley
48. Staff Sergeant Joseph P. Bellavia
49. Private First Class John D. Hart
50. First Lieutenant David R. Bernstein
51. Staff Sergeant Paul J. Johnson
52. Private First Class Paul J. Bueche
53. Specialist John P. Johnson
54. Captain John R. Teal
55. Sergeant Michael S. Hancock
56. Specialist Jose L. Mora
57. Specialist Artimus D. Brassfield
58. Staff Sergeant Jamie L. Huggins
59. Lieutenant Colonel Charles H. Buehring
60. Private First Class Rachel K. Bosveld
61. Private First Class Steven Acosta
62. Sergeant Aubrey D. Bell
63. Private Jonathan I. Falaniko
64. Specialist Isaac Campoy
65. Sergeant Michael Paul Barrera
66. Private Algernon Adams
67. Second Lieutenant Todd J. Bryant
68. Specialist Maurice J. Johnson
69. First Lieutenant Joshua C. Hurley
70. Private First Class Karina S. Lau
71. Staff Sergeant Paul A. Velasquez
72. Private First Class Anthony D. Dagostino
73. First Lieutenant Brian D. Slavenas
74. Chief Warrant Officer Bruce A. Smith
75. First Lieutenant Benjamin J. Colgan
76. Staff Sergeant Joe Nathan Wilson
77. Sergeant Ross A. Pennanen
78. Sergeant Ernest G. Bucklew
79. Sergeant Joel Perez
80. Specialist Frances M. Vega
81. Specialist Darius T. Jennings
82. Sergeant Keelan L. Moss
83. Specialist Brian H. Penisten

Mr. EMANUEL.

1. Specialist Steven Daniel Conover
2. Staff Sergeant Daniel A. Bader
3. Private First Class Rayshawn S. Johnson
4. Sergeant Francisco Martinez
5. Specialist Robert T. Benson
6. Sergeant First Class Jose A. Rivera
7. Sergeant Paul F. Fisher
8. Specialist James A. Chance III
9. Specialist James R. Wolf
10. Sergeant Scott C. Rose
11. Command Sergeant Major Cornell W. Gilmore I
12. Chief Warrant Officer Kyran E. Kennedy
13. Captain Benedict J. Smith
14. Staff Sergeant Paul M. Neff II
15. Staff Sergeant Morgan DeShawn Kennon
16. Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth
17. Private Kurt R. Frosheiser
18. Staff Sergeant Mark D. Vasquez
19. Staff Sergeant Gary L. Collins
20. Sergeant Nicholas A. Tomko
21. Specialist Genaro Acosta
22. Specialist Marlon P. Jackson
23. Specialist Robert A. Wise
24. Staff Sergeant Nathan J. Bailey
25. Private First Class Jacob S. Fletcher
26. Sergeant Joseph Minucci II
27. Specialist Irving Medina
28. Sergeant Timothy L. Hayslett
29. Sergeant Warren S. Hansen
30. Private First Class Damian L. Heidelberg
31. Specialist Ryan T. Baker
32. Specialist William D. Dusenbery
33. Sergeant Michael D. Acklin II
34. Specialist Eugene A. Uhl III
35. Sergeant First Class Kelly Bolor
36. Chief Warrant Officer Erik C. Kesterson
37. Chief Warrant Officer Scott A. Saboe
38. Sergeant John W. Russell
39. Specialist John R. Sullivan
40. Second Lieutenant Jeremy L. Wolfe
41. Specialist Jeremiah J. DiGiovanni
42. Private First Class Joey D. Whitener
43. Captain Pierre E. Piche
44. Private First Class Richard W. Hafer
45. Chief Warrant Officer Alexander S. Coulter
46. Captain James A. Shull
47. Staff Sergeant Dale A. Panchot
48. Captain Nathan S. Dalley
49. Private Scott Matthew Tyrrell
50. Captain George A. Wood
51. Specialist Joseph L. Lister
52. Corporal Gary B. Coleman
53. Private First Class Damian S. Bushart
54. Specialist Robert D. Roberts
55. Specialist Rel A. Ravago IV
56. Command Sergeant Major Jerry L. Wilson
57. Staff Sergeant Eddie E. Menyweather

58. Chief Warrant Officer Christopher G. Nason
59. Corporal Darrell L. Smith
60. Specialist David J. Goldberg
61. Specialist Thomas J. Sweet II
62. Sergeant Ariel Rico
63. Staff Sergeant Stephen A. Bertolino
64. Specialist Aaron J. Sissel
65. Specialist Uday Singh
66. Chief Warrant Officer Clarence E. Boone
67. Specialist Raphael S. Davis
68. Sergeant Ryan C. Young
69. Specialist Arron R. Clark
70. Private First Class Ray J. Hutchinson
71. Private First Class Jason G. Wright
72. Specialist Christopher Jude Rivera Wesley
73. Specialist Joseph M. Blickenstaff
74. Staff Sergeant Steven H. Bridges
75. Specialist Todd M. Bates
76. Staff Sergeant Richard A. Burdick
77. Private First Class Jerrick M. Petty
78. Staff Sergeant Aaron T. Reese
79. Specialist Marshall L. Edgerton
80. Private First Class Jeffrey F. Braun
81. Sergeant Jarrod W. Black
82. Staff Sergeant Kimberly A. Voelz
83. Specialist Rian C. Ferguson
84. Private First Class Kenneth C. Souslin

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) beginning with the names reading from 2004.

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, Specialist Nathan W. Nakis.

1. Specialist Christopher J. Holland
2. Sergeant Glenn R. Allison
3. Private First Class Charles E. Bush Jr.
4. Private First Class Stuart W. Moore
5. First Lieutenant Edward M. Saltz
6. Major Christopher J. Splinter
7. Captain Christopher F. Soelzer
8. Sergeant Benjamin W. Biskie
9. Command Sergeant Major Eric F. Cooke
10. Sergeant Michael E. Yashinski
11. Staff Sergeant Thomas W. Christensen
12. Staff Sergeant Stephen C. Hattamer
13. Specialist Charles G. Haight
14. Specialist Michael G. Mihalakis
15. Staff Sergeant Michael J. Sutter
16. Captain Ernesto M. Blanco
17. Private Rey D. Cuervo
18. Sergeant Curt E. Jordan Jr.
19. Specialist Justin W. Pollard
20. Sergeant Dennis A. Corral
21. Specialist Solomon C. ''Kelly'' Bangayan
22. Captain Eric Thomas Paliwoda
23. Specialist Marc S. Seiden
24. Captain Kimberly N. Hampton
25. Specialist Luke P. Frist
26. Private First Class Jesse D. Mizener
27. Chief Warrant Officer Ian D. Manuel
28. Sergeant Jeffrey C. Walker
29. Chief Warrant Officer Aaron A. Weaver
30. Staff Sergeant Craig Davis
31. Specialist Michael A. Diraimondo
32. Specialist Nathaniel H. Johnson
33. Chief Warrant Officer Philip A. Johnson Jr.
34. Sergeant First Class Gregory B. Hicks
35. Specialist Christopher A. Golby
36. Staff Sergeant Ricky L. Crockett
37. Sergeant Keicia M. Hines
38. Staff Sergeant Roland L. Castro
39. Sergeant Edmond Lee Randle Jr.
40. Specialist Larry E. Polley Jr.
41. Private First Class Cody J. Orr
42. Master Sergeant Kelly L. Hornbeck
43. Private First Class James D. Parker
44. Specialist Gabriel T. Palacios
45. Chief Warrant Officer Brian D. Hazelgrove
46. Chief Warrant Officer Michael T. Blaise
47. Specialist Jason K. Chappell
48. Private First Class Ervin Dervishi
49. Staff Sergeant Kenneth W. Hendrickson
50. Sergeant Randy S. Rosenberg
51. Sergeant Keith L. Smette
52. Specialist William R. Sturges Jr.
53. Staff Sergeant Christopher Bunda
54. Chief Warrant Officer Patrick D. Dorff
55. First Lieutenant Adam G. Mooney
56. Sergeant Travis A. Moothart
57. Sergeant Cory R. Mracek
58. Sergeant First Class James T. Hoffman
59. Second Lieutenant Luke S. James
60. Staff Sergeant Lester O. Kinney II
61. Captain Matthew J. August
62. Staff Sergeant Sean G. Landrus
63. Private First Class Luis A. Moreno
64. Private First Class Holly J. McGeogh
65. Sergeant Eliu A. Miersandoval
66. Corporal Juan C. Cabral Banuelos
67. Private First Class Armando Soriano
68. Second Lieutenant Seth J. Dvorin
69. Specialist Joshua L. Knowles
70. Staff Sergeant Richard P. Ramey
71. Sergeant Thomas D. Robbins
72. Sergeant Elijah Tai Wah Wong
73. Master Sergeant Jude C. Mariano
74. Private First Class William C. Ramirez
75. Sergeant Patrick S. Tainsh
76. Specialist Eric U. Ramirez
77. Private Bryan N. Spry
78. Specialist Christopher M. Taylor
79. Private First Class Nichole M. Frye
80. Specialist Michael M. Merila
81. Specialist Roger G. Ling
82. Second Lieutenant Jeffrey C. Graham
83. Sergeant First Class Henry A. Bacon

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY).

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, Chief Warrant Officer Matthew C. Laskowski.

1. Chief Warrant Officer Stephen M. Wells
2. Specialist Michael R. Woodliff
3. Petty Officer Second Class Michael J. Gray
4. Captain Gussie M. Jones
5. Private First Class Matthew G. Milczark
6. Sergeant First Class Richard S. Gottfried
7. Specialist Edward W. Brabazon
8. Private First Class Bert Edward Hoyer
9. Specialist Christopher K. Hill
10. Staff Sergeant Joe L. Dunigan Jr.
11. Specialist Jason C. Ford
12. Captain John F. ''Hans'' Kurth
13. Specialist Jocelyn ''Joce'' L. Carrasquillo
14. Private First Class Joel K. Brattain
15. Sergeant Daniel J. Londono
16. Sergeant First Class Clint D. Ferrin
17. Sergeant William J. Normandy
18. First Lieutenant Michael R. Adams
19. Master Sergeant Thomas R. Thigpen Sr.
20. Specialist Tracy L. Laramore
21. Sergeant Ivory L. Phipps
22. Private First Class Ricky A. Morris Jr.
23. Private First Class Brandon C. Smith
24. Private First Class Ernest Harold Sutphin
25. Corporal Andrew D. Brownfield
26. Specialist Doron Chan
27. Specialist Clint Richard ''Bones'' Matthews
28. Corporal David M. Vicente
29. Private First Class Jason C. Ludlam
30. First Lieutenant Michael W. Vega
31. Specialist Matthew J. Sandri
32. Major Mark D. Taylor
33. Private Dustin L. Kreider
34. Private First Class Christopher E. Hudson
35. Lance Corporal Andrew S. Dang
36. Private First Class Bruce Miller Jr.
37. Staff Sergeant Wentz Jerome Henry Shanaberger III
38. Lance Corporal Jeffrey C. Burgess
39. Specialist Adam D. Froehlich
40. Lance Corporal James A. Casper
41. Private First Class Leroy Sandoval Jr.
42. Master Sergeant Timothy Toney
43. Private First Class Sean M. Schneider
44. Specialist Jeremiah J. Holmes
45. Master Sergeant Richard L. Ferguson
46. Lance Corporal William J. Wiscowiche
47. Private Brandon L. Davis
48. Private First Class Cleston C. Raney
49. Specialist Michael G. Karr Jr.
50. Specialist Sean R. Mitchell
51. First Lieutenant Doyle M. Hufstedler
52. Private First Class Dustin M. Sekula
53. Private First Class William R. Strange
54. Lance Corporal Aric J. Barr
55. Private First Class John D. Amos II
56. Corporal Tyler R. Fey

57. Private First Class Geoffrey S. Morris
58. Specialist Philip G. Rogers
59. Sergeant Michael W. Mitchell
60. Sergeant Yihiyh L. Chen
61. Specialist Robert R. Arsiaga
62. Specialist Stephen D. Hiller
63. Specialist Ahmed Akil ''Mel'' Cason
64. Specialist Israel Garza
65. Corporal Forest Joseph Jostes
66. Specialist Casey Sheehan
67. Specialist Scott Quentin Larson Jr.
68. Sergeant David M. McKeever
69. Private First Class Christopher Ramos
70. Corporal Jesse L. Thiry
71. Lance Corporal Matthew K. Serio
72. Lance Corporal Shane Lee Goldman
73. Private First Class Moises A. Langhorst
74. Private First Class Christopher R. Cobb
75. Private First Class Ryan M. Jerabek
76. Lance Corporal Travis J. Layfield
77. Lance Corporal Anthony P. Robert
78. Private First Class Benjamin R. Carman
79. Lance Corporal Marcus M. Cherry
80. Second Lieutenant John Thomas Wroblewski
81. Lance Corporal Kyle D. Crowley
82. Staff Sergeant Allan K. Walker
83. Private First Class Deryk L. Hallal

□ 1945

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO).

Mr. SERRANO.

1. Sergeant Gerardo Moreno
2. Sergeant Lee Duane Todacheene
3. Petty Officer Third Class Fernando A. Mendez-Aceves
4. Staff Sergeant George S. Rentschler
5. Specialist Tyanna S. Felder
6. Captain Brent L. Morel
7. Sergeant First Class Marvin Lee Miller
8. Private First Class Christopher D. Mabry
9. Sergeant First Class William W. Labadie Jr.
10. Specialist Isaac Michael Nieves
11. Staff Sergeant William M. Harrell
12. Lance Corporal Phillip E. Frank
13. Lance Corporal Levi T. Angell
14. Lance Corporal Christopher B. Wasser
15. Corporal Nicholas J. Dieruf
16. Lance Corporal Michael B. Wafford
17. First Lieutenant Joshua M. Palmer
18. Specialist Jonathan Roy Kephart
19. Sergeant Felix M. Delgreco
20. Corporal Matthew E. Matula
21. Lance Corporal Elias Torrez III
22. Corporal Michael Raymond Speer
23. Private First Class Chance R. Phelps
24. Private First Class Eric A. Ayon
25. Staff Sergeant Don Steven McMahan
26. Specialist Michelle M. Witmer
27. Specialist Peter G. Enos
28. Private First Class Gregory R. Goodrich
29. Staff Sergeant Toby W. Mallet
30. Specialist Allen Jeffrey ''A.J.'' Vandayburg
31. Staff Sergeant Raymond Edison Jones Jr.
32. Sergeant Elmer C. Krause
33. Airman First Class Antoine J. Holt
34. Specialist Adolf C. Carballo
35. Specialist Justin W. Johnson
36. Sergeant William C. Eckhart
37. Private First Class George D. Torres
38. First Lieutenant Oscar Jimenez
39. Lance Corporal Torrey L. Gray
40. Corporal Daniel R. Amaya
41. Chief Warrant Officer Lawrence S. Colton
42. Chief Warrant Officer Wesley C. Fortenberry
43. Private First Class Nathan P. Brown
44. Sergeant Major Michael Boyd Stack
45. Lance Corporal Robert Paul Zurheide Jr.
46. Lance Corporal Brad S. Shuder
47. Private Noah L. Boye
48. Corporal Kevin T. Kolm
49. Staff Sergeant Victor A. Rosaleslomeli
50. Specialist Richard K. Trevithick
51. Sergeant Christopher Ramirez
52. Specialist Frank K. Rivers Jr.
53. Staff Sergeant Jimmy J. Arroyave
54. Sergeant Brian M. Wood
55. Specialist Dennis B. Morgan
56. Specialist Michael A. McGlothin
57. Specialist Marvin A. Camposiles
58. Private First Class Clayton Welch Henson
59. First Lieutenant Robert L. Henderson II
60. Sergeant Jonathan N. Hartman
61. Staff Sergeant Edward W. Carman
62. Lance Corporal Gary F. Van Leuven
63. Lance Corporal Ruben Valdez Jr.
64. Lance Corporal Michael J. Smith Jr.
65. Captain Richard J. Gannon II
66. Corporal Christopher A. Gibson
67. Private First Class Leroy Harris-Kelly
68. First Sergeant Bradley C. Fox
69. Specialist Christopher D. Gelineau
70. Corporal Jason L. Dunham
71. Private First Class Shawn C. Edwards
72. Staff Sergeant Cory W. Brooks
73. Petty Officer Third Class Nathan B. Bruckenthal
74. Petty Officer Second Class Christopher E. Watts
75. Petty Officer First Class Michael J. Pernaselli
76. Staff Sergeant Stacey C. Brandon
77. Staff Sergeant Billy J. Orton
78. Chief Warrant Officer Patrick W. Kordsmeier
79. Captain Arthur L. ''Bo'' Felder
80. Specialist Kenneth A. Melton
81. Lance Corporal Aaron C. Austin
82. Sergeant Sherwood R. Baker
83. Sergeant Lawrence A. Roukey
84. Staff Sergeant Abraham D. Penamedina

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the distinguished Members from both sides of the aisle who have participated tonight. I would also like to thank the veterans and their families who have contacted my office to express their support for this effort, and other Members' office.

Unfortunately, a single hour is not enough time to recognize each of our fallen citizens. My colleagues and I will continue this tribute on Monday evening for as many tomorrows as it takes to properly thank those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their Nation.

I would also like to take this opportunity on behalf of my colleagues to thank the brave men and women who continue to serve our Nation in both Iraq, Afghanistan, and overseas. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families in these times.

□ 2000

REPUBLICAN AGENDA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, in this Special Order, we are going to focus on two things. I am first here to speak a tribute to a very good friend of mine and then I will share the rest of the hour with my colleagues.

TRIBUTE TO LOIS BRITT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of a true leader and my friend, Anne Lois Britt. On June 4, just 3 weeks ago, Lois Britt passed away in her sleep. Not only did her family lose a devoted and caring matriarch but Lois' passing marked a serious loss for my State. Lois' first love was to her family and grandchildren, Ralph and Luke, but she loved and treated the betterment of rural North Carolina like it was her second family. She touched the lives of so many, and words cannot express what she meant to those around her. Throughout her nearly 50-year career, Lois was able to work for, and with, the things she loved—her family, people, education, agriculture, and Duplin County.

Lois was born and reared in Duplin County, North Carolina. Duplin County is in the rural eastern part of North Carolina. However, Lois could see from an early age, if given just a few resources, the citizens of Duplin County could do and achieve wonderful things. She was determined to improve the

lives of everyone she knew, and she knew almost everybody. So after earning her bachelor's degree from East Carolina University and graduating from North Carolina State with a master's degree in adult education, she returned home to begin her life's work.

Once back in Duplin, she started with the extension service, working in 4–H, home economics and community development. For more than 33 years, she helped mold 4–H'ers, families, and coworkers into positive, productive citizens. To put into perspective how much she meant to the 4–H community, I would like to tell you a story I heard from one of her closest friends. It is customary in North Carolina to have one large family Bible that you keep records, newspaper clippings, and any general memorabilia about your family. One common item usually found in Duplin County family Bibles was the children's 4–H certificates. For 33 years, Lois Britt signed every single 4–H certificate awarded. You see, Lois was a part of everyone's family in some way or another. Countless people in Duplin County credit Lois and the skills they gained under her 4–H and extension leadership for the success they have enjoyed in life.

While she was doing what God had put her on earth to do, helping others, Lois' career began to take off. In 1976, she was promoted to county extension director. She held this position for 14 years and was the first woman in North Carolina's history to serve in that capacity.

After leaving the county extension in 1990, she worked until 2000 with Murphy Family Farms as vice president for public relations. Additionally, she was a member of the board of the North Carolina Pork Council and was vice president of the National Pork Producers Council. It was through her work in pork and agriculture that Lois and I first became friends. We worked together in the North Carolina State Senate and here in the House of Representatives on a number of projects to improve and bolster the pork industry in our home State. We did not always see eye to eye on every issue, but I always knew where she stood and I admired her for that.

It was during her time with Murphy Brown Farms and the North Carolina Pork Council that Lois became a national spokesperson for her industry. She gained national notoriety in her field as an effective and creative leader. People looked up to Lois and respected what she had to say. Although she never ran for public office, I suspect Lois could have held any elected position she wanted due to her leadership, compassion, and understanding of complicated issues.

While moving the agribusiness sector of North Carolina forward, Lois became heavily involved with North Carolina State University. She served on the University of North Carolina board of governors and had been appointed to the chancellor's board of visitors for North Carolina State University. In fact, one of the easiest decisions I ever made in the State Senate was to vote for Lois Britt for board of governors.

Along with her distinguished professional career, Lois was awarded and achieved many honors in her successful life. Awards such as the North Carolina Pork Council Hall of Fame, North Carolina 4–H Lifetime Achievement Award, the North Carolina State University Watauga Medal, the 2003 Volunteer Service Award from the National Agricultural Alumni and Development Association, and the 2002 Distinguished Alumnus for Agriculture from the North Carolina State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences are just a few of the awards and achievements bestowed upon Lois. If I read them all to you, we would be here till next week.

As you can see, Lois Britt meant the world to her family, her community and the State of North Carolina. Lois had a history of helping people solve problems that arise from our need to be good stewards of the land. She built systems that allow our youth, families and communities to plan and execute productive agribusiness enterprises. She was a great mother and a great friend.

I am pleased that her son Ralph, his wife Suzanne, and Lois' sister Gail have traveled to Washington to join me in celebrating the life of their loved one. They traveled to D.C. to be a part of this tribute, along with many other of Lois' closest friends. I was also honored to be a part of her life. Although Lois is no longer with us physically, we can rest easy knowing she is reunited with her husband and is teaching somewhere in heaven. May God bless her soul.

Mr. Speaker, a group of us is here tonight to bring some perspectives to many things that have been said in the past few weeks by leaders and members of the Democratic Party. I want to recognize first, Representative MARSHA BLACKBURN who represents the Seventh District of Tennessee, and then Representative KENNY MARCHANT who represents the 24th District of Texas. I will then speak very briefly and then recognize the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) who is here.

Let me please turn the floor over to the gentlewoman from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina and how we welcome her enthusiasm and her dedication to helping move forward with the Republican agenda and with the leadership that has been shown.

Mr. Speaker, before I begin my comments this evening, I would like to just pause for a few moments and commend our colleagues from across the aisle as they have stood tonight to remember and to commemorate those men and women who have given their lives in the fight for freedom. We can never begin to express our thanks and our gratitude to the men and women who fight to preserve freedom. Our country has a long, storied, noble history in the fight for freedom and democracy. I want to commend them for reminding and for remembering that there are those who have given their lives. We need to remember each and every individual.

This Nation has been being attacked by terrorists now for a couple of decades. We need to go back and as we remember these men and women who have lost their lives in Iraq, we need to also remember those that lost their lives with the Khobar Towers, with the Cole, with the first World Trade Center bombing, those in Afghanistan and those that currently serve in Afghanistan as well as all of our men and women who are currently deployed. In Tennessee, in my district, we have men and women who are members of the National Guard who are deployed in both Afghanistan and Iraq. To those families, we say we stand with you so solidly, so totally in this fight for freedom.

We have men and women from Fort Campbell, which primarily sits in the Seventh Congressional District of Tennessee, who are preparing to redeploy with the 101st or the 160th, who are in the process of being redeployed. We thank each and every one of them for their service, for their sacrifice, their families we thank for their service and their sacrifice, these precious children who are at home for the summer without mom or dad to go to the ball field with them or to take them to swimming lessons or to hold them tight at night when they are worried and have fears and concerns. We stand with you in this fight for freedom.

We are talking a good bit about what our agenda has been and being in touch with the desires of the American people. I want to call attention to a couple of things that have been in the press lately. We had seven House Members yesterday who wrote a letter to Minority Leader PELOSI saying that they were shocked by a statement in which she said the war in Afghanistan was over, and I am quoting from the letter. They wrote: ''Messages like yours could demoralize our troops and undermine our efforts to fight terrorism in Afghanistan and around the world.'' That was in their letter, and reminding her that we have known all along this is going to be a long, long war. It is not going to be an easy war. It is going to require some sacrifice on all of our parts, on each and every single individual's part.

And then I pulled another article from today's press. It was talking about Taliban, Rebels Fight Afghan, U.S. Forces. We had 102 insurgents that were killed in 3 days of fighting in Afghanistan. It just goes to show us, those who wish us harm, those who would do evil are still out there and still fighting and fighting against freedom.

But much of this has to do with focus and where we put our focus and where

this 109th Congress chooses to place its focus. We were here earlier this week talking about the agenda, the Republican agenda, and some of the things that we have accomplished. We are in our 69th day, I believe it is, of our session. There are many strides that we have made for the American people. As we have talked about this, and I know the gentlewoman from North Carolina is certainly aware of this, every time we pass a bill here, it does not mean we have added another law or added another statute to the books. Many times what it means is that we are removing or repealing something and that is the way it ought to be, because being committed to freedom, being here to defend the individual freedoms that each and every person holds dear, means that one of the things we are doing is trying to roll back that long reaching arm of government, roll it back and send that power and send that money and send that authority to the State and local levels. That is something that we as a majority feel is very important: individual freedoms, local control, moving forward on an agenda that is a conservative, well-placed agenda, rooting out waste, fraud and abuse, looking for ways to shrink some of these programs.

These are some of the things that we have been able to make progress on over the last few months: bankruptcy reform, which we passed with 302 votes in this body. That meant we had 73 Democrats cross over and vote with us to pass that. The reason they do that, most of America agrees with the majority's agenda, things that are going to strengthen families, things that are going to strengthen small business.

Class action reform. We have all heard the stories of how trial lawyers go out and make 20, $30 million off of different class action cases and then the members of the class end up with a coupon for 50 cents off, a free movie, a free bottle of juice, a free packet of some commodity. Class action reform passed in this body with 279 votes. Fifty of those votes were Democrats.

The REAL ID Act, border security, addressing illegal immigration and the impact illegal immigration has on this great Nation. We passed the REAL ID Act which is the first step in this, working in concert with many of our State legislatures. They were supporting us as we moved forward with the REAL ID Act to be certain that we had valid documents, immigration documents, used for driver's licenses. The REAL ID Act passed with 261 votes. Forty-two of those were Democrat votes.

Permanent repeal of the death tax which we have passed in this body. We look forward to seeing that signed into law, because we are looking to roll back taxes and free up this economy, continue to free it up. We have had 25 months of sustained economic growth and it comes from the tax reductions that have been passed by this majority. One of those is the death tax repeal. An important reason for this is because the death tax is a triple tax. You pay tax when you acquire an asset, you pay tax when you maintain the asset, and certainly when you earn your income that you use to purchase that asset, you are paying tax there, too. So rolling back the death tax. Two hundred seventy-two Members of this body, the U.S. House of Representatives, voted to repeal the death tax. Forty-two of those were Democrats.

Continuity of government. The energy bill. Everyone is concerned about gas prices. Something we can do that is going to help us send the right message is passing an energy bill.

□ 2015

And we did that in this House, sent it across the Rotunda to our friends and colleagues in the Senate. And we passed that energy bill with 249 votes; 41 of those were Democrats. And the gentlewoman knows that all of this goes to show that America responds to our agenda. They are looking forward to our reducing the size of government, getting government off their back, getting it out of their pocketbook, leaving them with more money to spend, lightening up on that regulation so that the free enterprise system can do what it does best: generate jobs. We know we do not create those jobs. Government does not create those jobs. Free enterprise creates those jobs.

So as we look at an agenda that is based on hope, is based on planning for the future, is based on a better life for our children, we welcome that the other party comes along and supports this agenda because we know it energizes America. We have provisions that energize this economy, that get us moving in the direction that we should be moving.

I want to thank the gentlewoman for organizing this hour, looking at the strength that is in the agenda that we are working on this year and looking at the momentum that we have for this agenda. It is going to be a busy summer here in Washington, and it is going to be a very brisk, aggressive fall. And we look forward to continuing to work on these issues of taxation, of regulation, the immigration, addressing illegal immigration, litigation, beginning to continue to address these frivolous lawsuits; and we know that progress is going to be made on behalf of the American people.

I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me and for inviting me to join her on the floor.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Now I would like to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT), who has come into this Congress along with me and whom I have come to appreciate so much for his leadership and insights.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for yielding to me.

It is a rare privilege for me to be on the floor with her tonight, and it was a privilege for me to spend the last hour listening to the names of men and women who have given their lives so that we would have the opportunity to be here tonight and to state our views and debate and pass laws that will affect this country.

But this evening I would like to commend the leadership of the Republican-led 109th Congress, which at its halfway point has been marked by major legislative achievement. The Democrats have responded to our party's ideas and vision with a lack of ideas and a lack of vision. They have continuously criticized the actions of the majority, but remain unwilling to put forward any constructive plan on Social Security, energy, or illegal immigration.

I am proud of the many initiatives already passed by House Republicans this year to strengthen this great Nation. This includes class action reform. This reform addresses the most serious cases of class action abuse by allowing large interstate class action cases to be heard in Federal court. The measure unclogs specified, very specific, overused courts and ends harassment of local businesses through forum shopping and limits the thousands and thousands of frivolous lawsuits that are being filed every day.

Another example is the READ ID Act. The READ ID Act completes the mission and recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. It closes asylum loopholes and implements driver's license reforms, strengthens deportation laws, and defends our borders. This bill is necessary to secure our borders and our homeland.

This majority has also passed the permanent repeal of the death tax. The death tax is the leading cause of dissolution for most of our small businesses in America. This unfair tax hampers economic growth. Permanently killing the death tax creates a tax policy that supplements economic growth and opportunity and gives hope to future generations. Our small farmers, our Realtors, our small businesses in America only want to pass on what they have spent generations earning to their families; yet we have a death tax now that robs them of that ability.

America needs a comprehensive energy policy. This Republican Congress has passed an energy bill that creates ½ million new jobs in a wide range of industries. The initiative provides incentives for renewable energies and leadership in energy conservation. The Energy Policy Act allows for increased domestic oil and gas exploration and development. It aims to decrease America's dependence on foreign oil and therefore make our country safer and more self-reliant.

Republican Members of Congress are also currently hammering out solutions to the looming Social Security crisis, as well as negotiating a highway bill that will improve driver safety, traffic congestion, and create millions of new jobs across America.

Such progress and achievement for the well-being of this country can only be attributed to the leadership and effectiveness of congressional Republicans. I am disappointed that our opposing party continues to hinder progress and relies on its legislative obstructionism.

I am proud of what we have accomplished thus far in the 109th Congress for the American people.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

I now yield to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE), who also came in with this freshman class and represents the Second District of Virginia.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for her leadership tonight and for allowing us to participate here with her in this hour.

We have heard from the gentleman from Texas and the gentlewoman from Tennessee that we are right at our halfway point for the very first year of the 109th Congress. I think that the gentlewoman from North Carolina would agree with me that it is a very exciting time to serve in Congress. There are very many major issues that face our Nation, and the exciting thing is that this Congress is committed to dealing with those issues.

We have begun the debate on Social Security. We will begin the debate on Medicaid reform with the commission that is being formed, a bipartisan commission. We will work on the total issue of health care, Medicare reform, illegal immigration. There are just many issues that this Congress must deal with and is committed to dealing with.

We have heard tonight about some of the major pieces of legislation that have already been passed by both bodies and enacted into law, from bankruptcy reform to class action lawsuit reform to the READ ID Act and the Continuity of Government Act.

We have also heard about pieces of legislation that were in the works for a very long time and have now passed over to the Senate and we are awaiting their action. On a national energy plan, our country knows today how critical it is that we have a national energy plan. We can no longer be reliant on foreign oil, which today is 62 percent of the energy of the oil that is used in this country.

Other key things that this Congress has sent to the Senate is the Child Interstate Abortion Act, a critical piece of legislation for our parents and our families; Gang Violence Deterrence and Protection Act, critical for our safety in our communities; the flag protection amendment; U.N. reform; and the reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act. Also, both Houses have acted on our highway bill, and that bill is currently in conference and there will be a compromise at approximately somewhere around $284 billion for highways, transit, and road safety through 2009, creating countless new jobs and addressing many transportation needs.

The American people need to know that Congress is hard at work and dealing with problems that have not yet been addressed. Bankruptcy reform and class action lawsuit alone were at least 6 years before those bills were passed. Last year Congress did not pass a highway bill; and this year, as we have heard, we are very close to finalizing that.

The people of this Nation have expressed that Congress needed to demand and require commonsense reform in regards to our participation and financial support of the U.N. I commend the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) and the House Committee on International Relations for their hard work. Now the U.S. can require accountability and tie payments to it.

And we now have figures to show how well the Bush tax cuts are working. Current numbers reflect an additional $100 billion in revenue. It shows that that economic model of allowing people to keep more of their hard-earned money means that they will creates new jobs, they will invest it, and they will grow tax dollars for us.

But to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), who has organized this, Mr. Speaker, as pleased as I am with the progress and accomplishments of this Congress, I stand here today with a very heavy heart and am very distressed beyond belief by the action and decision of the Supreme Court today in regards to private property rights.

The constitutional right of the government to eminent domain to purchase private property for public use is a sensitive, difficult issue even when roads, schools, and other public facilities are the reason for the rare and cautious use of this power. But to force an unwilling private party to sell his property for the ultimate use by another private party, even if the property's intended use is a more productive one, is just plain wrong.

The exact words of the dissenting opinion are: ''Under the banner of economic development, all private property is now vulnerable to being taken and transferred to another private owner so long as it might be upgraded, i.e., given to an owner, who will use it in a way that the legislature deems more beneficial to the public in the process.''

Mr. Speaker, this decision today effectively removes the requirement of public use from the takings clause of the fifth amendment. With this decision all property owners are at risk. My office is currently exploring what legislative remedies are available to ensure that Americans do truly own their property.

I would like to thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me. I look forward to continuing to work with her and adding this additional item to our plate to make sure that the people of our country express the right that our forefathers came here for, to own private property.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) for her comments, and I want to tell her that I am as distressed about this ruling as she is. I think that the people of this country are very concerned with activist courts and are very concerned at where the country is going as far as judicial rulings, and I want to join her in doing whatever we possibly can legislatively to stop this kind of action from being taken. She is absolutely right. It is one of our most fundamental rights, the right to private property, and it is one of the things that has made this country so great. So I look forward to her leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART), someone I have come to know and admire tremendously, who represents the 25th District of Florida, for his wisdom on the issues we are discussing tonight.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman is very kind, and I thank her for yielding to me.

I too want to join the many who have expressed their gratitude for what she is doing here tonight. But really more importantly, if I may, I want to thank her for her incredible, passionate leadership particularly on fighting waste, fraud, and abuse that is, unfortunately, still rampant in the Federal budget. She has been such a champion, and it has been a privilege for me to learn from her, see how she does it, and she has been extremely effective. So it is truly just wonderful to see how she works, and it is wonderful that she is giving this Special Order to speak about issues that are important to the United States of America.

□ 2030

I was listening to the honorable gentlewoman from North Carolina, and she was talking about things that have happened in this Chamber. One of the things that is important is to highlight that it is not only legislation that we have passed here, but it is legislation, not for the sake of passing legislation, it is legislation that has had real, concrete, positive results for the American people. Let us look at some of the results; more than just the legislation, but the results of that legislation.

Look at, for example, the growth in the GDP, the gross domestic product. This is after 9/11. This is after the Internet bubble burst. This is after the recession that President Bush inherited when he first got elected. Despite all that, because of legislation that the President led on and that this Congress passed, the GDP, the growth of the economy, has been spectacular. Mr. Speaker, we have had 14 consecutive quarters of real growth in the economy, a 3.5 rate in the first quarter of this year, a 3.5 percent increase in the GDP. Again, 14 consecutive quarters of real growth, despite what this Congress and our President found itself dealing with after 9/11.

Look at payroll employment. It rose by 2.2 million jobs during 2004; 2.2 million jobs that would be unemployed if it was not for the policies of this Congress, of this majority, and of the President of the United States. Mr. Speaker, 3.5 million jobs over the past 24 months. Ask those hard-working Americans who now have jobs if the policies that this Congress has pursued and passed have not worked for them. They have worked for them, and we are grateful for the President's leadership. I think we have to always remind ourselves that with a little bit of help, with a few Democrats, but with the leadership of the Speaker of the House and the Majority party, great things have happened for our country, for our working men and women in our great country.

Look at, again, the fact that unemployment today, right now, is lower than it was, than the average of the 1970s, the decade of the 1980s and, yes, even lower than the decade of the 1990s. Hard to believe that that is possible, after 9/11, after the scandals on Wall Street, after the bubble-burst of the Internet. Again, that is because of the leadership of our President and because of the leadership of this House.

The homeownership rate is at record levels. More people own homes than ever in the history of our country and, by the way, if we look at minority homeownership also, that is at record levels.

Now, we have more to do. We have more to do, still, and we are working hard to do even more. All of us are concerned about the deficit. We have to reduce the size of the deficit. We know that the President has said, and he has pledged to cut the deficit in half over the next five years. The budget that this House passed does just that in a responsible fashion. It gets a handle on the deficit. It is going to reduce the deficit in half. We do that by controlling spending.

Hey, folks, this is not rocket science. If you are spending too much money, that is why you have a deficit, hey, what do you do? Spend less. Not rocket science. Well, that is what we are doing.

But let me tell my colleagues what our friends in the Democratic Party have proposed as their solution to control the deficit. We hear them here on the Floor of the House continuously, and even in the Senate, talking about, oh, the deficit is too high. But then, what do they propose? They propose billions and billions and billions of dollars in additional spending, which would go directly to increase the size of the deficit. They have done so publicly. They have done so with an amendment in the Committee on the Budget on which I have the honor of serving and also here on the Floor of the House. They cannot have it both ways. They cannot be concerned about the deficit and then propose billions and billions of dollars of additional spending in the Federal budget, spending of Federal dollars.

The President, by the way, has done a great job in looking for programs that are not working. I do not think again it takes a rocket scientist to understand that there are Federal programs that frankly are just not doing that well, that are just wasting the taxpayers' money. Once again, I have to repeat what I said in the beginning. I want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for her efforts, particularly in trying to fight waste in the Federal Government.

The President has also done a great job. He has created this assessment tool called PART. What he has done is he has gone through every single area of the Federal budget, the Federal Government looking for things that can be reduced or eliminated because they are not needed, not doing a good job, because there are other programs that are better and less expensive. He has proposed eliminating a number of programs and to shift that money to programs that do work.

We also have to be very proud of the job that the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations is doing, the honorable gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS). He has actually cut an incredible amount of those duplicative, those programs that do not work, that are proven money-wasters, and has shifted those funds to programs that do work. I think, again, we are doing some good things. We do get every once in a while, a few, a couple, one or two, sometimes three or four, and sometimes many more, Democrats who come on board and help us with these efforts. But, unfortunately, most of the heavy lifting to cut waste, to reduce the deficit, to cut taxes, to incentivize the economy has been done with no help from the opposition party. But, fortunately, we have been able to pass those issues, and that is why the economy is doing as well as it is doing, and that is why millions of Americans that otherwise would have been unemployed now have jobs.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I just want to end with a separate thought. It is always difficult, and I think an honor and a privilege, to listen to the names of our fallen heroes, and we had that tonight, we heard it a little while ago, and I think it is always something that we have to again thank them, thank their families, and thank God that there are heroes like them that are willing to put even their lives on the line to protect our freedoms. I have to say that I was very pleased to see Members of this House come on to this floor to mention the names of our heroes with respect.

That, unfortunately, contrasts so dramatically, sadly, with the statements by a member of the other party of the U.S. Senate. He recently had to apologize because he compared our troops, our men and women in uniform, compared them to the Nazis, to the Soviets and their gulags, to that mad assassin, crazy regime of Pol Pot in Cambodia, those regimes that killed people as a policy, assassinated people. And for anybody, anybody to even mention our troops, our men and women in uniform in that same breath as the Soviet gulags, Pol Pot, or the Nazis is, frankly, totally unacceptable. I guess he was comparing the hard work of our brave men and women in uniform to Nazis. Is he equating the treatment of innocent victims in the concentration camps or in the gulags to the humane treatment that terrorists are getting in Guantanamo at the hands of our troops? Again, it is totally unacceptable.

We accept his apology, after he was forced to apologize, even though he first did not want to. We are talking about the second highest ranking Democrat in the U.S. Senate who said those things. So we will accept his apology. I think, though, that we should also demand his resignation from that position of leadership, a position of leadership, the second highest ranking leader, democratic leader in the Senate, who compared our troops to the Nazis, to the Soviet gulags, and to Pol Pot.

So that is why, Mr. Speaker, I have to tell my colleagues that I was very pleased with coming here tonight and listening in contrast to the names of our fallen heroes. That is the way we should refer to our troops as heroes, as men and women who guarantee the peace not only of the United States of America, but of the entire world. They are heroes that will never be forgotten. And I, for one, have to tell my colleagues, as I will also never forget those who insult our heroes, who compare them to Nazis; I will never forget that either.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for her great leadership, for her impassioned leadership and again, in particular, I thank her for really teaching us a lesson as to what it means to be passionate, fighting for the taxpayer against fraud, waste, and abuse in the Federal budget.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate so much the gentleman from Florida. He also has great passion for the issues that he is concerned about, and I am so proud to be serving with him in the 109th Congress.

I agree with him that it is appropriate for us to honor our heroes, and what happened tonight is a great contrast to much that has been said recently.

Mr. Speaker, I took to the Floor earlier this session to reject Democrat charges that the Republican Party is out of the mainstream. At the time I thought the rhetoric from the other side of the aisle could not be more partisan, more vitriolic, or more damaging to America's credibility abroad. I also thought that they would take their rhetoric only so far. I never thought that they would take their rhetoric so far as to put our troops in greater danger than they are already in. But, Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to say I was wrong. From the chair of the Democrat National Committee to their

party leaders in Congress, something has gone terribly awry. Where are the statesmen who put country ahead of party? What happened to the party of Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman, the party of Daniel Patrick Moynihan and John F. Kennedy?

Last week I was able to take my grandchildren to Arlington National Cemetery, and I can tell my colleagues that I could not read the words at the Eternal Flame spoken by President Kennedy without getting very, very emotional. I think that President Kennedy's words are so important for us to talk about tonight in light of our having talked about our soldiers who have given their lives. President Kennedy said, ''Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.'' That is what the brave men and women who are now serving in our military have done. They have asked what can they do for their country. Some of them are giving the ultimate sacrifice.

But, unfortunately, the party of President Kennedy and the party of these other great patriots seems to be gone. It has been replaced by the party of moveon.org and George Soros. A once proud party with a strong pedigree of ideals and values has devolved into a festering wound whose only attributes are hate and obstruction. What is worse, Mr. Speaker, is some Democrats are proud of their transformation and proclaim it loudly. At a DNC gathering in New York, the chairman of the party said, ''I hate Republicans and everything they stand for.''

Well, Mr. Speaker, I do not hate Howard Dean and I have never heard another single Republican say that they hate him, but we do feel sorry for him. I feel sorry for those whom he has let down, the millions of Democrats across the country whose party he leads. Mr. Speaker, unlike Dr. Dean, I do not lump all members of the opposition party together. I know there are good Democrats who possess bright ideas and patriotic souls. Some of them might even live and work in this town. And I feel for them. Their leader believes that the louder he screams, the better people will somehow be able to hear him. But I tell my colleagues this: soon, people will stop listening.

Mr. Speaker, our two-party system works best when both sides bring ideas to the table and hash them out. Yes, the Majority party tends to win most, if not all the time, but that is what the voters intended. I understand this better than most, because I spent 10 years in the North Carolina General Assembly in the minority party.

What is most important is that the marketplace of ideas is routinely stocked with the freshest and most visionary policies each side has to offer. I am happy to say Republicans are doing their job, but I am sorry I cannot say the same about the Democrats' leadership.

Instead of policy proposals, we get blank stares. Instead of negotiation, we get obstruction. Instead of dialogue, we get rhetoric.

□ 2045

And I truly wish this were not the case, because now is a time of great responsibility. Now more than ever we need a Congress that is serious about preparing this Nation for the challenges of the century ahead.

And, Mr. Speaker, while Republicans are happy to continue passing our solution-oriented agenda, I truly wish we had a partner in the Democratic Party. How much more vibrant would our political discourse be if we could speak civilly with each other? How much more fruitful would this Congress be?

Nowhere is this clearer than the issue of Social Security. We all know that reforming America's most honored program is more than a hot topic around here; it is the premier domestic issue of our day. And so you would think that all honest attempts at reform would be met at the very least with openmindedness and a desire to discuss, but not so.

When a member of the Democratic caucus offered his plan to reform Social Security, his own leadership chastised him for even bringing an idea and signaling a willingness to talk with Republicans.

Mr. Speaker, it is one thing for Democrats to criticize Republican policies. It is another for them to reprimand one of their own for simply introducing an idea. While I certainly do not agree with the policies proposed in the gentleman's legislation, I applaud him for bucking his party's reticence. He put the needs of the American people before politics. For that he should be commended; and for their condemnation of action, the Democrats should be ashamed.

For what is the purpose of this body but to debate solutions to problems and then choose the very best among them? And that, Mr. Speaker, is just what House Republicans have been doing. My colleagues have given you a long list of accomplishments in this session of Congress. We have proposed an agenda with solutions that are reaping results.

I am happy to say that on many of the most important issues of the day, a large number of rank-and-file Democrats have joined us, despite the reluctance of their leadership.

In 5 short months, the House has passed landmark legislation addressing everything from our roads and highways to the war on terror. Mr. Speaker, we have heard on numerous occasions from the minority leadership that bills are being railroaded through, that substitutes are not being allowed, that rules are closed too often.

You have heard already how most of our bills have had Democratic votes. And nothing could be further from the truth that our rules are closed. And I might also add that Democrats are being treated a great deal better than they treated Republicans when we were in the minority.

When Democrats controlled the House, Republicans were often denied the right to offer motions to recommit. For those unfamiliar with that term, it is the last chance for the minority to attach an amendment to a bill under consideration by the full House.

When Republicans took control of the House, we changed the rules so that the minority always has the opportunity to offer the motion to recommit.

We have enacted rules governing debate on legislation that have allowed for numerous Democratic amendments and substitutes. We responded to demands for greater access to legislative information and have granted nearly every request of the minority. Yet the Democratic leadership continues to use abuse of power as a campaign issue.

I ask the American people to examine the facts, and I also ask the American people to contrast the Republican record of achievement with the Democratic record of obstruction, obtuseness, and obliviousness.

I mentioned earlier that when I last took to the floor to discuss these matters, I thought the Democratic leadership could not be further out to sea when it comes to the most important issues facing the Nation.

Well, it now seems they are somewhere between the Bermuda Triangle and the Lost City of Atlantis. You know, Mr. Speaker, I just do not think the leaders of the Democratic Party here in Washington get it. It has been 4 years since our homeland was attacked, and they still cannot distinguish friend from foe, and patriot from terrorist.

From the comments made by members of the Democratic leadership in both bodies, it is clear that they are not connected with the realities of the war on terror. One said, and I quote, ''the war is unwinnable.'' Another compared our men and women in uniform to Soviets and their gulags, unquote. And yet another, perhaps most egregiously compared Operation Iraqi Freedom which brought an end to Saddam's ethnic cleansing to the Holocaust. He said, the war, and I quote, is the biggest fraud ever committed on the people of this country. This is just as bad as the 6 million Jews being killed, unquote.

Mr. Speaker, I struggle for the words to respond to such comments. The Washington Democratic establishment is simply adrift at a time when our Nation is at war and preparing for the next great American century. It is sad that they are not a part of that preparation. And it is deplorable that in some cases they are actively campaigning against it. I hope that soon things will change. And I hope it happens before the Democratic Party is lost once and for all.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate all of the comments that were made by my colleagues tonight outlining the very major successes that have occurred in the 109th Congress already. Along with

my colleagues, I came to Washington to get things done. I long for a time when the Democratic leadership will come to the table and work with Republicans to make policy that has the best interests of the American people at heart.

DEMOCRATS ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I was not expecting to come down here tonight. I did because I was very upset by some of the comments that were made by my Republican colleagues.

Many of them said that they were not here tonight to attack the Democrats and the Democratic Party. In reality, that is exactly what they did. And the negative comments that they were making about Democrats and what we stand for were, frankly, very offensive to me, because I have been here as a Member of Congress for 17 years. And I have never seen the Republican Party sink to the depths in terms of their attacks on Democrats and their unwillingness to cooperate with the Democrats and their abuse of power in this institution.

One of the things that disturbs me the most is that I have always thought that Republicans were very concerned as a party about spending money and about deficits. I remember when I was first elected to the House of Representatives back in 1988. There were a group of Republicans who used to come down on the floor of the House of Representatives every night during Special Orders, about this time, and would hold up a digital clock and talk about the huge deficits that the Federal Government was pursuing and how it continued to go up and how it was necessary for the Republicans to take the majority back because they would be the only ones that would try to do something about the deficit.

Well, you do not hear that anymore from the Republicans, the party that historically, at least in the early days when I was here, seemed to be so much concerned about deficits, has essentially ignored the issue.

I hear my Republican colleague saying that it does not matter what the deficit is, it does not matter how much it grows, you know, that it is just some sort of accounting measure and we can spend all we want and we can go into debt and borrow all we want, and it does not make any difference.

In fact, what you find now is Democrats coming down on the floor and holding up the same charts and talking about the deficit being at an all-time high and the negative impact it is having on this government.

So I say to my Republican colleagues, what happened to the Republican Party that cared about the deficit and was concerned about rampant spending? Because they have become the majority now, they can spend whatever they want and not worry about the impact on the Federal Government over the long term?

In fact what we see is the Republican Party abandoning its ideals, abandoning it principles for the sake, essentially, of just being in the majority and in control.

We have witnessed, as Democrats, efforts on the part of the Republicans to simply exclude us from almost every aspect of this institution. The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) who spoke before me suggests that she wanted to get together and work together with the Democrats.

How is that possible when Democrats are not allowed to have a hearing in committee, when the committee moves forward without allowing Democrats to have amendments, when bills come to the floor without the opportunity for Democrats to even speak because the amount of time that is allowed on the bill for speaking is very limited or practically eliminated?

The fact of the matter is that the Republican majority has no interest in reaching out to Democrats and hearing their views. All they want to do is force legislation down the throats of the Democratic minority and act as if in some way they are reaching out, when in fact they are not.

I heard some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in the last Special Order go on and on about how the economy is so wonderful, everything is so rosy, more jobs are being created. I do not know what fairy land they live in. When I go back to New Jersey, all I hear about from my constituents is how factories have closed and moved overseas; how jobs have been outsourced to other countries in Europe and Asia; how people are unemployed, and if they have a job, it does not pay as much as it used to; about how pensions and health care benefits have been reduced.

And for the Republican to stand up here tonight and talk about their accomplishments and how great the economy is, they are simply blind to the realities. At one time, Republicans used to look out for the little guy. They used to be concerned about what the average American was doing, whether or not they had a job, whether or not they, you know, were making an income in small-town, in rural America. They have forgotten about the little guy.

All their emphasis as a Republican majority is not on the average American, but on the well-to-do American, on the millionaire, on the corporate interest. What happened to the Republican Party of Abraham Lincoln, of Theodore Roosevelt, of Ronald Reagan for that matter?

We did not see anything that comes to this floor that looks out for the interest of the average person. What we see are tax cuts that go primarily to millionaires and corporate interests. We see special legislation come up that gives a tax break to someone who happens to be, you know, the CEO of a major firm. Whether it is pension policies or it is health care policies, everything is oriented toward the corporate interest or the interests of the wealthy individuals.

You know, when you talk about deficits, deficits of the kind that we see now are basically crippling the American economy. And I used to think that the Republican Party, like the Democratic Party, cared about America first. But that is not the case any more.

Sending jobs overseas is not a problem. Outsourcing jobs, setting up free trade agreements that basically allow other countries to take our jobs, take our resources, this is the face now of the Republican Party. And the saddest thing of all, in my opinion, and this is what I think many of my colleagues, why so many of my colleagues on the Democratic side were here tonight talking about the war and putting up the faces of those who had died in the war, is that Republicans, from what I remember, used to be very wary of getting America involved in overseas conflicts.

Throughout the 20th century, the Republican Party, in many cases, was what we call isolationist, meaning that they felt very strongly that we should not get involved overseas, we should not get involved in wars overseas if they were not in our national interest.

Many Republican Senators and Members of the House of Representatives would come to the floor throughout the 20th century, those in leadership roles, and question whether America should be involved in wars overseas. But we do not see the face of that Republican Party anymore.

□ 2100

We just get involved in wars wherever it happens to be. We do not worry about the rationale for the war. We do not worry about the fact that so many people died or are wounded or the amount of resources we spent on the war.

My colleagues tonight talked about war in Afghanistan and Iraq as if it was going to go on for a long time and last beyond, who knows, 5, 10, 15, 20 years. What is the cost of that? What is the cost in terms of Americans lives and cost in terms of the resources that we have to spend in Iraq and in other places that could be spent on domestic priorities here, educational needs, health care needs, housing needs here at home as opposed to the billions and billions of dollars that are being spent in Iraq?

Do not tell me that we should not think about how we are going to end the Iraq war and how we can end it soon, because every American life that is lost and every dollar that is spent over there could possibly, that dollar

could be spent here and that life could be saved. And I would like to know what happened to the Republican Party that used to question our involvement overseas, that used to worry about how much we spent, that used to worry about how many lives would be lost, that suggested that we should only be involved in overseas wars if our national interest was at stake? I do not hear about that Republican Party anymore.

War is supposed to be a last resort. Many Republicans used to say that. They do not say that anymore.

So I will say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, it is not the Democratic Party that has changed. The Democratic Party is still looking out for the little guy. The Democratic Party is still concerned about our economy and our jobs and putting America first. It is the Republican Party that, in fact, has lost sight of that with the Republican leadership that we see here running the House of Representatives.

And I could go on and on. I do not really seek to, because I am not interested in being negative. I would rather be positive. I would like to see the day when we get together and work on issues together. But the only way that that can happen is if the Republican majority and its leadership allows the Democrats to participate, allows the Democrats to provide ideas, allows Democrats to speak, allows Democrats to propose amendments. That is not what we are seeing.

It was very interesting tonight because when we had the first Special Order and we began to read the names of those soldiers who had died in Iraq, there were both Democrats and Republicans on the floor. It was my colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) who voted for the war but says now that it is time to get out. And I think what is beginning to happen here is that there are some Republicans who are beginning to realize the Democrats are right; that it is time for us to get out of Iraq; that we have to have an exit strategy; that there is too much abuse of power on the part of the Republican majority; that in fact too much of Republican policy is aimed towards helping the millionaire and the big-shot rather than the little guy; that there is too much emphasis on the Republican side in terms of Republican policy about worrying about free trade and whether or not we can get something cheaper done overseas instead of trying to protect a job for Americans here at home.

And there are some Republicans who have expressed interest and concern about the deficit and the crippling impact it has on the economy and, in fact, that the economy is not that good. So there is hope here.

I would like to end on a positive note because I do believe that there are members of the Republican Party, my colleagues on the other side, that now realize that on many of these policy issues Democrats are right. And, hopefully, we can forge a bipartisan leadership that will address some of these issues in a positive way. But it is only going to begin when my colleagues on the other side realize that they have to give an opportunity for Democrats to speak, that they cannot abuse the power of their majority. And we are not there yet, but hopefully we can be in the next few weeks or the next few months before this session of Congress is over.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BOYD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. HARMAN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 2:00 p.m. and the balance of the week.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 2:45 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of business in the district.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of official business.

Mr. BASS (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today after noon on account of attending his daughter Lucy's graduation from the eighth grade.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons.

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today after 3:00 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of attending a hearing at Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico, with members of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCNULTY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CHANDLER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CARSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DUNCAN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, June 30.

Mr. GINGREY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KELLER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, June 24, 2005, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2444. A letter from the Acting Chair, Federal Subsistence Board, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska, Subpart C and Subpart D — 2005-06 Subsistence Taking of Fish and Wildlife Regulations (RIN: 1018-AT70) received June 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2445. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the biennial report regarding the activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Chesapeake Bay Office Activities, pursuant to Section 307(b)(7) of the NOAA Authorization Act of 1992; to the Committee on Resources.

2446. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer [Docket No. 041110317-4364-02; I.D. 030305D] received May 19, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2447. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for North Carolina [Docket No. 031119283-4001-05; I.D. 122204F] received May 19, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2448. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisehries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Alaska Plaice in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Managements Area [DOcket No. 041126332-5039-02; I.D. 050605D] received May 19, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2449. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast (NE) Multispecies Fishery; Framework Adjustment 40B [Docket No. 050314072-5126-02; I.D. 030705D] (RIN: 0648-AS33) received June 9, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

2450. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department

of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Galveston Channel, Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Galveston, Texas [CGD08-05-035] received June 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2451. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, mile 1012.6, North Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, FL. [CGD07-05-044] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received June 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2452. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; White River, Augusta, Arkansas [CGD08-05-030] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received June 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2453. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Port Allen Canal, Morley, Louisiana [CGD08-05-036] received June 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2454. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Presque Isle Bay, Dobbins Landing, Erie, PA [CGD09-05-016] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2455. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Rochester Harbor Fireworks, Rochester, NY [CGD09-05-017] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received June 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 362. A bill to designate the Ojito Wilderness Study Area as wilderness, to take certain land into trust for the Pueblo of Zia, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109–149). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 1797. A bill to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, and for other purposes; (Rept. 109–150). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. BOEHLERT: Committee on Science. H.R. 2364. A bill to establish a Science and Technology Scholarship Program to award scholarships to recruit and prepare students for careers in the National Weather Service and in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration marine research, atmospheric research, and satellite programs; with an amendment (Rept. 109–151). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 3043. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a pilot program to insure zero-downpayment mortgages for one-unit residences; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California:

H.R. 3044. A bill to amend chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice), to provide standards for the use of military commissions for the trial of offenses under the law of war or in furtherance of international terrorism; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DELAY (for himself and Mr. JEFFERSON):

H.R. 3045. A bill to implement the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 3046. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to deem certain training in geriatric medicine or geriatric psychiatry to be obligated service for purposes of the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself and Mr. PLATTS):

H.R. 3047. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for expanded coverage of paramedic intercept services under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 3048. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to retain indefinitely records (including images) of redeemed savings bonds; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin:

H.R. 3049. A bill to amend section 42 of title 18, United States Code, popularly known as the Lacey Act, to add certain species of carp to the list of injurious species that are prohibited from being imported or shipped; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut (for herself, Mr. TOWNS, Mrs. BONO, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. SIMMONS, and Mr. SHAYS):

H.R. 3050. A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to provide grants to promote innovative outreach and enrollment under the Medicaid and State children's health insurance programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KOLBE:

H.R. 3051. A bill to provide for a land exchange involving certain Bureau of Land Management lands in Pima County, Arizona, for the purpose of consolidating Federal land ownership within the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. LOBIONDO (for himself, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. ANDREWS):

H.R. 3052. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to expand the capability of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide for the medical care needs of veterans in southern New Jersey; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MCKEON:

H.R. 3053. A bill to remediate groundwater contamination caused by perchlorates in the city of Santa Clarita, California; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SAXTON:

H.R. 3054. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 to require appropriations to cover the estimated subsidy costs of monetary resources provided by the United States Government to the International Monetary Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STARK (for himself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. LEE, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WEINER, Mr. WEXLER, and Ms. WOOLSEY):

H.R. 3055. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to guarantee comprehensive health care coverage for all children born after 2006; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MILLER of Florida (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. SHAW, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. HERGER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HAYES, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. WAMP, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. TURNER, Mr. RADANOVICH, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. AKIN, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. TIAHRT, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BUYER, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. ORTIZ, and Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee):

H. Con. Res. 188. Concurrent resolution honoring the members of the United States Air Force who were killed in the June 25, 1996, terrorist bombing of the Khobar Towers United States military housing compound near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. WU, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. DICKS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Miss MCMORRIS, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. BAIRD):

H. Con. Res. 189. Concurrent resolution honoring the Native American tribes of the

Pacific Northwest and the Treaties of 1855 between these tribes and the United States of America; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. MCINTYRE):

H. Con. Res. 190. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Russian Federation should fully protect the freedoms of all religious communities without distinction, whether registered and unregistered, as stipulated by the Russian Constitution and international standards; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HONDA, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. SHERWOOD):

H. Res. 338. A resolution recognizing the importance of sports in fostering the leadership ability and success of women; to the Committee on Government Reform.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 13: Mr. GINGREY.
H.R. 65: Ms. HARRIS.
H.R. 98: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 278: Ms. HARRIS.
H.R. 282: Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SODREL, and Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 297: Mr. GUTIERREZ.
H.R. 302: Ms. LEE and Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 457: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 509: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 510: Mr. JEFFERSON.
H.R. 588: Mr. BEAUPREZ and Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 772: Mr. EMANUEL, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. MELANCON, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 817: Mr. OXLEY, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. RUSH, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. WYNN, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. HINCHEY, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H.R. 822: Ms. CARSON and Mr. GUTIERREZ.
H.R. 831: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 887: Mr. EDWARDS.
H.R. 899: Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 916: Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. HULSHOF, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 920: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 923: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 930: Mrs. BONO.
H.R. 976: Ms. HARRIS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 994: Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CLAY, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mrs. BONO, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. BARROW, and Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
H.R. 1055: Mr. WAMP.
H.R. 1056: Mr. WAMP.
H.R. 1124: Mr. PASTOR.
H.R. 1132: Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 1167: Mr. CONAWAY.
H.R. 1186: Mrs. DRAKE and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 1201: Mr. MURTHA.
H.R. 1214: Mr. INSLEE.
H.R. 1216: Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 1220: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. SNYDER, and Mr. KOLBE.
H.R. 1227: Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire.
H.R. 1232: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H.R. 1246: Mr. LANTOS.
H.R. 1259: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. TERRY, Mr. EVANS, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, and Mr. BACA.
H.R. 1282: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama and Ms. HERSETH.
H.R. 1288: Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. CHOCOLA, Mr. CAMP, and Mr. NEY.
H.R. 1298: Mr. WOLF.
H.R. 1306: Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. FILNER, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. PORTER, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. BONNER, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, and Mr. JENKINS.
H.R. 1308: Mr. GILLMOR.
H.R. 1312: Ms. DEGETTE and Mr. GUTIERREZ.
H.R. 1378: Mr. WAMP.
H.R. 1380: Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. GILLMOR.
H.R. 1395: Mr. WAMP.
H.R. 1415: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 1426: Mr. HAYWORTH and Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 1443: Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 1446: Mr. WAMP.
H.R. 1498: Mr. ALEXANDER and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 1517: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington.
H.R. 1591: Mr. HOEKSTRA, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. CARDIN.
H.R. 1602: Mr. MCKEON.
H.R. 1632: Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. PLATTS, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 1652: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 1668: Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. MCNULTY, and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 1671: Mr. BARROW.
H.R. 1704: Mrs. NORTHUP.
H.R. 1709: Mr. FARR, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mrs. MALONEY.
H.R. 1722: Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 1898: Mr. CHOCOLA.
H.R. 1973: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2014: Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. FILNER, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 2133: Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 2134: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 2209: Mr. BARROW and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 2218: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 2229: Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 2259: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 2291: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 2327: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2328: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 2357: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 2423: Mr. DEAL of Georgia and Mr. CONAWAY.
H.R. 2512: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 2533: Mr. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 2567: Ms. HARMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 2642: Mr. OWENS and Mr. HOLDEN.
H.R. 2648: Mrs. MALONEY.
H.R. 2717: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 2730: Mr. ANDREWS, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HOLT, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 2739: Ms. LEE.
H.R. 2793: Mr. BOSWELL.
H.R. 2794: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CASE, Miss MCMORRIS, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico.
H.R. 2803: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. WICKER.
H.R. 2804: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
H.R. 2811: Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 2834: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2861: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 2874: Mr. EDWARDS.
H.R. 2877: Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 2891: Mr. WYNN, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. WATT.
H.R. 2923: Mr. FORTUÑO.
H.R. 2945: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 2947: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2948: Mr. MORAN of Kansas.
H.R. 3011: Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 3041: Mr. ETHERIDGE.
H. Con. Res. 38: Mr. NORWOOD.
H. Con. Res. 140: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. BASS, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, and Mr. BUYER.
H. Res. 158: Mr. SERRANO.
H. Res. 175: Mr. ANDREWS and Mr. HOLT.
H. Res. 209: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H. Res. 246: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H. Res. 259: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama and Mr. MENENDEZ.
H. Res. 312: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. OBERSTAR, and Mr. GILLMOR.
H. Res. 316: Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. STARK.
H. Res. 317: Mr. PAYNE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. KLINE, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H. Res. 325: Mr. BERMAN, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, and Mr. CROWLEY.
H. Res. 332: Mr. CASTLE and Mr. SAXTON.
H. Res. 333: Mr. PITTS, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. WATSON, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. LEACH, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. CHANDLER.

DELETION OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 415: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 2567: Mr. FARR.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 3010

OFFERED BY: MR. KING OF IOWA

AMENDMENT NO. 26: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____ None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to reimburse, or provide reimbursement, for Viagra, Levitra, or Cialis.

H.R. 3010

OFFERED BY: MR. KING OF IOWA

AMENDMENT NO. 27: At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to reimburse, or provide reimbursement, for drugs prescribed for the treatment of impotence.

H.R. 3010

OFFERED BY: MR. KING OF IOWA

AMENDMENT NO. 28: At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available under this Act to the Department of Education may be expended in contravention of section 505 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1623).