

Administration. And here, too, the new leadership of the House has made possible important changes in our rules that will increase their transparency and our accountability—changes I supported.

But while some people are opposed to all earmarks, I am not one of them.

I think Members of Congress know the needs of their communities, and I think Congress as a whole has the responsibility to decide how tax dollars are spent. And earmarks can help fund nonprofits and other private-sector groups to do jobs that federal agencies are not able to do as well. In short, not all earmarks are bad. In fact, I have sought earmarks for various items that have benefited Coloradans—and I intend to keep on doing that.

Still, we all know some bills have included spending earmarks that might not have been approved if they were considered separately.

That's why President Bush—like many of his predecessors—has asked for the kind of line-item veto that can be used by governors in Colorado and several other states.

And that's why about ten years ago Congress actually passed a law intended to give President Clinton that kind of authority.

However, in 1998 the Supreme Court ruled that the legislation was unconstitutional—and I think the Court got it right.

I think by trying to allow the president to in effect repeal a part of a law he has already signed—and saying it takes a two-thirds vote in both Houses of Congress to restore that part—that Republican-led Congress of 1998 went too far. I think that kind of line-item veto would undermine the checks and balances between the Executive and Legislative branches of the government.

But the SLICE bill is different. It is a practical, effective—and, best of all, constitutional—version of a line-item veto.

It is not unprecedented. It follows the approach of legislation passed by the House of Representatives in 1993 under the leadership of our distinguished colleague, Representative SPRATT and others, including our former colleagues Charlie Stenholm, Tom Carper, Tim Penny and John Kasich.

Under SLICE, the president could identify specific spending items he thinks should be cut—and Congress would have to vote, up or down, on whether to cut each of them.

Current law says the president can ask Congress to rescind—that is, cancel—spending items. But Congress can ignore those requests, and often has done so.

SLICE would change that.

It says if the president proposes a specific cut, Congress can't duck—it would have to vote on it, and if a majority approved the cut, that would be that.

So, it would give the president a bright spotlight of publicity he could focus on earmarks, and it would force Congress to debate those items on their merits.

That would give the president a powerful tool—but it also would retain the balance between the Executive and Legislative branches.

Madam Speaker, presidents are elected to lead, and only they represent the entire nation. My SLICE bill recognizes this by giving the president the leadership role of identifying specific spending items he thinks should be cut.

But, under the Constitution it is the Congress that is primarily accountable to the

American people for how their tax dollars will be spent. The bill respects and emphasizes that Congressional role by requiring a vote on each spending cut proposed by the President.

Of course, without knowing what the president might propose to rescind, I don't know if I would support some, all, or any of his proposals.

But I do know that people in Colorado and across the country think there should be greater transparency about our decisions on taxing and spending. And I know that they are also demanding that we be ready to take responsibility for those decisions.

That is the purpose of this bill. It will promote both transparency and accountability, and I think it deserves the support of all our colleagues.

For the information of our colleague, I am attaching an outline of the bill.

STIMULATING LEADERSHIP IN CUTTING  
EXPENDITURES (SLICE) ACT

The purpose of the bill is to facilitate Presidential leadership and Congressional accountability regarding reduction of other spending to offset the costs of responding to recent natural disasters.

The bill would amend the Budget Act to provide as follows—

The President could propose rescission of any budget authority provided in an appropriations Act through special messages including draft bills to make those rescissions.

The House's majority leader or minority leader would be required to introduce a bill proposed by the president within two legislative days. If neither did so, any Member could then introduce the bill.

The Appropriations Committee would be required to report the bill within seven days after introduction. The report could be made with or without recommendation regarding its passage. If the committee did not meet that deadline, it would be discharged and the bill would go to the House floor.

The House would debate and vote on each proposed rescission within 10 legislative days after the bill's introduction. Debate would be limited to no more than four hours and no amendment, motion to recommit, or motion to reconsider would be allowed.

If passed by the House, the bill would go promptly to the Senate, which would have no more than 10 more days to consider and vote on it. Debate in the Senate would be limited to 10 hours and no amendment or motion to recommit would be allowed.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES  
CURTIS JOHNSON ON HIS RE-  
TIREMENT

**HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 19, 2007*

Mr. HASTERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Charles Curtis Johnson on his retirement from the United States Capitol Police. With devotion, professionalism, and expertise, from September 16, 1974, until his retirement on December 31, 2006, Sergeant Johnson, or "CC" as he is called by his friends, has fulfilled the mission of the United States Capitol Police to protect the Congress, its legislative processes, Members, employees, visitors, and facilities from crime, disruption, or terrorism. I would like to wish him and his family all the best as he embarks upon this new chapter of his life. He will be truly missed.

Sergeant Johnson was first assigned to the Capitol Division and served there as an officer for 14 years, performing various law enforcement duties and assisting Members of Congress, congressional staff, and the general public. In 1998, he was promoted to sergeant and, for 3 years, supervised officers in and around the House and Senate Chambers. In 1992, he was assigned to the First Responder Unit and supervised the officers assigned to the outside of the Capitol as well as serving as the administrative sergeant.

In 2004, Sergeant Johnson earned a post as one of the supervisors of the U.S. Capitol Police Horse Mounted Unit. In addition to undergoing the rigorous training and maintenance of skills required of all members of this elite unit, Sergeant Johnson also supervised and directed all operations of the unit, including maintaining the unit's budget and equipment procurement. With the loss of the unit in 2005, Sergeant Johnson moved to the Patrol/Mobile Response Division and used his considerable expertise and institutional knowledge to supervise and direct the patrol officers within the Capitol Police primary and extended jurisdictions. A tireless performer and distinguished law enforcement professional, Sergeant Johnson deserves the admiration of all who come into contact with him.

In addition to his commitment to the U.S. Capitol Police, Sergeant Johnson is the devoted husband of fellow USCP member Captain Shirley Jo Johnson, and the proud father of three daughters and one son: Angie, Becky, Rachael, and Daniel. He is also the proud "Papa" of three granddaughters and one grandson: Kiera, Sydney, Nate, and Kaylie. He is the proud father-in-law of Greg Lawrence.

In his upcoming retirement, Sergeant Johnson plans on spending plenty of time with his family and is especially looking forward to "Grandbaby Day." Last, but certainly not least, he also plans to buy himself a horse so he can truly ride off into the sunset.

Thank you, Sergeant Johnson, for your exceptional service to the United States Capitol Police, the Congress, and the American people, and congratulations on achieving this important milestone.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "TEACHER  
TRAINING EXPANSION ACT OF  
2007"

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 19, 2007*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, in this country we have made a commitment to fulfill the promise that all students will receive a high quality education. As part of this commitment, assessments mandated under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) require, among other things, that all students will have access to classrooms led by highly qualified teachers. In its implementation of the law, the Department of Education has made good on this promise, holding students that have traditionally been allowed to slip through the cracks, such as students with disabilities, to a high standard.

Students with disabilities, under NCLB and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), are increasingly being integrated into