

Culberson Jordan
 Davis (KY) Keller
 Davis, David King (IA)
 Davis, Jo Ann King (NY)
 Davis, Tom Kingston
 Deal (GA) Kirk
 Dent Klime (MN)
 Diaz-Balart, L. Knollenberg
 Diaz-Balart, M. Kuhl (NY)
 Doolittle LaHood
 Drake Lamborn
 Dreier Latham
 Duncan LaTourette
 Ehlers Lewis (CA)
 Emerson Lewis (KY)
 English (PA) Linder
 Everett LoBiondo
 Fallon Lucas
 Feeney Lungren, Daniel
 Flake E.
 Forbes Mack
 Fortenberry Manzullo
 Fossella Marchant
 Foxx McCarthy (CA)
 Franks (AZ) McCaul (TX)
 Frelinghuysen McCotter
 Gallegly McCrery
 Garrett (NJ) McHenry
 Gerlach McHugh
 Gilchrest McKeon
 Gillmor McMorris
 Gingrey Rodgers
 Gohmert Mica
 Goode Miller (FL)
 Goodlatte Miller (MI)
 Granger Miller, Gary
 Graves Moran (KS)
 Hall (TX) Murphy, Tim
 Hastert Musgrave
 Hastings (WA) Myrick
 Hayes Neugebauer
 Heller Nunes
 Hensarling Paul
 Herger Pearce
 Hobson Pence
 Hoekstra Peterson (PA)
 Hulshof Petri
 Hunter Pickering
 Inglis (SC) Pitts
 Issa Platts
 Jindal Poe
 Johnson (IL) Porter
 Johnson, Sam Price (GA)

NOT VOTING—11

Blumenauer Ferguson Millender-
 Blunt Higgins McDonald
 Boehner Jones (OH) Stupak
 Conaway Lampson Walsh (NY)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1415

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, because I was attending a funeral at West Point this morning, I missed rollcall No. 220, adoption of H. Res. 301: Providing for consideration of H.R. 1257, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide shareholders with an advisory vote on executive compensation. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

OFFERING HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES REGARDING THE HORRIFIC VIOLENCE AT VIRGINIA TECH AND TO STUDENTS, FACULTY, ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 306, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 306.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 421, nays 0, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 221]

YEAS—421

Abercrombie Carnahan Fallon
 Ackerman Carney Farr
 Aderholt Carson Fattah
 Akin Carter Feeney
 Alexander Castle Filner
 Allen Castor Flake
 Altmire Chabot Forbes
 Andrews Chandler Fortenberry
 Arcuri Clarke Fossella
 Baca Clay Foxx
 Bachmann Cleaver Frank (MA)
 Bachus Clyburn Franks (AZ)
 Baird Coble Frelinghuysen
 Baker Cohen Gallegly
 Baldwin Cole (OK) Garrett (NJ)
 Barrett (SC) Conyers Gerlach
 Barrow Cooper Giffords
 Bartlett (MD) Costa Gilchrest
 Barton (TX) Costello Gillibrand
 Bean Courtney Gillmor
 Becerra Cramer Gingrey
 Berkeley Aderholt Gonzalez
 Berman Crenshaw Goode
 Berry Crowley Goodlatte
 Biggert Cuellar Gordon
 Bilbray Culberson Granger
 Bilirakis Cummings Graves
 Bishop (GA) Davis (AL) Green, Al
 Bishop (NY) Davis (CA) Green, Gene
 Bishop (UT) Davis (IL) Grijalva
 Blackburn Davis (KY) Gutierrez
 Blumenauer Davis, David Hall (NY)
 Bonner Davis, Jo Ann Hall (TX)
 Bono Davis, Lincoln Hare
 Boozman Davis, Tom Harman
 Boren Deal (GA) Hastert
 Boswell DeFazio Hastings (FL)
 Boucher DeGette Hastings (WA)
 Boustany Delahunt Hayes
 Boyd (FL) DeLauro Heller
 Boyda (KS) Dent Hensarling
 Brady (PA) Diaz-Balart, M. Herger
 Brady (TX) Dicks Hersheth Sandlin
 Braley (IA) Dingell Hill
 Brown (SC) Doggett Hinchey
 Brown, Corrine Donnelly Hinojosa
 Brown-Waite, Doolittle Hirono
 Ginny Doyle Hobson
 Buchanan Drake Hodes
 Burgess Dreier Hoekstra
 Burton (IN) Duncan Holden
 Butterfield Edwards Holt
 Buyer Ehlers Honda
 Calvert Ellison Hooley
 Camp (MI) Ellsworth Hoyer
 Campbell (CA) Emanuel Hulshof
 Cannon Emerson Hunter
 Cantor Engel Inglis (SC)
 Capito English (PA) Inslee
 Capps Eshoo Israel
 Capuano Etheridge Issa
 Cardoza Everett Jackson (IL)

Jackson-Lee Miller (FL) Schmidt
 (TX) Miller (MI) Schwartz
 Jefferson Miller (NC) Scott (GA)
 Jindal Miller, Gary Scott (VA)
 Johnson (GA) Miller, George Sensenbrenner
 Johnson (IL) Mitchell Serrano
 Johnson, E. B. Mollohan Sessions
 Johnson, Sam Moore (KS) Sestak
 Jones (NC) Moore (WI) Shadegg
 Jordan Moran (KS) Moran (VA) Shays
 Kagen Moran (VA) Sherman
 Kanjorski Murphy (CT) Shimkus
 Kaptur Murphy, Patrick Shuler
 Keller Murphy, Tim Shuster
 Kennedy Murtha Musgrave
 Kildee Kilpatrick Myrick
 Kilpatrick Kind Nadler
 King (IA) Napolitano
 King (NY) Neal (MA)
 Kingston Neugebauer
 Kirk Nunes
 Klein (FL) Oberstar
 Kline (MN) Obey
 Knollenberg Olver
 Kucinich Ortiz
 Kuhl (NY) Pallone
 LaHood Pascrell
 Lamborn Pastor
 Langevin Paul
 Lantos Payne
 Larsen (WA) Pearce
 Larson (CT) Pence
 Latham Perlmutter
 LaTourette Peterson (MN)
 Lee Peterson (PA)
 Levin Petri
 Lewis (CA) Pickering
 Lewis (GA) Pitts
 Lewis (KY) Platts
 Linder Poe
 Lipinski Pomeroy
 LoBiondo Porter
 Loeb sack Price (GA)
 Lofgren, Zoe Price (NC)
 Lowey Pryce (OH)
 Lucas Putnam
 Lungren, Daniel Radanovich
 E. Rahall
 Lynch Ramstad
 Mack Van Hollen
 Mahoney (FL) Rangel
 Maloney (NY) Regula
 Manzullo Rehberg
 Marchant Reichert
 Markey Reyes
 Marshall Reynolds
 Matheson Rodriguez
 Matsui Rogers (AL)
 McCarthy (CA) Rogers (KY)
 McCarthy (NY) Rogers (MI)
 McCaul (TX) Rohrabacher
 McCollum (MN) Ros-Lehtinen
 McCotter Roskam
 McCrery Ross
 McDermott Rothman
 McGovern Roybal-Allard
 McHenry Royce
 McHugh Ruppertsberger
 McIntyre Rush
 McKeon Ryan (OH)
 McMorris Ryan (WI)
 Rodgers Salazar
 McNerney Sali
 McNulty Sánchez, Linda
 Meehan T.
 Meek (FL) Sanchez, Loretta
 Meeks (NY) Sarbanes
 Melancon Saxton
 Mica Schakowsky
 Michaud Schiff Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—12

Blunt Gohmert Millender-
 Boehner Higgins McDonald
 Conaway Jones (OH) Smith (NE)
 Diaz-Balart, L. Lampson Walsh (NY)
 Ferguson

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised that 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1425

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 221, due to a meeting with constituents on issues relating to my district, I was unable to cast the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, because I was attending a funeral at West Point this morning, I missed rollcall No. 221, adoption of H. Res. 306: Offering heartfelt condolences to the victims and their families regarding the horrific violence at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RELIEF FOR ENTREPRENEURS: COORDINATION OF OBJECTIVES AND VALUES FOR EFFECTIVE RECOVERY ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 302 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. 1361.

□ 1425

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. 1361) to improve the disaster relief programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes, with Mr. DAVIS of Alabama in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I will yield myself such time as I may consume.

After the 2005 gulf coast hurricanes, we witnessed a number of problems with the Small Business Administration's preparation and ability to assist entrepreneurs following a disaster. As the agency responsible for handling the disaster loan program, it was clear they were not adequately prepared.

During that time, there were significant application backlogs, with the number ballooning to 204,000 unprocessed applications by December 2005. Those that were lucky enough to get approved for assistance often waited months to receive any funds. It reached the point where entrepreneurs were simply avoiding the SBA, believing it was more of a hindrance than a help.

There is no question the leading factor in SBA's poor response was its lack of preparation and tools to assist the gulf coast victims. H.R. 1361, the RECOVER Act of 2007, provides for thorough disaster planning and directs SBA

to ensure they are prepared for a wide range of disasters.

This legislation will streamline SBA's loan processing and disbursement, as well as establish a bridge financing program. After the gulf coast storms, we saw entrepreneurs not only getting declined for loans but having to wait far too long for relief. This bill requires that within 36 hours of a disaster, qualified small businesses are provided with emergency small dollar financing, allowing them to stay in business and spur economic growth.

For small businesses, success and failure often come down to adequate financing. Nowhere is that more true than following a disaster. The changes made in this bill will ensure we avoid the mistakes in the gulf where 62 percent of small businesses who applied for assistance were not approved.

We cannot leave entrepreneurs with nothing to help them salvage their enterprises. For those that did get approved, the average wait time to receive their loan was 74 days, much longer than the SBA's goal of 21 days.

H.R. 1361 also provides for gulf coast entrepreneurs who still need assistance. The committee just came back from New Orleans, and there is no doubt that this community has a long way to go to get where it was before the hurricanes hit. By helping affected small businesses, we are also significantly aiding in the revitalization of the gulf coast.

The RECOVER Act of 2007 will establish a grant program that allows the SBA to help the most significantly damaged small businesses that have been rejected for a conventional SBA loan. These grants are intended to spur redevelopment in communities directly affected by the 2005 gulf coast storms where ordinary market forces are simply not enough. They will be granted under limited circumstances to provide aid to only the neediest of entrepreneurs that meet a number of qualifications.

The legislation also fixes SBA's one-size-fits-all approach to the disaster loan process that has failed businesses in the gulf coast. To be more responsive to individual disaster victims, H.R. 1361 provides the SBA administrator with the authority to waive the prohibition on duplication of benefits for the 2005 hurricane victims. Taking state-administered grant assistance and replacing it with loans that are not disbursed efficiently or in adequate amounts have left entrepreneurs without assistance to build their homes. Small businesses should not have to choose between their home and their business. This bill makes sure they are not faced with that choice.

Eighteen months has passed since this Nation saw one of its largest natural disasters. There is no question small businesses are still very much in need of assistance. The RECOVER Act of 2007 modernizes and reforms the SBA's disaster programs and addresses key concerns still facing hurricane victims.

H.R. 1361 has the support of America's Community Bankers, Independent Community Bankers of America, American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the Black Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote for the RECOVER Act of 2007.

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Today, Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1361, the RECOVER Act. While there are many important things that this bill does, there are two provisions in particular, I believe, that unfortunately undermine the good work that has been done by the chairwoman in drafting the legislation.

I want to make clear, I think she has worked very hard. I think the staff has worked very hard to craft what they thought was a good bill, and I think it still has the potential. There are two amendments that we are going to offer subsequent to the general debate argument here, and if those amendments are adopted, I think they fix the bill sufficiently that we can support it because, as I indicated, I think there are many good things in this bill. But without those two provisions being passed, we unfortunately have to oppose it in its current form.

These two provisions, as I indicated, unfortunately make it impossible for me to support it as drafted, and the manager's amendment offered by the chairwoman, while making one of the provisions less problematic, does not assuage our underlying concerns about the two provisions that I just mentioned.

I think everyone can agree that all branches of government failed to respond adequately to the devastation that was Hurricane Katrina, and one of those agencies that did not measure up is the Small Business Administration unfortunately. This is not the conclusion of Democrats or Republicans, or Louisiana or Mississippi Members of Congress. It is a conclusion reached by the GAO, small business owners in the region and even the SBA itself.

While much of the focus on the response to Katrina has focused on the immediate aftermath and the failures of FEMA, the SBA plays a key role in the response to disasters by issuing loans to both homeowners and small businesses affected by the disaster. Thus, an inadequate response by the SBA undermines the recovery of communities devastated by natural disasters. It is vital that the SBA be prepared to handle future disasters, including some worst-case possible scenarios.

Administrator Preston understands this and has taken a number of steps to improve the SBA's readiness and made efforts to ensure that the inadequate response does not repeat itself. Through his efforts, he has reduced backlogs, streamlined loan processing,