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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HIRONO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 15, 2007.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CAPPS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Eternal and Almighty God, before You all events of life and calendar pages flip over quickly. The human search for stability in an ever-changing world and the traffic of today's crossroads drives each of us to find new depth within ourselves as we join the motion of another week.

The story of a tsunami comes to mind. Easily we view the destructive consequences on the surface of things around us and question their eruptive origins.

Lord, show us how to detect the beginnings of violence, war, hatred, disruption, and fear. As a leader in the community of peoples, Congress needs to raise the deepest questions.

Enable Members and the people they represent to assess the true cost of the country's lifestyle and the ramifications of our silence on the most important issues.

If it is truly ''in God we trust,'' then all else is called into question and cannot be the measurement of progress or the final goal. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida 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.

SCHIP

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

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, what kind of Nation are we when 47 million Americans go to bed every night without adequate health care coverage? And what kind of Nation will we become when we turn our backs on those who need us the most, our Nation's children, on whose future we all depend?

The SCHIP bill, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, will provide access to necessary medical services to 11 million of our children who are most in need. We cannot, we shall not, we must not turn our backs on our Nation's children.

I urge my colleagues who have yet to consider voting up or down on this measure to think this thing all the way through. Whose side are you on? Are you on the side of our children, who need you the most? Or are you on the side of special interests? We Democrats are on the side of children. Please reconsider what kind of Nation we will be when we turn our backs on our children.

DEFICIT CONTINUES TO DECLINE

(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. Madam Speaker, the Department of Treasury and Office of Management and Budget have announced that today's budget deficit is $85 billion less than last year. That marks a $250 billion decline over the last 3 years and brings us even closer to balancing the budget.

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This good news is a clear sign that a government which taxes less and spends less taxpayer dollars and spends them wisely can balance its checkbook. These recent record tax revenues are paying down the deficit, but we must do our part by honoring the hard work of the American people and not passing future bloated budgets and tax hikes.

The American people have learned to live within their means; it is time that Washington do the same. That means we do not spend $22 billion more than we need to or tax Americans $400 billion more than they deserve. Above all, the government must address the pending entitlement crisis. This is a situation where Congress cannot pass the buck.

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

HONORING OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK DANN, U.S. ATTORNEY GREGORY LOCKHART, AND USDA AGENT MARK BARNHART

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

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, on October 13, Ohio Attorney General Mark Dann, U.S. Attorney Gregory Lockhart, and USDA Agent Mark Barnhart received the 2007 Humane Law Enforcement Award from the Humane Society and the National District Attorneys Association. They were honored with this prestigious award for conducting one of the largest, best coordinated crackdowns on dog fighting in the Nation.

I am extremely proud that my home State of Ohio is taking a lead in cracking down on this vicious blood sport, but this raid also demonstrates the difficulty authorities have of prosecuting offenders under Federal law.

I have introduced the Dog Fighting Prohibition Act, which would strengthen Federal penalties for those participating in dog fighting and broaden the scope of the law to allow prosecution of everyone involved, from spectators to trainers to dealers. We need to do all we can to end what has become a lucrative gambling business; and to accomplish that, we must give our law enforcement officials like Mark Dann, Gregory Lockhart, and Mark Barnhart the tools that they need. I want to thank them and congratulate them on their efforts, and encourage support for the Dog Fighting Prohibition Act.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, fiscal responsibility is the cornerstone of a strong economic plan, and House Republicans are dedicated to ensuring that American taxpayers are getting the best product for their money. Unfortunately, I can't say my Democrat colleagues feel the same way.

We are 3 weeks into fiscal year 2008, and for the first time in a long time Congress has not sent the President a single appropriations bill. One of these bills funds our veterans, and they deserve the benefits they were promised; yet politics has taken over the Democrat leadership, and their failure is costing veterans over $4 billion in new benefits.

The Democrat majority also has failed to deliver on promised earmark transparency that would shed light on every earmark, and we're continuing to see abuses within the system.

At almost every opportunity, the Democrat leadership has increased spending and increased taxes to pay for these spending binges. It's time to get back on track to finding commonsense solutions and stop using taxpayer dollars like it's an unlimited source of money.

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Greg Lankler, Staff Assistant, Committee on Appropriations:

OCTOBER 12, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for testimony and documents issued by the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by rule VIII.

Sincerely,

GREG LANKLER,
Staff Assistant.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

CONGRATULATING THE STATE OF ISRAEL ON CHAIRING A UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 624) congratulating the State of Israel on chairing a United Nations committee for the first time in history, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 624

Whereas Israel joined the United Nations in 1949, as the 59th member of that organization;

Whereas the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations stated that its objective was to ''to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war . . . and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small . . .'';

Whereas the United Nations has failed to live up to its goal to promote equal rights among states, as enshrined in its charter, in the case of Israel;

Whereas the democratic State of Israel is denied full representation within the United Nations, and its constituent agencies and bodies, yet repressive regimes in violation of United Nations human rights principles are afforded full rights and privileges;

Whereas in May 2000, Israel accepted an invitation to become a temporary member of the United Nations' Western European and Others Group (WEOG), and in May 2004, Israel was granted an indefinite extension of its qualified membership in WEOG;

Whereas since Israel was accepted as part of WEOG in 2000, it has had the right to apply for positions on United Nations committees;

Whereas the State of Israel is the only member of WEOG in a conditional status;

Whereas Israel is excluded from discussions and consultations of WEOG at the United Nations offices in Geneva, Nairobi, Rome, and Vienna;

Whereas Israel has been refused admission to the Asian States Group of the United Nations, thereby being denied the rights and privileges of full membership in the United Nations;

Whereas Israel has submitted its candidacy for membership on the United Nations Security Council for 2019 and hopes to gain the full participation rights in the United Nations to which it is entitled as a sovereign state;

Whereas at the opening of the 61st United Nations General Assembly in 2006, former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated that ''supporters of Israel feel that it is harshly judged by standards that are not applied to its enemies . . . and too often this is true, particularly in some UN bodies'';

Whereas Israel has played an active role in the international community and within the United Nations;

Whereas Israel already sits on several important committees in the United Nations, and representatives from Israel have served as deputy chairs in the United Nations numerous times;

Whereas Israelis were first elected to notable United Nations positions in 1994, including the high administrative tribunal at the Hague, Vice Chair of the World Health Organization's Executive Committee and the Human Rights Committee, in June 2005 Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Dan Gillerman, was appointed one of the 21 new vice presidents of the General Assembly, and in July 2005, Israel was elected to deputy chairmanship of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC);

Whereas, on June 19, 2007, for the first time since Israel joined the United Nations, an Israeli diplomat, Mr. Ron Adam, Director of the Israeli Foreign Ministry's United Nations Political Affairs Department, was chosen to chair a United Nations committee, the Committee on Program and Coordination (CPC);

Whereas this 33 member body (composed of Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, the Republic of Central Africa, China, Comoros, Cuba, France, Ghana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Pakistan, Portugal, Korea, Russia, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, United States, and Israel) approves the work plan for all United Nations agencies and bodies;

Whereas Israel's first unique appointment to chair a United Nations committee will hopefully encourage the normalization of Israel's bilateral and multilateral relations and challenge future disproportionate United Nations condemnation of Israel;

Whereas anti-Semitic rhetoric and sentiment within United Nations fora have been of grave concern to the United States and other responsible nations;

Whereas United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3379 (1975) concluded that ''Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination'' and the General Assembly, by a vote of 111-25, revoked Resolution 3379 in 1991 in response to strong leadership by the United States;

Whereas the goals of the 2001 United Nations World Conference Against Racism were undermined by hateful, anti-Jewish rhetoric and anti-Israel political agendas, prompting both Israel and the United States to withdraw their delegations from the Conference;

Whereas, in 2004, at the first United Nations Department of Public Information Seminar on Anti-Semitism, former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan acknowledged that ''the United Nations' record on anti-Semitism has at times fallen short of our ideals''; and

Whereas, in 2005, the United Nations held an unprecedented session to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the Government and people of the State of Israel on Israel's first ever appointment to chair a United Nations committee;

(2) supports continued expansion of Israel's role at the United Nations;

(3) welcomes recent attempts by the United Nations to address the issue of prevailing anti-Semitism;

(4) calls on the United Nations to officially and publicly condemn anti-Semitic statements made at all United Nations meetings and hold accountable United Nations Member States that make such statements;

(5) urges the members of the United Nations' Western European and Others Group (WEOG) to extend full and permanent membership to Israel, without conditions, until such time as Israel can serve as an effective member of the Asian States Group of the United Nations; and

(6) calls upon United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to continue to work to end any unfair vilification of Israel at the United Nations and ensure Israel's full participation in, and access to, all international fora under United Nations auspices.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I want to thank Mr. HASTINGS and Mr. GREEN for their work on this important resolution congratulating the democratic State of Israel for achieving a significant victory in its long and tedious campaign to gain fair treatment at the U.N.

In June, an Israeli diplomat, Mr. Ron Adam, was chosen to chair a critical U.N. committee, the Committee on Policy and Coordination, which is responsible for approving the work plan for all U.N. agencies and bodies. Incredibly, in the entire history of the U.N., this is the first time an Israeli has been granted such a role.

For almost 60 years, since it became a member of the United Nations, Israel has been treated as a second-class citizen among the nations at the U.N. The greatest barrier to fair treatment for Israel has been its inability to achieve normal standing in one of the U.N.'s regional groupings. These groupings control committee assignments and leadership positions throughout the U.N. system.

Though geographically Israel should be a member of the Asia group, a cabal of anti-democratic and anti-Semitic states in that region, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, has conspired to exclude Israel from its rightful membership in that group. Only recently has Israel been granted qualified membership in another U.N. group known as the Western European and Others regional group.

□ 1415

This new status has allowed Israel to begin to obtain U.N. leadership positions. We must build on this momentum. H. Res. 624 does so by demanding that the Western European and Others Group, with which Israel now caucuses at the U.N., remove all remaining restrictions and qualifications on Israel's status as a member of that group. The resolution also expresses support for Israel's campaign to gain a rotational seat on U.N. Security Council.

Once again, Madam Speaker, I congratulate Israel for its election to serve as Chair of the Committee on Policy and Coordination. I also urge our good friend, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to use this positive step towards further increasing normalization of Israel's status at the United Nations. We must continue to work with the U.N. Secretary General who has made pressing normalization an important goal of his tenure. The unfair treatment of Israel at the U.N. undermines the very principles the United Nations is meant to embody. The spectacle of repressive regimes conspiring to deny Israel, the only democratic state in the Middle East, normal status at the U.N. undermines the broader fight on behalf of the human rights and democracy.

Madam Speaker, I would urge all of our colleagues to support this very important resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 624, which congratulates the State of Israel for chairing a United Nations committee for the first time in its history. This accomplishment is long overdue. Israel, as a fully democratic and sovereign state, should be entitled to all of the privileges and opportunities of any member state of the United Nations.

Unfortunately, the anti-Semitism and anti-Israel bias that pervades the United Nations has long prevented Israel from fully participating in that body. To this day, Israel remains only a temporary member of the U.N.'s Western European and Others Group and is excluded from many consultations, discussions and leadership posts within the group and the U.N. itself.

The anti-Semitic, anti-Israel attitude shown by some members of the U.N. is unacceptable. It shames the principles of the United Nations. The United Nations has slowly begun to make progress in addressing this problem in restoring Israel to its rightful place at the U.N. However, there is much to be done, and this resolution calls upon U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to resolve this disgraceful problem. Until this happens, the United Nations will not live up to its own charter where the preamble states that the U.N. was founded ''To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and nations large and small.''

In addition, Madam Speaker, Israel's ability to finally chair a U.N. committee is a well-deserved accomplishment for Israel and a privilege and honor for a U.N. that has not done nearly enough.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague and longtime friend from the State of Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) for introducing this resolution, and I urge its adoption.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Florida, the very distinguished chairman of the Rules Committee on Legislative and Budget Process and a leader for human rights and dignity around the world, author of the resolution before us, ALCEE HASTINGS, such time as he may consume.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I thank my friend from New York for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 624, a resolution that I introduced with my good friend and fellow cochair of the Democratic Israel Working Group, Representative GENE GREEN.

I first want to thank my very good friend and cosponsor of this resolution, who yielded time to me Representative ACKERMAN, for his steadfastness not only on these issues, but of issues of critical import for foreign affairs of these United States.

I would also like to thank the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, my good friend, Representative TOM LANTOS, and the ranking member of the committee and my colleague from Florida, Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, for helping move this important bipartisan bill forward, and my longstanding good friend today who spoke favorably today of this measure. I thank Representative WILSON for his comments on this legislation and others, as well.

On June 19, 2007, for the first time ever in history a representative of the State of Israel was chosen to chair a United Nations committee. This resolution serves to properly mark this unique triumph for the State of Israel in our history books. The man chosen for this distinctive appointment at the United Nations is Mr. Ron Adam, the former director of the Israeli Foreign Ministry's U.N. Political Affairs Department. The committee he was chosen to chair is the Committee on Program and Coordination. This 33–U.N. member body provides an important role to the functioning of the United Nations, approving the work plan for all United Nations agencies and bodies.

Madam Speaker, since it first joined the United Nations in 1949, the democratic State of Israel has been considered a second-class nation at the United Nations, unfairly subjected to unjustified repeated one-sided attacks from other nations. To this day, Israel is still denied full representation within the United Nations and its constituent agencies and bodies. Meanwhile, other rogue and repressive regimes, in violation of United Nations human rights principles, are afforded full rights and privileges.

The United Nations should not and cannot continue to be a vehicle for unilateral attacks against Israel. Such dealings truly undermine the United Nations' credibility, integrity and effectiveness. Shamefully, anti-Semitic rhetoric and sentiment within the United Nations remains pervasive. Such statements are of grave concern to the United States and responsible nations.

I want to commend both past and present United Nations leaders for publicly recognizing and speaking out against the existence of blatant biases and injustices within the United Nations walls. Despite the targeted discrimination and unwarranted hate it faces within this international forum, Israel has consistently played an active role within the United Nations. Israel already sits on several significant committees in the United Nations, and representatives from Israel have served as deputy chairs in the United Nations numerous times.

I am hopeful that Mr. Adam's appointment to chair the CPC will help normalize Israel's bilateral and multilateral relations. I am also hopeful, as has been expressed by Representative ACKERMAN and Representative WILSON, that Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon of the United Nations will work to end the unfair vilification of Israel at the United Nations and to use his good offices to support Israel's bid to join the Asian regional grouping. Finally, I am hopeful that Israel will be granted membership on the Security Council for 2019 and gain full participation rights in the United Nations.

I am but one member of this institution. I know I speak for GENE, who probably is en route here, who has some other feelings by virtue of our cosponsorship of this matter. I urge this administration, as GENE GREEN and I have and others, to do everything it can to see Israel's ascension in the United Nations.

Israel's new appointment is the beginning of a new dawn for the nation's status within the United Nations. I congratulate the government and people of the State of Israel for this great accomplishment, and I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this important bipartisan legislation.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the gentlewoman from the First District of Nevada, a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and Ways and Means Committee, SHELLEY BERKLEY, for such time as she may consume.

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from the great State of New York and my good friend from the State of Florida for introducing this important resolution. For too long, dictators and despots have hijacked the United Nations in order to serve their own purposes. They cynically target Israel in order to shift attention from their own brutality, passing countless resolutions condemning Israel without uttering a word about what is going on in Burma, the Sudan or North Korea.

Madam Speaker, while we congratulate Israel today for a great achievement, I am still very worried the U.N.'s condemnations of Israel helped to stoke the fires of global anti-Semitism. For better or for worse, the world looks to the United Nations to set standards for human rights, and when instead it singles out Israel for constant recriminations, the U.N. becomes a platform for burgeoning anti-Semitism around the world and anti-Israel rhetoric. Last week I chaired the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue in my hometown of Las Vegas, Nevada. Among the many issues we discussed with our friends from the European Parliament was the alarming rise of global anti-Semitism. Abe Foxman, the national director of the Anti-Defamation League briefed us on the widespread belief in the Muslim world that Israel and the Jews committed the 9/11 terrorist attack on this country. He told us about Malaysia, where there are no Jews, and yet where the president of that country blames the Jews for the economic problems in his country anyway.

In Europe, since 2000, there has been a surge of anti-Semitic incidents. Even here at home, a few misguided and uninformed people say the Jews are somehow responsible for the war in Iraq. I am extremely concerned about the rise of anti-Semitism globally, and it is not unrelated to what goes on at the United Nations. I am afraid the U.N.'s rhetoric serves as a great recruiting tool for terrorists and anti-Semites when it condemns Israel and uses old anti-Semitic canards to do it.

Madam Speaker, it is surely a step in the right direction that Israel is chairing a U.N. committee. We are right to congratulate Israel for this great achievement. It is about time. But so much more must be done as this resolution states. Today, with this resolution, we call on the United Nations to officially and publicly condemn anti-Semitic statements made at its meetings and hold United Nations member states accountable when they make such statements. We must fight back against the growing scourge of global anti-Semitism and growing anti-Israel rhetoric while we continue to fight for Israel's greater recognition at the United Nations.

I thank the gentleman from New York for his leadership on this issue, among many others.

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, as a cosponsor of H. Res. 624, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan resolution and urge its adoption.

For the first time in history, the State of Israel will serve as the chair of a United Nations Committee. We congratulate Mr. Ron Adam for his appointment as Chair of the U.N. Committee on Program and Coordination and wish him much success in this historic post.

While this appointment gives us hope of reform at the United Nations, other U.N. organs continue on a path of anti-Semitism with irrational vilification of the Jewish State.

In 2006, the United Nations took 135 actions against the State of Israel for alleged violations of human rights. By contrast, the U.N. took only 69 actions against Sudan—home to a genocide in Darfur—and only 23 actions against Iran, where the government is carrying out an ethnic cleansing campaign against its Baha'i minority.

In its first year of existence, the U.N. Human Rights Council passed 10 resolutions condemning Israel, while passing only one resolution condemning Sudan.

And we all remember the infamous U.N. ''Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People'' nearly 2 years ago when U.N. officials proudly displayed a map of the Middle East without the State of Israel.

For several years, I have worked with my colleagues to pressure U.N. members to end

their anti-Israel obsession. Israel's appointment to the U.N. Committee on Program and Coordination is the first fruit of our labor. But we know there is a long way to go to end anti-Semitism at the United Nations.

I want to thank my friend, Mr. HASTINGS, for introducing this important resolution, and Chairman LANTOS and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN for their continued leadership on this issue.

□ 1430

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I urge support of the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, urging all of our colleagues to vote for the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 624, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: ''A resolution congratulating the State of Israel on chairing a United Nations committee for the first time in history, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING SYRIA'S CONTINUED INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF LEBANON

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 738) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the Government of Syria's continued interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 738

Whereas in 2004, Lebanon's current president had his term extra-legally extended through the interference of Syria in Lebanon's internal affairs;

Whereas former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri, the leading opponent of continued Syrian domination of Lebanon and the extra-legal extension of the president's term, was assassinated along with 22 people by a massive car bomb on February 14, 2005;

Whereas investigators from the United Nations have suggested that officials of Syria's government, at the highest levels, appear to be culpable for the assassination of Rafiq Hariri and the 22 other people;

Whereas the people of Lebanon, following the murder of Rafiq Hariri, engaged in a massive popular revolt known as the Cedar Revolution against Syrian interference in their internal affairs and suppression of their national sovereignty;

Whereas the Cedar Revolution, reinforced by international pressure, culminated in the rapid withdrawal of Syrian occupation forces and free elections;

Whereas the current Lebanese government has been under steady attack by domestic and foreign forces that have been engaged in instigating riots and insurrection, suspending the operation of Lebanon's parliament, and perpetrating horrific acts of terror against the Lebanese people;

Whereas Syria and Iran are seeking to dominate Lebanon through their campaign of murder and intimidation aimed at the Lebanese parliamentary majority and other anti-Syrian public and political figures;

Whereas Syria and Iran, through their Lebanese proxies, have demanded the selection of another Lebanese president hand-picked by the Government of Syria;

Whereas Syria and Iran, in clear contravention of numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions, notably 1559 (2004), 1655 (2006), 1664 (2006), 1680 (2006), 1701 (2006), and 1757 (2007), have grossly violated Lebanon's sovereignty by continuing to provide arms to illegitimate Lebanese militias, Palestinian terrorist groups and other terrorist organizations; meddling in Lebanon's internal political affairs; and actively supporting efforts to prevent the election of a new president in accordance with Lebanese law; and

Whereas a sovereign and independent Lebanon is in the national security interest of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the campaign of murder, terror, and intimidation aimed at overthrowing the democratically-elected government of Lebanon and establishing a new Lebanese government subservient to the will and interests of Syria and Iran;

(2) condemns Syria and Iran for their gross interference in Lebanon's internal political affairs, and particularly, the selection of a new president, and gross violations of United Nations Security Council resolutions protective of Lebanon's sovereignty and independence;

(3) condemns Lebanese political parties and actors who have allied themselves with Syria and Iran to the detriment of their own country and its national interests;

(4) condemns efforts by some Lebanese political figures to obstruct, delay, and impede the legal and established processes of their country for the selection of a new president according to the rule of law;

(5) affirms its continued strong support for Lebanon's democratically-elected government, people and national sovereignty, and its readiness to provide material support;

(6) calls on all nations to recognize and support Lebanon's sovereignty and independence; and

(7) urges the President to use all peaceful means at the disposal of the United States to help safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty and independence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, when the House last discussed Lebanon on September 25, I said that Lebanon was being bullied. That statement, though true, is insufficient. Lebanon is not being harassed by invisible unworldly forces. Lebanon is not a victim of fate or destiny or bad luck. Lebanese politicians and public figures, beginning with Rafiq Hariri and continuing to this day, are not being assassinated and blown away by falling meteors or volcanic eruptions. Arms do not appear in Lebanon by magic. Hezbollah's billions do not fall from the sky like rain. Palestinian terrorist groups don't find rifles falling out of trees or by the side of the road. The Fatah al-Islam and its war against the Lebanese state were not the product of spontaneous auto-genesis. Like maggots, their origin can escape the casual observer, but their birth was no accident or mystery.

Madam Speaker, Syria and Iran are responsible for these crimes. Syria and Iran are responsible for the chaos. Syria and Iran are to blame for the shadow of civil war that hangs over Lebanon. Lebanese politics are complex, and the interaction within and among confessions is daunting for the outside observer to contemplate. Where interest and principle merge and depart is hard to judge. But we know some things about Lebanon for certain, and they are spelled out clearly in the resolution at hand.

Despite Lebanon's Constitution, Syria demanded the extension of President Emile Lahoud's term in 2004, and Damascus got its way. The principal opponent of this grotesque intrusion into Lebanon's affairs was Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri. There is credible evidence uncovered by U.N. investigators showing that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad first threatened and then ordered the assassination of Rafiq Hariri for his defiance of Syrian diktat.

Madam Speaker, in response to the murder of Hariri, and, let us remember, 22 other civilians, the Lebanese rose up against their Syrian overlords and demanded, with the full support of the international community, the expulsion of Syria's occupational forces. A new government was formed through a free and fair election led by Lebanese not in the service of Syria and not in the debt of Iran.

This development, both surprising and hopeful, of a Lebanon free to chart its own course, was one that Syria and Iran couldn't tolerate. In their minds, Lebanon is a fiefdom, a toy. Lebanon is a playground for their ambitions and a canvas on which to splash their rage and hatred for the United States and Israel in the modern world.

Madam Speaker, Lebanon, in the minds of Syria's overlords and Iran's ayatollahs, is not for the Lebanese. This intolerance, this greedy self-interest, this bitter contempt for the rights of others is why we are speaking of Lebanon in the U.S. House of Representatives again today.

Lebanon is in grave peril. Lebanon's independence and sovereignty are under attack by Syria and Iran and their bootlicking Lebanese proxies, Hezbollah, Amal and the Aounist bloc. Extralegally demanding control of the presidency, and threatening civil war, this coalition of the wicked and the selfish have again brought chaos, violence and terror to Lebanon. It need not be so. It should not be so.

Syria and Lebanon are responsible for the crisis in Lebanon. Syria and Iran are responsible for the crisis in Lebanon. They have trampled on Lebanon's sovereignty and clearly violated U.N. Security Council resolutions protective of Lebanon. They are the puppet masters pulling on the strings of Hezbollah, Amal and Aoun. The assassinations of Lebanese members of Parliament are their work. The bombings are their work. The threats to establish an extra-legal second government are their work.

Madam Speaker, there is no mystery here. There is evil, there is greed, there is indecency, and, were I Lebanese, I might say treason as well. But there is no mystery. Syria and Iran are attacking Lebanon's sovereignty no less than if they sent a fleet of bombers, or a wave of tanks, or a swarm of infantry. That this aggression, this naked aggression is being done by proxies, and by terrorists, by car bombs, by telephone threats does not make it any less aggression, or any less a crime.

Many vital interests of the United States are at stake. If we want every nation to be secure in its own borders, we cannot tolerate cross-border aggression. If we want to see the Middle East at peace, we cannot tolerate the resumption of Syrian and Iranian control of Lebanon. If we want to encourage self-governance around the world, we cannot tolerate Lebanon's democracy being subverted by thugs and fanatics. If we want to see people rising up against tyranny, as they are today in Burma, we cannot tolerate the reversal of Lebanon's glorious Cedar Revolution. If we want to see the United Nations become a true guardian of peace, we cannot tolerate the will of the international community being scorned by rogue states.

Madam Speaker, America must lead. Even today, even with Iraq, there is still no other state that can mobilize the international community as can the United States, and the hour is desperate. Only if they are convinced that the world will not tolerate their aggression against Lebanon, will Syria and Iran back down. This outcome is not impossible.

The stakes are exceedingly high. It is my hope that the Lebanese Government and the Bush administration will see this debate in the House as proof that Congress is watching closely and that we stand ready to help secure Lebanon's future as an independent and sovereign state. If we want to end the bloodshed in Lebanon and foreclose the prospect of still greater violence, we must act now and in concert with the community of nations.

There is wide support for Lebanon both in Europe and the Arab and Muslim world, just waiting for a catalyst to give it expression. America must be that catalyst. We are here today to sound the wake-up call. A brighter future for Lebanon, for the Middle East, and for ourselves awaits our clarion call.

Madam Speaker, I urge our colleagues to support the resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I support this resolution, which condemns both Syria and Iran for their continuing campaign of murder and intimidation aimed at anti-Syrian politicians and public figures of Lebanon. It warns them against interfering either directly or through their many representatives in the Lebanese presidential elections scheduled for later this month.

Over 2 years after the Cedar Revolution, and despite the withdrawal of Syrian troops, Lebanon's fragile government continues to be targeted for destruction by internal and external threats. Hezbollah has continued to carry out its strategy of assassinating anti-Syrian Lebanese politicians. The aim is to gain a parliamentary majority that would allow both Syria and Iran to impose their choice for a president on the Lebanese people.

Furthermore, the inclusion of pro-Syrian, Iranian and terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah in the Lebanese political process only empowers the Syrian and Iranian regimes and holds Lebanon hostage to their whims. Allowing a terrorist entity to use the political process and legitimize itself without first demanding a renouncement of violence has only served to perpetuate and enhance the threat.

We support the underlying intent of this resolution, which is to advocate for the sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon. The Lebanese people deserve the right to be free of interference and intimidation by any outside country or terrorist group. However, despite supporting the resolution, we are concerned about language in this resolution referring to the entire Lebanese Parliament as ''democratically elected,'' because it sets a dangerous precedent by both legitimizing and providing congressional approval for the role of a foreign terrorist organization in the political process in Lebanon. Sadly, it legitimizes current election law which was constructed by the Syrians and imposed on the Lebanese people.

Finally, it undermines the very essence of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559, aimed at truly removing Syria from the Lebanese political process. Elections conducted under a Syrian-controlled electoral process where foreign terrorist organizations are allowed to participate without first requiring them to lay down their weapons should not be considered ''democratic'' by this Chamber.

Madam Speaker, the United States and other responsible nations must encourage the Government of Lebanon and leading Lebanese policymakers not to compromise on their commitment to reform the political process by purging from it the influence of Syria, Iran and Hezbollah. Our support for the Lebanese people and the pro-democracy forces in Lebanon is vital to counterbalance the pressures surrounding Lebanon.

The brave people of Lebanon continue to stand against the tyrannical regime in Damascus, and they deserve nothing less than our support. It is for this reason that, despite reservations about the implications of some of the clauses in this resolution, I will vote for this resolution, and ask my colleagues to do the same.

I especially remember Congressman LAHOOD being prophetic. Last year I attended a White House meeting with the President of members of both parties giving reports on their recent trips to Iraq. Congressman LAHOOD pointed out progress in Iraq, but he also stated the public needed reassurance of the capture or killing of the al Qaeda leader in Iraq, Zawahiri. Just as he concluded, National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley, sitting next to me, received an important cell call which he took and then several hours later could announce: the butchering beheader Zawahiri had been killed by a successful American airstrike.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY).

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this important resolution, and I thank the gentleman from New York for his continued leadership on this important issue. We often throw around compliments on the floor of the House thanking each other, but in this case, it is truly warranted. The gentleman from New York has been a giant on these issues, and I thank him so much for that.

Lebanon is at a critical juncture in its history. On the cusp of upcoming elections, it can go the way of democracy; or it can go the way of violence, terrorism and dictatorship. We therefore must stand side-by-side with the forces of democracy in that country and protect it from those who seek to unfairly and violently influence the results of their free election.

Two years ago at the United Nations, the world called on Syria to remove its troops from Lebanon and recognize Lebanon's independence. While perhaps most of Syria's troops are out of Lebanon, its continued dangerous influence is undeniable.

Syria's proxies in Lebanon have waged a campaign of terror throughout the country against those who oppose its interference. They have bombed,

they have rioted, they have assassinated, and they have terrorized, and it is undeniable Syria's hand is behind it all.

Iran too has involved itself in Lebanon with its support of Hezbollah, a terrorist group whose military is stronger than the Lebanese Army. Iran has threatened unspecified consequences if the anti-Syrian majority has the gall to freely elect its own president. It has launched attacks against Israel to destabilize the region and the Lebanese Government. Hezbollah continues to bring arms shipments in from Iran through Syria with impunity.

Lebanon's stability could be the key to the future of the Middle East. If the Lebanese can establish a democracy in their country, then it would spread to other countries in that region, Syria's influence would be weakened and Iran's plans for regional supremacy and control would suffer a serious setback. The supporters of terrorism know this, Madam Speaker. That is why they have unleashed this campaign of terror to stop Lebanon's development and influence its upcoming election.

We too must unleash our own campaign to support the forces of democracy and freedom and stability. We must not let the forces of democracy be defeated or intimidated in Lebanon. The Middle East hangs in the balance, and we must not back away from a growing democracy that needs our help.

Madam Speaker, I urge support for this resolution.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD), an esteemed member of the Committee on Appropriations and a distinguished American of Lebanese heritage.

Madam Speaker, prior to yielding, I want to note that Mr. LAHOOD has announced he will not be running for reelection next year. I want all of us to acknowledge that he will truly be missed. When I was elected 6 years ago, one the first persons I found out who has the respect of the Members here is indeed RAY LAHOOD. He has made such a great difference for the people of the United States.

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

□ 1445

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for his kind remarks.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 738, a resolution that strongly condemns the ongoing campaign of violence and assassination directed towards the people of Lebanon and their democratically elected government.

We have all seen the horrific news reports of the assassinations and attempted assassinations of anti-Syrian lawmakers in Lebanon. The brave men and women who are struggling to move Lebanon forward have become targets in their own country. Hezbollah and the pro-Syrian factions in Lebanon know they are in the minority, and have begun a desperation campaign to kill as many of their opponents as possible. Members of the parliament have had to go into hiding outside of Lebanon, and lay their lives on the line when they return to conduct government business.

Others in Lebanon have embarked on a campaign to delay and obstruct the presidential election process, now delayed since September, late September into October. Rather than face the fact that those who wish for Lebanon to be independent and free will be successful, they choose instead to upend the entire political process rather than see democracy succeed. This was clearly evident in 2004 when the current president of Lebanon had his term extended with the help of Syria and other outside forces, an act that was quickly condemned by the United States and the United Nations. Unfortunately, these forces continue to try to impose their will on Lebanon today.

The Cedar Revolution in 2005 led to the withdrawal of Syrian forces that had occupied Lebanon for more than three decades. After the withdrawal, the government of Prime Minister Siniora committed to creating a strong, democratic Lebanon, free of occupation or outside influence. Lebanon is fighting many enemies of freedom, both within and outside the country.

As Lebanon prepares for presidential elections, hopefully in a few weeks, I believe it is vital that we reiterate our support for Lebanon and the people of Lebanon. This resolution reaffirms our support of the many United Nations resolutions that condemn Syria and Iran for their continued roles in arming the enemies of a free Lebanon, and expresses our appreciation to the many countries who have contributed funding and personnel to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

Our Lebanese friends must know that we stand beside them as they continue to strengthen their government. I want to particularly compliment President Bush, Secretary Rice, and the whole Bush team for the interest they have expressed in Lebanon, for the interest they have shown in this country and their ability to have a democracy and to hold elections.

Last week, the son of Rafiq Hariri was in Washington and had an opportunity to meet with many officials of the Congress and of the Bush administration. I know he was gratified by the support he has received from Congress and from the Bush administration. As he returned to Lebanon, I know he went reassured that our country is with Lebanon, that our country is for free elections as soon as possible.

I also want to compliment Speaker PELOSI who has personally discussed this issue with me and has a great deal of interest in Lebanon, and recently took the time to travel to Lebanon on a recent trip to the Middle East. Her interest in this country is something that we should all commend. And so I urge the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I just want to add to the comments by our good friend Mr. LAHOOD. He will surely be missed in this great Chamber. He has added much to the dignity, fairness, objectiveness and to the thoughtfulness of this body. And I hope when decency, security and peace does return to Lebanon, he will be in this Chamber with us to share in that moment.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I have no more speakers, I urge support for the resolution promoting the Cedar Revolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I too want to thank Speaker PELOSI for her leadership, for taking her time during her trip to the Middle East to visit Lebanon, and also to try to talk sense to the people in Syria as well.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, the United States has a long and deep history of supporting the sovereignty and independence of the Lebanese people. That is why we must condemn in the strongest terms possible continued Syrian and Iranian interference in Lebanese affairs.

The Lebanese parliament is currently engaged in the process of selecting a new president, a task unfortunately complicated by the meddling of outsiders, most notably Syria and Iran, and their terrorist proxy in Lebanon, Hezbollah. Syrian and Iranian interference in Lebanon must be condemned by the international community in the strongest possible terms and it must immediately end.

The resolution before the House chronicles the tragic toll exacted on Lebanon and its people by its neighbors. It is a tale of a peaceful people seeking a better future who again and again have seen their hopes dashed due to the cruel and opportunistic machinations of Iran and Syria.

I recently met for the second time this year with Sheikh Saad Hariri, the leader of the majority in the Lebanese parliament, whose family has given so much for the freedom of the Lebanese people. Mr. Hariri made an eloquent appeal for help from the Congress of the United States and other parliamentary bodies to expose the interference of non-Lebanese groups in the selection of Lebanon's next president. I commend the bipartisan leadership of the House Foreign Affairs Committee for acting quickly so the House could go on record against these tactics before the next meeting of the Lebanese parliament later this month.

The politically-motivated violence that has been so much a part of Lebanon's recent history has not dampened the desire of the Lebanese people for self-determination.

The Cedar Revolution was an eloquent and powerful testament to that fact; a fact which deserves the respect of all nations. Passage of this resolution puts the House squarely on the side of the freedom-loving people of Lebanon and I urge its adoption.

Mr. ACKERMAN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPPS). The question is on the motion

offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 738.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

25 BY 25 RESOLUTION

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 25) expressing the sense of Congress that it is the goal of the United States that, not later than January 1, 2025, the agricultural, forestry, and working land of the United States should provide from renewable resources not less than 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States and continue to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 25

Whereas the United States has a quantity of renewable energy resources that is sufficient to supply a significant portion of the energy needs of the United States;

Whereas the agricultural, forestry, and working land of the United States can help ensure a sustainable domestic energy system;

Whereas accelerated development and use of renewable energy technologies provide numerous benefits to the United States, including improved national security, improved balance of payments, healthier rural economies, improved environmental quality, and abundant, reliable, and affordable energy for all citizens of the United States;

Whereas the production of transportation fuels from renewable energy would help the United States meet rapidly growing domestic and global energy demands, reduce the dependence of the United States on energy imported from volatile regions of the world that are politically unstable, stabilize the cost and availability of energy, and safeguard the economy and security of the United States;

Whereas increased energy production from domestic renewable resources would attract substantial new investments in energy infrastructure, create economic growth, develop new jobs for the citizens of the United States, and increase the income for farm, ranch, and forestry jobs in the rural regions of the United States;

Whereas increased use of renewable energy is practical and can be cost effective with the implementation of supportive policies and proper incentives to stimulate markets and infrastructure; and

Whereas public policies aimed at enhancing renewable energy production and accelerating technological improvements will further reduce energy costs over time and increase market demand: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that it is the goal of the United States that, not later than January 1, 2025, the agricultural, forestry, and working land of the United States should provide from renewable resources not less than 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States and continue to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 25, and urge its adoption by the House. H. Con. Res. 25 embodies the vision of farmers and ranchers who have been leaders in renewable energy and land conservation activities, and recognizes that forestry and agriculture will play a leading role in our country's transitions to energy independence. The 25x'25 Resolution sets a national energy independence goal that by the year 2025, 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States should come from homegrown, renewable sources.

This resolution has received strong bipartisan support, was passed out of the House Agriculture Committee under my good friend, Mr. GOODLATTE's leadership last year, and again in May under the new Congress. The 25x'25 Resolution has been carefully crafted to set national renewable energy production targets, while allowing farmers, ranchers, entrepreneurs and industry the flexibility needed to reach these important goals.

Madam Speaker, the new face of energy security and rural development is in the form of a biofuels plant, a gasifier, a windmill, a methane digester or any other technology that will reduce dependence on foreign energy sources. In times of high energy prices, I can think of no one better to supply the United States with a renewable source of energy than the same American farmers and ranchers who have provided the United States and the world with an abundance of safe food and fiber.

Expanding the production and the use of renewable energy is an important priority, not just for agriculture, but for the entire country in our pursuit of energy independence. The 25x'25 Coalition has grown over the past several years, and now includes endorsements from more than 590 business, conservation, agriculture and forestry organizations. As renewable energy use continues to expand, new innovations, including the promising growth of cellulosic ethanol, will not only provide for our energy needs; they will also produce environmental and conservation benefits.

I think the future of energy production from agriculture and forestry is the most exciting thing that has happened in rural America in my lifetime. The 25x'25 Resolution states our commitment to support the development of renewable energy sources. I believe we can not only meet but exceed the goal of 25 percent by the year 2025.

But every journey starts with a first step, and this resolution is a very important first step that we can take in achieving this energy independence.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their support and again urge the support of the House for the passage of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would first like to thank the gentleman from Minnesota, the chairman of the committee, for his leadership in bringing this resolution before the Congress again, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. HOLDEN, for his involvement in this as well.

The resolution, also known as 25x'25, recognizes the importance of agriculture in meeting our energy needs and sets a noble goal for American agriculture: to produce 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States from the renewable resources of our agriculture, forestry and working lands by the year 2025.

We have made significant progress in developing a robust industry using agricultural crops as well as animal waste to produce ethanol and biodiesel. In 2006 alone, the renewable fuels industry added more than 1.05 billion gallons of new ethanol to the marketplace. It is projected that without any new technological breakthroughs, the industry already has the potential to produce more than 11 billion gallons per year within the next decade.

While the domestic production of energy has been exciting, there are still many renewable energy sources yet to be explored and developed. There are a wide variety of agricultural products and by-products that can be converted to clean, renewable energy sources. In fact, there are sources of renewable energy in every one of our 50 States, including wind, solar, hydropower and biomass. The development of cellulosic technology has enormous potential to bolster the renewable fuel market inside the corn belt and well beyond.

I am particularly excited about the opportunity to use forest biomass as a component of our renewable energy supply. Forest biomass is plentiful and available in many States. Almost two-thirds of the Commonwealth of Virginia is forested, as is much of the southeastern United States. In fact, today we have roughly the same amount of forest land as we had 100 years ago. Trees are an abundant resource and are available for conversion into both wood products and biofuels year-round.

Every year we grow almost twice as much forest biomass as we harvest.

This wood and wood waste has the potential to produce enough electricity to power 43 million households, or enough ethanol to increase our domestic supply by almost 10-fold. As we find more ways to use forest biomass in our energy supply, we also have the opportunity to improve forest health, removing materials that fuel wildfires and insect and disease infestations.

Renewable energy development can create valuable markets for many of the waste materials which are currently a burden on America's farmers, such as animal waste, harvest by-products and damaged crops. Farmers continue to face steep environmental regulations in handling animal waste, and converting this waste into renewable fuels is a win-win for farmers and the environment. In fact, I would like to see the word ''waste'' taken out of American agriculture since almost everything produced on our farms can be used or reused for some other purpose.

The current tax credits and renewable fuels standard, along with the phaseout of MTBE, has helped fuel investment in new ethanol and biodiesel plants, and created more markets for agriculture products. It is obvious that current policies have successfully established a thriving, renewable fuels market. We should now focus on policy that will develop commercial cellulosic ethanol and allow new markets to drive production.

□ 1500

New proposed initiatives are extremely ambitious and can only be achieved with contributions from all areas of the agriculture sector, including grains, plants, trees and wood waste, vegetable oil, and animal fat and waste.

The 2002 farm bill included the first-ever energy title with programs to help renewable fuel producers purchase and expand operations and purchase feedstocks and also established programs to make grants and loans to farmers, ranchers and small businesses to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements on farming operations.

The energy title of the House's 2007 farm bill builds on the 2002 bill by providing nearly $3 billion to promote the commercial production of cellulosic ethanol. These initiatives will help farmers and forest owners by creating new markets and income opportunities to keep them on the land and keep their land working. At the same time, greater focus on cellulosic feedstocks can reduce our reliance on corn for renewable fuels.

Increased development of renewable energy opens new markets for our Nation's producer; provides consumers with a safe, sustainable, environmentally friendly and renewable source of energy; and decreases our Nation's dependency on foreign oil.

25x'25 is a vision we can all get behind, as 600 groups already have, including agriculture and forestry groups, as well as business and environmental organizations. Over 20 of our Nation's Governors, along with 72 bipartisan cosponsors in the House, have recognized that this is a goal, though challenging, that is worth striving for.

I encourage my colleagues to join us in recognizing the important role American agriculture plays in domestic energy production and work with us to turn the goal of 25x'25 into a reality.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN), the chairman of the Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research Subcommittee.

Mr. HOLDEN. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me time and thank him for his leadership and that of Mr. GOODLATTE, leadership in his role as ranking member and former chairman of the committee, on this very important issue.

Madam Speaker, we have an energy crisis in this country, and we need to take advantage of our own natural resources. This piece of legislation before us today is going to address the resources under our jurisdiction as members of the Ag Committee, but I would be negligent as a proud son of the coal regions of Pennsylvania, the anthracite coal fields, if I didn't mention that I hope that future pieces of legislation that come before this body also address the opportunity of coal-to-liquid, how we need to take advantage of the vast resources that we have in coal in this country.

I would say to those who criticize the environmental aspects of coal-to-liquid to just come to my home in St. Clair, Pennsylvania, in Schuykill County and look at 200-to 300-foot comb banks, waste coal, that can be cleaned up and made into liquid fuel. So I hope in future proceedings before this House we're able to address that.

But I stand here proudly as a member of the Ag Committee and chairman of the Energy Subcommittee, in cooperation with my chairman and ranking member, to support this legislation.

As was mentioned by the chairman and the ranking member, we have an abundance of agriculture resources that we need to take advantage of in this country; and if we do not, we will remain to be dependent on the smooth, continuous flow of oil out of the Persian Gulf and Mexico and Venezuela. We have an opportunity to do something beginning today.

As we were writing the 2007 Ag bill, members of my subcommittee, we traveled to Penn State, to NC State, to the USDA labs and looked at the research that is being done on cellulosic ethanol and biodiesel; and when you look at the possibilities of the entire country, not one region excluding another, having the ability to participate in a move towards energy independence, when we look at cellulosic ethanol or biodiesel in the feedstocks that are so abundant, it's absolutely imperative that we take advantage of those and pass this legislation today.

As the ranking member mentioned, in the energy title we have in excess of a $2 billion loan guarantee program to help this infant industry take hold and allow the people on Wall Street, the investors, the private sector to be partners with the government as we move this forward.

So, Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation and urge its adoption.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KAGEN), a new member of our committee who has been a leader on this issue as well as many others.

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman PETERSON and thank Ranking Member GOODLATTE for allowing me to participate on a bipartisan committee, a committee whose example should be followed by the remainder of this Chamber. It has been a great pleasure for me to participate on this Agriculture Committee.

My home State of Wisconsin has been a leader on this issue of renewable energy. Why? Because we need an energy policy today that is not put together behind closed doors but out in the open, in a committee forum and here on the House floor.

Wisconsin has established its own renewable energy standard of 10 percent renewable by 2015, and judging by today's oil price that may reach $85 per barrel, it can't come too soon.

This resolution of 25x'25, which I'm a proud cosponsor of, indicates our Nation's desire to become energy independent. By declaring our intent to provide 25 percent of our Nation's energy from renewable sources by 2025, we're taking a critical step in securing the energy and environmental needs of our future generations.

As a member of the Ag Committee, I know the potential of our farms, the potential of our forests, especially in northern Wisconsin, and the potential of our working lands across the country. If we achieve the goals outlined in this resolution, we will not only provide for our Nation's energy requirements, but we'll also develop innovative industries and supply countless numbers of new jobs in this developing field of renewable energy and at the same time will continue to guarantee that we will all serve our Nation well as a leader in the world.

Madam Speaker, it is no surprise today that we need a new energy policy, and this is a great start to a great new beginning.

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

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I am now pleased to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlelady from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN) who has been a leader on renewable energy in her State and in the country for a long time.

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for yielding.

I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 25, commonly referred to by my constituents, and it sounds like the constituents of many others, as 25x'25. I'm an original cosponsor of this resolution, and I commend Chairman PETERSON and Ranking Member GOODLATTE for their superb leadership on advancing this important resolution, on the overall issue of advancing renewable energy in American agriculture, and for their efforts in bringing this legislation to the floor today.

This resolution is as bold as it is straightforward. It simply states the United States expects our Nation's agricultural, forestry and working land to provide from renewable resources and sustainable resources not less than 25 percent of total U.S. energy consumption by 2025, while continuing to produce the world's safest, most abundant, most affordable food and feed. This goal is both exciting and achievable, and rural America stands ready to assume the challenge. Today's resolution compels us as a Nation to consider, to devise, and to implement a strategy for realizing this critical goal.

In recent years, we've taken important incremental steps in support of renewable energy. The most significant and positive example of this commitment was the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which contained the first-ever renewable fuel standard, long advocated by Chairman PETERSON and many others in this Chamber and in the Senate, a national mandate for the usage of renewable energy; and it has been a resounding success.

In 2004, we produced less than 3.5 billion gallons of ethanol in the United States. By the end of this calendar year, we'll have the capacity to produce more than 7 billion gallons of clean, renewable, domestically grown ethanol in this country.

This forward-looking and innovative policy has enabled the U.S. ethanol industry to more than double its production capacity in only 3 years; and the benefits to the economy, to consumers and to the environment have been tremendous; and as the ranking member noted, with the advancements in cellulosic ethanol, every region of the country will soon benefit as so many States have already done.

According to a recent study by LECG, a global expert services firm, the combination of spending for annual operations, ethanol transportation and capital spending for new plants under construction added $41.9 billion of gross output to the American economy in 2006 alone, over $1 billion of that in my home State of South Dakota. Even more important, much of this economic benefit has been realized by small communities in rural areas that have faced considerable economic challenges in recent decades.

Moreover, oil imports are the single largest component of our Nation's expanding trade deficit. The production of nearly 5 billion gallons of ethanol in 2006 means that last year the U.S. imported 206 million fewer barrels of oil, valued at more than $11 billion, than would have been the case without ethanol.

Finally, the environmental benefits of using renewable fuels abound. The use of 10 percent ethanol blends reduces greenhouse gas emissions by 12 to 19 percent compared with conventional gasoline. Ethanol reduces tailpipe carbon monoxide emissions by as much as 30 percent, and tailpipe fine particulate matter emissions by as much as 50 percent. In 2004 alone, ethanol use in the U.S. reduced CO_2-equivalent greenhouse gas emissions by more than 7 million tons, equal to removing the annual emissions of more than 1 million cars from the road.

That's why this resolution and this entire debate are so important. Congress is currently considering new energy policy legislation, providing us an opportunity to build on the policies of 2 years ago. In the coming weeks, I'm hopeful that we'll finalize this energy bill and send it to the President, but we must take this opportunity to be bold.

The final bill should certainly contain initiatives to promote energy conservation, but it must also require that we increase our domestic production of renewable energy, both in the electricity sector and in the transportation sector.

The success of our initial renewable energy mandate indicates the wisdom of that policy and demonstrates the need to be even bolder, even more forward looking and even more committed to achieving energy independence in this country.

This resolution today clearly outlines an appropriately aggressive goal for our country over the next 18 years and recognizes the role of American agriculture, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to making the aspirations a reality.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I just want to again thank my good friend Mr. GOODLATTE for his leadership on this issue and the rest of the members of our committee who have worked very hard. We've produced a farm bill that is going to do our part in getting this country off of energy independence.

I also want to thank our leadership, especially Speaker PELOSI for her leadership on this issue.

As I said, we have a tremendous opportunity in rural America and agriculture with this whole effort to get energy independent in this country, and this resolution will help us by establishing that goal.

In Minnesota, where I'm proud to be from, we have led the way. I was just at a grand opening on Friday of a new plant that's turning turkey manure into electricity, and we have had mandates in Minnesota in ethanol and biodiesel, electricity, and it works.

We've had a tremendous economic development that's come about because of the renewable energy industry that we've developed in Minnesota. So we're proud on the Ag Committee of our work, and we urge our colleagues to join us in supporting H. Con. Res. 25.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 25, expressing the sense of Congress that it is the goal of the United States that, not later than January 1, 2025, the agricultural, forestry, and working land of the United States should provide from renewable resources not less than 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States and continue to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber. I am proud to join over 70 of my colleagues in cosponsoring this important legislation. I would like to thank my distinguished colleague Congressman PETERSON for introducing this bill, as well for his leadership on this issue as the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee.

Madam Speaker, the issue of energy is not only a critical economic issue, it is an urgent national security issue which has reached crisis proportions. With gasoline prices at record levels, the American people are suffering for our dependence on foreign oil.

In addition to being from the energy capital of the world, for the past 12 years I have been the Chair of the Energy Braintrust of the Congressional Black Caucus. During this time, I have hosted a variety of energy braintrusts designed to bring in all of the relevant players ranging from environmentalists to producers of energy from a variety of sectors including coal, electric, natural gas, nuclear, oil, and alternative energy sources as well as energy producers from West Africa. My energy braintrusts were designed to be a call of action to all of the sectors who comprise the American and international energy industry, to the African American community, and to the nation as a whole.

Energy is the lifeblood of every economy, especially ours. Producing more of it leads to more good jobs, cheaper goods, lower fuel prices, and greater economic and national security. Bringing together thoughtful yet disparate voices to engage each other on the issue of energy independence has resulted in the beginning of a transformative dialectic which can ultimately result in reforming our energy industry to the extent that we as a nation achieve energy security and energy independence.

This Congress has demonstrated its commitment to taking our Nation in a new direction, toward energy security and away from dependence on foreign oil. Today, we are considering legislation, known as the "25 by '25 proposal," that expresses the sense of Congress that the goal of the U.S. is that America's farms, forests, and ranches provide 25% of the total energy consumed in America from renewable resources by 2025, while continuing to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber.

Madam Speaker, we live in a nation of extraordinary resources. As world oil prices continue to soar, now reaching a record $86 per barrel, it is vital that harness our vast resources here at home. This legislation lays out

an ambitious goal, one which will require innovation and new thinking about national priorities. However, I believe that the goal of producing 25% of America's energy from renewable resources is well worth aiming for.

Renewable energy can be harnessed in every one of America's 50 States. It can come from resources including wind, solar, hydropower, and biofuels, and it is currently the fastest growing energy sector. In particular, ethanol introduces the possibility that we can produce 25% of our projected gasoline use in 2025 from farm and forest resources, including many waste materials.

Both the House and the Senate have taken an important first step toward achieving this critical goal by passing comprehensive and bipartisan energy security measures. These initiatives have included critical proposals aimed at reducing our dependence on foreign oil; lowering energy costs through greater efficiency, cleaner energy, and smarter technology; creating new American jobs; and reducing global warming.

Madam Speaker, the legislation we are considering today has the support of a broad range of farm organizations, along with leaders from business, labor, conservation, environmental, and religious groups. It sets an ambitious but achievable goal, and will make important strides toward achieving energy independence. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 25, which calls for 25 percent of America's energy supply to come from agriculture and rural based renewable energy sources by 2025. This 25x25 approach is a worthy goal.

Renewable energy holds wonderful promise for rural America, which can benefit exponentially from these trends. Production of renewable fuels and renewable energy meets multiple policy objectives. It decreases America's reliance on foreign sources of energy, creates new farm income, and fosters good stewardship of resources.

Clearly, Nebraska is a leader in America's renewable energy future. We will soon be the second leading producer of ethanol in the Nation, and we are home to cutting edge technologies that are producing renewable fuels and electricity from wastes at animal feeding operations. In addition, developments in biomass and wind energy are very encouraging. This kind of innovation will only continue to grow as more of America's energy comes from renewable sources.

Madam Speaker, America's renewable energy future is now. This is a very exciting opportunity for our farmers to lead the way for clean, environmentally-friendly energy production. I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 25.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 25.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution just considered.

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

There was no objection.

LOUISIANA ARMED SERVICES VETERANS POST OFFICE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2089) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 701 Loyola Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the ''Louisiana Armed Services Veterans Post Office''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2089

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LOUISIANA ARMED SERVICES VETERANS POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 701 Loyola Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana, shall be known and designated as the ''Louisiana Armed Services Veterans Post Office''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Louisiana Armed Services Veterans Post Office''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

□ 1515

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the sponsor of this legislation, Representative JEFFERSON from Louisiana.

Mr. JEFFERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today as the sponsor of H.R. 2089 to rename the main post office in New Orleans from the New Orleans Main Office Window Service to the Louisiana Armed Services Veterans Memorial Post Office.

I would like to thank Chairman WAXMAN for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor today as well as my colleague Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, as well as fellow members of the Louisiana congressional delegation who join me as cosponsor of this measure.

As we approach the commemoration of Veterans Day, it is important to note that the State of Louisiana has made many contributions to each branch of our armed services and, by extension, to the defense of this Nation. My State of Louisiana is home to many proud armed service veterans dating from World War I to the present military engagement in Iraq. I am proud to say that many of my fellow Louisianans have volunteered and sacrificed as soldiers and as families of soldiers in the defense of this great Nation, and it is only appropriate that we memorialize them in this significant way. Louisiana is home to well over 370,000 uniformed veterans. This includes nearly 120,000 who served in World War II, 47,000 in the Korean War, 115,000 in the Vietnam War, and 80,000 in Desert Storm, the first Gulf War.

However, simply citing statistics does not give a complete picture. It doesn't give a complete picture of the sacrifices nor contributions made on behalf of the soldiers nor does it detail the historical relationship of Louisiana and the armed services branches of our Nation. It could be easily argued that the very battle that propelled America onto the world stage as a political and military power was fought on January 8, 1815, just below New Orleans, the Battle of New Orleans. Louisiana military posts were key supply points for the Mexican War of 1848. The Nation's first African American woman to earn her star as a general in the U.S. Army was Sherian Grace Cadoria, who grew up in Marksville, Louisiana, and graduated from my alma mater at Southern University in Baton Rouge.

Louisiana is also home to three major military installations, Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, the Army's Fort Polk Joint Readiness Training Center near Leesville, and in my district, the Belle Chase naval facility across the Mississippi River from New Orleans. Each installation is an integral part of its respective community. Each also employs many local residents and has a profound impact on the economy of our State.

I would be remiss, Madam Speaker, were I not to mention the Louisiana National Guard, which calls New Orleans home at Jackson Barracks. The National Guard has made significant contributions within the State as well as abroad. During the first Gulf War, Louisiana had the highest number of guardsmen serving per capita than any other State in the Nation. However, Louisiana's contributions to the armed services does not come without cost. During the current war in Iraq, Louisiana lost more than 100 of its servicemen and women and over 500 have been wounded; yet this is not the only area in which our armed servicemen and women have paid a high price. Unfortunately, some of our veterans have had to fight two wars, one abroad and then

one back at home. I am very pleased this Congress has recognized that to some great measure and has done much more this year for our veterans than ever before. But in my district, where the Veterans Administration Hospital remains closed, this notion is particularly poignant of two wars. The closure of this hospital has left many veterans in my district with no choice but to travel long distances either to Shreveport, Louisiana, or Jackson, Mississippi, for hospital care. Though the Veterans Administration has recently announced plans to rebuild a bigger and better hospital in New Orleans, and I applaud the decision for it is the right one, those doors will still not open for a few years, leaving many veterans with few options. The VA has also suffered through a backlog of 6,000 Veterans Administration claims in Louisiana alone right now. The problem is nationwide and it is growing.

So today, with Veterans Day not far off, we honor and recognize our veterans in Louisiana who have paid a high price for our collective freedom. We do this by memorializing them in this significant way and memorializing their sacrifices forever by renaming the Main Post Office Building in New Orleans the Louisiana Armed Services Veterans Memorial Post Office. I urge passage of this bill.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of H.R. 2089, to designate the U.S. Postal Service location at 701 Loyola Avenue in New Orleans as the Louisiana Armed Services Veterans Post Office.

From the Battle of New Orleans in the War of 1812, to the Chinese Bandits who laid the groundwork for U.S. air superiority in the Asian theater in World War II, to LTG Russell Honore's leadership of the military response to Hurricane Katrina, Louisianans have been at the forefront of defending this country from the time of its founding to this very day.

Louisiana's fighters have always been known for being a little tougher, a little wilder, a little crazier, if you will, than their counterparts from elsewhere. It made them perfect for some missions, but not so perfect for others. But the end result always has been that they have been quick in the Bayou State to take up arms whenever their country needed them.

Consider Claire Chennault. In 1937, Chennault, a captain in the U.S. Army Air Corps, progenitor of the Air Force, resigned his commission to go to China on behalf of Madam Chaing Kai-shek to help the Chinese build an air force to fend off the Japanese. He did not leave until World War II ended in 1945. In the interim, he helped organize an air force that featured strategically located airfields and an air raid warning system built from scratch that protected all of what was then known as Free China. Without his work, American air power could not have functioned in China. Later, Chennault was to describe the air raid warning system as a vast spider net of people, radios, telephones, and telegraph lines that covered all of Free China accessible to enemy aircraft. In addition to continuous intelligence of enemy attacks, the net served to locate and guide lost friendly planes, direct aid to friendly pilots who had crashed or bailed out, and helped guide our technical intelligence experts to wrecks or crashed enemy aircraft.

In other words, something out of nothing. The same as the muskets Louisianans used to fend off the British in New Orleans, and General Honore used to help rebuild Louisiana after Katrina. It is a tradition well worth honoring, and this measure does just that.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, as a Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 2089, which names a postal facility in New Orleans, Louisiana, after the Louisiana armed services veterans.

H.R. 2089 which was introduced by Representative WILLIAM JEFFERSON on May 1, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on September 20, 2007, by voice vote. This measure has the support of the entire Louisiana congressional delegation.

Madam Speaker, the Louisiana armed services veterans were recognized for their significant contributions to our country early in the 19th and 20th centuries. During the War of 1812, Louisiana's veteran troops, which included French, Spanish, African, Anglo, Creole, and Native American people, under General Andrew Jackson, decisively defeated the British forces on January 8, 1815. This battle forced the British to recognize the United States' claim to Louisiana and helped establish America as a political and military power.

In the 20th century, the famous Louisiana maneuvers held at Fort Polk, Louisiana, in 1940 tested the mettle of future World War II Army Generals Dwight D. Eisenhower and George Patton and the soldiers who served under their leadership. President Eisenhower referred to Louisianan Andrew Jackson Higgins as ''the man who won the war.'' In New Orleans, Higgins designed and built amphibious landing craft that made possible the invasions of enemy-held Pacific Islands and the coast of France D–Day invasion.

Rural southeast Louisiana was native soil for two Marine Corps commanders, General John Archer Lejeune and General Robert Barrow. The Nation's first black woman to earn her stars as a U.S. Army General, Sherian Grace Cadoria, grew up in Marksville, Louisiana.

The Louisiana veterans for centuries have served and defended our country with exemplary valor and honor. And so, Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative WILLIAM JEFFERSON, for introducing this legislation and urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2089.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

NATE DETAMPLE POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3297) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 950 West Trenton Avenue in Morrisville, Pennsylvania, as the ''Nate DeTample Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3297

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. NATE DETAMPLE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 950 West Trenton Avenue in Morrisville, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the ''Nate DeTample Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Nate DeTample Post Office Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the author of this resolution, the sponsor of this legislation, Representative PATRICK MURPHY from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois.

I rise today with pride to honor one of our Nation's finest sons. Nathaniel DeTample, Nate to his friends and family, Baby Boy to his National Guard unit, died in Iraq on August 9, 2005. He was 19 years old.

Nate was an Eagle Scout, an Eagles fan, a standout wrestler at Pennsbury High School, and a friend to all who knew him. Today, we pay tribute.

Madam Speaker, the legislation before us today will name the post office building in Morrisville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, the Nate DeTample Post Office Building.

I am proud that this will be the first Pennsylvania post office named after an Iraq war veteran. His name will appear for all to see at 950 West Trenton Avenue, a sign of the spirit we honor.

Madam Speaker, today we give thanks to Nate and to his family for their service to our Nation. Nate joined the Pennsylvania National Guard to serve. He planned to be a police officer like his dad, but he never got that chance. He was always first in line to wrestling practice and always had a positive attitude. Bucks County Police Chief Ken Coluzzi said Nate was a nice boy and a fine young man who was going to be outstanding. It seems that is who is over there, overseas. There are a lot of outstanding young men and women who just want to do the right thing for their country, outstanding young heroes who put their lives on the line every single day.

□ 1530

Nate served in the Pennsylvania National Guard's Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 111 Infantry, a unit that proudly traces its roots back to the founding of our Nation and the Minutemen of the Revolutionary War, a rich history that Nate honored with his unforgettable spirit.

Madam Speaker, his friend said in tribute that Nate was one of the nicest guys ever. You never saw him down. You didn't have to meet Nate to know what kind of man, what kind of soldier he was.

When it came time for him to be laid to rest, scores of people lined the streets to say goodbye and to give thanks, a true testament to his spirit, his sacrifice, and the impact he had on the lives that he touched.

Madam Speaker, Nate's mom and dad, Kim and Glenn, asked at Nate's funeral that all of us pray for Nate's fellow soldiers and their families. Today, before this great body, with great pride, I repeat their request, and ask that we make it our mission to honor the fallen and stand up for those who are still fighting.

With his service, Nate DeTample showed us true energy, faith, and devotion. His memory will light our world.

In closing, I want to share how Nate signed one of his letters home from Iraq: ''Rock Steady, Nate.''

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues join me in honoring one of those rocks of our community, Nate DeTample. Rock steady.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

It is an honor for me to speak today about an American hero who showed great bravery and loyalty to his country well beyond his 19 years.

On August 9, 2005, a roadside bomb took the life of Nate DeTample, extinguishing his hopes and dreams, an ending to what, by all accounts, was an exemplary life.

During his high school years, Nate DeTample was remembered as an impressive young man and an extremely nice guy.

His personality was such that he always reached out to others with a handshake and asked how they were doing. He showed great leadership and ability as a wrestler for Pennsbury High School. One of his coaches remembered him as a hard worker and always being the first to practice.

It was Nate's dream to become a police officer, much like his father, Glenn, a detective for the Lower Makefield Police Department. With this dream in mind, Nate joined the National Guard after he graduated and headed off to college at Shippensburg University, where he majored in criminal justice. He was, however, called to serve his country before he could complete his first year of study. Some might have complained, but Nate believed in the mission and served to the best of his abilities.

Upon learning of Nate's death, the flag at the Lower Makefield Police Department was flown at half mast. This was a fitting tribute for someone who paid the ultimate sacrifice for his country and his community. It is also a fitting tribute that we give the post office on West Trenton Avenue in Morrisville, Pennsylvania, his name so that we may not forget his courage, his bravery and the price he paid for us.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in support of this fitting tribute.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I'm pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 3297, which names the postal facility in Morrisville, Pennsylvania, after Nate DeTample.

H.R. 3297, which was introduced by Representative PATRICK MURPHY on August 1, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on September 20, 2007, by voice vote. This measure has the support of the entire Pennsylvania congressional delegation.

Madam Speaker, Private First Class Nathaniel E. DeTample was killed on August 9, 2005, in an attack by small arms fire in Beiji, Iraq. The attack occurred while he was investigating a rocket-propelled grenade incident. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 111 Infantry Regiment, Pennsylvania Army National Guard in Philadelphia.

Private DeTample was a wrestler, an Eagle Scout, and a criminal justice major at Shippenburg University. He was deployed to Iraq in March 2005 for the purpose of performing stability and support operations in the Beiji area north of Baghdad. He served his country with honor and distinction.

And so, Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague, Representative MURPHY, for introducing this legislation, and urge its swift passage.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 3297, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3297.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WALLACE S. HARTSFIELD POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3572) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4320 Blue Parkway in Kansas City, Missouri, as the ''Wallace S. Hartsfield Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3572

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. WALLACE S. HARTSFIELD POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4320 Blue Parkway in Kansas City, Missouri, shall be known and designated as the ''Wallace S. Hartsfield Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Wallace S. Hartsfield Post Office Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the sponsor of this legislation, Representative EMANUEL CLEAVER of Missouri.

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I very proudly stand here today to recommend the Reverend Dr. Wallace S. Hartsfield, a minister in the Fifth Congressional District, which I very proudly serve, be given the honor of having a postal facility named in his honor at 4320 Blue Parkway in Kansas City, Missouri. All nine members of the Missouri delegation have signed on to this bill, and they signed on for one real reason. It is this:

Rev. Hartsfield is an American story. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on November 12 in 1929. He was raised by his mother. He was the only child and yet she worked and struggled and pushed him. He eventually graduated from high school and then served a 3-year tour of duty with the United States Army. He returned to this country and attended Clark College, which is now called Clark Atlanta University. He received a bachelor's degree, and then he went on to receive a Master's of Divinity at Gammon Theological Seminary, which is known as the Interdenominational Theological Seminary today. He's received a number of honorary doctorate degrees, and he is recognized in our community as a man who is always going to be where something good is happening.

He has been a strong worker in the field of diversity. He is a man who has been able to bring the clergy together from across racial and even religious lines. He's known as the dean of preachers in our community, and I dubbed him the ''Godfather of Preachers'' because of the respect he receives from members of the clergy. Anytime anything in our community is going on that is productive and meaningful, you can expect to see Rev. Wallace S. Hartsfield present.

This postal designation is the first I've ever introduced, and one of the reasons that I feel strongly about this is the post office delivers mail to everyone, and if you look at the life and work of the Reverend Wallace S. Hartsfield, that is exactly what he's done. He has delivered ministry, friendship and civic concern to everyone in our community, and so a post office, I think, is very, very appropriate to bear his name.

And so, Madam Speaker, it would be my hope that this body would allow our community to celebrate fully his retirement at a November 9 banquet, during which time I would like to proudly announce that the United States Congress has named a post office in his honor.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today to pay tribute to Rev. Wallace S. Hartsfield, a family man, community activist, and man of God.

Rev. Hartsfield was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on November 12, 1929. After a 3-year tour of duty with the United States Army, he went on to receive a bachelor of arts degree from Clark College, now Clark Atlanta University. Three years later, in 1957, he received a Master of Divinity degree.

The list of honorary degrees Rev. Hartsfield has earned is long and distinguished. They include a Doctor of Divinity from both Western Baptist Bible College in Kansas City, Missouri, and Virginia Seminary and College of Lyncher, Virginia.

While his list of academic accomplishments is impressive, the work he has done since the end of his formal education is even more so. His first pastorate was in Pickens, South Carolina, and he served in the States of Kansas, Florida, and Georgia before settling into a position at the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church located in Kansas City, Missouri, a place he has preached for over 40 years.

Rev. Hartsfield will retire on January 1, 2008, as senior pastor. During his long service to the church, he became affectionately known as the dean of Kansas City Ministers; and the cosponsor of this bill, Mr. CLEAVER, has nicknamed him the Godfather of Preachers because of the knowledge he possesses and his impressive oratory skills. He has become a mentor not only for those in the local ministry, but for community leaders as well.

His steadfast dedication to Kansas City and the surrounding area have helped solidify the community and shape it into what it is today. However, his leadership and influence have extended well beyond the boundaries of his duty as a minister. He has fought to promote, protect, and ensure civil liberties for all races, not only at home but across the Nation. And he served as president of the greater Kansas City chapter of Operation PUSH, an organization dedicated to the promotion of religious and social development and human rights.

He is a former chairman of the Congress of National Black Churches that represents over 65,000 churches. He has also served in many positions within the National Baptist Convention of America.

The reverend was appointed by the Governor to serve as commissioner on the Missouri Highway Commission and was at the forefront of efforts to construct the Metropolitan Homes, a 60-unit low-income housing development.

Despite all of his work and the demands for his time and attention, they did not detract from his love for his family. The reverend just celebrated his 50th anniversary with his wife, Matilda Hopkins. They are the proud parents of four children.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me, Mr. CLEAVER, and all of the members of the Missouri delegation in congratulating Rev. Hartsfield on his retirement, wish him well in his new endeavors, and join us in supporting the naming of the post office facility on Blue Parkway in Kansas City in his honor.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 3572, which names a postal facility in Kansas City, Missouri, after Wallace S. Hartsfield, Sr.

H.R. 3572, which was introduced by Representative EMANUEL CLEAVER on September 18, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on October 4, 2007, by voice vote. This measure has the support of the entire Missouri congressional delegation.

Madam Speaker, Rev. Dr. Wallace S. Hartsfield, Sr.'s dedication and service to the people of Kansas City goes back many years. He is a committed community activist, civil servant, and has served as the senior pastor of the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church since 1972. He is the vice president-at-large of the Economic Development Commission of the National Baptist Convention of America, Incorporated. He is a former chairman of the Congress of National Black Churches and past president of the General Baptist State Convention of Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska. He has served as an adjunct professor and guest lecturer at numerous colleges and universities.

Rev. Hartsfield is a well-respected man of faith, and on January 1, 2008, he will retire as senior pastor of the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church.

So, Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague, the Reverend Representative EMANUEL CLEAVER, for introducing this legislation. I enthusiastically support this legislation and urge its passage.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 3572.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPPS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3572.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 4 p.m. today.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BERKLEY) at 4 p.m.

MELANIE BLOCKER-STOKES POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION RESEARCH AND CARE ACT

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 20) to provide for research on, and services for individuals with, postpartum depression and psychosis, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 20

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) Postpartum depression is a devastating mood disorder which strikes many women during and after pregnancy.

(2) Postpartum mood changes are common and can be broken into three subgroups: ''baby blues'', which is an extremely common and the less severe form of postpartum depression; postpartum mood and anxiety disorders, which are more severe than baby blues and can occur during pregnancy and anytime within the first year of the infant's birth; and postpartum psychosis, which is the most extreme form of postpartum depression and can occur during pregnancy and up to 12 months after delivery.

(3) ''Baby blues'' is characterized by mood swings, feelings of being overwhelmed, tearfulness, irritability, poor sleep, mood changes, and a sense of vulnerability.

(4) The symptoms of postpartum mood and anxiety disorders are the worsening and the continuation of the baby blues beyond the first days or weeks after delivery.

(5) The symptoms of postpartum psychosis include losing touch with reality, distorted thinking, delusions, auditory hallucinations, paranoia, hyperactivity, and rapid speech or mania.

(6) Each year over 400,000 women suffer from postpartum mood changes, with baby blues afflicting up to 80 percent of new mothers; postpartum mood and anxiety disorders impairing around 10 to 20 percent of new mothers; and postpartum psychosis striking 1 in 1,000 new mothers.

(7) Postpartum depression is a treatable disorder if promptly diagnosed by a trained provider and attended to with a personalized regimen of care including social support, therapy, medication, and when necessary hospitalization.

(8) All too often postpartum depression goes undiagnosed or untreated due to the social stigma surrounding depression and mental illness, the myth of motherhood, the new mother's inability to self-diagnose her condition, the new mother's shame or embarrassment over discussing her depression so near to the birth of her child, the lack of understanding in society and the medical community of the complexity of postpartum depression, and economic pressures placed on hospitals and providers.

(9) Untreated, postpartum depression can lead to further depression, substance abuse, loss of employment, divorce and further social alienation, self-destructive behavior, or even suicide.

(10) Untreated, postpartum depression impacts society through its effect on the infant's physical and psychological development, child abuse, neglect, or death of the infant or other siblings, and the disruption of the family.

TITLE I—RESEARCH ON POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION AND PSYCHOSIS

SEC. 101. EXPANSION AND INTENSIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the National Institutes of Health and the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health (in this title referred to as the ''Institute''), is encouraged to continue aggressive work on postpartum depression and postpartum psychosis.

(b) COORDINATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTES.—The Director of the Institute should continue to coordinate activities of the Director under subsection (a) with similar activities conducted by the other national research institutes and agencies of the National Institutes of Health to the extent that such Institutes and agencies have responsibilities that are related to postpartum conditions.

(c) PROGRAMS FOR POSTPARTUM CONDITIONS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Director of the Institute is encouraged to continue research to expand the understanding of the causes of, and to find a cure for, postpartum conditions. Activities under such subsection shall include conducting and supporting the following:

(1) Basic research concerning the etiology and causes of the conditions.

(2) Epidemiological studies to address the frequency and natural history of the conditions and the differences among racial and ethnic groups with respect to the conditions.

(3) The development of improved screening and diagnostic techniques.

(4) Clinical research for the development and evaluation of new treatments, including new biological agents.

(5) Information and education programs for health care professionals and the public.

SEC. 102. NATIONAL PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Institutes of Health and the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration are encouraged to carry out a coordinated national campaign to increase the awareness and knowledge of postpartum depression and postpartum psychosis.

(b) PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.—Activities under the national campaign under subsection (a) may include public service announcements through television, radio, and other means.

SEC. 103. BIENNIAL REPORTING.

Section 403(a)(5) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 283(a)(5)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (L) as subparagraph (M); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (K) the following:

''(L) Depression.''.

SEC. 104. LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF RELATIVE MENTAL HEALTH CONSEQUENCES FOR WOMEN OF RESOLVING A PREGNANCY.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Director of the Institute may conduct a nationally representative longitudinal study (during the period of fiscal years 2008 through 2018) of the relative mental health consequences for women of resolving a pregnancy (intended and unintended) in various ways, including carrying the pregnancy to term and parenting the child, carrying the pregnancy to term and placing the child for adoption, miscarriage, and having an abortion. This study may assess the incidence, timing, magnitude, and duration of the immediate and long-term mental health consequences (positive or negative) of these pregnancy outcomes.

(b) REPORT.—Beginning not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and periodically thereafter for the duration of the study under subsection (a), the Director of the Institute should prepare and submit to the Congress reports on the findings of the study.

TITLE II—DELIVERY OF SERVICES REGARDING POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION AND PSYCHOSIS

SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM OF GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this title referred to as the ''Secretary'') should in accordance with this title make grants to provide for projects for the establishment, operation, and coordination of effective and cost-efficient systems for the delivery of essential services to individuals with postpartum depression or postpartum psychosis (referred to in this section as a ''postpartum condition'') and their families.

(b) RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS.—A grant under subsection (a) may be made to an entity only if the entity is a public or nonprofit private entity, which may include a State or local government; a public or nonprofit private hospital, community-based organization, hospice, ambulatory care facility, community health center, migrant health center, or homeless health center; or any other appropriate public or nonprofit private entity.

(c) CERTAIN ACTIVITIES.—To the extent practicable and appropriate, the Secretary shall ensure that projects under subsection (a) provide services for the diagnosis and management of postpartum conditions. Activities that the Secretary may authorize for such projects may also include the following:

(1) Delivering or enhancing outpatient and home-based health and support services, including case management, screening, and comprehensive treatment services for individuals with or at risk for postpartum conditions; and delivering or enhancing support services for their families.

(2) Delivering or enhancing inpatient care management services that ensure the well-being of the mother and family and the future development of the infant.

(3) Improving the quality, availability, and organization of health care and support services (including transportation services, attendant care, homemaker services, day or respite care, and providing counseling on financial assistance and insurance) for individuals with postpartum conditions and support services for their families.

(d) INTEGRATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS.—To the extent practicable and appropriate, the Secretary should integrate the program under this title with other grant programs carried out by the Secretary, including the program under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act.

SEC. 202. CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.

A grant may be made under section 201 only if the applicant involved makes the following agreements:

(1) Not more than 5 percent of the grant will be used for administration, accounting, reporting, and program oversight functions.

(2) The grant will be used to supplement and not supplant funds from other sources related to the treatment of postpartum conditions.

(3) The applicant will abide by any limitations deemed appropriate by the Secretary on any charges to individuals receiving services pursuant to the grant. As deemed appropriate by the Secretary, such limitations on charges may vary based on the financial circumstances of the individual receiving services.

(4) The grant will not be expended to make payment for services authorized under section 201(a) to the extent that payment has been made, or can reasonably be expected to be made, with respect to such services—

(A) under any State compensation program, under an insurance policy, or under any Federal or State health benefits program; or

(B) by an entity that provides health services on a prepaid basis.

(5) The applicant will, at each site at which the applicant provides services under section 201(a), post a conspicuous notice informing individuals who receive the services of any Federal policies that apply to the applicant with respect to the imposition of charges on such individuals.

SEC. 203. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

The Secretary may provide technical assistance to assist entities in complying with the requirements of this title in order to make such entities eligible to receive grants under section 201.

TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

To carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act, there are authorized to be appropriated—

(1) $3,000,000 for fiscal year 2008; and

(2) such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 20, the Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act of 2007.

The birth of a child can be a joyous and exciting time, but following childbirth, some women may experience postpartum disorders that can adversely affect a woman's mental health. According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, about 10 percent of new moms experience postpartum depression, a form of depression that can develop within the first 6 months after giving birth.

For women with postpartum depression, feelings such as sadness, anxiety, and restlessness can be so strong that they interfere with daily tasks. Rarely, a more extreme form of depression known as postpartum psychosis can develop. Postpartum depression and psychosis can have an adverse effect on a woman's mental health and impair their ability to bond with their newborn child.

The legislation before us today will go a long way towards helping to increase awareness of postpartum depression and psychosis. H.R. 20 encourages the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Director of the National Institutes of Health to expand and intensify research on postpartum depression and to conduct and support research in an effort to find a cure for postpartum depression and psychosis.

Furthermore, this legislation encourages the NIH to carry out a national campaign to increase awareness of postpartum depression, and it directs Health and Human Services to make grants to help with coordinating the effective delivery of essential services to individuals with postpartum depression, as well as their families.

I would like to extend a special thank you to our Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection Subcommittee chairman, Mr. RUSH, who has championed this bill's cause. His commitment to ensuring that women who suffer from postpartum depression better understand their condition and have access to the resources that they need has been unwavering. I commend him for his hard work, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this life-saving legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 20, the Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act, and join my colleagues in commending Mr. RUSH for bringing the bill to the floor.

As has been mentioned, the bill highlights the need to increase awareness of postpartum depression and expand the knowledge of its terrible side effects.

It's important to note that as many as 80 percent of women experience some mood disturbances after pregnancy, and for most women the symptoms are mild and go away on their own; but 10 to 20 percent of women develop a more disabling form of mood disorder called postpartum depression.

This legislation encourages the continuation of research being done by Federal agencies as to the cause of postpartum depression and how it can be better treated. And with my colleagues, I stand in support of the legislation and hope my colleagues will join me.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois, the bill's author, Mr. RUSH.

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentlelady from Wisconsin for yielding me this time on this very important matter.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 20, the Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act.

I would like to thank Chairman DINGELL; Ranking Member BARTON; my colleague, Congressman PITTS; and the members of the Energy and Commerce Committee who unanimously supported this legislation's passage out of committee.

Madam Speaker, after 6 long, arduous years, today marks an important step in the protracted journey for Congress to recognize postpartum depression as a national priority. I am so proud that nearly 130 bipartisan cosponsors have united with me today to say no longer will postpartum depression be dismissed as mere ''baby blues.''

By passing H.R. 20, Congress will finally put significant money and attention into research, screening, treatment, and education for mothers suffering from this disease.

Sadly, Madam Speaker, I was moved to author H.R. 20 after watching the news accounts of the missing Melanie Stokes, a new mother, a successful businesswoman, and my constituent. Despite her family's valiant interventions, Melanie's psychosis was so severe that she slipped away from her family and from her friends and tragically ended her life.

Afterwards, I reached out to Melanie's mother, Carol Blocker, and was told of her daughter's diagnosis and suicide that occurred as a result of postpartum psychosis. And sometime later, Madam Speaker, I talked with Dr. Nada Stotland of the American Psychiatric Association, who is another constituent of mine, and she detailed the value in additional research. And she discussed the underreporting and mixed diagnosis of postpartum depression and psychosis in our country.

There is no denying, the needs for resources to combat postpartum depression grow more and more and more each year. Here are the facts, Madam Speaker:

Research indicates that some form of postpartum depression affects approximately one in 1,000 new mothers, resulting in up to 800,000 cases annually. Of the new postpartum cases this year, less than 15 percent of mothers will receive treatment. However, with treatment, over 90 percent of these mothers could overcome their depression. And approximately every 50 seconds, a new mother will begin struggling with the affects of mental illness.

Madam Speaker, these facts are profound. And in the words of Carol Blocker, ''Hundreds of thousands of women who have suffered from postpartum depression and psychosis are still waiting for this Congress to act 6 years after the legislation has been introduced.''

Madam Speaker, I want to thank you for this day, because today Ms. Blocker and hundreds of thousands of mothers will not have to wait any longer for Congress to act.

My legislation, to sum it up, would encourage the Secretary of Health and Human Services to further research at the National Institutes of Health on postpartum depression.

My legislation would also finance a national public awareness campaign to bring this illness out of the dark and shed new light on how to screen and treat mothers. It would also add depression to the biennial report the National Institutes of Health must submit to the Congress.

Lastly, my bill will finance much-needed grants to public and nonprofit organizations to establish and operate programs that provide screening, treatment and various health care and support services to individuals with postpartum depression or postpartum psychosis.

Moreover, Madam Speaker, this bill is an affordable approach to research and services. The CBO estimates that H.R. 20 costs less than $500,000 per year, and $18 million over 5 years.

This is good policy, Madam Speaker. This is good politics. And this is a good public health bill.

I want to take a moment, Madam Speaker, just to thank the many organizations and groups, groups like Postpartum Support International, whose president right now sits in the gallery, Ms. Susan Stone; the Family Mental Health Foundation; the American Psychological Association; the American Psychiatric Association; the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; and groups like the Children's Defense Fund, the Melanie Blocker-Stokes Foundation, Suicide Prevention Action Network, Planned Parenthood Federation of America Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, the Mental Health Alliance, NARAL, so many organizations, including the National Alliance for Mental Illness, the Community Behavioral Healthcare Association, and the March of Dimes. I want to thank these individuals and various activists for their testimony at hearings, for their support, and for their participation.

Madam Speaker, lastly, I want to thank the Members of this Congress, those who, when I asked to become cosponsors, they indicated that they were familiar because they had personal involvement, this dreaded disease has touched them personally; and I want to thank them for their support.

Madam Speaker, I urge that this body pass this much-needed legislation, that this body, indeed, give women the help that they need in fighting this very, very difficult disease.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, in closing, I wish to urge my colleagues to support this important bill. As we have heard, postpartum depression is a very serious women's health issue. This bill will raise awareness about postpartum depression and will further research in an effort to find a cure.

□ 1615

Again I want to commend my colleague (Mr. RUSH) for his incredibly hard work on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 20, the Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act.

Postpartum depression is a serious mental health problem that can have significant consequences for both the new mother and family. Statistics show up to 800,000 women annually develop this diagnosable prenatal mood disorder; shockingly, less than 15 percent of mothers will receive treatment for the disease.

In California, the results from a 2004 California Women's Health 2007 study indicated that younger females were most at risk for postpartum depression. Females 19 and younger had rates of risk of more than 20 percent: woman 35 and older had the lowest rate, 6.4 percent. In California, woman who are young and/or without health insurance would benefit most from the screening, counseling, diagnosis, and treatment for postpartum depression that this legislation authorizes.

H.R. 20, the Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act, would ensure that woman at risk for or with postpartum depression are provided adequate and timely prevention and mental health services.

If we are to have any hope of preventing deaths among new mothers and children from this disease, we must identify ways by which we can effectively treat and prevent postpartum psychosis.

I extend my gratitude and thanks to Representative RUSH for bringing this important piece of legislation to the House. His commitment to this issue is commendable.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 20, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

ALS REGISTRY ACT

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2295) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2295

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''ALS Registry Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (referred to in this section as ''ALS'') is a fatal, progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects motor nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord.

(2) The average life expectancy for a person with ALS is 2 to 5 years from the time of diagnosis.

(3) The cause of ALS is not well understood.

(4) There is only one drug currently approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of ALS, which has thus far shown only modest effects, prolonging life by just a few months.

(5) There is no known cure for ALS.

(6) More than 5,000 individuals in the United States are diagnosed with ALS annually and as many as 30,000 individuals may be living with ALS in the United States today.

(7) Studies have found relationships between ALS and environmental and genetic factors, but those relationships are not well understood.

(8) Scientists believe that there are significant ties between ALS and other motor neuron diseases.

(9) Several ALS disease registries and databases exist in the United States and throughout the world, including the SOD1 database, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke repository, and the Department of Veterans Affairs ALS Registry.

(10) A single national system to collect and store information on the prevalence and incidence of ALS in the United States does not exist.

(11) In each of fiscal years 2006 and 2007, Congress directed $887,000 to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to begin a nationwide ALS registry.

(12) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry have established three pilot projects, beginning in fiscal year 2006, to evaluate the science to guide the creation of a national ALS registry.

(13) The establishment of a national registry will help—

(A) to identify the incidence and prevalence of ALS in the United States;

(B) to collect data important to the study of ALS;

(C) to promote a better understanding of ALS;

(D) to collect information that is important for research into the genetic and environmental factors that cause ALS;

(E) to strengthen the ability of a clearinghouse—

(i) to collect and disseminate research findings on environmental, genetic, and other causes of ALS and other motor neuron disorders that can be confused with ALS, misdiagnosed as ALS, and in some cases progress to ALS;

(ii) to make available information to patients about research studies for which they may be eligible; and

(iii) to maintain information about clinical specialists and clinical trials on therapies; and

(F) to enhance efforts to find treatments and a cure for ALS.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 399R. AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS REGISTRY.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the receipt of the report described in subsection (b)(3), the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and in consultation with a national voluntary health organization with experience serving the population of individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (referred to in this section as 'ALS'), shall—

''(A) develop a system to collect data on ALS and other motor neuron disorders that can be confused with ALS, misdiagnosed as ALS, and in some cases progress to ALS, including information with respect to the incidence and prevalence of the disease in the United States; and

''(B) establish a national registry for the collection and storage of such data to include a population-based registry of cases in the United States of ALS and other motor neuron disorders that can be confused with ALS, misdiagnosed as ALS, and in some cases progress to ALS.

''(2) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of the registry established under paragraph (1)(B) to gather available data concerning—

''(A) ALS, including the incidence and prevalence of ALS in the United States;

''(B) the environmental and occupational factors that may be associated with the disease;

''(C) the age, race or ethnicity, gender, and family history of individuals who are diagnosed with the disease;

''(D) other motor neuron disorders that can be confused with ALS, misdiagnosed as ALS, and in some cases progress to ALS; and

''(E) other matters as recommended by the Advisory Committee established under subsection (b).

''(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall establish a committee to be known as the Advisory Committee on the National ALS Registry (referred to in this section as the 'Advisory Committee'). The Advisory Committee shall be composed of at least one member, to be appointed by the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, representing each of the following:

''(A) National voluntary health associations that focus solely on ALS and have demonstrated experience in ALS research, care, and patient services, as well as other voluntary associations focusing on neurodegenerative diseases that represent and advocate on behalf of patients with ALS and patients with other motor neuron disorders that can be confused with ALS, misdiagnosed as ALS, and in some cases progress to ALS.

''(B) The National Institutes of Health, to include, upon the recommendation of the Director of the National Institutes of Health, representatives from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

''(C) The Department of Veterans Affairs.

''(D) The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

''(E) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

''(F) Patients with ALS or their family members.

''(G) Clinicians with expertise on ALS and related diseases.

''(H) Epidemiologists with experience in data registries.

''(I) Geneticists or experts in genetics who have experience with the genetics of ALS or other neurological diseases.

''(J) Statisticians.

''(K) Ethicists.

''(L) Attorneys.

''(M) Other individuals with an interest in developing and maintaining the National ALS Registry.

''(2) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall review information and make recommendations to the Secretary concerning—

''(A) the development and maintenance of the National ALS Registry;

''(B) the type of information to be collected and stored in the Registry;

''(C) the manner in which such data is to be collected;

''(D) the use and availability of such data including guidelines for such use; and

''(E) the collection of information about diseases and disorders that primarily affect motor neurons that are considered essential to furthering the study and cure of ALS.

''(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Advisory Committee is established, the Advisory Committee shall submit a report concerning the review conducted under paragraph (2) that contains the recommendations of the Advisory Committee with respect to the results of such review.

''(c) GRANTS.—Notwithstanding the recommendations of the Advisory Committee under subsection (b), the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, may award grants to, and enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with, public or private nonprofit entities for the collection, analysis, and reporting of data on ALS and other motor neuron disorders that can be confused with ALS, misdiagnosed as ALS, and in some cases progress to ALS.

''(d) COORDINATION WITH STATE, LOCAL, AND FEDERAL REGISTRIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In establishing the National ALS Registry under subsection (a), the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall—

''(A) identify, build upon, expand, and coordinate among existing data and surveillance systems, surveys, registries, and other Federal public health and environmental infrastructure wherever possible, including—

''(i) the 3 ALS registry pilot projects initiated in fiscal year 2006 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry at the South Carolina Office of Research & Statistics; the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota; and Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia;

''(ii) the Department of Veterans Affairs ALS Registry;

''(iii) the DNA and Cell Line Repository of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke Human Genetics Resource Center;

''(iv) the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry studies, including studies conducted in Illinois, Missouri, El Paso and San Antonio, Texas, and Massachusetts;

''(v) State-based ALS registries, including the Massachusetts ALS Registry;

''(vi) the National Vital Statistics System; and

''(vii) any other existing or relevant databases that collect or maintain information on those motor neuron diseases recommended by the Advisory Committee established in subsection (b); and

''(B) provide for research access to ALS data as recommended by the Advisory Committee established in subsection (b) to the extent permitted by applicable statutes and regulations and in a manner that protects personal privacy consistent with applicable privacy statutes and regulations.

''(2) COORDINATION WITH NIH AND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Notwithstanding the recommendations of the Advisory Committee established in subsection (b), and consistent with applicable privacy statutes and regulations, the Secretary shall ensure that epidemiological and other types of information obtained under subsection (a) is made available to the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

''(e) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this section, the term 'national voluntary health association' means a national non-profit organization with chapters or other affiliated organizations in States throughout the United States.

''(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, and $16,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2012.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2295 the ALS Registry Act. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a fatal, progressive neurodegenerative disease affecting approximately 5,600 Americans each year. It is estimated that as many as 30,000 Americans have ALS at any given time with an average life expectancy of 2 to 5 years from the time of diagnosis. Today, no single national patient registry collects and stores information on the prevalence and incidence of ALS.

The ALS Registry Act would create a nationwide registry at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for ALS and other related motor neuron disorders. The patient registry would collect data which is urgently needed for ALS research, disease management, and the development of standards of care. This will allow us to make real progress toward better understanding ALS, and to develop measures for prevention, treatment and cure of this dreaded disease.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my friend and colleague, Representative ELIOT ENGEL, for his dedication to bringing this bill before us today. Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2295.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to thank Congressman ENGEL and Congressman TERRY for their efforts in the establishment of the ALS Registry Act. As we know, we have an annual event here in Congress when we get visits from members of the ALS organization, the association, and their advocates, but more importantly the citizens of this country who have been afflicted with Lou Gehrig's disease. It is gut-wrenching to watch knowing full well what a debilitating disease it is, and it knows no boundaries. As has been mentioned by my colleagues, perhaps 30,000 Americans, perhaps 1,000 in New York State alone, are suffering with ALS. I know a gentleman on Staten Island who helped to have built one of the largest banks in Staten Island, if not the largest, retiring, thinking he was going to enjoy his golden years, and soon after that became diagnosed with ALS. To watch the horrific progression over the last couple of years is, as I mentioned, gut-wrenching not

just to his friends but, I am sure, his family.

That is why I think it is important that Congress finally step up and act, and as a cosponsor of the legislation today, I am pleased to see it brought to the House floor today.

I would like to thank the tireless efforts of the ALS Association and advocates in educating and advocating for a cure, which is what we all want. Unfortunately, we know little about ALS, a disease that is diagnosed for 5,600 Americans each year. Without a cure and without treatments to slow the progression of the disease, as has been mentioned by Ms. BALDWIN, the average life expectancy of a person is only 2 to 5 years. It is a death sentence once diagnosed. The rapid progression, lack of understanding about its cause, and debilitating nature of the disease make it particularly hard on those afflicted with ALS, as well as their family and friends.

We need to give scientists the tools they need to find the treatment and cure for ALS. The registry does just that. It creates a single, national patient registry to collect and store information on the prevalence of incidences of ALS in the U.S. We know of several research studies ongoing at the NIH and other private facilities, investigating possible risk factors that may be associated with ALS. Researchers are working to better determine what genetics and/or environmental factors are contributing to developing ALS.

While there has been incredible and groundbreaking advances in science that give hope to people with Lou Gehrig's disease and their families, this legislation will provide an important new link that will allow scientists to take emerging new discoveries ever closer to a cure. And I pray that one day we will have that cure so no families or individuals will be afflicted by this terrible disease.

Madam Speaker, I stand in support, urge adoption and reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the bill's author, the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Wisconsin for yielding to me.

Madam Speaker, I wish to thank you for bringing up the ALS Registry Act of 2007 for a vote, H.R. 2295. This is truly a bipartisan measure, as well it should be. I introduced this bill with my colleague, LEE TERRY of Nebraska, and we are proud to have the support of over 275 bipartisan members of Congress.

I know that the gentlewoman from Wisconsin who sat next to me on the committee was very concerned about this bill. I am glad that the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) is here, as well, because I have a picture here of Lou Gehrig who, of course, puts a face on this disease. ALS is very often known as Lou Gehrig's disease, and we all remember the Yankee Clipper, Lou Gehrig. Mr. FOSSELLA and I, both coming from New York, we know Lou Gehrig and his tradition very, very well.

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, is a fatal, progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects motor nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. It is very similar to multiple sclerosis. While the great baseball player, Lou Gehrig, put a national face on ALS over 65 years ago, my own family was devastated by the death of my grandmother, Dora Engel, my father's mother, who is believed to have passed away as a result of ALS when she was about 58 years old.

Unfortunately, families across the Nation face challenges and experience the suffering associated with ALS every single day. As was mentioned before, 5,600 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with ALS each year. It is estimated that as many as 30,000 Americans have the disease at any given time. The average life expectancy for a person who is diagnosed with ALS is only 2 to 5 years from the time of diagnosis.

As was mentioned, the causes of ALS are not well understood and there is no known cure. We need to provide hope to change this tragedy today.

Surprisingly, a single national patient registry which collects and stores information on the prevalence and incidence of ALS does not currently exist in the United States today. The legislation I introduced with my colleague (Mr. TERRY) would create an ALS registry at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and aid in the search for a cure from this devastating disease. The registry would collect key data, and information is determined by a newly created Federal Advisory Committee on the National ALS Registry.

The ALS Registry Act will also build upon a fiscal year 2006 and fiscal year 2007 congressional appropriation which directed the CDC to evaluate the science to guide the creation of a National ALS Registry.

I wish to express my gratitude to the staff of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and in particular to the ALS Association, who worked for months with me and my staff to improve the bill that we had introduced in the previous 109th Congress. I also want to thank Chairman DINGELL, Ranking Member BARTON, House Subcommittee Chairman PALLONE and Ranking Member DEAL for their support of the ALS Registry Act. Finally, I especially want to thank John Ford and William Garner of Chairman DINGELL's staff and Katherine Martin of Ranking Member BARTON's staff for shepherding this bill through the Energy and Commerce Committee. I want to thank Emily Gibbons of my own staff, my legislative director, who was also my health expert and really did more for this than anybody else I know.

The establishment of a registry will bring new hope to thousands of patients and their families that ALS will no longer be a death sentence. I thank my colleagues, and Madam Speaker, I urge the swift passage of the ALS Registry Act, H.R. 2295, today.

Mr. FOSSELLA. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from South Dakota, Congresswoman HERSETH SANDLIN.

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2295, the ALS Registry Act, introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL). I would like to thank my friend and colleague from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) for yielding me time.

No one who knows or has met someone diagnosed with ALS can fail to be moved by the courage, not only of those experiencing the symptoms of this disease, but of their family, who help them cope with it every day.

During the National ALS Awareness Month in May, I met with one such remarkable family. Daryl and Marlene Thorson of Brandon, South Dakota, and their granddaughter, Elizabeth Steel, took the time to visit with me. They discussed the importance of this legislation to create a National ALS Registry, and they talked about living with ALS. Daryl has been diagnosed with ALS, and his wife is a pillar of strength as they go through this together. Their love was clear, as was their determination. I was struck by their 12-year-old granddaughter, Elizabeth, who sees how the disease has affected her grandfather and sees her grandmother caring for him. Elizabeth wrote an essay for school entitled, ''If I Had a Million Dollars, What Would I Buy?'' And Elizabeth dedicated her entire essay to buying supplies for her grandfather, funding research, and advocating to Members of Congress.

Madam Speaker, by establishing a National ALS Registry and providing the requisite funding, we can help facilitate the efforts of so many across the country, like Elizabeth, like the scientists searching for a cure, who are working to conquer ALS and bring comfort to those afflicted with it. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I am told that my colleague has no further speakers, so I would close. And as I mentioned, I have been here now 10 years. I can recall a gentleman by the name of Gary Anderson coming up after being diagnosed, a friend from Staten Island, and passing after suffering for too long from ALS. It is a terrible indictment, Lou Gehrig's disease, that it is, and one day, as we say, perhaps this registry will get to a point where no longer will our fellow citizens have to suffer. So, for people like Gary Anderson, to this day, a gentleman I mentioned before, Harry Doherty, who is currently suffering as we speak, I would urge the adoption of this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, in closing, I strongly support this bill. As we have heard, this bill would collect data which is urgently needed for ALS research and will go a long way toward moving us closer to treatments and a cure for this devastating illness.

Again, I wish to recognize my colleague (Mr. ENGEL) and other colleagues who have spoken today who put a personal face and a personal story behind this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of The ALS Registry Act of 2007, originally introduced in May by my colleague Representative ELIOT ENGEL of New York and myself. As the bill comes to the floor, we have been joined by 275 bipartisan cosponsors in support of this important legislation.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a fatal, progressive, neurodegenerative disease affecting motor nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. Approximately 5,600 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, each year. It is estimated that as many as 30,000 Americans have the disease. The average life expectancy for a person with ALS is two to five years from the time of diagnosis. There is no known cure for ALS.

The most important provision in our bill establishes a national ALS registry. There is currently no single national registry which collects and stores information on the prevalence and incidence of ALS in existence in the United States. The establishment of a national registry will help identify the occurrence and frequency of ALS and other motor neuron disorders and collect data which is badly needed for ALS research, disease management and the development of standards of care in order to significantly enhance the nation's efforts to find a treatment and cure for ALS.

A recent article from the New England Journal of Medicine stated that ''approximately 90 percent of the persons with ALS have the sporadic form, which may be caused by the interaction of multiple environmental factors and previously unknown genes.'' The purpose of creating a registry is to identify if there are any geographic, genetic or environmental groups of people that have been diagnosed with this terrible disease. This would then allow scientists a better opportunity to identify any relevant factors. This registry may sound simple on the surface, but it is actually a significant tool in determining the root causes of ALS, which would hopefully lead to diagnostic tests and screenings to see who is susceptible to the disease.

Although we know the debilitating effects of ALS, I am moved every year when I am visited by patients and their families in my Washington office. Despite the extremely challenging medical conditions faced by these patients, they make an extraordinary effort to travel to the Capitol and share their stories in the hope that we will soon find effective treatments and a potential cure so that no one like them will have to suffer in the future. The courage shown by ALS patients, as well as their families, is inspiring to me.

All diseases bring hardships on those afflicted, but ALS is particularly cruel in the quickness of the onset, the severity of the symptoms and the fatal nature of the condition. The provisions in our bill creating a nationwide registry for persons afflicted with ALS are important steps forward in strengthening the efforts to understand, treat and one day eradicate this terrible disease. I urge my colleagues to support the ALS Registry Act and I am proud to have worked on this very important effort with my friend Mr. ENGEL. I am also grateful that our committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee, took up this legislation and advanced the bill to the floor.

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2295, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

ALS, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a particularly cruel disease and is always fatal, usually between two and five years after diagnosis. One of the very few trends researchers have been able to identify is that veterans are twice as likely to die from ALS as those who have not served in the military. However, Madam Speaker, it can strike at any time, regardless of age, race, gender or nationality.

This fight is personal for me, as my good friend Shelbie Oppenheimer, and her husband Jeff have long been advocates for those with ALS.

Shelbie was diagnosed when she was just 28 years old and has since spent countless hours educating friends, family, community members and elected officials. Shelbie has been fortunate—still fighting after 10 years.

The Oppenheimers have created a wonderful organization based in my district in Bucks County, Pennsylvania: Shelbie.org.

Along with many community partners, they work tirelessly to provide opportunities for the children of ALS patients. Jeff and Shelbie, along with their daughter Isabel, are a constant inspiration to me and I join them in the fight to turn ALS from a disease to a memory.

It is for Shelbie, Jeff, Isabel and countless others that I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill. This legislation will create, through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a single, nationwide ALS registry. This Registry is essential to advancing the search for treatments and the cure.

Since we don't know the cause or the cure of ALS, research is the key. Enabling researchers, doctors and patients to understand the trends and history of the disease is vital to moving forward. The Registry will gather data on the environmental and occupational factors that may contribute to the disease, including the age, race and ethnicity of individuals with ALS, the patients' family histories and other information that may be beneficial to advancing research and care.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join this fight and support the ALS Registry Act and vote yes on H.R. 2295.

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 2295, the ALS Registry Act. The legislation would direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop a system to collect data on ALS and establish a national registry for the collection and storage of this data.

Creating the registry will allow us to better understand the incidence and prevalence of the disease, the age, race and ethnicity of people who have it, and whether there are any environmental factors that are associated with the disease.

ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, is a progressive neuromuscular disease characterized by a degeneration of the nerve cells of the brain and spinal cord leading to the wasting of muscles, paralysis and eventual death. Approximately 30,000 individuals in the United States are afflicted with ALS, with approximately 5,000 new cases each year.

The life expectancy of an individual with ALS is 3 to 5 years from the time of diagnosis. While there is no known cure or cause for ALS, aggressive treatment of the symptoms of ALS can extend the lives of those with the disease. Promising research gives hope that one day this deadly and debilitating disease will be cured.

Ms. BALDWIN. I yield back the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2295, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1630

CHRISTOPHER AND DANA REEVE PARALYSIS ACT

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1727) to enhance and further research into paralysis and to improve rehabilitation and the quality of life for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1727

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—PARALYSIS RESEARCH

Sec. 101. Activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on paralysis.

TITLE II—PARALYSIS REHABILITATION RESEARCH AND CARE

Sec. 201. Activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research with implications for enhancing daily function for persons with paralysis.

TITLE III—IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PERSONS WITH PARALYSIS AND OTHER PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

Sec. 301. Programs to improve quality of life for persons with paralysis and other physical disabilities.

TITLE I—PARALYSIS RESEARCH

SEC. 101. ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH WITH RESPECT TO RESEARCH ON PARALYSIS.

(a) COORDINATION.—The Director of the National Institutes of Health (referred to in this Act as the ''Director''), pursuant to the general authority of the Director, may develop mechanisms to coordinate the paralysis research and rehabilitation activities of the Institutes and Centers of the National Institutes of Health in order to further advance such activities and avoid duplication of activities.

(b) CHRISTOPHER AND DANA REEVE PARALYSIS RESEARCH CONSORTIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may make awards of grants to public or private entities to pay all or part of the cost of planning, establishing, improving, and providing basic operating support for consortia in paralysis research. The Director shall designate each consortium funded through such grants as a Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Research Consortium.

(2) RESEARCH.—Each consortium under paragraph (1)—

(A) may conduct basic, translational, and clinical paralysis research;

(B) may focus on advancing treatments and developing therapies in paralysis research;

(C) may focus on one or more forms of paralysis that result from central nervous system trauma or stroke;

(D) may facilitate and enhance the dissemination of clinical and scientific findings; and

(E) may replicate the findings of consortia members or other researchers for scientific and translational purposes.

(3) COORDINATION OF CONSORTIA; REPORTS.—The Director may, as appropriate, provide for the coordination of information among consortia under paragraph (1) and ensure regular communication among members of the consortia, and may require the periodic preparation of reports on the activities of the consortia and the submission of the reports to the Director.

(4) ORGANIZATION OF CONSORTIA.—Each consortium under paragraph (1) may use the facilities of a single lead institution, or be formed from several cooperating institutions, meeting such requirements as may be prescribed by the Director.

(c) PUBLIC INPUT.—The Director may provide for a mechanism to educate and disseminate information on the existing and planned programs and research activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to paralysis and through which the Director can receive comments from the public regarding such programs and activities.

TITLE II—PARALYSIS REHABILITATION RESEARCH AND CARE

SEC. 201. ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH WITH RESPECT TO RESEARCH WITH IMPLICATIONS FOR ENHANCING DAILY FUNCTION FOR PERSONS WITH PARALYSIS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director, pursuant to the general authority of the Director, may make awards of grants to public or private entities to pay all or part of the costs of planning, establishing, improving, and providing basic operating support to multicenter networks of clinical sites that will collaborate to design clinical rehabilitation intervention protocols and measures of outcomes on one or more forms of paralysis that result from central nervous system trauma, disorders, or stroke, or any combination of such conditions.

(b) RESEARCH.—A multicenter network of clinical sites funded through this section may—

(1) focus on areas of key scientific concern, including—

(A) improving functional mobility;

(B) promoting behavioral adaptation to functional losses, especially to prevent secondary complications;

(C) assessing the efficacy and outcomes of medical rehabilitation therapies and practices and assisting technologies;

(D) developing improved assistive technology to improve function and independence; and

(E) understanding whole body system responses to physical impairments, disabilities, and societal and functional limitations; and

(2) replicate the findings of network members or other researchers for scientific and translation purposes.

(c) COORDINATION OF CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORKS; REPORTS.—The Director may, as appropriate, provide for the coordination of information among networks funded through this section and ensure regular communication among members of the networks, and may require the periodic preparation of reports on the activities of the networks and submission of reports to the Director.

TITLE III—IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PERSONS WITH PARALYSIS AND OTHER PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

SEC. 301. PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PERSONS WITH PARALYSIS AND OTHER PHYSICAL DISABILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this title referred to as the ''Secretary'') may study the unique health challenges associated with paralysis and other physical disabilities and carry out projects and interventions to improve the quality of life and long-term health status of persons with paralysis and other physical disabilities. The Secretary may carry out such projects directly and through awards of grants or contracts.

(b) CERTAIN ACTIVITIES.—Activities under subsection (a) may include—

(1) the development of a national paralysis and physical disability quality of life action plan, to promote health and wellness in order to enhance full participation, independent living, self-sufficiency, and equality of opportunity in partnership with voluntary health agencies focused on paralysis and other physical disabilities, to be carried out in coordination with the State-based Disability and Health Program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

(2) support for programs to disseminate information involving care and rehabilitation options and quality of life grant programs supportive of community-based programs and support systems for persons with paralysis and other physical disabilities;

(3) in collaboration with other centers and national voluntary health agencies, the establishment of a population-based database that may be used for longitudinal and other research on paralysis and other disabling conditions; and

(4) the replication and translation of best practices and the sharing of information across States, as well as the development of comprehensive, unique, and innovative programs, services, and demonstrations within existing State-based disability and health programs of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which are designed to support and advance quality of life programs for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities focusing on—

(A) caregiver education;

(B) promoting proper nutrition, increasing physical activity, and reducing tobacco use;

(C) education and awareness programs for health care providers;

(D) prevention of secondary complications;

(E) home- and community-based interventions;

(F) coordinating services and removing barriers that prevent full participation and integration into the community; and

(G) recognizing the unique needs of underserved populations.

(c) GRANTS.—The Secretary may award grants in accordance with the following:

(1) To State and local health and disability agencies for the purpose of—

(A) establishing a population-based database that may be used for longitudinal and other research on paralysis and other disabling conditions;

(B) developing comprehensive paralysis and other physical disability action plans and activities focused on the items listed in subsection (b)(4);

(C) assisting State-based programs in establishing and implementing partnerships and collaborations that maximize the input and support of people with paralysis and other physical disabilities and their constituent organizations;

(D) coordinating paralysis and physical disability activities with existing State-based disability and health programs;

(E) providing education and training opportunities and programs for health professionals and allied caregivers; and

(F) developing, testing, evaluating, and replicating effective intervention programs to maintain or improve health and quality of life.

(2) To private health and disability organizations for the purpose of—

(A) disseminating information to the public;

(B) improving access to services for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities and their caregivers;

(C) testing model intervention programs to improve health and quality of life; and

(D) coordinating existing services with State-based disability and health programs.

(d) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall ensure that activities under this section are coordinated as appropriate by the agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated $25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2011.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1727, the Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act. I am honored to have known Christopher and Dana Reeve, and it is fitting that we are considering this bill today just after the 3-year anniversary of Christopher's death.

As we know, sometimes hardships and painful experiences are the starting point for an incredible advocacy, and this was certainly the case with Christopher and Dana Reeve. In turn, the Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act reflects our desire to carry out their work and improve the lives of, and hasten better treatments and cures for, people living with paralysis.

Madam Speaker, as many of my colleagues may be aware, millions of

Americans live with paralysis. Two million Americans live with paralysis of the extremities; a quarter million Americans live with spinal cord injuries; 4 million Americans live with the effects of stroke; 250,000 to 350,000 Americans have been diagnosed with some form of multiple sclerosis; half a million children and adults in the U.S. have been diagnosed with cerebral palsy; and 30,000 Americans, as we have just heard, live with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

This legislation is multifaceted and seeks to address several aspects of paralysis research and quality-of-life issues. The bill expands research on paralysis at the NIH by encouraging collaborative research to connect scientists doing similar work and enhanced understanding and speed discovery of better treatment and cures. The bill also encourages research to enhance the daily function of people with paralysis, including improving their functional mobility, assessing the efficacy and outcomes of medical rehabilitation therapies, and developing improved assistive technology to improve function and independence.

Lastly, the bill seeks to improve the quality of life and health of persons with paralysis and other physical disabilities by supporting programs to disseminate information involving care and rehabilitation options. It also coordinates best practices designed to support and advance quality-of-life programs for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities.

Madam Speaker, Christopher and Dana Reeve used their visibility to work on behalf of families in all parts of this country who face the challenges of paralysis and impaired mobility. I have been honored to carry on their work and am honored to work on this legislation with Congresswoman BONO, Congressman LANGEVIN, and Congressman BILIRAKIS. I am also thankful to have had the opportunity to work with the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation and the thousands of paralysis advocates who have worked for the passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today as well in support of H.R. 1727, the Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act, introduced by Representatives BALDWIN, BONO, and BILIRAKIS. My colleague from Wisconsin stated very eloquently the statistics and the justification for this act, and it is long overdo. As was mentioned, the legislation would authorize the Director of the National Institutes of Health to coordinate paralysis research through the NIH Institutes and Centers.

Research would be focused on basic, translational, and multicenter networks of clinical sites focused on designing clinical rehabilitation protocols for one or more forms of paralysis. Such paralysis research would include paralysis from the central nervous system trauma, disorders, stroke, or any combination of such conditions. Additionally, the legislation would authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants for activities related to paralysis, including grants to establish paralysis registries and disseminate information to the public.

Madam Speaker, we have seen over the years how the Reeves served as strong advocates for the paralysis community, meeting with a wide variety of colleagues in the House and the Senate over the last several years. Their dignified presence in Washington will be greatly missed. I believe that through legislative initiatives such as this one the work done by the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation will continue that work that was left unfinished, and will be done so in a respectful manner.

As the population continues to grow and to age, I think more and more of society will be confronted with the likes of paralysis. It is our job, and I think responsibility, to partner with the private sector to bring awareness, funding, and education to ensure that as few people as possible are brought down by this illness.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I have no further Members seeking time, and continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure and honor to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), a leader in this cause and a sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1727, the Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act. Millions of Americans suffer from paralysis and mobility impairment. They struggle each and every day to perform even the most basic of tasks that most of us take for granted. The impact this impairment has on the lives and the lives of those who love them and care for them is staggering. As one who has struggled with hearing and vision problems nearly my entire life, I know how difficult any physical impairment can be, both physically and emotionally; but I cannot imagine what people with severe paralysis go through and their constant struggle to maintain hope that they one day will walk or move again.

Madam Speaker, I am very proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill, which will encourage collaborative research in paralysis and hasten the discovery of treatments and potential cures to improve the lives of people with paralysis. I am especially pleased that this bill is modeled after legislation I introduced at the beginning of this Congress. My bill, the language of which this bill includes, also has provisions to utilize VA facilities to improve paralysis research and better track the work that is being done in this area within the world's largest system of hospitals.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Congresswoman TAMMY BALDWIN for sponsoring this bill, and also Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman JOHN DINGELL and Ranking Member JOE BARTON for moving it through their committee. I also want to give special thanks to my father, former Congressman Mike Bilirakis, who first introduced this bill several years ago after meeting the extraordinary men and women for whom this bill was named. His persistence and determination helped build the necessary support to get us where we are today.

Although I never had the honor of meeting Christopher or Dana Reeve personally, my father has shared with me their strength, dignity, and courage in dealing with what only people similarly situated can fully understand. They pushed to the national forefront the issue of the need for better research into paralysis and greater emphasis on rehabilitation. I wish they were here to share this moment with us today, though I am sure they are both smiling down on our efforts here today.

Madam Speaker, I believe we can and must do more for those suffering from paralysis and mobility impairment. I urge all my colleagues to help take a significant step forward in this area by supporting this bill today.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, let me just once again thank Mr. BILIRAKIS and, of course, his father for spearheading this when he was in the House, and Ms. BALDWIN and Mrs. BONO for bringing this to the floor. We know how paralysis, especially sudden paralysis, can damage one's life and that of their family, and it becomes a lifelong commitment. Once again, I think Congress has a real fundamental responsibility to ensure we can bring as much peace and peace of mind to those families. With that, I urge the adoption of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, in closing, as we remember Christopher Reeve just after the third anniversary of his passing, we honor him by having the House consider today and pass one of the truly first comprehensive bills focused on paralysis research and care for those who are paralyzed. I urge Members to strongly support this bill.

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1727, the Christopher and Dana Reeve Quality of Life for Persons with Paralysis Act. And as I express my support for this legislation today, I would like to recognize an outstanding organization in my district, Linking Employment, Abilities, and Potential, or LEAP.

LEAP provides hope and empowerment for tens of thousands of people with disabilities and their families throughout Northeast Ohio.

Through legislation such as the Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act, Congress sends a message about people with disabilities—that they matter, that they can and do make valuable contributions to society. That is a message that LEAP and so many disability rights advocates send every day.

LEAP is deeply committed to empowering people with disabilities in the workplace through specialized skill development programs, at home through independent living training, in the medical system through access to the best medical care, and in so many other aspects of society. LEAP's Disability Employment Training Program, in particular, aligns with the goals of Christopher and Dana Reeve, who fought so hard for integration and acceptance for those with disabilities in our communities. LEAP has an 80 percent success rate in employment training and placement and has a tremendous impact on the community, recognizing the many talents of people with disabilities and the potential to be productive citizens.

Once again, I rise to express my support for H.R. 1727, and to honor Linking Employment, Abilities, and Potential.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1727, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A LONG-TERM CARE AWARENESS WEEK

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 133) supporting the goals and ideals of a Long-Term Care Awareness Week.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 133

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services has reported that approximately 60 percent of individuals who are over the age of 65 will need some kind of long-term care services and at some point more than 40 percent of such individuals will require nursing home care;

Whereas in 2005 the Government Accountability Office projected that by 2040 the number of individuals in the age group of individuals who are 85 years of age or older, which it finds is the age group most likely to require long-term care services, is projected to increase more than 250 percent from 4,300,000 individuals in 2000 to 15,400,000 individuals;

Whereas the Internet site of the National Clearinghouse for Long-Term Care Information notes that the Medicare program does not generally pay for most long-term care services that are needed and that the Medicare program pays for skilled nursing facility services only after a recent hospital stay, that Medicare beneficiaries generally pay more than $118 in daily coinsurance beginning on the 21st day of coverage and coverage ends after 100 days, and that the Medicare program does not cover a stay in an assisted living facility or adult day care;

Whereas an AARP study in 2006 found that 59 percent of people in the United States who are 45 years of age or older overestimated the level of coverage under the Medicare program for nursing home care and more than half of such people who are 45 years of age or older indicate they believe such program provides coverage for assisted living, which it does not;

Whereas the 2006 AARP study concludes that given the already high costs related to long-term care and the projected growth in the size of the older population in future years, it is essential for people in the United States to learn more about the costs of long term care, about ways to prepare for and pay for long term care, and State and community resources that are available to assist in these challenges;

Whereas the Government Accountability Office has reported that broad-based misperceptions regarding the Medicare program's level of long-term care coverage significantly contributes to the lack of personal preparation of people in the United States for the financing of long term care and advises that the government can play a significant part in enhancing personal preparedness by educating people in the United States about the scope of coverage of long-term care under public programs such as the Medicare program;

Whereas people in the United States have a right to know what long-term care coverage is available to them so that they are able to make informed retirement choices;

Whereas the first phase of the Department of Health and Human Service's pilot program to raise awareness regarding planning for long-term care obtained a less than 8 percent response rate by consumers requesting information in selected States;

Whereas in 2002 the Government Accountability Office reported that less than 10 percent of the elderly population in the United States and a lower percentage of those aged 55 to 64 years of age in the United States have purchased long-term care insurance;

Whereas the Department of Commerce indicates that savings as a percentage of after tax income declined from approximately eight percent in 1990 to less than zero since 2005;

Whereas in 2005 the Government Accountability Office reported that spending on long-term care services solely for the elderly is projected to grow at least two-and-a-half times and could grow almost four-fold to $379 billion in 2050;

Whereas the Government Accountability Office has reported that many people in the United States have neared impoverishment by depleting their assets to pay the significant costs of their long-term care;

Whereas AARP reports that an estimated 44,400,000 individuals who are 18 years of age or older provide unpaid care to another adult and others have estimated the value of such unpaid services to be approximately $257 billion annually;

Whereas advance planning by family members will help to protect caregivers' health, financial security, and quality of life;

Whereas our Nation's long term care challenges will significantly impact women, who make up more than 58 percent of people in the United States who are 65 years of age and older, and greater than two-thirds of people in the United States who are 85 years of age and older;

Whereas encouraging people in the United States to anticipate and plan for their future long-term care needs will help them achieve greater health and financial security, as well as greater independence, choice, and control over the services they need in the setting of their choice; and

Whereas a long term care awareness week has been observed during the first full week in November, which in 2007 will be the week of November 4th through 10th: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of a Long-Term Care Awareness Week;

(2) encourages the Secretary of Health and Human Services to continue working to educate people in the United States about long-term care; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to recognize such a week as an opportunity to learn more about the potential risks and costs associated with long-term care and the options available to help meet their long-term care needs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and exclude extraneous material on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 133, supporting the goals and ideals of a Long-Term Care Awareness Week. Long-term care is an often overlooked part of the continuum of care for many Americans, and many of us find ourselves ill informed and ill prepared to make choices for our own long-term care needs and those of our loved ones.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, long-term care represents a variety of services that include medical and nonmedical care for people who have a chronic illness or disability. Most long-term care is to assist people with the activities of daily living, such as dressing, bathing, and using the bathroom. It is important to remember that you may need long-term care at any age. The need for support and health services for persons who have diminished capacity for self-care is projected to strain both public and private resources.

Madam Speaker, H. Con. Res. 133 calls for public education about the need for long-term care so that people of all ages throughout our Nation are better prepared to meet their own long-term care needs. Planning for long-term care requires us to think about possible future health care needs. Making the right decision about long-term care requires us to look at all of the options before us and to make informed decisions.

I want to recognize and thank my colleague from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN) for introducing this resolution and carrying it to the floor. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 133, supporting the goals and ideals of a Long-Term Care Awareness Week. As designated, the first week in November is designed as the opportunity to educate Americans on the likelihood of one needing long-term care. Additionally, greater education is needed as to what types of long-term care programs are available and what the various costs of services are. Families should take this opportunity to discuss the options to help plan and pay for their future.

We know the baby boomer generation is now becoming eligible for Social Security, so it is sort of a wake-up call for what it will be, not just for having some financial independence, but what it would be and what it means to take care of dealing with their health care and the notion of rising health care costs. So the sooner one prepares, the better off they will be when they reach that age.

Madam Speaker, health care costs are increasing, people are living longer, and I think we have a real responsibility here to educate constituents who need to become actively involved in ways in which they can provide for their own future of health care, as well as the care of their family member. I stand in support of this and ask my colleagues to support the resolution as well.

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

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4½ minutes to the bill's author, the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN).

□ 1645

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 133, a bipartisan resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Long-Term Care Awareness Week during the week of November 4 through 10, 2007. I would like to thank Chairman DINGELL and committee staff for moving this resolution to the floor, and the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) for yielding to me once again.

I would like to urge my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan resolution which I introduced with the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY), along with the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FERGUSON).

I am proud that this resolution has earned the support of AARP, Families USA, the Alzheimer's Association, the National Council on Aging, the American Council of Life Insurers, the Association of Health Insurance Advisors, and America's Health Insurance Plans. They have come together in recognizing the immediacy of the need to raise awareness about planning for long-term care needs.

This resolution is part of my commitment to addressing the many challenges associated with long-term care. Designating a week to focus on long-term care is one meaningful step we can take.

Our Nation needs to address these issues sooner rather than later so that Americans are anticipating and fully prepared to meet their long-term care needs.

Studies show that many Americans don't have a clear perception of what long-term care costs and to what extent long-term care is covered by public programs.

Experts have projected strong growth and demand for long-term care services as the baby-boom generation grows older and have emphasized the related challenge of paying for long-term care services.

The Department of Health and Human Services has reported that approximately 60 percent of people over the age of 65 will need some kind of long-term care services.

The Government Accountability Office has reported projections of significant growth in spending on long-term care services for seniors such that spending could approach $379 billion by 2050.

Our Nation's long-term care challenges will have a particularly significant impact on women, who make up more than 58 percent of Americans over the age of 65 and greater than two-thirds of people 85 years of age or older.

Yet when it come to preparing to meet these costs, many Americans are not adequately prepared. For instance, a 2006 AARP survey on the cost of long-term care found that 60 percent of people age 45 and older said they believe Medicare will pay for extended nursing home stay, which it does not. And more than 50 percent of people age 45 or older said they believe Medicare covers assisted living, which it does not.

And private-pay costs for this kind of care continue to go up. In South Dakota, the average cost of a year in a private room in a nursing home is $53,000, and a double-occupancy room averages well over $47,000. According to one recent national survey, a year in a private room in a nursing home averages more than $74,000, and a double-occupancy room averages nearly $66,000 a year.

An essential step in meeting the challenges posed by long-term care needs and costs is raising awareness about planning for long-term care.

Education will help people understand the likelihood of needing long-term care, the types and costs of available services, and the options to help plan and pay for those services. The more people know, the greater opportunity people have to plan for their future and the more likely they are to receive the services they need in the setting of their choice.

That's the motivation for this Long-Term Care Awareness Week resolution. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan resolution. By passing it today, supporting the goals and ideals of Long-Term Care Awareness Week during the week of November 4 through 10, we can take another step forward to prepare our constituents and the Nation to meet the already high cost of long-term care and the growing challenges ahead.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to yield 2 minutes to the lead sponsor and a true champion of this effort in the House, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY).

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my friend from New York for yielding me this time.

I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 133 because many Americans lack protection from catastrophic long-term care expenses related to chronic illnesses and disability. And worse yet, most families assume that Medicare will actually pay for these long-term care services, while it generally does not; and oftentimes they find out in the midst of a family crisis when a loved one is ill, placing intensive emotional burdens as well as financial burdens on families.

I want to thank my colleague, Congresswoman HERSETH SANDLIN, for working with me on this and really for being a champion on this issue. She and I have worked together, and we have had some success in persuading HHS and Social Security to clarify these widespread perceptions.

I am hopeful that the passage of this resolution will encourage Secretary Leavitt, President Bush and the future administration to discuss this critical retirement security issue with the American people. A recent poll found that the majority of voters want to hear more about plans on how we will deal with this problem, and they desire more information on this. And that perception out there that exists that Medicare covers this is a real problem. The more we can get this information out to the American people, the greater the service we will be doing to help them deal and to cope with these problems.

We clearly must do more to expand coverage for long-term care, to assist family caregivers, particularly those coping with the onset of chronic conditions such as Alzheimer's disease. So I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 133.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, let me commend the gentlelady from South Dakota and the gentleman from Louisiana for bringing this to the floor.

I think what they said is totally accurate in the sense that as our population lives longer and lives more healthy lives, along with that comes an understanding and an obligation to begin preparing for those long-term health care needs as part of their retirement.

As I mentioned before, baby boomers officially begin to receive, for those early retirees, Social Security in just a few months. That population, as we know, is large. I just think the more we can emphasize and educate the people of this country on what their options can and should be as they retire, the better off we will be when that day arrives.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I too want to add my words of congratulations to the bill's authors, the gentlewoman from South Dakota and the gentleman from Louisiana.

I know from my own personal experience you are never fully prepared for having to make some of these choices on behalf of loved ones, and it can happen at any time. We are going to be very well-served by the passage of this bill to increase awareness among people of all age groups about the decisions and options they have. We have to understand that long-term care is part of the continuum of health care in this country. More education is needed. I recommend its passage.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BERKLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 133.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH MONTH

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 448) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Cancer Research Month, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 448

Whereas the American Association for Cancer Research, the oldest and largest scientific cancer research organization in the United States, was founded on May 7, 1907, at the Willard Hotel in Washington, DC, by a group of physicians and scientists interested in research to further the investigation and spread new knowledge about cancer;

Whereas the American Association for Cancer Research is focused on every aspect of high-quality, innovative cancer research and is the authoritative source of information and publications about advances in the causes, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cancer;

Whereas since its founding, the American Association for Cancer Research has accelerated the growth and dissemination of new knowledge about cancer and the complexity of this disease to speed translation of new discoveries for the benefit of cancer patients, and has provided the information needed by elected officials to make informed decisions on public policy and sustained funding for cancer research;

Whereas partnerships with research scientists and the general public, survivors and patient advocates, philanthropic organizations, industry, and government have led to advanced breakthroughs, early detection tools which have increased survival rates, and a better quality of life for cancer survivors;

Whereas our national investment in cancer research has yielded substantial returns in terms of research and advances and lives saved, with a scholarly estimate that every 1-percent decline in cancer mortality saves our national economy $500,000,000,000;

Whereas cancer continues to be one of the most pressing public health concerns, killing one American every minute, or a dozen people worldwide every 60 seconds;

Whereas the American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting on April 14–18, 2007, was the world's largest and most comprehensive gathering of leading cancer researchers, scientists, and clinicians engaged in all aspects of clinical investigations pertaining to human cancer as well as the scientific disciplines of cellular, molecular, and tumor biology; carcinogenesis; chemistry; developmental biology and stem cells; endocrinology, epidemiology, and biostatistics; experimental/molecular therapeutics; immunology; and radiobiology/radiation oncology; imaging; prevention and survivorship research;

Whereas, as part of their Centennial, the American Association for Cancer Research has published ''Landmarks in Cancer Research'' citing the events or discoveries after 1907 that have had a profound effect on advancing our knowledge of the causes, mechanisms, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cancer; these landmarks are intended as an educational, living document, an ever-changing testament to human ingenuity and creativity in the scientific struggle to understand and eliminate the diseases collectively known as cancer;

Whereas more than 60 percent of all cancer occurs in people over the age of 65, and issues relating to the interface of aging and cancer, ranging from the most basic science questions to epidemiologic relationships to clinical and health services research issues, are of concern to society;

Whereas the American Association for Cancer Research is proactively addressing these issues paramount to our aging population through a Task Force on Cancer and Aging, special conferences, and other programs which engage the scientific community in response to this demographic imperative; and

Whereas May would be an appropriate month to recognize as National Cancer Research Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Cancer Research Month to support the American Association for Cancer Research in public education efforts to make cancer research a national and international priority so that one day the disease of cancer will be relegated to history; and

(2) the House of Representatives—

(A) congratulates the American Association for Cancer Research on its 100-year anniversary: ''A Century of Leadership in Science—A Future of Cancer Prevention and Cures'';

(B) recognizes the invaluable contributions made by the American Association for Cancer Research and its quest to prevent and cure cancer and save lives through cancer research; and

(C) expresses the gratitude of the people of the United States for the American Association for Cancer Research's contributions and the progress in advancing cancer research.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 448, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Cancer Research Month.

Preventing and ultimately finding a cure for cancer is a major public health challenge. The resolution before us calls for the establishment of a National Cancer Research Month, a time to bring public awareness of the nearly 200 forms of cancer and bring hope and a cure that cancer research provides. Providing a National Cancer Research Month will remind us that basic, clinical, epidemiological, and behavioral research are integral to identifying causes and developing strategies for prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cures for cancer.

This resolution also highlights the contributions of the American Association for Cancer Research, an organization that has been on the forefront of cancer research for more than 100 years. The American Association for Cancer Research was founded in 1907 by a group of 11 physicians and scientists interested in cancer research.

As the oldest and largest scientific organization in the world focused on every aspect of high quality, innovative cancer research, the American Association for Cancer Research has established a reputation for scientific breadth and excellence as premier researchers in the field.

Today, the American Association for Cancer Research accelerates progress towards the prevention and cure of cancer by promoting research, education, communication, and advocacy

and fostering the exchange of knowledge and new ideas among scientists dedicated to cancer research, providing training opportunities for the next generation of cancer researchers and increasing public understanding of cancer.

On this, their centennial year of service, we commend the work of the American Association for Cancer Research and applaud their effort to make cancer research a national and international priority. We owe a debt of gratitude to organizations like the American Association for Cancer Research for their contributions in advancing the public awareness of cancer and for excellence among its membership in the field of cancer research.

I would like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON), for his work in raising this important issue, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, it is a dreaded word in the English language, and it is called ''cancer.'' Not a family in America is left unscathed or untouched by cancer and what it means to the families, and very often the terrible outcomes.

If there is a positive light, we know over the last several decades in particular, many health care professionals, organizations and groups have dedicated not just time and money and research, but their true passion to helping find a cure and treat cancer in many different ways.

I know on Staten Island this week we will have the annual breast cancer walk that will attract thousands of people, many of whom are survivors, and many who will work in remembrance and memorial of loved ones.

That is why I join my colleague, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), in support of H. Res. 448, expressing the sense of the House that there should be established a National Cancer Research Month. Perhaps it should be all year. I think it is important to at least acknowledge that National Cancer Research Month be this month.

The purpose of establishing this month is to provide an opportunity to better educate the public in an effort to make cancer research a national priority.

At the NIH, the National Cancer Institute conducts research into cancer in conjunction with numerous other institutes and centers. The NCI alone comprises one-third of the NIH's $30 billion budget. The work being done at the NIH towards cancer research is invaluable. Establishing a Cancer Research Month can help highlight what is being done by the scientific community and how the public can become involved.

While acknowledging and putting aside this month is important, what is even more important is continuing to support the research of those caring, compassionate health care professionals and researchers who will one day find the cure for all cancers, and that should be our wish and national goal and priority.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I join my colleague from Wisconsin in supporting the resolution, and ask Members to support the resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. As our Nation's researchers continue to move us closer to a cure for cancer, it is important for us to recognize the work that these researchers do. Each piece of research, each project is a vital part of the solution that we will achieve when a cure is discovered. I thank my colleague, Mr. MATHESON, for his work on this issue and urge passage of the resolution.

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H. Res. 448. This bipartisan resolution expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should establish a National Cancer Research Month.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Thanks to research and expanded cancer education, we have more early detectors, preventative measures, and treatments for cancer than ever before.

But we still have a long road ahead of us. The American Cancer Society estimates that in the San Bernardino County alone, nearly 2,500 Americans will die from a cancer-related illness in the upcoming year.

Every American is touched by this horrible disease; thanks to great strides, the number of cancer-related deaths is declining.

Strengthening research and public awareness of cancer will lead to more scientific breakthroughs that can increase survival rates for cancer patients—and give our cancer survivors a better quality of life.

I urge my colleagues to cast a vote for hope, and to support this vital resolution.

□ 1700

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 448.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL IDIOPATHIC PULMONARY FIBROSIS AWARENESS WEEK

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 182) recognizing the need to pursue research into the causes, a treatment, and an eventual cure for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, supporting the goals and ideals of National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 182

Whereas idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is a serious lung disorder causing progressive, incurable lung scarring;

Whereas idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is one of about 200 disorders called interstitial lung diseases;

Whereas idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is the most common form of interstitial lung disease;

Whereas idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is a debilitating and generally fatal disease marked by progressive scarring of the lungs, causing an irreversible loss of the lung tissue's ability to transport oxygen;

Whereas idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis progresses quickly, often causing disability or death within a few short years;

Whereas there is no proven cause of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis;

Whereas more than 128,000 United States citizens have idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, and more than 48,000 new cases are diagnosed each year representing a 156-percent increase in mortality since 2001;

Whereas idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis is often misdiagnosed or under diagnosed;

Whereas the median survival rate for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis patients is 2 to 3 years; about two-thirds of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis patients die within 5 years; and approximately 40,000 patients die each year; and

Whereas a need has been identified to increase awareness and detection of this misdiagnosed and under diagnosed disorder as well as all incarnations of pulmonary fibrosis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes the need to pursue research into the causes, a treatment, and an eventual cure for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis;

(2) supports the work of advocates and organizations in educating, supporting, and providing hope for individuals who suffer from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, including efforts to organize a National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week;

(3) supports the designation of an appropriate week as National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week;

(4) welcomes the issuance of a proclamation designating a National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week;

(5) congratulates advocates and organizations for their efforts to educate the public about idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, while funding research to help find a cure for this disorder; and

(6) supports the goals and ideals of National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 182, recognizing the need to pursue research into the causes, treatment and eventual cure for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, IPF, supporting the goals and ideals of National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Week, and for other purposes.

IPF is a debilitating and generally fatal disease which afflicts more than 128,000 Americans, with more than 48,000 new cases diagnosed each year. IPF is often undiagnosed or misdiagnosed and is a disease marked by progressive scarring of the lungs, causing an irreversible loss of the lung tissue's ability to transport oxygen.

The legislation before us today recognizes the need to pursue research into the causes of IPF. H. Con. Res. 182 expresses support for the work of advocates and organizations in educating, supporting and providing hope for individuals who suffer from the disease and supports the designation of National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week.

This is an important piece of legislation, and I would like to commend my colleague and friend Mr. DEAL for all of his hard work on this issue. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleague from Wisconsin in urging the support of H. Con. Res. 182 and at the outset commend our colleague Mr. DEAL from Georgia for introducing the resolution.

We all knew and remember Charlie Norwood who served in this House with honor and distinction, and those who knew Charlie Norwood well knew he was a fighter, passionate about his constituents, his belief, and passionate about this country, and many fights he won. But the fight he did not win was when he was diagnosed with a serious lung disorder in 1998 called, shortly, IPF.

He received a single lung transplant but passed away in February of this year and for that we miss him.

IPF is a progressive and generally fatal lung disease. It's marked by debilitating scarring of delicate lung tissue and hinders the lungs' ability to transport oxygen to vital organs. 40,000 people, 40,000 Americans will die this year from IPF, and there's no cure or treatment for this debilitating irreversible disease. Far too many of those with IPF face severe disability or death within a few short years, and we saw that progression here with our colleague Mr. Norwood.

The purpose of this resolution is to bring awareness to the severity of this devastating disease. Additionally, the resolution will support the goals of the National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week and encourage the work being done by the Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis and partner organizations in educating the public about IPF.

40,000 people die in a year, Madam Speaker. We should do what we can to bring attention and education and awareness to ensure it doesn't happen.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield 5 minutes to my friend and colleague from Washington State (Mr. BAIRD).

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlelady, and I thank my colleague from New York as well.

My colleague from New York did a very nice job of honoring our dear friend Charlie Norwood who perished of this disease. My interest comes from the fact that my father died of the disease, and I want to also talk about MIKE CASTLE who has been a strong supporter of this legislation. Mike lost a sister and a brother to this disease.

What I would share with people is imagine getting a diagnosis for a disease you may never have heard of, for which there is no known cause and no known treatment, but it will be fatal. That's IPF, and as the gentleman from New York pointed out, it is estimated that the deaths, at least by some sources, that the deaths caused by IPF on an annual basis exceed the number of breast cancer deaths in this country. But my understanding is NIH currently allocates about $14 million total to research on IPF.

So we have a disease that is growing in prevalence, that is fatal, that we have no known cause and no known cure of, and it has claimed the life of one of our dear colleagues here and the family members of Members of the Congress. That's why we've introduced this resolution.

I want to commend families and friends from the Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis who were here a couple of weeks ago on Capitol Hill lobbying in support of this legislation. I'm pleased to see our leadership bring this up.

We would hope that this is a first step. Our hope is that by increasing the awareness of our colleagues here in Congress and of the American public that we can not only increase awareness of the disease but begin to work towards actual dedicated funding for this.

This is a cruel illness. Anyone who has seen a family member suffer from it has seen the actually rather desperate effort to try to simply breathe, and that's what happens when your lungs scar up and one goes from a stage of diagnosis where you have a little shortness of breath. Then you begin to need oxygen, to then you flat just cannot breathe and you die of this thing. There are a host of other complications that happen along the way that are not particularly pleasant, to say the least.

So I want to urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I would urge them to look forward to ways that we can actually do more to actually identify the causes. There is believed to be some genetic component. I know of one woman who has had five family members die of the same illness. We don't know whether that is the cause of all cases. We don't know how it's passed on.

But this is the kind of illness that is killing a number of our friends, now one of our colleagues and many family members of Members of Congress right here. So I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

I thank the gentleman from New York. I thank the gentlelady from Wisconsin, and I particularly want to commend NATHAN DEAL who was one of Charlie Norwood's closest friends. It's very personal for NATHAN. Obviously, it's personal for myself and MIKE CASTLE. I would urge passage, and I thank the gentlelady.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, let me just in closing commend Mr. BAIRD for his advocacy. I can only imagine what it meant to him and his family in seeing the passing of his dad from this dreaded illness.

So in his honor and that of Mr. CASTLE, Mr. Norwood and especially practically 40,000 fellow Americans, it's so important to solve the problem, to acknowledge it exists, and become aware and educated on how to solve it.

Let's not just acknowledge and become more aware, but give the resources and funding and support those who ultimately want to find a cure.

Madam Speaker, with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, in closing, I think my colleagues have most eloquently made the case for support of this resolution.

IPF is a debilitating disease and increased awareness will certainly move us closer to finding the answers to the many unanswered questions surrounding IPF.

Again, I commend my colleague Mr. DEAL for his authorship and urge passage of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 182.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH RESPECT TO DIAMOND-BLACKFAN ANEMIA

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 524) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to Diamond-Blackfan Anemia, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 524

Whereas Diamond-Blackfan Anemia (''DBA'') is a rare genetic bone marrow failure disorder affecting children and adults, 90 percent of whom are younger than 1 year of age when they are diagnosed, and results in severe anemia due to failure to produce red blood cells;

Whereas individuals and families suffering with rare diseases such as DBA not only face the challenges of their debilitating and life-threatening diseases, but must also confront the consequences of their rare disease status;

Whereas individuals suffering from rare diseases need access to treatment options and the potential for a cure;

Whereas research is proving the study of complex, rare diseases such as DBA yield tremendous advancements in other, larger disease areas that affect millions of Americans;

Whereas the children living with DBA have an increased risk of leukemia, solid tumors, and complete bone marrow failure, and 50 percent of patients with DBA are born with birth defects including abnormalities to the face, head, upper arm and hand, genitourinary, and heart with 21 percent of affected patients having more than 1 defect;

Whereas the study of DBA will yield the true incidence of aplastic anemia, myelodysplastic syndrome, leukemia, and the predisposition to cancer in DBA and will serve as an important model for understanding the genetics of birth defects;

Whereas treatments for DBA, including the use of steroids (such as prednisone) and blood transfusions, have potential long-term side effects, including osteoporosis, impaired growth because of the steroids, diabetes, and iron overload because of the transfusions;

Whereas the only cure for DBA is a bone marrow transplant, a procedure that carries serious risks and, since most patients lack an acceptable donor, is an option available for only about 25 percent of patients;

Whereas rare diseases, such as DBA, benefit greatly from well-established comprehensive care centers such as the DBA Comprehensive Clinical Care Center at Schneider Children's Hospital in New Hyde Park, New York (the ''Center''), which has become the multidimensional hub for the care and treatment of DBA patients across the country, as well as the home of the DBA Patient Registry which has become a valuable national resource for investigators utilizing the Center to accomplish research in a multitude of areas not specific only to DBA;

Whereas the successful establishment of the Center became a model for how to diagnose, treat, and improve the lives of patients with rare diseases, while learning from the disorder to yield advancements in other areas of disease research;

Whereas the success of the initial Center prompted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's DBA Public Health Outreach and Surveillance Program to establish 3 additional DBA Centers in Texas, California, and Massachusetts to further patient access to information, treatment, and care by DBA experts, which has resulted in a doubling of patient care visits for DBA care and surveillance since their establishment;

Whereas the DBA Public Health Outreach and Surveillance Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (''CDC'') has resulted in the completion of the first CDC brochure for the DBA patient population, the introduction of a DBA hotline and dedicated DBA nurse, and has resulted in a 25-percent increase of enrollment of DBA patients into the DBA Patient Registry in the first 2 years of the program;

Whereas the collaboration between the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and their close collaboration with the Daniella Maria Arturi Foundation and the DBA Foundation have driven the many recent successes in the DBA field and serve as a model for addressing rare disease research efforts through close public and private collaboration to achieve the highest levels of success in the areas of improved patient care and disease research;

Whereas the interagency collaboration achieved within the National Institutes of Health between the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, the National Cancer Institute, and the Office of Rare Diseases to advance the research and understanding of DBA has resulted in significant advancements not only in the DBA scientific arena, but in understanding its many links to more prevalent disorders; and

Whereas the DBA research initiatives have already yielded tremendous success including the discovery of 2 ribosomal protein (''RP'') genes and the identification that DBA is the first human disease linked to a ribosomal protein problem which, as a fundamental unit of cellular function, has been implicated in a wide range of human disorders including cancer, making this discovery a profound example of the additional benefits that may result from the study of DBA: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that the identification of Diamond-Blackfan Anemia (''DBA'') may advance the understanding of DBA, identify implications of cancer predisposition, and serve as an important model for understanding human development and the molecular basis for certain birth defects;

(2) recognizes the importance of comprehensive care centers in providing complete care and treatment for each patient, leading to an increase in correct and early diagnosis;

(3) commends Schneider Children's Hospital for providing the first DBA Comprehensive Clinical Care Center for patients across the country, for developing the DBA Patient Registry which has proven a robust surveillance tool to understand the epidemiology, biology, and treatment of DBA, and for proving a valuable resource for investigators at a national level, working to understand DBA's link to more prevalent disorders facing Americans;

(4) commends the Daniella Maria Arturi Foundation and the Diamond-Blackfan Anemia Foundation for their efforts to facilitate the successful collaboration among the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to achieve a successful multidisciplinary approach between clinical and scientific DBA efforts with the goal of shortening the life cycle of success realized between the laboratory and applied patient care; and

(5) encourages research efforts to further understand ribosomal protein deficiencies in rare inherited diseases and to advance the treatment options available to those with DBA.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as may consume.

I rise in support of H. Res. 524, expressing the sense of the House with respect to Diamond-Blackfan anemia, DBA.

DBA is a rare genetic bone marrow disorder affecting children and adults, 90 percent of whom are younger than 1 year of age when they are diagnosed. DBA results in severe anemia due to the failure to produce red blood cells. The symptoms may vary greatly, from very mild to severe and life-threatening. Unfortunately, because DBA is a rare disease, there is limited research being done, and treatment options are not optimal.

The resolution before us today as amended expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that we should encourage further efforts to clarify the natural history of DBA, continue efforts to raise awareness and ease access of information about DBA, encourage research efforts that will advance treatment options and seek a cure and encourage cross-institutional research initiatives to study the intricacies involved in this rare inherited disease.

This is an important piece of legislation, and I would like to acknowledge and thank my colleague Representative CAROLYN MCCARTHY for her hard work and dedication on this issue. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me join my colleague from Wisconsin in supporting H. Res. 524 and also acknowledging again at the outset the work and efforts of my colleague from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY).

As was mentioned, the resolution recognizes the elements of the Diamond-Blackfan anemia and the research being done on the disease.

DBA is a blood condition, as mentioned, present at birth which is characterized by failure of the bone marrow to produce red blood cells, and unlike other types of anemia, DBA relates to a bone marrow failure. It's been the result of a genetic mutation and has generally been diagnosed at birth.

The purpose of this resolution is to bring awareness to this disease and the research and education surrounding Diamond-Blackfan anemia. As is always the case, although the word is rare and operative, the point is if somebody is suffering from DBA they're suffering, and just because there may not be tens of thousands a year, the fact is that suffering doesn't go away.

So I would urge the adoption.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I am now proud to yield 5 minutes to my colleague, the author of this resolution, the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY).

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I'd like to thank my colleague Ms. BALDWIN for her support, and I'd also like to thank my colleague from New York, VITO FOSSELLA, for taking a strong stance on this issue.

I also want to say that this bill would not have made it to the floor without the help of my good friend and colleague, Congressman PALLONE from New Jersey, for his support in bringing it up.

It was mentioned that Diamond-Blackfan anemia, or DBA, is a rare genetic bone marrow failure disorder that affects children and adults, stopping the body's ability to produce red blood cells.

A lot of our colleagues might remember, every year I go around and ask all of my colleagues to sign a book so that I can have the opportunity to teach my colleagues about DBA, so as we go down the road mostly hopefully to get more research money.

Ninety percent of those suffering this disease were younger than 1 year old when they were diagnosed. Children living with DBA have an increased risk of leukemia, solid tumors, and complete bone marrow failure. Fifty percent of patients with DBA are also born with birth defects, including abnormalities to the face, head, upper arm and hand, and heart. Twenty-one percent of affected patients suffer from more than one defect.

The individuals and families suffering from rare diseases such as DBA not only face the challenges of their life-threatening diseases, but they must also confront the limited treatment and the research options.

Researchers believe that the study of DBA will yield clues to several other widespread diseases, providing valuable insights into the biology of blood disorders, blood cell formation, leukemia, and serve as an important model for understanding the genetics of birth defects.

Unfortunately, many of the long-term treatments for DBA have the potential for serious side effects, including impaired growth, diabetes, and iron overload.

The only cure for DBA is a bone marrow transplant, a procedure that carries serious risks. And since most patients lack an acceptable donor, it's an option available for only about 25 percent of the patients.

□ 1715

Rare diseases, such as DBA, where there are no regional or ethnic trends and a small number of patients, make progress in treatment and research difficult. Thankfully, there are centers across the Nation that devote countless hours into understanding this disease. One such center is based out of my district on Long Island. The DBA Comprehensive Clinical Care Center at Schneider Children's Hospital in New Hyde Park, New York, has become the hub for the care and treatment of DBA patients across the country. The facility is also home of the DBA Patient Registry, which has become a valuable national resource for families and the researchers.

The success made at Schneider's Children's Hospital have prompted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's DBA Public Health Outreach and Surveillance Program to establish three additional DBA centers in Texas, California, and Massachusetts to further patient access, information, treatment, and care by DBA experts. This has resulted in a doubling of patient care visits for DBA since their establishment.

The effects are also felt on a national level. The CDC has dedicated resources and manpower to the study of DBA as well as patient outreach. Because of these efforts, we have seen a 25 percent increase of enrollment of DBA patients into the DBA Patient Registry in the first 2 years of the program. The collaboration achieved through Federal programs such as NIH and the CDC and private groups such as the Daniela Maria Arturi Foundation and the DBA Foundation have driven the many recent successes in the DBA field. This partnership should serve as a model for addressing rare disease research efforts through close public and private manners. I have been working with the Arturi family for many years. Their daughter Daniela was affected by this rare disease, and they have been the vocal voices for increased funding for research and treatment. Today, we in Congress will give them and all families suffering from this rare disease a chance of hope.

Let me say that we hear constantly of these very rare diseases, and the families sometimes feel they have no hope. I would encourage them to reach out on the Internet to find the information they need to. The foundation that was started 10 years ago has come such a long way where researchers from across the world now come in for a conference every year to find out more and what work has been done. And even though the cure for DBA has not happened yet, the other research has helped many, many other families. So, please, join me in supporting this resolution and telling the families and the children with DBA that they are not alone. I ask my colleagues to support H. Res. 524.

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

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to my colleague from New York, Congressman BISHOP.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support and as a proud cosponsor of this resolution, recognizing the importance of the Federal Government's continued support for research into the rare bone marrow failure disorder for which there is no known cure known as Diamond-Blackfan anemia.

I am very proud to represent Manny and Maria Arturi of Remsenberg, NY, located in my district. After the loss of their daughter Daniela Maria nearly 12 years ago, the foundation they created and that bears her name continues making great strides toward the ultimate goal of finding a cure.

When a tragic disorder like this strikes infants within the first year of their lives, it is all the more important for Congress to go on record voicing our unwavering support to raise awareness and broaden support for funding rare disease research. Accordingly, this resolution demonstrates we support giving experienced doctors the resources for the most complete care for those patients. And by encouraging the National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control to coordinate a multidisciplinary approach toward a cure, this legislation brings hope that other parents will be spared from the kind of devastation felt by the Arturis once they learned of their child's diagnosis.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution as well as other measures that will ultimately bring about a cure for Diamond-Blackfan anemia.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, let me again congratulate Mrs. MCCARTHY for bringing this to the floor, and constantly, not just here but constantly bringing attention to DBA.

Whenever a parent gets bad news on a child and an illness, you know it takes to the heart. And there are so many innovative, wonderful, compassionate health care professionals who try to bring a level of comfort to those families, and I know that here in Congress we do the same and try to bring awareness. And although rare, or rarer

than many illnesses, nevertheless, the pain and suffering remains the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, Diamond-Blackfan anemia is such a serious condition; and because it is such a rare disease, there is a real need for increased awareness and research. I commend my colleague Mrs. MCCARTHY for her advocacy on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 524, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEXTROMETHORPHAN DISTRIBUTION ACT OF 2007

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 970) to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the distribution of the drug dextromethorphan, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 970

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Dextromethorphan Distribution Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. RESTRICTIONS ON DISTRIBUTION OF BULK DEXTROMETHORPHAN.

The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 501, by inserting at the end the following:

''(j) If it is unfinished dextromethorphan and is possessed, received, or distributed in violation of section 506D.''; and

(2) by inserting after section 506C the following:

''SEC. 506D. RESTRICTIONS ON DISTRIBUTION OF BULK DEXTROMETHORPHAN.

''(a) RESTRICTIONS.—No person shall—

''(1) possess or receive unfinished dextromethorphan, unless the person is registered under section 510; or

''(2) distribute unfinished dextromethorphan to any person other than a person registered under section 510.

''(b) EXCEPTION FOR COMMON CARRIERS.—This section does not apply to a common carrier that possesses, receives, or distributes unfinished dextromethorphan for purposes of distributing such unfinished dextromethorphan between persons registered under section 510.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) The term 'common carrier' means any person that holds itself out to the general public as a provider for hire of the transportation by water, land, or air of merchandise, whether or not the person actually operates the vessel, vehicle, or aircraft by which the transportation is provided, between a port or place and a port or place in the United States.

''(2) The term 'unfinished dextromethorphan' means dextromethorphan that is not contained in a drug that is in finished dosage form.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 970, the Dextromethorphan Distribution Act of 2007.

Dextromethorphan, commonly known as DXM or DEX, is an active ingredient in many over-the-counter cough and cold medications. When used as directed, DEX has proven to be an effective cough suppressant; but sadly, an alarming number of teenagers and young adults are abusing prescription and over-the-counter medications by taking much larger than recommended doses to get high.

H.R. 970 attempts to curb the misuse and abuse of DEX by restricting the sale, purchase, trade, and distribution of DEX to registered producers of drugs and devices. The legislation is aimed at preventing would-be drug dealers from purchasing DEX wholesale and selling it over the Internet and on the streets.

Similar legislation passed the House during the 109th Congress but was not enacted into law. Today, we renew our commitment to America's young people by passing this legislation. We are also reminding parents and guardians to remain vigilant in the often difficult task of talking with our young people about drug misuse and abuse. Even if your child does not abuse products containing DEX or any other over-the-counter medications, odds suggest that they know somebody who does.

I want to acknowledge and commend our colleagues, particularly Congressman FRED UPTON and Congressman RICK LARSEN, for their committed work on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 970.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise in favor along with my colleague from Wisconsin and support H.R. 970. At the outset, I would also like to thank Mr. UPTON of Michigan and Mr. LARSEN of Washington for their work on this important legislation. Mr. UPTON in particular has been a true champion and is one of the reasons why we are here.

Dextromethorphan, or DXM or DEX as it is sometimes called, is an ingredient found in cough medicine. The ingredient relieves the coughing associated with the cold or flu, which is a positive, and cough medicines containing this drug are common and can be obtained without prescription, as we full know. While the drug is safe and effective, it is also dangerous if too much is taken.

Reports have shown that some segments of the population, particularly young people, will take large amounts of this medicine in an attempt to absorb large amounts of DXM to get high. The abuse of this drug can cause death as well as other serious adverse events, such as brain damage, seizure, loss of consciousness, and irregular heartbeat.

Madam Speaker, at this point, I yield to my colleague and a true champion of this, Mr. UPTON, for 4 minutes.

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I also want to compliment our fine Reading Clerk for getting the pronunciation of dextromethorphan correct. I know she has been practicing for days, as many of us have.

But I too rise in strong support of this bill, H.R. 970, the Dextromethorphan Distribution Act, I am going to call it DXM, of 2007, legislation that I introduced with my friend and colleague Mr. RICK LARSEN of Washington. He has been absolutely a champion as we have worked this issue on both sides of the aisle to restrict the distribution of this product to entities registered with the FDA.

I want to thank the House leadership for scheduling this bill; I want to thank my friend and chairman, Mr. DINGELL of our committee, as well as Mr. BARTON, the ranking member, as well as the chairman and ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee for allowing this bill in fact to come to the floor, not only in this session but in the last session of Congress as well. When we did pass it on the House floor, I think it was actually one of the last bills that was passed in the 109th Congress in the House, but the Senate failed us at the end. We are hoping that by passing it at this point the Senate, in fact, will move together.

I also want to thank my staff, particularly Jane Williams, who has sat in countless meetings as we have worked and finessed this legislation, not only the industry folks here, but obviously with House and Senate leaders on both sides of the Capitol.

This drug normally is a safe and effective nonnarcotic cough suppressant that is used in many over-the-counter cough and cold medicines. While medicines containing DXM are used safely and effectively by millions of Americans every year, taken in extremely large quantities this drug produces a high that can cause brain damage, seizure, and obviously death.

Studies have shown that teenagers are obtaining unfinished DXM on the Internet to get high by consuming

large amounts or mixing it with alcohol. And already there have been too many deaths linked to the abuse of pure DXM. According to the DEA, abuse among adolescents is increasing. Abuse of DXM has been found in several forms, but has been increasingly found in an encapsulated powder form which is now being sold over the Internet. Currently, there are no restrictions, none, on the restriction of raw bulk dextromethorphan, and this bill would help to ensure that DXM is used only for legitimate purposes and stays out of the hands of drug dealers and adolescents. FDA would have the authority to seize bulk dextromethorphan if found in the possession of anyone not authorized to have it, and those measures would cut off the supply chain of unfinished DXM to those purchasing it on the Internet to get high or to sell it as a street drug.

This bill has been endorsed by the American Pharmacists Association, the Consumer Healthcare Products Association, the Food Marketing Institute, the National Association of Chain Drug Stores and Partnership for a Drug-Free America.

As the parent of two teenagers, I am certainly alarmed by the number of teens who are abusing cough syrup and pure DXM to get a high. They are under the false impression that getting high off this drug is harmless because it is an ingredient in cough syrup. Nothing can be further from the truth. Our kids are playing a game of Russian roulette every time they get high off this drug, and sooner or later someone will die, as they have already. Enough is enough.

This commonsense bipartisan piece of legislation will certainly put an end to the bulk sale of DXM on the Internet and will keep our kids safe from the dangers of this type of drug abuse. I hope that all of our colleagues can support this even on a voice vote, and I hope and pray that the Senate will take action as soon as they can so that we can get this bill to the President's desk where I expect him to sign it.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, let me again commend Mr. LARSEN, and of course Mr. UPTON and my colleague from Wisconsin, and urge the adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I want to state that this bill and its passage will certainly begin to curb the abuse of dextromethorphan. I would like to thank the gentleman also for his leadership on this bill and that of Mr. RICK LARSEN's. This will begin a process of educating about the harm that such abuse of over-the-counter drugs can cause, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Madam Speaker, our society tends to think of drugs only as illicit, illegal products sold on the street. Yet there are other dangers closer to home, in our own medicine cabinets and a click of the mouse away. Common household products, such as cough syrup, contain ingredients that can provide a high if taken in large enough doses.

The Partnership for a Drug Free America estimates that 1 in 10 teenagers or approximately 2.4 million young people have intentionally abused cough medicine in order to get high. The primary active ingredient in most cough medicines is dextromethorphan, also known as DXM.

While medicines containing DXM are used safely by millions of Americans each year, some teenagers are taking excessive amounts of over-the-counter cough medications in order to get high. Moreover, many teens are abusing the unfinished, pure form of DXM which under current law can be obtained legally over the Internet.

Pure DXM is extremely dangerous when taken in large amounts, and can cause hallucinations, seizures, brain damage, and even death. In 2005, two teenagers in my district died from overdosing on unfinished DXM, which they had obtained from a company over the Internet. In the same year three boys from Virginia and Florida died as a result of abusing unfinished DXM, which they had acquired through the same means. The loss of these children is a tragedy that will forever be felt by their families and their communities.

There is no need to risk the reoccurrence of these tragic events in the future. H.R. 970, the Dextromethorphan Distribution Act, will prohibit the distribution of unfinished DXM to anyone not registered to possess it. It will cut off the supply of unfinished DXM to those looking to use it to get high or sell it as a street drug.

This commonsense legislation will eliminate the abuse of unfinished DXM, while still allowing drug manufacturers and registered pharmacists to use the substance as it was intended.

I would like to thank my friend and colleague FRED UPTON for his leadership on this issue, and I applaud the House leadership for sending this bill to the House floor. I urge the Senate to act quickly to turn this commonsense bill into law.

Ms. BALDWIN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 970, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1730

VISION CARE FOR KIDS ACT OF 2007

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 507) to establish a grant program to provide vision care to children, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 507

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Vision Care for Kids Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Millions of children in the United States suffer from vision problems, many of which go undetected. Because children with vision problems can struggle developmentally, resulting in physical, emotional, and social consequences, good vision is essential for proper physical development and educational progress.

(2) Vision problems in children range from common conditions such as refractive errors, amblyopia, strabismus, ocular trauma, and infections, to rare but potentially life- or sight-threatening problems such as retinoblastoma, infantile cataracts, congenital glaucoma, and genetic or metabolic diseases of the eye.

(3) Since many serious ocular conditions are treatable if identified in the preschool and early school-age years, early detection provides the best opportunity for effective treatment and can have far-reaching implications for vision.

(4) Various identification methods, including vision screening and comprehensive eye examinations required by State laws, can be helpful in identifying children needing services. A child identified as needing services through vision screening should receive a comprehensive eye examination followed by subsequent treatment as needed. Any child identified as needing services should have access to subsequent treatment as needed.

(5) There is a need to increase public awareness about the prevalence and devastating consequences of vision disorders in children and to educate the public and health care providers about the warning signs and symptoms of ocular and vision disorders and the benefits of early detection, evaluation, and treatment.

SEC. 3. GRANTS REGARDING VISION CARE FOR CHILDREN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary''), acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, may award grants to States on the basis of an established review process for the purpose of complementing existing State efforts for—

(1) providing comprehensive eye examinations by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist for children who have been previously identified through a vision screening or eye examination by a licensed health care provider or vision screener as needing such services, with priority given to children who are under the age of 9 years;

(2) providing treatment or services, subsequent to the examinations described in paragraph (1), necessary to correct vision problems; and

(3) developing and disseminating, to parents, teachers, and health care practitioners, educational materials on recognizing signs of visual impairment in children.

(b) CRITERIA AND COORDINATION.—

(1) CRITERIA.—The Secretary, in consultation with appropriate professional and patient organizations including individuals with knowledge of age appropriate vision services, shall develop criteria—

(A) governing the operation of the grant program under subsection (a); and

(B) for the collection of data related to vision assessment and the utilization of follow-up services.

(2) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall, as appropriate, coordinate the program under subsection (a) with the program under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act (relating to health centers) (42 U.S.C. 254b), the program under title XIX of the Social Security Act (relating to the Medicaid program) (42 U.S.C. 1396 et

seq.), the program under title XXI of such Act (relating to the State children's health insurance program) (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.), and with other Federal or State programs that provide services to children.

(c) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under subsection (a), a State shall submit to the Secretary an application in such form, made in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

(1) information on existing Federal, Federal-State, or State-funded children's vision programs;

(2) a plan for the use of grant funds, including how funds will be used to complement existing State efforts (including possible partnerships with non-profit entities);

(3) a plan to determine if a grant eligible child has been identified as provided for in subsection (a); and

(4) a description of how funds will be used to provide items or services, only as a secondary payer—

(A) for an eligible child, to the extent that the child is not covered for the items or services under any State compensation program, under an insurance policy, or under any Federal or State health benefits program; or

(B) for an eligible child, to the extent that the child receives the items or services from an entity that provides health services on a prepaid basis.

(d) EVALUATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under subsection (a), a State shall agree that, not later than 1 year after the date on which amounts under the grant are first received by the State, and annually thereafter while receiving amounts under the grant, the State will submit to the Secretary an evaluation of the operations and activities carried out under the grant, including—

(1) an assessment of the utilization of vision services and the status of children receiving these services as a result of the activities carried out under the grant;

(2) the collection, analysis, and reporting of children's vision data according to guidelines prescribed by the Secretary; and

(3) such other information as the Secretary may require.

(e) LIMITATIONS IN EXPENDITURE OF GRANT.—A grant may be made under subsection (a) only if the State involved agrees that the State will not expend more than 20 percent of the amount received under the grant to carry out the purpose described in paragraph (3) of such subsection.

(f) MATCHING FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the costs of the activities to be carried out with a grant under subsection (a), a condition for the receipt of the grant is that the State involved agrees to make available (directly or through donations from public or private entities) non-Federal contributions toward such costs in an amount that is not less than 25 percent of such costs.

(2) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED.—Non-Federal contributions required in paragraph (1) may be in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services. Amounts provided by the Federal Government, or services assisted or subsidized to any significant extent by the Federal Government, may not be included in determining the amount of such non-Federal contributions.

(g) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term ''comprehensive eye examination'' includes an assessment of a patient's history, general medical observation, external and ophthalmoscopic examination, visual acuity, ocular alignment and motility, refraction, and as appropriate, binocular vision or gross visual fields, performed by an optometrist or an ophthalmologist.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated $65,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2013.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 507, the Vision Care for Kids Act of 2007.

A small but significant portion of children have visual impairments. It is estimated that vision impairment affects approximately 1.2 out of every 1,000 8-year-olds. When detected early, many childhood vision abnormalities are treatable, but the potential for correction and normal visual development diminishes with age. Vision problems can occur at any point during a lifetime, but tend to be particularly damaging to school-age children.

Impaired vision can result in adverse physical, emotional, and social consequences. For instance, a child may miss learning opportunities by failing to explore his or her environment. Additionally, if a child is visually impaired, he or she may be unable to imitate social behavior or understand nonverbal cues.

Early recognition of eye disease results in more effective treatment and that can be sight saving and sometimes even life saving. Yet, many children under the age of five do not receive any vision screening at all.

The Vision Care for Kids Act of 2007 would authorize a grant program to provide comprehensive eye exams for uninsured children with vision disorders, with priority for children under the age of 9. Funds would be used for treatment and services to correct vision disorders identified through eye exams and to increase public awareness of visual impairment in children. H.R. 507 would require States receiving funds to contribute a 25 percent match of funds for each Federal dollar obtained through the program.

The bill before us today makes great strides in providing access to an array of vision-related services, including vision screening services that can help uninsured children in low- to moderate-income families.

I want to thank my colleagues for their commitment and strong support of this legislation, and particularly commend my dear friend and colleague, Representative GENE GREEN, for his unwavering dedication to this issue.

I urge my colleagues to support this vital and important legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 507, the Vision Care for Kids Act, and join my colleague in asking for its adoption.

And at the outset, let me thank a few individuals for bringing this bill to the floor: of course, Chairman DINGELL and Ranking Member BARTON. I'd also like to thank Representatives GREEN, SULLIVAN, and ENGEL for their leadership and support in bringing the Vision Care for Kids Act to the floor, and Mr. PASCRELL, who's been very, very passionate about this issue for many years. I've had the privilege and pleasure of working with him, and I know how passionate he is, like so many of us, to get quality vision care for kids who need it.

We've been working on this bill for about 6 years; and after countless modifications, negotiations and compromise, I'm proud to say we have a bill that is unanimously supported by the entire vision community.

And my colleague from Wisconsin put it very simply: there are many kids today who have problems with their eyes; who have an inability to see properly; who, if left untreated, obviously, leads to negative consequence in social interaction, not to mention their poor performance in school and academic achievement because of their inability to see, and not to mention the fact that they're not getting the appropriate care that in some cases leads to greater illnesses and in some cases leads to death.

The legislation we hope to pass today represents the kind of quality, sound public policy that can only come about through the bipartisan cooperation and a willingness to compromise by many interested parties.

H.R. 507 represents a responsible and sensible approach to public health. It's well documented that without the adequate access to vision screening and treatment for eye disorders, a child's entire learning and development can be adversely affected. And we say that for children who do not qualify for a public program and did not have health insurance, our assisting in catching potentially eye disorders is critical.

The bill strikes an effective balance with a shared relationship between Federal and State governments. Once States have identified, through the screening mechanism of their choice, that a child may have an eye disorder, this legislation will provide Federal funding for follow-up comprehensive eye exam and the necessary treatment.

By incorporating a three-to-one Federal-State match, we maintain incentives for States to run their programs efficiently, providing additional assurances to taxpayers that we're maximizing the use of each dollar spent.

I'd like to thank the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the Vision Council of America, Prevent Blindness

of America, the American Optometric Association for their support of the legislation, that of my colleague, and know full well that if this bill does become law, there will be children who currently don't have access to quality treatment that will get the treatment they deserve and need so that they can live a more full and healthy and happy life.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), a passionate advocate of this legislation.

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentlelady from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), who is a model of sensitivity to the needs of all of our children.

I want to thank Congressman FOSSELLA, who's been at the forefront of this.

Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding an issue that has long been near to my heart. I've been listening to these other bills that have been put forth in bipartisan fashion. This is a good example of what we can do together when it comes to our children, their health care and their education. This is critical. This is important. So anybody who says we can't do it is not listening today.

I also want to thank Chairman DINGELL, Chairman PALLONE for their thoughtful consideration and support for preventive vision care for children. Many a kid has been put in the back of the class or sent out of the room because it was misinterpreted, misunderstood, and many times, that child had a problem with vision, with seeing and was too embarrassed to say so, or couldn't recognize it within himself. So preventive vision care is critically important to avoid vision loss and blindness in our Nation's children.

Untreated vision problems can affect a child's physical, educational, and emotional development. That is why for many years, as my good friend from Staten Island has pointed out, we have fought for legislation to set up a grant program to provide comprehensive eye exams and the necessary follow-up care for children whose families do not have the resources or access to such care.

The Center for Disease Control states that approximately 1.8 million children under the age of 18 are blind or have some form of visual impairment. Fortunately, vision loss can be avoided with early diagnosis and treatment. That is not so revealing, is it? On any such disease, early vision, early problems affecting vision, early problems affecting hearing, early problems of detection of teeth, et cetera, et cetera, many of these visual deficits are caught only after they have impaired the child's early and most critical education. That's the rub.

Eye health has a direct impact on learning and achievement. That's the core of the fight that we have waged. It is a national disgrace, Madam Speaker, that only one in three children receive preventive vision care before they are enrolled in elementary school. That's not acceptable.

So I'm pleased to introduce this, along with Congressman GENE GREEN, and there are many others that we need to salute here who have fought this fight with us, and that is Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, Representative JOHN BOOZMAN. Senator KIT BOND on the other side of the building has waged that fight over there. A truly bipartisan effort.

It's so easy. I know it's difficult for us as Congressmen to understand that, including myself. But it's so easy that we can come together when the problem is defined and we can work together, together on a solution.

Here's a perfect example. The seven bills, the eight bills that we just have gone through, Commerce, these affect people's lives. They're not esoteric. They're not up in the sky someplace. These affect people.

H.R. 507 will establish a Federal grant program to provide for timely diagnostic examination, treatment and follow-up vision care for children.

This legislation will complement existing State programs and allow eye exams for a vulnerable pediatric population that does not qualify for Medicaid and does not qualify for SCHIP and do not have access to private health insurance. Critical that we understand this. Very important here. Very significant for those families.

Better eye care will significantly mitigate the effects of visual impairment. So it's important to act now, Madam Speaker. The prevention is more than half the battle.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Vision Care for Kids Act. Kids out there are waiting for us in all 50 States to act on this.

Thank you, Mr. FOSSELLA. Thank you to my good friend, the gentlelady from Wisconsin. And I think that we've hit a home run here for the last hour and a half, thanks to you both.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the lead author of this bill, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I'd like to thank my colleague on our Energy and Commerce Committee and Health Subcommittee for allowing me to rush in from the airport to be able to put a statement on this bill.

I rise, obviously, in support of H.R. 507, the Vision Care for Kids Act. This bill has been crafted in a very bipartisan fashion with the leadership of my colleagues, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. ENGEL, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I'd like to thank them for their dedication to children's vision issues in this legislation in particular.

The Vision Care for Kids Act establishes a much-needed grant program to provide follow-up vision care to uninsured children with vision disorders. As we tried to target the program to the children most in need, we learned very quickly that a child's access to vision screening and comprehensive vision care varies widely depending on individual State laws. For example, some States have no vision screening requirements, whereas 30 States currently mandate vision screening. Twenty-eight of these States with screening mandates, however, do not have or offer any guarantee that children who fail the screening will receive a follow-up eye exam.

On a nationwide basis, as many as 80 percent of the children who fail a vision screening do not get the follow-up care they need. Among the parents of these children, 25 percent cite financial constraints as a primary reason their child does not receive important follow-up care more than any other factor influencing their lack of care.

This lack of vision care jeopardizes a child's development and can unfortunately lead to lifelong vision impairment. These children deserve a healthy start to their educational and social development, yet the reality is that nearly two of three children entering elementary school have never received preventive vision care. Unfortunately, the lack of health experience presents a barrier to the delivery of appropriate vision care in this country. For many children who are lucky enough to have health insurance for medical care, their policy doesn't cover vision coverage. This is precisely why this bill is necessary.

□ 1745

By targeting the program toward children who are school age, uninsured, and at risk for vision disorders, the bill is designed to spend scarce health care dollars in the wisest manner possible. A portion of the grant funds will also be used to increase education and awareness of vision disorders so that the warning signs can be recognized and any problems can be detected in a timely fashion.

During the committee consideration of this legislation, we made several changes in the underlying bill. Specifically, we clarified that the Secretary should consult with professional and patient organizations when developing the criteria associated with the grant program's operations and data collection. This amendment also specifies an authorization level of $65 million over 5 years and includes a State-matching requirement of 25 percent.

The compromise could not have been developed without the dedication of key members of the vision community, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Optometric Association, the Vision Council of America, and Prevent Blindness America.

As a founding member of the Congressional Vision Caucus, I am particularly pleased to see this bill on the House floor today and consider it a milestone for our very young caucus. In 2003, I joined my colleagues DAVID PRICE, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, and PAT TIBERI in establishing the Congressional Vision Caucus. Today the Vision Caucus is comprised of more than 100 Members of the House, both Republican and Democrat, House Members and Senators. While our initial goal was to raise the awareness of vision disorders in Congress, the caucus has developed and endorsed two key pieces of vision legislation, including the Vision Care for Kids Act before us today.

It is particularly gratifying to see our efforts result in legislative success, and I thank the members of the Vision Caucus and the 152 cosponsors of this legislation for their support. I would also like to thank Chairman DINGELL and Ranking Member BARTON of the Energy and Commerce Committee, as well as the chairman and ranking member of the Health Subcommittee, Mr. PALLONE and Mr. DEAL, for their support of this legislation.

And I would also like to thank John Ford and William Garner of the committee's majority staff for their expertise, as well as Ryan Long and Katherine Martin of the minority staff for their willingness to work with us in a bipartisan fashion on this legislation.

With that, I encourage my colleagues to join us in passing this important bill to improve vision care for America's children.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, let me again, in closing, thank the sponsors, Mr. GREEN and, of course, Mr. PASCRELL for really helping us to get to this point. I failed to mention Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN before. She was instrumental as well, and Mr. SULLIVAN and Mr. ENGEL. Let me commend and thank my colleague Ms. BALDWIN for her eloquence in shepherding all these bills to the floor.

As it relates to this bill, early detection, early diagnosis, and early treatment, we know that those are the magical things that have to happen in order for a child to lead a more forward, healthy life. Without the access to the care that a child needs, we know that that life is going to be compromised in some way, shape, or form.

I think that this bill helps to get us to that point. I think it will help a lot of children who currently have no help and no access.

I would also like to thank Ryan McKee from my office, who has worked on this bill for several years in our efforts.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, in closing, visual impairments can have lifelong consequences for children. As we have heard, this bill will help identify these impairments early so that our kids can live up to their full potential. This bill and the others that preceded it are prime examples of bipartisan cooperation.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and those that have preceded it. And I also thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) for his assistance in expeditiously, yet comprehensively, managing the nine vital important and bipartisan health bills that were before us this afternoon.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 507, the Vision Care for Kids Act of 2007.

This issue is simple, Madam Speaker, kids can't learn if they can't see. Providing early vision screening for our nation's children will make sure they are all ready to learn when they enter school and the Vision Care for Kids Act will help provide states with the means to offer this important care.

When I was in the Connecticut State Senate, I championed an initiative which made school-based vision screening a priority through the mandated reporting of pediatric vision screening on school health assessment forms. The passage of today's legislation will enhance my state's ability to enhance vision programs for children by providing a much needed federal stream of funding. Importantly, it will allow Connecticut's children to receive followup care when uninsured children are identified through my state's existing vision screening program.

The passage of today's legislation is another example of how this Congress is actively working to provide health services to our nation's children. This week, as the House contemplates whether we should provide 10 million American children with health insurance through the SCHIP program, we should take today as an opportunity to affirm our commitment to comprehensive health screening and coverage for all American children.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 507 and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 507 Care for Kids Act of 2007. As you know, this bill would award grants to states to: (1) provide comprehensive eye examinations by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist for children identified by a licensed health care provider or vision screener, with priority to children under age nine; (2) provide treatment or services to correct vision problems of such children; and (3) develop and disseminate educational materials on recognizing signs of visual impairment in children.

Madam Speaker, studies have shown that African-Americans were most likely to report that they do not have a regular eye care professional (21 percent). And Hispanics were least likely to have seen an eye care professional in the last year (43 percent).

Madam Speaker, like many diseases, vision problems can disproportionately affect certain ethnic groups. For example, African-Americans are five times more likely to have glaucoma, Hispanics are at the greatest risk for cataracts, and myopia or near-sightedness is much more common among Asians than other ethnic groups.

But the story doesn't end there, a new study by University of Michigan pediatricians suggests that poor, uninsured, black and Hispanic children are getting the least vision care services in this country. In all, non-Hispanic and non-black children were 47 percent more likely than Hispanic children—and 59 percent more likely than black children—to have received eye care in the last year. In addition, the study showed that uninsured black or Hispanic children were less likely than uninsured children of other races or ethnicities to have corrective lenses.

Madam speaker, we have to do better on providing care to these communities and giving these communities the healthcare professionals to deliverer such care. To date, the current enrollment percentages of African-American and Hispanic students in optometry school is dismal at best. In the United States, only 3.5 percent of currently enrolled optometry students are African American. Hispanics do not fare much better, when including the InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico, the enrollment of Hispanics in U.S. optometry schools and Canada is even lower than that of African Americans.

So Madam Speaker while I strongly support this bill we must do more to address these disparities. Thus, the reason behind my outspoken wish to mandate vision care to the State Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) reauthorization. The lack of vision care for children can not be tolerated in this country and I look forward to working with the Congress in bringing this issue to the forefront of our debate around SCHIP.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BERKLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 507, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CAPPS) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 738, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 2089, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 20, by the yeas and nays.

The votes on H.R. 2295 and H. Con. Res. 182 will be taken tomorrow.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minutes votes.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING SYRIA'S CONTINUED INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF LEBANON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 738, 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 New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 738.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 375, nays 5, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 50, as follows:

[Roll No. 961]

YEAS—375

Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Manzullo
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Welch (VT)
Westmoreland
Wexler
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—5

Hinchey
Jones (NC)
McDermott
Paul
Waters

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Abercrombie

NOT VOTING—50

Alexander
Bean
Bishop (UT)
Boozman
Brady (PA)
Carson
Conaway
Costello
Cubin
Cummings
Ellison
Gordon
Graves
Gutierrez
Hastert
Jindal
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Kucinich
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lewis (CA)
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney (NY)
Marchant
Melancon
Mica
Murtha
Musgrave
Nadler
Neal (MA)
Pastor
Peterson (PA)
Pickering
Pryce (OH)
Reyes
Rogers (KY)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Schakowsky
Sessions
Smith (WA)
Souder
Tancredo
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey

□ 1855

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida and Mrs. JONES of Ohio changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

Mr. ABERCROMBIE changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''present.''

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:

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 961, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

LOUISIANA ARMED SERVICES VETERANS POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2089, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2089.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 383, nays 0, not voting 48, as follows:

[Roll No. 962]

YEAS—383

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva

Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Manzullo
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Welch (VT)
Westmoreland
Wexler
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—48

Bean
Bishop (UT)
Boozman
Brady (PA)
Carson
Conaway
Cubin
Cummings
Ellison
Gilchrest
Gordon
Graves
Gutierrez
Jindal
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Kucinich
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lewis (CA)
Lynch
Maloney (NY)
Marchant
Melancon
Murtha
Musgrave
Nadler
Neal (MA)
Pastor
Peterson (PA)
Pickering
Pryce (OH)
Radanovich
Reyes
Rogers (KY)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sessions
Smith (WA)
Souder
Sullivan
Tancredo
Watson
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1903

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MELANIE BLOCKER-STOKES POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION RESEARCH AND CARE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 20, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 20, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 382, nays 3, not voting 46, as follows:

[Roll No. 963]

YEAS—382

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
Hastert
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Manzullo
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Napolitano
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Putnam
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Westmoreland
Wexler
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—3

Broun (GA)
Flake
Paul

NOT VOTING—46

Bean
Bishop (UT)
Boozman
Brady (PA)
Carson
Conaway
Cubin
Cummings
Ellison
Gordon
Graves
Gutierrez
Jindal
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Kucinich
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lewis (CA)
Lynch
Maloney (NY)
Marchant
Melancon
Murtha
Musgrave
Nadler
Neal (MA)
Pastor
Peterson (PA)
Pickering
Pryce (OH)
Radanovich
Reyes
Rogers (KY)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sessions
Smith (WA)
Souder
Tancredo
Weiner

Welch (VT) Weller Wilson (OH)
Weldon (FL) Whitfield Woolsey

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1910

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit this statement for the RECORD and regret that I was not present to vote on rollcall vote Nos. 961, 962, and 963. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"Yea" on rollcall vote No. 961 on H. Res. 738 expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the Government of Syria's continued interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon; "yea" on rollcall vote No. 962 on H.R. 2089, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 701 Loyola Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the "Louisiana Armed Services Veterans Post Office"; and "yea" on rollcall vote No. 963 on H.R. 20, to provide for research on, and services for individuals with, postpartum depression and psychosis.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 106 AND H. RES. 610

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I be removed as a cosponsor from H. Res. 106 and H. Res. 610.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MITCHELL). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 106

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor from H. Res. 106.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 106

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H. Res. 106.

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. RES. 106

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for my name to be removed as a cosponsor of H. Res. 106.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 106

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor for H. Res. 106.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 106

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H. Res. 106.

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. RES. 106

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as a cosponsor of H. Res. 106.

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

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the rules of the House do not allow me to remove myself from cosponsor at this time of H.R. 811, but this statement serves that I am not to be perceived as a cosponsor of this bill at this time.

OVERRIDING THE VETO ON SCHIP

(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, in a little less than 72 hours, this House will have the opportunity to make one of the most definitive and powerful stands for the Nation's children.

Let me go on record by indicating that this Nation has over a period of time mistreated her children. Now we have the opportunity to insure millions of children with health coverage through the SCHIP program, a program now that has seen itself last for a decade of success in preventing devastating health conditions for young children.

I know this because just last week I visited St. Joseph's Hospital, the neonatal unit. We heard stories from young mothers talk about children who have been saved and, yes, talk about those who have not been saved because they could not enroll in the SCHIP program.

Why in the world would we suffer a veto to deny our children a mere $35 billion to cover them for preventative health care?

I ask my colleagues to overturn this veto, and I join the Congressional Black Caucus to ensure that that happens. The fight is for our children. We cannot yield.

□ 1915

GOD & CENSORSHIP

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, good news. That which has been removed has been returned. That which has been censored is censored no more. Let me explain.

The Architect of the Capitol took it upon himself to remove references of God from the official certificates that accompany flags that are flown over the Capitol. These flags and certificates are given to schools, citizens, and the military. Some Members of Congress, for example, request the words "God" and "Country" to be incorporated into the certificate. However, the word "God" was unilaterally stricken and censored from the document by the Architect. But those days are over. The Architect will now allow the word "God" on such certificates.

The national motto is "In God We Trust." We pledge allegiance saying "one Nation under God." Our history is based upon a belief in the Supreme Being. And much of this Capitol has references to the Almighty.

Mr. Speaker, many Americans are tired of paranoia government censorship of God, and consider attempts to remove God from America a violation of their constitutional rights. Thank God.

And that's just the way it is.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

IRAQ WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, Members, last Friday, Retired Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, who led U.S. forces in Iraq following the invasion in

2003, became the latest in a growing list of retired military officers who harshly criticize the war in Iraq. He said that the United States is ''living a nightmare with no end in sight.'' General Sanchez also lambasted the latest strategy in Iraq calling it, again, ''a desperate attempt by the administration that has not accepted the political and economic realities of this war.''

These startling revelations from the highest ranks of our military should shake us to our very core. The man who was personally responsible for conducting the war in Iraq is trying to convince us that we should have no faith in the administration now waging the war.

General Sanchez went on to say, ''There has been a glaring unfortunate display of incompetent strategic leadership within our national leaders,'' and that ''the American people must hold them accountable.''

But, General Sanchez, how can the American people hold their elected officials accountable? As we all know, they can make a lot of noise by calling congressional offices, writing letters, and attending marches; but at the end of the day, the American people hold their elected officials accountable at the ballot box.

To my colleagues in the House of Representatives, our constituents have already made up their minds. An overwhelming majority of people think it was a mistake to invade Iraq and believe that setting a timetable for withdrawal is the correct course of action. Most Democrats and Republicans agree that an open-ended occupation of Iraq is an awful idea. But the Iraqi people don't want us there, and we have no timetable for withdrawal.

What do we have if not an open-ended occupation? What more do we need to learn before deciding that this war must be brought to a halt? Day after day, the grim realities unfolding in Iraq paint a picture of futility and mismanagement. More lives are lost, more money is squandered, and Iraq falls deeper and deeper into chaos and civil war.

President Bush has had our military in pursuit of a victory that is perpetually ''just around the corner.'' Well, we have been around the corner and back again. There is no victory to be found. The time to end this debacle has long since passed. The United States military presence has reinforced in the minds of the Iraqis the most damaging lesson an emerging nation can learn: that problems are solved with bullets and bombs instead of compromise and cooperation. Instead of encouraging compromise and fostering cooperation among the various warring tribes, we have done the exact opposite. We continue to spend billions of dollars blindly arming Iraqis who volunteer to serve in the Iraqi security forces with no thought as to where their loyalties might lie when we hand them weapons.

On one hand, as Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies points out, we have not addressed the degree to which all elements of the Iraqi security forces, from the Prime Minister's office down, have links to Shiite efforts to retain and expand power and carry out sectarian cleansing in mixed areas.

On the other hand, the bottom-up reconciliation that Bush brags about is arming and empowering the Sunni militias in Anbar province and elsewhere. This is, as a recent article in the Economist suggests, a recipe for civil war and only serves to undermine the central government of Iraq.

These irresponsible and dangerous tactics not only harm future prospects for stability in Iraq, but seriously erode our standing in the Middle East and larger international community.

I would like to commend General Sanchez for speaking out against the Bush administration. But how many more General Sanchezes will it take before the last Congressperson turns against the occupation of Iraq? How many more investigations of Blackwater's abuse, of Halliburton's fraud, how many more reports of our overstretched military at its breaking point, or about the damage our occupation is doing to our international standing? How much more of this debate do we need before our national leaders accept that the Iraq war is actually making our country less safe?

For the good of this great Nation and for the good of Iraq, it is time to bring our troops home and end the occupation of Iraq.

Mr. Speaker and Members, I know that there is an attempt to put a good face on the surge and to try and make us believe that the surge is working, but just read your newspapers every day and see the number of lives that are being lost, not only of our own soldiers, but of the Iraqis.

CORPORAL DONALD E. VALENTINE III—U.S. ARMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, ''The soldier is the Army, and wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. While we mourn those men who die, we should thank God such men ever lived.'' These are the words of General George Patton in World War II.

Mr. Speaker, one of those soldiers was Corporal Donald E. Valentine III of the United States Army. He was born in Houston, Texas, on March 5, 1986. Donald Valentine joined the United States Army because of the 9/11 attack on this country.

His mother Anna said, ''My husband and I were behind Donald 100 percent. I was so proud of him no matter what he ever did. He made me very proud to be his mother.'' Words from another of America's Gold Star Mothers.

I met Anna Valentine and many members of the Valentine family recently at Veterans National Cemetery in Houston, where mothers like Anna who had children killed in Iraq and Afghanistan were being honored. We call those noble women Gold Star Mothers. Anna Valentine's son is buried on that hallowed ground of the fallen in Houston, Texas.

Corporal Valentine was killed along with two other soldiers on September 18 in Muqdadiyah, Iraq, when an IED, an improvised explosive device, detonated near him.

Mr. Speaker, you understand the use of an IED by America's enemy is a coward's way of fighting the war. These enemies rant and rave and preach hate in the name of religion, but they cover their faces with masks and hide in caves and dark, dusty ditches. They are afraid to come out in the open and face the American soldier, so our enemy detonates remote-controlled bombs.

Corporal Donald Valentine III comes from a military family. His father, Donald II, is a Navy veteran. His brother Daniel wanted to enlist to be with his brother Donald in Iraq, and Daniel, 19, still intends to join the military. Mr. Speaker, America owes much to families like the Valentines.

Donald was married 1 year to Lucia, who said Donald had all the qualities any girl would want. She had talked to Donald on their first anniversary, 3 days before his death in Iraq. Corporal Valentine told his family that, if he did not survive the war, they should stay strong. He is the 91st fallen servicemember with ties to the Houston area to have been killed in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Corporal Donald Valentine was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division of the Stryker Brigade Combat Team from Fort Lewis, Washington.

Being from a military family, he moved around a lot as a child. He lived in Florida most of his life and in Idaho, but wanted to be buried in ''Big H,'' as he called Houston, Texas, because of many reasons. One of those reasons was because he spent so much time growing up with his grandparents who live in Houston. Mr. Speaker, Donald's grandparents, Thomas and Lupe Cortez, and his other grandmother Geneva Fernandez, survive their grandson.

As a grandfather of five with two more grandkids on the way, I think it would be a most difficult task to bury a grandson in the vigor of their youth.

In the official statement on Donald's death, the family said, ''Donald touched the lives of so many with his big heart. We will cherish the beautiful memories we shared with you. You made us so very proud. Now heaven has another hero. And, continue to watch over us as an angel in heaven.''

On September 28, 2007, taps played for the last time as 21 guns saluted this American soldier. This is a photograph of Donald Valentine III.

A statement has been credited to one of Rome's centurions when he told his

troops, ''How you yet live will echo throughout eternity.'' Corporal Valentine lived a short but faithful life to the things that were important to him: family and country. He was 21 when he was killed.

Mr. Speaker, General George Patton was right about such warriors. We should thank God that such men as Corporal Donald Valentine III died and lived.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. LEE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 1930

IN OPPOSITION TO RESOLUTION REGARDING ARMENIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I want to come to the floor of the House tonight and add my voice to a lot of my colleagues in opposition to the dangerous resolution condemning Turkey for reported atrocities against the Armenian people. Everyone regrets what happened at the end of the First World War; but, Mr. Speaker, we are in the midst of a very complicated war, a complicated war in which every ally is valuable to our war effort.

This resolution, Mr. Speaker, this resolution has the potential to inflict damage on the United States-Turkish relationship such that it would be very difficult to repair it, and this should be at the forefront of our minds as we consider bringing to the floor for a vote.

I am concerned about this resolution, and I urge the Speaker not to allow these actions.

I am asking us to consider the long-lasting negative effects that this resolution could have on our foreign policy interests. The last thing we need is for an American ally to stray from the path of victory in Iraq, and with President Abdullah Gul threatening to withdraw Turkey's support of the Iraq war should we vote on and pass this risky resolution, this possibility unfortunately is moving ever closer to reality.

Mr. Speaker, Turkey continues to be a consistent U.S. partner in developing some of the crucial defense equipment we're going to need to protect our country into the future. Currently, Turkey is aiding in the development of Lockheed Martin's F–35 Lightning fighter. I can testify to the significant importance of sustaining positive relations with Turkey, because the final assemblage of the aforementioned aircraft will, in fact, take place at Lockheed Martin's Ft. Worth plant which is very near my district in North Texas. These are important developments in the war on terror and now is not the time to compromise these efforts.

But more importantly, Mr. Speaker, this resolution, this resolution is ill timed and ill suited for a country at war. What will happen to the transport of goods, fuel, food, fiber through Turkey into northern Iraq?

And if those shipments, if those shipments of food, fuel and fiber are delayed or ended by the Turks, who wins and who loses?

Mr. Speaker, I will submit that the average American probably doesn't know the answer to that question. It's not that they're indifferent, but they just don't know if there's going to be a winner or a loser. The average Turk, while he may care, is really just pretty mad about it all.

But, Mr. Speaker, I would submit it is the Iraqi citizen who is on our side who will lose. They will be denied sustenance. They will be denied food for their family. They will be denied fuel to heat their homes in the coming winter in the northern part of Iraq, in a country that has been ravaged by war.

Well, if Iraqis who are friendly to us are likely to be hurt, what about the enemy in Iraq? Well, Mr. Speaker, they may be the indirect winner because after all, we know they love chaos; and anything that increases disorder in Iraq's fragile social system benefits our enemy.

Mr. Speaker, I am not connecting dots that have not already been connected. Right as we left before the August recess the majority whip was quoted as saying if things go well in Iraq, it's bad for us; it's bad for our majority party.

Mr. Speaker, sadly, then we've seen several times during the month of September where it does seem like sometimes they're invested in defeat.

But who really bears the brunt is the United States soldier. And, Mr. Speaker, this is not just a theoretical concern. October 2000, same bill, conflicts are a little bit different. Northern watch, keeping the Iraqis from attacking the Kurds. Those planes in northern Iraq to enforce the no-fly zone and keep Saddam from attacking the Kurds, those F–16s flew out of Turkey and they kept watch every day of every week during what we now know as Northern Watch. They kept the Iraqi Republican Guard in a box and kept them from attacking Kurds.

Mr. Speaker, I was not in Congress in October of 2000. But I will tell you that a young man who is now a constituent, actually stationed in Clovis, New Mexico, but was moved to Incurlik, Turkey, and was on duty then, he talked to me back in October of 2000. He said, we were away from home in a place that really was awfully strange for a 21-year-old. And then we picked up our newspapers one morning and there's a big hole in the side of a United States ship, the USS *Cole* which was bombed in October of 2000. The tension was mounting daily. Other attacks were a possibility. And then all hell broke loose outside the base. There was protests, there was shouting, there were people yelling at us at the gate. None of us were allowed off the base. And why? Because the House of Representatives was going to take up the Armenian genocide resolution.

Mr. Speaker, this constituent was my son. He asked me then, Dad, why is Congress making things tougher for us over here? I didn't have an answer for him now and I don't have an answer for him now. President Clinton did not support this bill in 2000. Majority Leader Armey refused to allow it to come to the floor. Don't make life tougher for our soldiers. We're a country at war. Let's act like it for once.

PERU FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, in the coming days Congress will consider the Peru Free Trade Agreement. I rise tonight to ask why are we in such a rush to approve a flawed and misguided trade policy.

The Peru Free Trade Agreement doesn't enjoy the support of any of the constituencies which it's supposed to benefit. No labor unions vocally are out supporting this agreement. Why would they? The labor standards are unenforceable. It doesn't protect ''buy America.'' It promotes off-shoring of our industries.

The Peru Free Trade Agreement is just like the NAFTA-CAFTA framework. NAFTA has cost Maine over 23 percent of our manufacturing base. The new labor environmental language will do nothing to improve the situation.

The Bush administration claims that the agreement will improve labor standards in Peru and, in the next breath, Tom Donahue, president of the United States Chamber of Commerce states that he is ''encouraged by assurances that the labor provisions cannot be read to require compliance with the ILO conventions.''

So why are we rushing to approve such a toothless measure?

Why is Congress moving so fast to approve a trade policy which has not been subject to a full hearing since the deal was announced? The last hearing on the Peru Free Trade Agreement in the Ways and Means Committee was held in 2006. There are no environmental groups that are rallying support for the unenforceable environmental protections. That includes the Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth.

So why are we not taking the time to consider the impact the Peru FTA will have on our environment, our intellectual property or privatization of Social Security?

Even the labor leaders of major Peruvian labor organizations oppose this agreement. They urge Congress to vote ''no,'' claiming that it will weaken labor standards, encourage illegal immigration to the United States, and increase the rates of drug trafficking and violence.

So who supports this agreement? Big Business. It's the large multinational companies who seek to profit off the backs of working men and women in our country.

Remember back on May 10 when we heard about the new trade model? Well, if it's so new and great, then why aren't we hearing from all sides on the trade debate asking us to support it? There is a reason: there is not much new about it. It's the same old model with a little fancy title.

I ask my colleagues to take a step back and consider this agreement carefully, demand the enforcement of the labor standards that conform with the ILO Conventions and environmental protection that might actually protect the environment.

I ask my colleagues to consider the impact of this agreement and to question why we are moving so quickly to box ourselves into a corner. And I'm asking Members to listen to their constituents.

All across this country, the American citizens are opposed to these bad, flawed trade deals. This is more of the same. We must have a new trade model. We have to start thinking globally of how we're going to deal with the globalization in this world today. So I encourage my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the Peru trade deal.

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 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 Illinois (Mr. HARE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HARE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KAGEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, we've been talking the last several weeks here in Congress about the SCHIP, the State Children's Health Insurance Program. This is the SCHIP face I'd like to show America. Before I discuss with you in the next several minutes the SCHIP program, I'd like to show you the face of Kailee Meronek from Appleton. I represent her. She's not here to speak for herself, so I have the great honor and duty of speaking on her behalf. She has a younger sister who is 3 months of age, and a young mother who's earning $2.33 an hour at a restaurant. She qualifies for SCHIP. She has benefited from SCHIP; and because she is covered by this state-run program, she sees her doctor in the doctor's office and not in the emergency room. Kailee needs our help and she needs our support. She will some day have to pay for a war that is costing the American taxpayers $400 million a day. And yet we're not even paying for this war. The occupation of Iraq is being paid for by borrowed money from China that Kailee and her younger sister, Cassidy, will have to pay back some day.

The SCHIP program is a state-run program that's been very successful. We aim to reauthorize this program and expand its coverage to all children in America who are eligible. That's up to about 10.8 million to 11 million children who are the lowest income strata in the country.

The SCHIP program will focus on the working families who need the help the most. It will guarantee access to health care at the doctor's office, not at the expensive emergency room. If anyone listening thinks that SCHIP is not a good deal, you're going to spend much more money taking care of Kailee and her family at the emergency room than at the doctor.

SCHIP reduces your taxes. It cuts the cost of caring for families who are most in need.

How about the money? $3.50 a day. Kailee is not asking for that money; she deserves it.

What kind of Nation are we? What kind of Nation would turn their back on Kailee and Cassidy and their mother, Wendy? Not this America.

I want my country back. I want a country that still cares about people more than corporations. I want a country that respects its laws and obeys all of its laws, including signing statements. We don't need signing statements. We need someone in our offices in the administration who cares about people.

Kailee and her sister, Cassidy, need our help. I'm asking all Republicans, all Democrats, forget your party leadership. Forget your association with your party. Think about the people you represent, like this young girl.

We aim to cover 57,778 people in Wisconsin on the SCHIP program, and hope to expand it another 37,000. We do it in a fair way, in a way that's called pay-as-you-go, not like our occupation of Iraq. We're going to pay as we go.

I ask America tonight to put a human face on the SCHIP program. Help Kailee. Support Kailee, her sister and her family and everyone in this country who needs our help.

What kind of Nation are we? We'll find out on Thursday. America is listening.

My colleagues, Mr. Speaker, I ask you to support the SCHIP bill and override the Presidential veto.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 1945

HEALTH CARE FOR IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN WAR VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I think it's important for the President of the United States to pay attention to the over 100,000 Iraqi and Afghani veterans that are coming back to our country, U.S. citizens who have been wounded. 100,000.

This House passed a bill that increases spending in the Department of Veterans Affairs by 18 percent, the largest increase in American history, which is deserved because we have injured soldiers coming back to us who are not being treated. That bill is log jammed in the Senate. I invite the President of the United States to call over to the leadership in the Senate to say he's going to sign that bill and to move that bill this week.

Yesterday, I was out welcoming in an official ceremony the 983rd Combat Engineer Unit Heavy from the State of Ohio. It's a Reserve unit, over 1,000 soldiers who have been deployed to the theater in Iraq who came home, and this was the official welcome home ceremony to present them their warrior citizen flags and medals. It was a moving ceremony honoring their valor and their service to our country.

I had the opportunity at that ceremony to talk to Mrs. Tiffany Eckhart, the widow of Andy Eckhart, who lost his life in Iraq. And he was on his second deployment to Iraq.

She said several things to me. She said, Marcy, my husband never should have been deployed a second time because he had been injured in his first deployment. He had had a head injury, and she said, I want you to go back to Washington this week and tell the Congress and tell the Secretary of Defense and tell the President of the United States that every soldier who has been in combat in Iraq or in Afghanistan if they have had a head injury, before they are sent back again, they should be examined to make sure that there's nothing wrong, that there isn't a problem that affects their vision or in some way affects their functioning, which she claims is the reason for his death.

Now, if we are rotating people through so quickly and we aren't paying attention to the soldiers who are in

theatre, particularly the Guard and Reserve, which never get the attention that they should, shame on us. Shame on us.

The impact of these head injuries on our soldiers is serious, and with the explosions that are occurring, we are losing 80 percent of those who have lost their lives, 80 percent of our soldiers have died from IEDs, which are explosive devices, or from sniper shots to the back of the head, 80 percent. So the individual soldier is receiving these wounds largely in the head area, or if they have heard the explosive devices going off, they have had damage sometimes inside the head that you can't see. You can't see. So the Department of Defense should have a policy not to redeploy unless that soldier is reexamined.

It's almost like having shaking baby syndrome is what Mrs. Eckhart said to me, where after a baby has been damaged, unless they are really examined, sometimes you can't tell that there has been brain damage. It's no different for our soldiers. She begged me to change the policy of the Department of Defense in this regard.

In addition to that, I met so many soldiers who had come home because the unit returned in 2005, who had other symptoms that are not being treated. There is PTSD inside this particular battalion, but are doctors easily available to them? No. And are they available locally? No. If they are forced to travel somewhere because they are Reserve members, they have got to take off work. Guess what. They have to lose their pay because they have to go to get taken care of at a hospital 2, 3, 4 hours away from them. That's wrong. Those services should be provided to our soldiers when they are ill, particularly if they have something like PTSD, which demands such careful attention from a neuropsychiatrist and the distribution of medicines and the kind of therapeutic care that is important for them.

Another soldier came up to me. He had ripped cartilage and tendons in his knee. He has been home for over 1½ years. He said, Congresswoman, why didn't the DOD operate on me while I was in theater? He said, When I came home, they discharged me. He said, You know what? I came home. I am now in the Reserve. For me to get this taken care of, I will be off work for week. He said, I can't afford to do that. He said, Why didn't they tell me? Why didn't they tell me to take care of it while I was under the umbrella of the Department of Defense?

The PTSD and neurological disorders just in that unit, now that people have been home, while we were at the ceremony, several F–16 jets which are based near a school overhead, you could just see the reaction of the soldiers.

I would invite the President of the United States to urge the Senate of the United States to move that legislation so that we can move the resources we need into the Department of Veterans Affairs and take care of the veterans of this country, over 100,000 of whom have come home now who are injured.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 734, EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING WITHHOLDING OF INFORMATION RELATING TO CORRUPTION IN IRAQ

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110–382) on the resolution (H. Res. 741) providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 734) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the withholding of information relating to corruption in Iraq, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2102, FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 110–383) on the resolution (H. Res. 742) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2102) to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, let me seek unanimous consent that my colleagues will have 5 days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject matter of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MITCHELL). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

THE PRESIDENT'S VETO OF BIPARTISAN CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased once again to host the Congressional Black Caucus message hour on Monday, the first hour of the week.

In the past weeks we have talked about all kinds of issues affecting the American people and have focused on issues particularly affecting African American families. Once again, however, we are compelled to this week focus in on the State Children's Health Insurance Program, which the President chose to veto a couple weeks ago.

This week on the floor of the House we will again be debating SCHIP and the President and our effort to override that veto. I am confident that my colleagues will join me in overriding that veto because they understand the importance of children in the United States having health care.

I am joined this evening by several of my colleagues who will be speaking on this very issue. And I also want to say on behalf of the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK, who appointed me to lead this message hour, I want to thank the American public for listening in to our messages.

I am pleased at this time to yield to my colleague, my good friend, and my sister from Oakland, California, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first let me thank the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK, for her leadership and for her vision in making sure that really the conscience of America is heard on these Monday nights. And also let me thank Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES for her leadership and for her vigilance and also, as a member of the Ways and Means Committee, for her strong voice on behalf of our country's children.

I rise tonight in strong support for overriding the President's misguided veto on the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

Does the President want to relegate parents of sick children to frantic calls to 911, late night visits to emergency rooms, and tragic and preventable deaths due to undiagnosed illnesses? The Congress must say no and override his veto Thursday so that our children have access to regular checkups, preventative care, and a primary physician.

We must stand with the American people who overwhelmingly support increasing access to children's health care. We must stand with nearly every single health organization, every single children's organization in America, like the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Children's Defense Fund, Easter Seals, the March of Dimes, and countless others who support their bill because they all understand the devastating impact of being uninsured.

We must stand with the largest health insurance trade association in the country, America's Health Insurance Plans, who praised expanding the State Children's Health Insurance Program as a vital step in ensuring the health security of millions of America's children.

Sadly, I believe, like many of us believe, that the President is totally disconnected from the reality of our children's lives. He has asked Congress for another $190 billion, $190 billion, to fund his occupation of Iraq, while he has vetoed a fraction of that amount for our children. This is a shortsighted assault on our Nation's children, and we cannot stand for it.

This program is one of the most successful programs in the Nation, and it should be reauthorized and it should be expanded.

When I was a State Senator in California, I helped write the California State program called Healthy Families, and now Healthy Families provides low-cost access to health care for over 800,000 children, more than any other State. The flexibility built into SCHIP has allowed California to provide access to health, dental, and vision coverage for children. And, also, let me just say that if this doesn't get overridden, we don't know what is going to happen in California, like in other States; so this needs to continue.

Comprehensive health coverage for children is also a very vital step towards eliminating the continuing health disparities that plague minority populations, including 800,000 Asian Pacific Americans, 1.4 million African Americans, and 3.4 million Hispanics.

Providing health care coverage for our children is one of the most cost-effective investments that America can make. Children are the least costly to provide coverage for, and giving children access to adequate primary health care will create a generation of healthier, better educated and, in the end, more productive adults.

It's mind-boggling that President Bush vetoed a children's health bill. It is a shame and disgrace that our children are not his priority. So the House must stand with America's 10 million children and vote ''yes'' to override his veto on Thursday. This is the right thing to do. Voting to override the President's veto is the moral and it is the ethical vote to cast. Our children deserve nothing less.

Let me thank my colleague again from Ohio, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, for making sure that the voice of children are heard once again on this floor.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. I want to engage in a conversation with you just for a moment, Congresswoman LEE.

The cost of providing health care to children is $3.50 per child. Now, those of us who drink expensive coffee spend more than that on a cup of coffee every day. And wouldn't it just make sense? With all due respect to President Bush, but on this issue he is just totally incorrect. And all the newspapers and organizations are saying just that, that he is incorrect.

Ms. LEE. He is totally incorrect, first of all, and I think that $3.50 example explains why he's incorrect.

It is about priorities, Congresswoman TUBBS JONES. It is about where we put our tax dollars. Do we care about securing the future of our country? Do we care about our children's future? And that is what this is about. He has asked for $190 billion, as I said earlier, to continue to fund this occupation in Iraq. Well, I would think that a pittance of that money, when we know how much this would cost, would go to cover our children. And our children deserve it.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the amazing thing is he is trying to talk about this whole piece of being conservative, fiscally conservative in the dollars he is expending, but this President has put us in greater deficit than all the Presidents predating him. From George Washington on up to Bill Clinton, he has spent more money. So being fiscally conservative really doesn't make a whole lot of sense.

Ms. LEE. When the President took office, we had a surplus in our country, and now we are in a deficit spending mode. And I will tell you, it is mortgaging and making our children pay for the mistakes of this administration. So we have to dig ourselves out of this. And I think this is a first step to making sure that our children are healthy enough to move forward to be able to take over and try to help figure out how they can secure this country for America's families and children.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Thank you, Congresswoman LEE, for leadership in this area but also in the whole HIV/AIDS area. You are a beacon of light for the Congressional Black Caucus and for the Nation. So I thank you for joining me this evening, and I hope you have a great evening.

Ms. LEE. Thank you very much.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, one thing that we all know is that the Children's Health Insurance Program, the acronym which is SCHIP, State Children's Health Insurance Program, has always been a bipartisan piece of legislation. We have seen Governors from both parties across this country in strong support of the bill. Senate Republicans and Democrats have joined together on a veto-proof vote that the President has ignored. In the House we have strong bipartisan support as well.

I am pleased at this time to yield to my colleague and good friend from Brooklyn, New York, and I hate that we beat the Yankees, but my good friend from New York, YVETTE CLARKE.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for her leadership and for being here to give guidance during this hour for the CBC. And I want to thank our chairwoman, Ms. CAROLYN KILPATRICK, for seeing fit to add this particular perspective to the conversation that we are having with our Nation around the Children's Health Insurance Program in our States.

□ 2000

And, Mr. Speaker, I'm elated to stand with my colleagues today to once again voice my support, my wholehearted support for children's health insurance coverage, also known as SCHIP.

Just over a week ago, the President vetoed bipartisan legislation that would have provided 10 million American children health coverage through SCHIP. Since the beginning of my tenure here, you know I'm a freshman, in this 110th session, this is the second time the President has vetoed important health care legislation with broad bipartisan support; the other veto being an expansion of potentially life saving stem cell research.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and duty to stand with my fellow Democrats, telling this administration that this veto will not deter nor distract us from protecting the health and well-being of our children.

The people that I represent in central Brooklyn have spoken loud and clear, and so has the rest of America. Republicans and Democrats alike have expressed their dismay with the President's decision to veto this bipartisan legislation. Additionally, the country overwhelmingly supports the Children's Health Insurance Program. A recent Washington Post-ABC News poll indicates that 72 percent of the country supports the extension and reauthorization of the CHIP program. Governors of both parties across the country support the bipartisan bill.

Now, following the veto, the fight for health insurance for 10 million low-income children moves back to this body where the hard work of rebuilding and building consensus among both Democrats and Republicans has already taken place. Now, the rubber-stamp Republicans who have sided with the President and are standing between 10 million low-income children and their health care must hear from the American people. We will override the President's rejection of health coverage for 10 million children, but the voices of the American people must be heard by those in Washington.

SCHIP was created to provide health care coverage for children and families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to afford private insurance. It costs, as my colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, has already stated, less than $3 a day to cover a child through the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Ensuring kids is also cost-effective for taxpayers, who pick up the tab for indigent care in emergency rooms, the most expensive way to care for a child's health, as well because a healthy child is more likely to succeed in education and life.

Over the last 10 years, the children's health program has proven to be popular and successful, with 6 million children now enrolled in the program. The bipartisan children's health insurance bill has broad bipartisan support. It's supported by 68 Senators, including 18 Republicans; it's supported by 43 Governors, including 16 Republicans; it's supported by more than 270 organizations representing millions of Americans; and it's supported by a strong majority of the American people.

This bipartisan bill renews and improves the Children's Health Insurance Program, providing health care coverage for 10 million children, preserving coverage for 6 million children currently covered by SCHIP, and extending coverage to nearly 4 million uninsured children according to the nonpartisan CBO.

Ironically, this morning I had an opportunity, along with my colleague, NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, to attend a press conference hosted by the Working Families Party, ACORN, SCIU and Mothers in Our Community to reach out to a corporation in New York called KKR in midtown Manhattan. This is an investment firm that owns Toys-R-Us and Dollar General. These two toy retailers have already subjected America's families to massive and unprecedented recalls of millions of poisonous lead toys that have flooded the market. This is a great concern. If we don't get a commitment for a code of conduct protecting our children from lead poison, our holiday toy-buying season could mean putting the health of millions of American children at risk.

This concern is compounded by this administration's reckless disregard for our most vulnerable, our children. Just imagine the confluence of two of these things happening at the same time. Right now, parents and families, mothers are concerned about lead-tainted toys. And at the same time, when we need health care coverage that can identify lead poisoning, that can help to ameliorate some of those concerns, because, on the one hand, our safety is not being protected through the consumer protection, we need to have SCHIP in place.

Two-thirds of uninsured children are currently eligible for SCHIP or Medicaid. This bill is simply designed to give States the resources and incentives to enroll children who are eligible but not signed up for SCHIP and Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to be here to say that when we look at communities of color, in particular, black communities across this Nation, it has been this type of safety net health care that enables our communities to grow from strength to strength. These are just those American policies we need to give our families the boost they need so that when children go to school with asthma, they can be treated, they don't have to be out for days on end. When our children have hepatitis, tuberculosis, when they have any type of communicable disease, these diseases can be treated quickly before they reach the level of crisis in the emergency room.

SCHIP gives us that tool to be able to make sure that Americans are safe and secure, that their health and well-being is something that we all value as part of the American fabric of who we are.

And so I want to thank you, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, for anchoring this hour for the CBC. When we think about our communities and how critical this legislation is, not only for our communities, but for all Americans, this transcends race, ethnicity, gender. It's American children. I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to share this time with you.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. The people of Brooklyn need to know that this congresswoman has come in here, put her running shoes, we call them high-heeled sneakers, put those running shoes on and really has done a fantastic job. We're so very proud of what she's doing, the leadership she's showing; and I thank you for joining me for this message hour this evening.

Ms. CLARKE. Thank you very much.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. SCHIP, one of the best ways to deliver health care to America's children. SCHIP, one of the best ways and cost-effective ways to deliver health care.

You know, I was stunned when I heard President Bush tell the people of America, well, these children have health care already; all they have to do is go to an emergency room. I don't know how many of you had the opportunity, just very recently, to see the news show talking about how the emergency rooms in this country are overladen and overburdened by so many people coming into emergency rooms across the country.

In my efforts of obtaining earmarks over the past 4 years in my congressional district, I have sought money for improving the emergency rooms in several hospitals in my congressional district. I've been in the emergency room. I've been there, and the pictures show it, where there are people laying on gurneys in the hallways because there are not enough private spaces for them to use. There are children, seniors, people of all ages in these hospitals and using the emergency room as their primary care. Emergency rooms were created just for that, emergencies, not for the delivery of ongoing preventative care.

And the only way that we can make sure that our children are more healthy, the only way that we can ensure that children who are being educated, they have to be healthy in order to get a good lesson. That's why we started Head Start and we started lunch programs and breakfast programs at school so that children could go to school and they wouldn't be hungry. So now that we're feeding them and they go to school and they're not hungry, we ought to make sure they have health care coverage so they go to school healthy.

And I don't know how many of you there are listening, but I know you've heard the story where your granddaughter or your niece or your nephew or your child goes to a day care facility for the first time and they come home with all kinds of whooping cough or something, running noses, and it's because a lot of young children come to day care without having received any health care. It will make a real difference in the lives of a lot of people if we provide health care to our children, and particularly preventative health care.

The other reason it becomes so important is that an unhealthy child is not going to be able to pay attention in school. An unhealthy child who is not paying attention in school, is not doing well, is unlikely to do well in junior high school, unlikely to do well in high school, unlikely to make it to college. It may be the precursor to dropping out for a number of children here in the United States of America. And that is why this issue becomes so very important and vital to all of our communities.

Let me just read to you some of the things that some of the national newspapers have said about SCHIP. The Miami Herald said: ''Vote to Override the Veto of Children's Health Bill.'' ''President Bush's veto of the children's health insurance bill is like Imelda Marcos denying a barefoot child a pair of shoes.'' That makes me laugh because I think about all my girlfriends who have lots of shoes, and they're much like Imelda Marcos. ''The President complains that expanding health care coverage for low-income children will cost too much and lead to socialized medicine. Neither assertion is true. Now it's up to Congress to override this veto. We urge the Representatives who voted against the bill, most of them Republican, to reconsider. Instead of supporting the questionable priorities of a lame-duck President, they should vote to improve the health prospects of low-income children.''

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch said: ''Some People, All the Time.'' ''Caring for and protecting children is among the highest values of society, and one of its most crucial obligations. On Wednesday, President Bush vetoed a bill to renew and extend the reach of a program that provides health insurance to American children whose families can't afford it or can't get it at any price. Congress now must stand up for children's health and override the President's veto. Mr. Bush's misleading rhetoric calls to mind the warning about gullibility made by a very different Republican President, Abraham Lincoln. As Congress prepares to override the President's veto, those who voted against the SCHIP plan should take care to ensure that they're not fooled all the time.''

The Philadelphia Inquirer: ''The SCHIP Veto: Children Last.'' ''There was no convincing reason for President Bush to deliver on his long-standing threat of veto for the SCHIP bill other than that he hoped to score political points. Bush's stated reason for opposing the congressionally approved $35 billion increase in the program was that somehow it was a step towards socialized government-run medical coverage benefiting low-income families. That doesn't square with the facts, since most of the kids helped by the program are in working-class households. And it doesn't jive with the widespread support for SCHIP among the American public, not to mention the impressive number of Republicans who backed the veto measure. So it's difficult to see how the President's strategy on SCHIP puts any more children first.''

The Columbus Post-Dispatch: ''Veto Lament.'' ''President Bush's veto yesterday of the expansion of SCHIP not only leaves millions of children without health care coverage; it can leave many of Bush's fellow Republicans exposed to political attacks in next year's election. Bush said the expansion passed by Congress would cost too much. At $35 billion over 5 years, it certainly is expensive, but this investment in the health of America's children will pay big dividends. Healthy children do better in school and in life. And those who get well-child care in a doctor's office take some of the burden off the Nation's crowded emergency rooms, saving on medical costs overall. Congress' plan, which has the support of the public and backers from both sides of the aisle, would add 4 million children to the rolls.''

The Seattle Post Intelligencer: ''Children's Health: Overturn the Veto.''

It said: ''In vetoing a much-needed expansion of children's health coverage, President Bush distorted the issues, put partisanship over compassion, and defied the goodhearted will of the public.''

And finally, in terms of newspaper endorsements, Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier of Iowa: ''Bush Should Have Compromised on SCHIP Program.'' ''President Bush's veto Wednesday of a bill that could have dramatically expanded children's health insurance came as no surprise. He had promised to do so even before a compromise was hammered out in Congress. Bush's determination, in the face of bipartisan support for the bill and with polls showing the bill is favored by nearly two-thirds of Americans, is troubling.''

All of these newspapers have said pointblank that President Bush is wrong on this issue, that President Bush should not use this as a political partisan dagger, that he should move forward and allow the children of America across the board to have access to health care coverage.

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The other reason this bill becomes so very important is because a lot of employers no longer are providing health care coverage for their employees. A number of employees can't afford the health care coverage that employers provide. So it is particularly important for these young children to have access to well care, as well.

Let me tell you what Senator CHARLES GRASSLEY, Republican, said, ''The President's understanding of our bill is wrong. I urge him is to reconsider his veto message.'' Senator ORRIN HATCH, another Republican, said, ''We are talking about kids who basically don't have coverage. I think the President had some pretty bad advice on this.'' I want to echo that. I think whoever is advising President Bush on this issue is doing a detriment to the President as well as a detriment to the people of America. Senator SUSAN COLLINS, a Republican, has said, ''I can't believe the President would veto a program that benefits low-income children.'' I couldn't believe it either, Senator COLLINS. He should not have vetoed it. But he did. So our job, as Members of Congress, is to override this veto on Thursday of this week.

Today, 50 million Americans have no health insurance. That includes more than 8 million children. Eight out of the 10 uninsured Americans either work or are in working families. Jesse Jackson, when he was running for President, Rev. Jackson, used to use the term the ''working poor.'' They get up every morning. They go to work. They work 40, 50 hours a week. They come home every evening. The kind of money that they are receiving, even with the increase in minimum wage, still puts them below or within 200, 250 percent of poverty. So not only do we have poor people who are with no income or low income, we have working poor who need health care coverage.

My colleague, BARBARA LEE, spoke to earlier the whole issue of disparity in health care. The studies say that an African American male and a Caucasian male can have the same health care coverage but that the delivery of that health care to the African American male is less than the delivery to the Caucasian male. There are all kinds of disparities in what is going on in health care in our Nation, and this is one of the ways that we can level the playing field. We can get rid of some of the disparities within our support of SCHIP.

Being uninsured means going without needed care. It means minor illnesses become major ones because care is delayed. Tragically, it also means that one significant medical expense can wipe out a family's life savings. Right now, everybody is talking about the problem with the mortgage industry, and one of the reasons there are a significant number of foreclosures and bankruptcies is because there are families who have had to pay for health care coverage, and as a result of being required to pay for health care coverage, they are losing their houses. That should not be happening. There are millions of working uninsured Americans who go to bed every night worrying what will happen to them and their families if a major illness or injury strikes.

In Ohio, my home State, there are currently 1,362,000 uninsured. It is an increase of 18,000 people since 2003. We have also seen this drain on many of the local hospitals in my district when people are forced to use emergency rooms. The problem is getting worse. As the price of health care continues to rise, fewer individuals and families can afford to pay for coverage. Fewer small businesses are able to provide coverage for their employees, and those that do are struggling to hold on to the coverage.

It is a problem that affects all of us. We cannot sit idly by while the people of this country continue to go without health care coverage. We must continue to push. And today is Monday. On Thursday, this House will vote to override the veto of SCHIP. Those of you who are listening across this country, if you have not contacted your Member of Congress, if you have not contacted your Senator and said to them that they need to vote to override this veto, I encourage you to fax, call, e-mail, stop by the office, whatever you need to do so that we can advocate on behalf of our people. This will be an opportunity this week for the people of America to stand up and say to this President that health care is a priority for us. But more importantly, health care coverage for our children is our highest priority.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to work on the Health Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee. I wanted to get on that committee because that is an opportunity for me to be engaged in long-term policy development of health care in this country. In my congressional district, the largest employers are the health care industry. We have a large number of hospitals. I want to work to assure the people of the 11th Congressional District that they are going to have access to health care. I want to work to assure that people of America, black, white, brown, yellow, that we are working in order to make sure that they have health care coverage.

It has been a privilege to serve on the Health Subcommittee with my good colleague, PETE STARK, from California and a privilege to serve on the Ways and Means Committee under the leadership of CHARLES RANGEL. I have the privilege of leading this Special Order, this message on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus and our leader CAROLYN CHEEKS KILPATRICK. It is so very, very important that we continue, the Congressional Black Caucus continues to lead on these issues. I am pleased to have the opportunity to lead this message hour in and around SCHIP this week.

Again, everyone needs to pay attention to this issue and pull out all the stops and say to President Bush that we are going to override your veto. We understand that you have chosen to go down the wrong path, that you are reaching out to the wrong people and supporting the wrong people. And you are overlooking the most important group of people in our country, and that is our children.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my dear friend, Ms. TUBBS JONES of Ohio, for organizing this special order on the very important subject of SCHIP Reauthorization. I have very serious concerns about the compromised SCHIP legislation that will come before this House later this week. My major concern is that the version of the legislation that will come before the House in response to the President's veto will be even less expansive than the version the House voted on previously.

This is extremely important because reauthorization of SCHIP is crucial to closing the

racial and ethnic health disparities in this country. Narrowing health care coverage of our children, as this newly agreed upon version does, clearly falls far short of the goal that we had hoped for in our efforts to decrease health disparities. It is crucial that this Congress continue to bring awareness to the many health concerns facing minority communities and to acknowledge that we need to find solutions to address these concerns. My colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus and I understand the very difficult challenges facing us in the form of huge health disparities among our community and other minority communities. We will continue to seek solutions to those challenges.

Reauthorization of the SCHIP is crucial to realizing those solutions. However, we must not compromise away the health of millions of children who will under this new SCHIP version go without health care coverage. It is imperative for us to improve the prospects for living long and healthy lives and fostering an ethic of wellness in African-American and other minority communities. I thank all of my CBC colleagues who have been toiling in the vineyards for years developing effective public policies and securing the resources needed to eradicate racial and gender disparities in health and wellness.

We know that the lack of healthcare contributes greatly to the racial and ethnic health disparities in this country, so we must provide our children with the health insurance coverage to remain healthy. SCHIP, established in 1997 to serve as the healthcare safety net for low-income uninsured children, has decreased the number of uninsured low-income children in the United States by more than one-third. The reduction in the number of uninsured children is even more striking for minority children.

In 2006, SCHIP provided insurance to 6.7 million children. Of these, 6.2 million were in families whose income was less than $33,200 a year for a family of three. SCHIP works in conjunction with the Medicaid safety net that serves the lowest income children and ones with disabilities. Together, these programs provide necessary preventative, primary and acute healthcare services to more than 30 million children. Eighty-six percent of these children are in working families that are unable to obtain or afford private health insurance. Meanwhile, health care through SCHIP is cost effective: it costs a mere $3.34 a day or $100 a month to cover a child under SCHIP, according to the Congressional Budget Office. There are significant benefits of the State Children's Health Insurance Program when looking at specific populations served by this program.

MINORITY CHILDREN

SCHIP has had a dramatic effect in reducing the number of uninsured minority children and providing them access to care:

Between 1996 and 2005, the percentage of low-income African American and Hispanic children without insurance decreased substantially.

In 1998, roughly 30 percent of Latino children, 20 percent of African American children, and 18 percent of Asian American and Pacific Islander children were uninsured. After enactment, those numbers had dropped by 2004 to about 12 percent, and 8 percent, respectively.

Half of all African American and Hispanic children are already covered by SCHIP or Medicaid.

More than 80 percent of uninsured African American children and 70 percent of uninsured Hispanic children are eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid and SCHIP, so reauthorizing and increasing support for SCHIP will be crucial to insuring this population.

Prior to enrolling in SCHIP, African American and Hispanic children were much less likely than non-Hispanic White children to have a usual source of care. After they enrolled in SCHIP, these racial and ethnic disparities largely disappeared. In addition, SCHIP eliminated racial and ethnic disparities in unmet medical needs for African American and Hispanic children, putting them on par with White children. SCHIP is also important to children living in urban areas of the country. In urban areas: One in four children has healthcare coverage through SCHIP. More than half of all children whose family income is $32,180 received healthcare coverage through SCHIP.

TEXAS CHILDREN

The reauthorization of SCHIP is crucial for children in Texas. Texas has the highest rate of uninsured children in the nation, and Houston/Harris County the highest in the state. The SCHIP would go a long way to provide coverage for the 585,500 children enrolled in Texas's CHIP program; and to reach the 998,000 children in families with incomes under the 200 percent Federal Poverty Level (FPL) who remain uninsured.

Almost 40 percent of young children in Houston lack immunizations that help prevent deadly childhood illnesses like measles, mumps, pneumococcal disease and whooping cough. I applaud the efforts of the Houston Department of Health and Human Services (HHDHS), the Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services (HCPHES), the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Texas Children's Hospital, the Rotary Club of Houston, and the national organization Every Child By Two (ECBT) who have created a new partnership and campaign, ''Immunize On Time, Every Time'' to increase vaccination rates among Houston's infants and toddlers. To sustain programs such as these, we need to provide our children with the health insurance coverage they so desperately need and deserve.

According to the Immunization Bureau, Houston Department of Health and Human Services, Houston's childhood immunization rates are below average for both Texas and the country, leaving our children—and our wider community—vulnerable to potentially life-threatening illnesses.

In Texas, the SCHIP bill is the only hope for securing health care and increasing the quality of all aspects of health care for our children. Far too often in Texas, those who lack health care coverage frequently delay seeking medical care until they are seriously ill. That fact does nothing more than exacerbate the health care problem because it leads to the overload of emergency rooms which are required by law to treat them even if the patient has no ability to pay. Since emergency care is far more expensive than a scheduled visit to a doctor or clinic, hospitals end up with large costs that they, in turn, pass on to insured patients using their overtaxed facilities. As a result, insurance companies raise their rates even higher to cover the increased payouts, making their policies too expensive for more working families. The result is a health care system spiraling out of control and more children left unprotected and in poor health. Reauthorization of SCHIP would reverse this trend.

CHILDREN IN URBAN AREAS

SCHIP is also important to children living in urban areas of the country. In urban areas: One in four children has healthcare coverage through SCHIP. More than half of all children whose family income is $32,180 received healthcare coverage through SCHIP.

CHILDREN IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

SCHIP is significantly important to children living in our country's rural areas. In rural areas: One in three children has health care coverage through SCHIP or more than half of all children whose family income is under $32,180 received healthcare coverage through Medicaid or SCHIP. Seventeen percent of children continue to be of the 50 counties with the highest rates of uninsured children, 44 are rural counties, with many located in the most remote and isolated parts of the country. Because the goal is to reduce the number of uninsured children, reauthorizing and increasing support for SCHIP will be crucial to helping the uninsured in these counties and reducing the 17 percent of uninsured.

Mr, Speaker, I would much rather have extended the deadline for reauthorization of SCHIP, while we diligently and reasonably consider the unsettled issues in this debate so that millions of the most vulnerable population, including many African American and other minority children can receive the health care coverage they need to remain healthy and develop into productive citizens of this great country. It is not as important to reauthorize an inferior bill under pressure of fast-approaching deadlines, as it is to ensure that we provide health care to those children who remain vulnerable to health disparities. I urge my colleagues to join me in ensuring health care coverage for millions of children and reducing health disparities among the most vulnerable populations.

I will continue to fight vigorously to ensure that we provide health coverage for millions of this nation's uninsured children. As leaders of this great nation, we have no other choice. The health of our children should not be compromised while we spend billions of dollars in other countries in the name of ensuring the health and safety of our international neighbors. While it is honorable to love thy neighbor as thyself, charity must certainly begin at home.

There is no reason why this country should continue down a dreadfully deleterious road of denying healthcare to any citizen of this country who needs it. Many of the health conditions, such as diabetes, obesity, kidney failure, cancer, hypertension and HIV/AIDS, the prevalence of which plagues minority communities most, could be curtailed or even prevented if everyone had access to health insurance. I will continue to fight hard for the most effective policy measures that aim to narrow the racial health disparity gap.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have been granted this message hour, and I am very pleased to yield back my time early so that the next Special Order can begin.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 106, THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much that recognition, and I appreciate the Republican leader giving me this opportunity tonight to participate in our Special Order.

I am here tonight to talk about something that happened last week in the Foreign Relations Committee and to talk about something that is proposed to happen here in the House between now and the middle of November when we are supposed to be taking a break for Thanksgiving. I am here to talk about House Resolution 106, the Armenian genocide resolution. I am, as I have said before here many times, an extremely proud Member of the House of Representatives. I am so pleased to be able to represent the people of the Fifth District of North Carolina. However, when I came here, I took an oath, an oath to defend the Constitution and uphold the Constitution. I did not take an oath to say that I would ignore the good of the United States for the good of the Fifth District of North Carolina.

I thought that everyone who came here understood that our Number 1 responsibility is to work together as a group on behalf of the entire United States of America. Certainly we should do all we can to represent our districts, and I believe that every Member does that. But there are times when we must put aside provincial interest for the good of this country.

I am very disappointed that last week the Foreign Relations Committee voted out of that committee a resolution that I think puts the good of the United States in second place to the good of a small interest group. We should never do that as Members of Congress. We should assume that the oath that we take is like the doctor's oath, above all, do no harm. The resolution that was passed out of that committee last week does harm to the United States of America and does harm to people in Turkey and in other parts of the world. That is not what we should be about. The action that was taken last week and the proposed action for a vote on the floor by the entire House has been called by many others the most irresponsible act of this Congress. I agree with that.

I am particularly concerned that the Speaker of the House is the person pushing this resolution. She is third in line to be President of the United States. And exhibiting behavior that shows such provincial interest does not give me great comfort in thinking that if something were to happen and the Speaker were to assume the Presidency, that she would have the presence of mind to do what needs to be done for the good of this country. It is simply not being exhibited by her behaviors, by pressing this resolution and by other things that she has done. I am quite concerned about it.

Many people have written this Speaker, many editorials have been written saying, don't do this. This will do harm to the United States. This will do harm to Armenians. This is not the right thing to do.

I want to talk a little bit about the history of Turkey, our relationship with Turkey, and give a little bit of background to people who may not be so familiar with Turkey as a country and with what has happened there and talk about why, again, this resolution is so wrong not just at this time, but at any time in the history of this country. The Republic of Turkey was formally established on October 29, 1923, with the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. He was the visionary leader of modern Turkey and became its first president. You see, Turkey wasn't even a country in 1915 at the time that the events that are being discussed in House Resolution 106 are talked about. The fall of the Ottoman Empire was occurring during that period of time. And so bringing these charges against Turkey is wrong because Turkey didn't exist as a country.

Turkey is the only secular pluralistic westward-looking democracy with a predominantly Muslim population. I have been to Turkey. I have been to Turkey several times. I have gotten to know the Turkish people and know them for the wonderfully warm, kind, intelligent and entrepreneurial people that they are. We are so fortunate to have them as our ally. Turkey has a significant and constructive physical and influential reach in the Balkans, the Middle East, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The United States and Turkey share common values of democracy, diversity, tolerance, social mobility, the separation of religious and civic life.

Anatolia, the home of the Republic of Turkey, has been the cradle of civilizations for millennia. The city-states of the Lycian Federation located in Patara, Turkey, inspired the Founding Fathers of the United States as they wrote the Constitution of the United States. Indeed, there is a figure of Suleyman here in the House Chamber. We recognize Suleyman as one of the great lawgivers of the world.

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Again, the United States and Turkey have been close friends and allies for more than half a century. Turkish Americans are leaders in many walks of life, ranging from the arts, science, academia and business, and have a proud heritage. Turkish Americans are good-will ambassadors of the friendship between the United States and Turkey. In celebrating their rich cultural heritage, Turkish Americans enrich society in the United States and the United States' understanding of that part of the world.

Mr. Speaker, Turkey is becoming a reliable energy hub for the Western world, in a highly volatile region, completing the East-West Energy Corridor. For decades, Turkey has stood as the bulwark of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, on the southeastern flank of the alliance, and guarded a long common border with the Soviet Union.

Turkey has become an important partner of the United States in facing new, major challenges, such as international terrorism, ethnic and religious extremism and fundamentalism, energy and security and diversity, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and international organized crime, including drug and human trafficking. This has been especially true since the Cold War ended.

In July, 2006, the United States and Turkey signed a ''shared vision document'' outlining a strategic vision for bilateral cooperation and coordination on a wide range of international matters of common concern. In 2006, and so far in 2007, Turkey has been the 30th largest market for United States exports and the 44th largest source of imports.

Mr. Speaker, Turkey continues to play an important role in Afghanistan, having twice commanded the International Security Assistance Force, and maintains a provincial reconstruction team in Afghanistan which builds hospitals, schools and roads. It plays a crucial role in helping supply services and equipment to United States forces in Iraq.

Turkey, again, has had an extraordinarily proud history and has been a very close collaborator with the United States in doing good things all over the world, but especially in its part of the world. We as Americans need to recognize the important role that Turkey has played, again, from the early millennium, and the importance that it plays in keeping peace in that part of the world.

I had the opportunity to go to Turkey in May of this year, along with five other Members of Congress. There were three Democrats and three Republicans. We visited the Armenian Patriarch and we visited the Jewish community while we were there. We visited all the major players in the Turkish government while we were there.

Turkey this year has gone through some challenges to its constitution. It has worked out those challenges. It has held elections. It has gone through some crises and handled them extremely well. We are very proud of the way that all of those things have been handled.

When we talked with people in Turkey, we heard over and over and over again how devastating this resolution would be to our relationship with the Turkish people. We heard from the Armenians in Turkey that this was a mistake. They told us over and over again that this is something people in the United States are pushing, that Armenians in the United States are pushing. They said ''We do not want this done.

We are working out our differences here in Turkey, and working them out very well. Please do not pass this resolution.''

My three Democratic colleagues who went on that trip are all opposed to this resolution. The Republicans are opposed to it. This is a mistake. The Speaker should not be pandering to people in her own district and risking the friendship that we have with Turkey, and indeed risking our military endeavors in the Middle East. But that is what she's doing.

Again, I want to say that many people have called this the most irresponsible act of this Congress. I think that that is appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, let me share with you some other people who have expressed their interest and concern and opposition to this resolution. Eight former Secretaries of State, Democrats and Republicans, sent a letter to Speaker PELOSI. I want to quote from that letter, dated September 25, 2007:

''We are writing to express concern that H. Res. 106 could soon be put to a vote. Passage of the resolution would harm our foreign policy objectives to promote reconciliation between Turkey and Armenia. It would also strain our relations with Turkey and would endanger our national security interests in the region, including the safety of our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

''We do not minimize or deny the enormous significance of the horrible tragedy suffered by ethnic Armenians from 1915 to 1923. During our tenures as Secretaries of State, we each supported Presidential Statements recognizing the mass killings and forced exile of Armenians. It has been longstanding U.S. policy to encourage reconciliation between Turkey and Armenia and to urge the government of Turkey to acknowledge the tragedy. We understand the administration continues to urge the Turkish government to re-examine its history and to encourage both Turkey and Armenia to work towards reconciliation, including normalizing relations and opening the border.

''There are some hopeful signs already that both parties are engaging each other. We believe that a public statement by the U.S. Congress at this juncture is likely to undermine what has been painstakingly achieved to date.''

They go on to say: ''We must also recognize the important contributions Turkey is making to U.S. national security, including security and stability in the Middle East and Europe. The United States continues to rely on Turkey for its geostrategic importance. Turkey is an indispensable partner to our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, helping U.S. troops to combat terrorism and build security. By providing the U.S. military with access to Turkish airspace, military bases and the border crossing with Iraq, Turkey is a linchpin in the trans-shipment of vital cargo and fuel resources to U.S. troops, coalition partners and Iraqi civilians.

''Turkish troops serve shoulder to shoulder with distinction with U.S. and other NATO allies in the Balkans. Turkey is also a transit hub for non-OPEC oil and gas, and remains key to our efforts to help the Euro-Atlantic community bolster its energy security by providing alternative supply sources and routes around Russia and Iran.

''It is our view that passage of this resolution could quickly extend beyond symbolic significance. The popularly-elected Turkish Grand National Assembly might react strongly to a House resolution, as it did to a French National Assembly resolution a year ago. The result could endanger our national security interests in the region, including our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, and damage efforts to promote reconciliation between Armenia and Turkey. We strongly urge you to prevent the resolution from reaching the House floor.''

It is signed by eight former Secretaries of State, and I will submit this for the record with their signatures.

There is another letter sent to the Speaker of the House by three former Secretaries of Defense dated September 7, 2007.

''We write today to convey our deep concern regarding the damage that passage of H. Res. 106 could do to relations between the United States and Turkey, a long-time NATO ally and a country which plays a critical role in supporting the U.S. national security interests in the Balkans, greater Middle East, the Black Sea region and Afghanistan.

''The depth and breadth of our defense and security relationship with Turkey are considerable, and, as former Secretaries of Defense, we value Turkey's friendship and partnership. Turkey makes numerous and substantial contributions to U.S. goals and interests abroad, including its close relationship with Israel, its deployment of military forces to the Balkans and its contribution to the NATO effort to defeat terrorism and support democracy in Afghanistan.

''Just as public opinion plays a crucial role in our own country, the reaction of the Turkish public to the passage of H. Res. 106 would be considerable. Passage of H. Res. 106 would have a direct detrimental effect on the operational capability, safety and well-being of our armed forces in Iraq and in Afghanistan, because the Turkish parliament would likely respond to the Turkish public's call for action by restricting or cutting off U.S. access to the Turkish air base at Incirlik and closing the crossing into Iraq at the Habur Gate. The Turkish parliament would also likely retract blanket flight clearances for U.S. military overflights, which are vital to transporting supplies and fuel to our troops.

''We also believe the increasingly open debate about this issue in Turkey would surely be restricted by negative public reaction to U.S. congressional action. We are also concerned that any potential steps toward better relations between Turkey and Armenia will be set back by any action in the U.S. Congress.

''In stating our opposition to H. Res. 106, we do not suggest that anything other than the most terrible of tragedies took place as the Ottoman Empire disintegrated in the early part of the last century. As President Bush and other presidents before him have done, we recognize the need to acknowledge and learn from the tragedy.

''We respect that this issue is of great concern to you, and hope that you can consider other appropriate ways to highlight, commemorate and honor the memory of the victims, without doing damage to our contemporary relations with modern Turkey.''

Again, I will submit this letter for the RECORD.

Editorials have come out in most of the major newspapers, newspapers that are not generally opposed to the Speaker. The Washington Post editorial was titled ''Worse Than Irrelevant.''

''A congressional resolution about massacres in Turkey 90 years ago endangers present day U.S. security. It is easy to dismiss a nonbinding congressional resolution accusing Turkey of ''genocide'' against Armenians during World War I as frivolous,'' and ''genocide'' is in quotations. ''Though the subject is a serious one, more than 1 million Armenians died, House Democrats pushing for a declaration on the subject have petty and parochial interests.

''The problem is that any congressional action will be taken in deadly earnest by Turkey's powerful nationalist politicians, and therefore its government, which is already struggling to resist a tidal wave of anti-Americanism in the country.''

I am going to submit this entire editorial also, because it refers again to some of the letters that I have already read. But the Washington Post has said this is worse than irrelevant, because it will do harm. Again, what we should practice here is the same thing that doctors practice: Above all else, do no harm.

There is an excerpt from an editorial in the Wall Street Journal, October 2, 2007. ''History is messy enough without politicians getting into the act. As a general rule, legislatures in far-off countries ought to think carefully before passing judgment on another people's history. When their sights turn in that direction, it is a fair bet that points are to be scored with powerful domestic lobbies. Playing with history often complicates the implementation of foreign policy goals as well. Politicians are paid to think about the future, not the past. Many would say, why are we doing this? Why should the Congress not be dealing with the future, instead of the past?''

I question that too, and I am going to come back to that in a minute in terms

of what may be one of the real underlying reasons for all of these things coming out.

□ 2045

Some have said that Congress rarely holds the key to America's foreign relations with a critical ally. But now with Turkey, the only Muslim country in the world allied with the United States and NATO, the future of Turkish-American relations are very much in the hands of the Congress.

This is from a survey conducted by Terror Free Tomorrow, an organization that did a survey in Turkey earlier this year. It was the first nationwide public survey of Turkey on the issue and what the survey found was that it would actually set back the cause it purports to achieve, namely Turkey's recognition of its own past and reconciliation with Armenia today.

I have a chart on this showing 78 percent of the Turkish people who were surveyed opposed this resolution, any congressional resolution dealing with the Armenian situation. Almost three-quarters of them felt that passage of an Armenian regulation resolution would worsen their opinion of the United States. Only 7 percent favored no action by the government or favored such a resolution. And three-quarters of Turks, though, would accept scholarship by independent historians on what occurred between Turks and Armenians during 1915.

Also, Turks do not consider the U.S. Congress a neutral judge of this issue. Instead, they see the resolution as driven by anti-Muslim feelings and American domestic politics. And 73 percent of Turks think a resolution will have the opposite effect and actually worsen relations between Turkey and Armenia. Again, this was a poll done in January and February of this year by Terror Free Tomorrow and the ARI Foundation. These are groups that wanted to study this issue to gather information to help people be informed of what the effect would be. The survey was done all over the country of Turkey, and the views that were held were held firmly regardless of age, income, education, or even their present view of the United States.

And 84 percent of those who now have a very favorable opinion of the United States responded that their opinion would deteriorate if the resolution were to pass. And of course the resolution has passed in the committee and the Speaker has said that she will bring it to the floor for a vote which most people in Turkey believe would be a terrible, terrible mistake.

Turkey again is a stable, moderate Muslim democracy. It is our most strategic and valuable Muslim ally. This resolution would help the cause of those extremists in Turkey who wish to reduce the nation's ties with the United States. It would discredit those within Turkey who continue to call for greater openness and plurality.

The Turkish people who answered the survey felt that it would alienate the Armenians and the Turks who through fits and starts have been slowly moving toward reconciliation of this important and divisive historical question. It could scuttle dialogue to establish a joint commission to examine the events of 1915.

Turkey is a country of considerable nationalism. The passage of this resolution would likely produce a nationalistic backlash against the United States. The whole issue of probing and making amends for the wrongs of history would be completely lost in this onslaught of Turkish nationalism. It would probably dramatically and perhaps permanently damage U.S. relations with Turkey.

As the Turkish community of Turkey recently said in a statement: ''What happened to the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire during World War I—death, destruction, displacement—was a terrible tragedy, but eminent historians do not agree whether the term 'genocide' is the appropriate description of that tragedy.'' I certainly agree with that.

In another article by the Washington Post it said: ''It is true that Turkey's military and political class has been slow to come to terms with the history and virulent nationalism, but Turkish writers and intellectuals are pushing for a change in attitude and formal and informal talks between Turks and Armenians are making slow progress. A resolution by Congress would probably torpedo rather than help such efforts. Given that reality and the high risk to vital U.S. security interests, the Armenian resolution cannot be called frivolous. In fact, its passage would be dangerous and grossly irresponsible.''

Now I want to go to a piece that has been written that I certainly hope is not true. Jed Babbin, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense in President George H.W. Bush's administration, has written in Human Events magazine: ''According to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, Incirlik Air Base near Adana, Turkey, is the transshipment point for about 70 percent of all air cargo, including 33 percent of the fuel going to supply U.S. forces in Iraq. Included are about 95 percent of the new MRAP, mine-resistant ambush protected vehicles, designed to save the lives of American troops.

''Turkey's Erdogan government has indicated that if the House of Representatives takes action on a nonbinding resolution being pushed by Speaker PELOSI, Turkey might revoke our ability to use Incirlik as a waypoint for Iraq supplies.''

And Mr. BOEHNER has said if the Turks cut off our ability to use Incirlik, there is no question this could jeopardize our troops on the ground in Iraq. And, frankly, if this is just the latest in the Democrat string of backdoor attempts to force a retreat against the war against al Qaeda, it is certainly the most dangerous.''

Mr. Babbin comes to a chilling conclusion in his analysis of the resolution and its impact on our Nation's relations with the nation of Turkey. This is what gives me great pause. He writes: ''Speaker PELOSI is apparently so intent on forcing an end to American involvement in Iraq that she is willing to interfere in our tenuous friendship with Turkey. When she does, it will be an historic event. The House of Representatives will be responsible for alienating a key ally in time of war and possibly interdicting supplies to U.S. troops.'' If his prediction proves true, it will be a low point for the history of this noble body.

I hope that what Mr. Babbin is saying is not true. I hope that this is not an attempt by the Speaker to sabotage our efforts in Iraq and in Afghanistan because it puts our troops in harm's way and we have been hearing over and over again that this is not what she wants or that others in the majority want. But it would have the effect of doing that. We as Members of Congress should never take a position that would in any way put our troops in harm's way.

I am urging the Speaker to rethink her statements that she will put this resolution, H. Res. 106, on the floor for a vote. It is a nonbinding resolution. It will go nowhere else. People outside here don't understand how these resolutions work, but it would not go to the Senate to be passed. It would not go to the President to be vetoed as I feel certain the President would veto if it went there. It is a resolution only from the House of Representatives. This is a body that is capable of doing so much good, but we also have the capability of doing harm. We should practice again what physicians take an oath to do: Above all, do no harm.

I urge the Speaker: rethink your commitment to put H. Res. 106 on the floor for a vote. Realize the significant responsibility that has been given to you not just as a Member of the House of Representatives but as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, an extraordinarily great honor, the first woman in this country to be named Speaker of the House.

What message are we sending to our troops if we pass such a resolution or even consider such a resolution that puts our troops in harm's way, damages our relationship with a country that has been such a wonderful ally to us and does damage to our relationship for a long, long time to a government that has been working very hard to do the right things, to promote democracy in the Middle East, to shore up other countries that are working to promote democracy. What messages are those going to send to other people.

I urge the Speaker to rethink her commitment to put this resolution on the floor. I urge the Speaker to get above petty and parochial interests, to think about the tremendous responsibility she bears as the Speaker of the House.

We are not often involved in foreign relations on the scale that we are being

asked to be involved in the House at this time. It is an awesome responsibility. We all should remember that we have taken an oath to defend the Constitution and to defend this country. Bringing such a resolution to the floor will do damage to our country, to our relationship with a valued ally, and I believe ultimately will do harm to our efforts to bring peace and stability to the Middle East.

I urge the Speaker to rise above again petty parochialism, come to the realization that this is an extremely serious matter that needs to be dealt with in a very different way than it has been dealt with thus far, and reject petty parochialism in favor of looking to the larger issue, looking to the future, not to the past, and helping the Armenians and the Turks come to grips with this difference of opinion that they have, resolve it within their own country, keep the United States looking for those things that are important to the United States, not getting involved with the internal affairs of other countries and promoting peace and stability in the Middle East.

□ 2100

Let us let the 110th Congress not be thought of as passing the most irresponsible resolution that could be passed in this session of Congress. Let us focus on positive things, things that will move this country forward and not things that will do harm to this country, to other countries and, most of all, not to our troops serving overseas, protecting us so we can be here to practice the free speech that they make possible for us.

I will insert the material I previously referred to in the RECORD at this point.

TCA ISSUE PAPER 25

October 1, 2007, Former Secretaries of State and Defense Object to H. Res. 106

The following letters have been sent to the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, by former U.S. Secretaries of State and former U.S. Secretaries of Defense voicing their objection to House Resolution 106, which asks for U.S. recognition of Armenian allegations of genocide.

LETTER BY SECRETARIES OF STATE TO SPEAKER PELOSI

SEPTEMBER 25, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: We are writing to express concern that H. Res. 106 could soon be put to a vote. Passage of the resolution would harm our foreign policy objectives to promote reconciliation between Turkey and Armenia. It would also strain our relations with Turkey, and would endanger our national security interests in the region, including the safety of our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We do not minimize or deny the enormous significance of the horrible tragedy suffered by ethnic Armenians from 1915 to 1923. During our tenures as Secretaries of State, we each supported Presidential statements recognizing the mass killings and forced exile of Armenians. It has been longstanding U.S. policy to encourage reconciliation between Turkey and Armenia and to urge the government of Turkey to acknowledge the tragedy. We understand the Administration continues to urge the Turkish government to reexamine its history and to encourage both Turkey and Armenia to work towards reconciliation, including normalizing relations and opening the border. There are some hopeful signs already that both parties are engaging each other. We believe that a public statement by the U.S. Congress at this juncture is likely to undermine what has been painstakingly achieved to date.

We must also recognize the important contributions Turkey is making to U.S. national security, including security and stability in the Middle East and Europe. The United States continues to rely on Turkey for its geo-strategic importance. Turkey is an indispensable partner to our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, helping U.S. troops to combat terrorism and build security. By providing the U.S. military with access to Turkish airspace, military bases, and the border crossing with Iraq, Turkey is a linchpin in the transshipment of vital cargo and fuel resources to U.S. troops, coalition partners, and Iraqi civilians. Turkish troops serve shoulder-to-shoulder with distinction with U.S. and other NATO allies in the Balkans. Turkey is also a transit hub for non-OPEC oil and gas and remains key to our efforts to help the Euro-Atlantic community bolster its energy security by providing alternative supply sources and routes around Russia and Iran.

It is our view that passage of this resolution could quickly extend beyond symbolic significance. The popularly elected Turkish Grand National Assembly might react strongly to a House resolution, as it did to a French National Assembly resolution a year ago. The result could endanger our national security interests in the region, including our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, and damage efforts to promote reconciliation between Armenia and Turkey. We strongly urge you to prevent the resolution from reaching the House floor.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Haig, Jr., George P. Shultz, Lawrence S. Eagleburger, Madeleine K. Albright, Henry A. Kissinger, James A. Baker III, Warren Christopher, Colin L. Powell.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 10, 2007]

WORSE THAN IRRELEVANT: A CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION ABOUT MASSACRES IN TURKEY 90 YEARS AGO ENDANGERS PRESENT-DAY U.S. SECURITY.

It's easy to dismiss a nonbinding congressional resolution accusing Turkey of ''genocide'' against Armenians during World War I as frivolous. Though the subject is a serious one—more than 1 million Armenians may have died at the hands of the Young Turk regime between 1915 and the early 1920s—House Democrats pushing for a declaration on the subject have petty and parochial interests. Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-Calif.), the chief sponsor, says he has more than 70,000 ethnic Armenians in his Los Angeles district. Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), who has promised to bring the measure to a vote on the House floor, has important Armenian American campaign contributors. How many House members can be expected to carefully weigh Mr. Schiff's one-sided ''findings'' about long-ago events in Anatolia?

The problem is that any congressional action will be taken in deadly earnest by Turkey's powerful nationalist politicians and therefore by its government, which is already struggling to resist a tidal wave of anti-Americanism in the country. Turkey's prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, called President Bush on Friday to warn against the resolution. Turkish politicians are predicting that responses to passage by the House could include denial of U.S. access to Turkey's Incirlik air base, a key staging point for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Turkish parliament could also throw off longstanding U.S. constraints and mandate an invasion of northern Iraq to attack Kurdish separatists there, something that could destabilize the only region of Iraq that is currently peaceful.

No wonder eight former secretaries of state, including Henry A. Kissinger, James A. Baker III, George P. Shultz and Madeleine K. Albright, have urged Ms. Pelosi to drop the resolution, saying it ''could endanger our national security interests in the region, including our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, and damage efforts to promote reconciliation between Armenia and Turkey.'' Yet the measure is proceeding: It is due to be voted on today by the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Supporters say congressional action is justified by the refusal of the Turkish government to accept the truth of the crimes against Armenians, and its criminalization of statements describing those events as genocide. It's true that Turkey's military and political class has been inexcusably slow to come to terms with that history, and virulent nationalism—not Islamism—may be the country's most dangerous political force. But Turkish writers and intellectuals are pushing for a change in attitude, and formal and informal talks between Turks and Armenians are making slow progress. A resolution by Congress would probably torpedo rather than help such efforts. Given that reality, and the high risk to vital U.S. security interests, the Armenian genocide resolution cannot be called frivolous. In fact, its passage would be dangerous and grossly irresponsible.

LETTER BY SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE TO SPEAKER PELOSI

SEPTEMBER 7, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: We write today to convey our deep concern regarding the damage that passage of H. Res. 106 could do to relations between the United States and Turkey, a long-time NATO ally and a country which plays a critical role in supporting U.S. national security interests in the Balkans, greater Middle East, the Black Sea region and Afghanistan. The depth and breadth of our defense and security relationship with Turkey are considerable, and, as former Secretaries of Defense, we value Turkey's friendship and partnership.

Turkey makes numerous and substantial contributions to U.S. goals and interests abroad, including its close relationship with Israel, its deployment of military forces to the Balkans and its contribution to the NATO effort to defeat terrorism and support democracy in Afghanistan.

Just as public opinion plays a crucial role in our own country, the reaction of the Turkish public to the passage of H. Res. 106 would be considerable. Passage of H. Res. 106 would have a direct, detrimental effect on the operational capabilities, safety and well being of our armed forces in Iraq and in Afghanistan because the Turkish parliament would likely respond to the Turkish public's call for action by restricting or cutting off U.S. access to the Turkish air base at Incirlik and closing the crossing into Iraq at the Habur Gate. The Turkish parliament would also likely retract blanket flight clearances for U.S. military overflights, which are vital to transporting supplies and fuel to our troops. We also believe the increasingly open debate about this issue In

Turkey would surely be restricted by a negative public reaction to U.S. Congressional action. We are also concerned that any potential steps toward better relations between Turkey and Armenia will be set back by any action in the U.S. Congress.

In stating our opposition to H. Res. 106, we do not suggest that anything other than the most terrible of tragedies took place as the Ottoman Empire disintegrated in the early part of the last century. As President Bush and other Presidents before him have done, we recognize the need to acknowledge and learn from the tragedy. We respect that this issue is of great concern to you, and hope that you can consider other appropriate ways to highlight, commemorate and honor the memory of the victims without doing damage to our contemporary relations with modern Turkey.

Sincerely,

FRANK CARLUCCI.
WILLIAM COHEN.
WILLIAM PERRY.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. CARSON (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and through October 31 on account of convalescence.

Mr. CUMMINGS (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. LYNCH (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Ms. WOOLSEY (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. WILSON of Ohio (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of medical reasons.

Mr. WELLER of Illinois (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and October 16 on account of personal reasons.

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 Ms. WATERS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. MICHAUD, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. HARE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. KAGEN, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. SOLIS, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, October 22.
Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and October 16, 17, and 18.
Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, October 22.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 1 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, October 16, 2007, at 9 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3701. A letter from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the National Transportation Safety Board, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

3702. A letter from the Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting a review of the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter's (ARH) Program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3703. A letter from the Director, Defense Research and Engineering, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report on the Joint IED Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) and the Office of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering (DDR&E) survey of international techology and research; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3704. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Exemptions for Banks Under Section 3(a)(5) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Related Rules [Release No. 34-56502; File No. S7-23-06] (RIN: 3235-AJ77) received September 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3705. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND EXEMPTIONS RELATING TO THE ''BROKER'' EXCEPTIONS FOR BANKS [Release No. 34-56501; File No. S7-22-06] (RIN: 3235-AJ74) received September 27, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3706. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Report to Congress on the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) for FY 2004 and FY 2005, pursuant to Public Law 104-193, section 658L; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

3707. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Occupant Crash Protection [Docket No. NHTSA-2007-28707] (RIN: 2127-AJ59) received September 18, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3708. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Mercury Switches in Motor Vehicles; Significant New Use Rule [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2005-0036; FRL-8110-5] (RIN: 2070-AJ19) received October 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3709. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Plan Update; Limited Maintenance Plan in Philadelphia County [EPA-R03-OAR-2007-0511; FRL-8476-9] received October 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3710. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Florida; Clean Air Interstate Rule [EPA-R04-OAR-2007-0360-200737; FRL-8478-1] received October 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3711. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Georgia; Clean Air Interstate Rule [EPA-R04-OAR-2007-0251-200738; FRL-8478-6] received October 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3712. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Redesignation of the Erie 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area to Attainment and Approval of the Area's Maintenance Plan and 2002 Base Year Inventory [EPA-R03-OAR-2007-0476; FRL-8478-9] received October 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3713. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Implementation Plans of South Carolina: Clean Air Interstate Rule [EPA-R04-OAR-2007-0424-200746(a); [FRL-8478-3]] received October 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3714. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Consumer and Commercial Products: Control Techniques Guidelines in Lieu of Regulations for Paper, Film, and Foil Coatings; Metal Furniture Coatings; and Large Appliance Coatings [EPA-HQ-OAR-2007-0454; FRL-8478-7] (RIN: 2060-A014) received October 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3715. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Lead and Copper: Short-Term Regulatory Revisions and Clarifications [EPA-HQ-OW-2005-0034; FRL-8476-5] (RIN: 2040-AE83) received October 2, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3716. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification under Section 451 of the Foreign Assistance Act for the Use of Funds for Counterdrug and Law Enforcement Programs in Central America, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2261; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3717. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No. 08-09, concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s)of Offer and Acceptance to Australia for defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3718. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting a report pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3719. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles and services to the Governments of

Russia, Ukraine, and Norway (Transmittal No. DDTC 096-07); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3720. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3721. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Mgmt., Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3722. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3723. A letter from the Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, transmitting a report on the ''Fiscal Year 2006 Accounting of Drug Control Funds,'' pursuant to Public Law 105-277, section 705(d)(Div. C-Title VII); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3724. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Tennessee Valley Authority, transmitting the Authority's strategic plan covering fiscal years 2007 through 2012, pursuant to the Government Performance and Results Act; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3725. A letter from the Director, Congressional Budget Office, transmitting the Office's report entitled, ''Potential Cost Savings from the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program,'' as required by the Predisaster Mitigation Program Reauthorization Act of 2005; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3726. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Revisit User Fee Program for Medicare Survey and Certification Activities [CMS-2268-F] (RIN: 0938-AO96) received September 19, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

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. GEORGE MILLER, of California: Committee on Education and Labor. H.R. 1424. A bill to amend section 712 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, section 2705 of the Public Health Service Act, and section 9812 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require equity in the provision of mental health and substance-related disorder benefits under group health plans; with an amendment (Rept. 110–374, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. RANGEL: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 1424. A bill to amend section 712 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, section 2705 of the Public Health Service Act, and section 9812 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require equity in the provision of mental health and substance-related disorder benefits under group health plans; with an amendment (Rept. 110–374, Pt. 2). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 20. A bill to provide for research on, and services for individuals with, postpartum depression and psychosis, with an amendment (Rept. 110–375). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 507. A bill to establish a grant program to provide vision care to children, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110–376). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 970. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the distribution of the drug dextromethorphan, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110–377). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1727. A bill to enhance and further research into paralysis and to improve rehabilitation and the quality of life for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110–378). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. DINGELL: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2295. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry; with an amendment (Rept. 110–379). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2868. A bill to eliminate the exemption from State regulation for certain securities designated by national securities exchanges (Rept. 110–380). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. LANTOS: Committee on Foreign Affairs. H.R. 1567. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide increased assistance for the prevention, treatment, and control of tuberculosis, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 110–381, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 741. Resolution providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 734) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the withholding of information relating to corruption in Iraq (Rept. 110–382). Referred to the House Calendar.

Ms. SLAUGHTER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 742. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2102) to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media (Rept. 110–383). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1567 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 2830. Referral to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and the Judiciary extended for a period ending not later than October 29, 2007.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (for herself, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. REYNOLDS, and Mr. WAXMAN):

H.R. 3825. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish grant programs to provide for education and outreach on newborn screening and coordinated followup care once newborn screening has been conducted, to reauthorize programs under part A of title XI of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BOREN:

H.R. 3826. A bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to increase the maximum amount of an award available under the Department of State rewards program for information leading to the capture of Osama bin Laden; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ALTMIRE:

H.R. 3827. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief to active duty military personnel and employers who assist them, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. CLARKE (for herself, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. STARK, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SHAYS, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 3828. A bill to reduce the backlog in processing requests made by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to the National Name Check Program of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself and Mr. WHITFIELD):

H.R. 3829. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit certain interstate conduct relating to exotic animals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. WU, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 3830. A bill to amend the Bonneville Power Administration portions of the Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act of 2000 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008 through 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. TIBERI):

H.R. 3831. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase, and make permanent certain improvements to, the child tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California):

H.R. 3832. A bill to clarify and extend the commitment of the United States to pursue economic cooperation with Costa Rica and other nations in the Caribbean Basin, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 3833. A bill to eliminate the backlog in performing DNA analyses of DNA samples collected from convicted child sex offenders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEWIS of Georgia:

H.R. 3834. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to increase the level of earnings under which no individual who is blind is determined to have demonstrated an

ability to engage in substantial gainful activity for purposes of determining disability; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PAUL:

H.R. 3835. A bill to restore the Constitution's checks and balances and protections against government abuses as envisioned by the Founding Fathers; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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 Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California (for herself, Ms. WATSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. SPACE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. FILNER, Mr. REYES, and Mr. ISSA):

H.R. 3836. A bill to require that funds awarded to States and political subdivisions for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program be distributed no later than 120 days after the last day of the annual application period for such Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Ms. WATSON):

H. Con. Res. 234. Concurrent resolution calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to respect the human rights of refugees from North Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ACKERMAN (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. BOUSTANY):

H. Res. 738. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the Government of Syria's continued interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COOPER:

H. Res. 739. A resolution honoring Albert Arnold Gore, Jr., and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Winners of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (for herself, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. LEE, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. MCNULTY, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. WYNN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. CLARKE, and Mr. RUSH):

H. Res. 740. A resolution condemning in the strongest terms the attacks on African Union peacekeepers that occurred in Haskanita, Darfur, Sudan, on September 29, 2007; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ROTHMAN:

H. Res. 743. A resolution honoring Varian Fry on the 100th anniversary of his birth; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico (for herself and Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN):

H. Res. 744. A resolution recognizing the contributions of Native American veterans and calling upon the President to issue a proclamation urging the people of the United States to observe a day in honor of Native American veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. MCDERMOTT):

H. Res. 745. A resolution recognizing the religious and historical significance of the festival of Diwali; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 92: Mr. CARTER.
H.R. 138: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
H.R. 321: Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 333: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 337: Mr. SKELTON.
H.R. 369: Mr. ALLEN.
H.R. 394: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.
H.R. 549: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 618: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.
H.R. 699: Mr. BROUN of Georgia and Mr. PICKERING.
H.R. 719: Mr. COURTNEY and Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 758: Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GOODE, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, and Mr. JONES of North Carolina.
H.R. 760: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 767: Mr. GOHMERT.
H.R. 871: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 897: Mr. ALLEN and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 1023: Mr. PETRI, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 1026: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 1043: Ms. CLARKE.
H.R. 1063: Mr. PICKERING.
H.R. 1071: Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 1072: Ms. BERKLEY and Ms. CARSON.
H.R. 1073: Mr. FERGUSON and Mrs. GILLIBRAND.
H.R. 1076: Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. GERLACH.
H.R. 1077: Mrs. BIGGERT.
H.R. 1088: Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California.
H.R. 1102: Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas and Mr. ALTMIRE.
H.R. 1108: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 1110: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.
H.R. 1125: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. SALI.
H.R. 1127: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan and Mr. HOEKSTRA.
H.R. 1135: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 1147: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.
H.R. 1148: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 1166: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 1192: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 1205: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 1228: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 1248: Mr. MARKEY and Mr. FERGUSON.
H.R. 1275: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 1282: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 1352: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 1357: Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 1409: Mr. PICKERING.
H.R. 1419: Mr. GRAVES, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. SALI.
H.R. 1424: Mr. SHULER.
H.R. 1474: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. BLUNT.
H.R. 1481: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
H.R. 1497: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 1528: Mr. MARKEY.
H.R. 1552: Mr. SHUSTER, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. MEEK of Florida.
H.R. 1566: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 1584: Ms. SUTTON and Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 1610: Mr. POE and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H.R. 1619: Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 1621: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 1687: Mr. MANZULLO.
H.R. 1738: Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CLAY, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. BOSWELL.
H.R. 1746: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida.
H.R. 1755: Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 1767: Mr. SPACE.
H.R. 1818: Mrs. TAUSCHER and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 1823: Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 1843: Mr. PICKERING and Mr. BOYD of Florida.
H.R. 1869: Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 1927: Mrs. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 1953: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 1959: Mr. GALLEGLY.
H.R. 1964: Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H.R. 1983: Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1992: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. FILNER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND.
H.R. 2033: Mr. COBLE.
H.R. 2067: Mr. FERGUSON.
H.R. 2108: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 2116: Mr. CAPUANO and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 2169: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 2236: Mr. HONDA and Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 2265: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 2266: Ms. LEE.
H.R. 2280: Mr. MORAN of Kansas.
H.R. 2295: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 2315: Mr. HULSHOF.
H.R. 2331: Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee.
H.R. 2332: Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. CARTER.
H.R. 2380: Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 2391: Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 2416: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 2417: Ms. HIRANO and Mrs. EMERSON.
H.R. 2452: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. WYNN, and Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 2464: Mr. EHLERS and Mr. HOLDEN.
H.R. 2505: Mr. KAGEN.
H.R. 2514: Mr. COSTELLO, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. ORTIZ, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. HOLT, Mr. WYNN, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 2574: Mr. WYNN.
H.R. 2578: Mr. SNYDER.
H.R. 2596: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 2610: Mr. PORTER.
H.R. 2620: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 2634: Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 2639: Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 2651: Mr. HINCHEY and Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 2668: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 2677: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 2686: Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 2702: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 2772: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 2894: Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 2910: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 2915: Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. LATOURETTE.
H.R. 2927: Mr. JINDAL and Mr. PORTER.
H.R. 2933: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. FOXX, and Ms. WATSON.
H.R. 3028: Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. JEFFERSON.
H.R. 3029: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 3033: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 3040: Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 3090: Mr. JINDAL, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.
H.R. 3109: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. MCHUGH.
H.R. 3119: Mr. STARK, Ms. WATERS, and Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 3156: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
H.R. 3167: Mr. CUMMINGS and Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 3175: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 3191: Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 3202: Mr. KIRK.

H.R. 3203: Mr. KIRK.
H.R. 3219: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. OLVER, and Mr. FORTUÑO.
H.R. 3256: Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 3281: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 3282: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 3298: Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 3317: Ms. BORDALLO and Mrs. EMERSON.
H.R. 3327: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. HALL of New York, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. FORTUÑO.
H.R. 3334: Mr. MCHUGH.
H.R. 3368: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 3369: Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 3378: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. FILNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 3380: Mr. LOBIONDO and Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 3381: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3389: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.
H.R. 3397: Ms. CARSON and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 3438: Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 3453: Mr. CONAWAY and Mr. CAMP of Michigan.
H.R. 3498: Mrs. JONES of Ohio.
H.R. 3512: Mr. JEFFERSON.
H.R. 3533: Mr. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. WAMP, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. BACA.
H.R. 3544: Mr. CLAY, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. ALLEN, and Ms. SUTTON.
H.R. 3548: Mr. HARE and Mr. GORDON.
H.R. 3558: Mr. HOLDEN.
H.R. 3577: Ms. KILPATRICK and Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 3584: Mr. SAXTON.
H.R. 3585: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. INSLEE, Ms. SUTTON, and Mr. FARR.
H.R. 3609: Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. STARK, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 3622: Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. WALSH of New York, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. PAUL, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 3629: Mr. PAUL and Mr. GORDON.
H.R. 3660: Mr. BACHUS and Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 3663: Mr. HOLT, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. HARE.
H.R. 3665: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3666: Ms. CLARKE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 3674: Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 3687: Mr. PASTOR, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 3689: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 3691: Mr. TIERNEY and Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 3692: Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. FURTUÑO, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 3697: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 3700: Mr. WEXLER and Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 3705: Ms. CLARKE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 3723: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 3738: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. PEARCE.
H.R. 3757: Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. SHAYS.
H.R. 3779: Mr. ROYCE, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 3781: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 3793: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. HARE, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BERRY, Mr. HOLDEN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. DOYLE, and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 3797: Mr. ETHERIDGE, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 3799: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 3807: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 3808: Ms. CLARKE.
H. Con. Res. 154: Mr. PENCE, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. KIRK, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. RENZI, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. MCCOTTER.
H. Con. Res. 163: Mr. MCHUGH.
H. Con. Res. 182: Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. HASTERT, Mr. LINDER, Mr. BARROW, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CANNON, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H. Con. Res. 197: Mr. FARR.
H. Con. Res. 221: Mr. COHEN.
H. Con. Res. 228: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.
H. Con. Res. 230: Mr. REYES, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. PUTNAM, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. KING of New York.
H. Res. 111: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. KINGSTON, MS. HIRONO, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.
H. Res. 169: Mr. LATOURETTE and Mr. MANZULLO.
H. Res. 185: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 194: Ms. RICHARDSON.
H. Res. 237: Mr. BOSWELL and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H. Res. 245: Mr. ENGEL, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. CARDOZA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. FILNER.
H. Res. 356: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H. Res. 415: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. BACA.
H. Res. 448: Mr. DINGELL and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
H. Res. 499: Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee.
H. Res. 542: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mrs. GILLIBRAND.
H. Res. 616: Ms. HARMAN.
H. Res. 618: Mr. CARNAHAN and Mr. KUCINICH.
H. Res. 666: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H. Res. 684: Mr. ALTMIRE, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. WELCH of Vermont.
H. Res. 700: Ms. BORDALLO.
H. Res. 707: Ms. CLARKE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CARSON, and Mr. CONYERS.
H. Res. 708: Mr. COHEN, Mr. TANNER, Ms. WATSON, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. COSTA, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, and Mr. BERMAN.
H. Res. 713: Ms. SCHWARTZ and Mr. WEXLER.
H. Res. 721: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H. Res. 725: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. KIND, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. WU, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. WYNN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. FILNER, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. DOYLE, and Mr. FARR.
H. Res. 726: Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. BARROW, Mr. COSTA, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. WOLF, Ms. CASTOR, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. KIRK, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. FARR, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Ms. ESHOO.
H. Res. 730: Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida.
H. Res. 734: Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. CUMMINGS.
H. Res. 735: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. WATSON, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. COOPER.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY RICK BOUCHER

The amendment to be offered by Representative Boucher or a designee to H.R. 2102, the Free Flow of Information Act of 2007, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits, as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY JOHN CONYERS, JR.

The amendment to be offered by Representative Conyers or a designee to H.R. 3773, the ''Responsible Electronic Surveillance That is Overseen, Reviewed, and Effective Act of 2007'' (RESTORE Act of 2007), does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H. Res. 106: Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mr. HERGER, Mr. BERRY, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, and Mr. ROSS.
H. Res. 610: Ms. KILPATRICK.

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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord, magnificent in mercy, plenteous in grace, and generous in love, we pause to confess our shortcomings. Forgive us for speaking when we should listen and for manipulating facts to suit our purposes. Forgive us also for waiting for opportunities instead of creating them. Lord, we have forgotten, faltered, and failed, and we ask today for Your mercy.

Strengthen our Senators for today's journey. Give them strong hearts and sound minds to do their ethical best in representing You. As they look to the future, give them the wisdom to join their plans to Your will and to do Your work on Earth. Lord, radiate Your hope through them, making them positive people who are expectant of Your best for our Nation and world.

We pray in Your precious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 15, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SENATOR PETE DOMENICI

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before I outline what we are going to do this afternoon, let me say I had a conversation last week with PETE DOMENICI, who announced he would not run for reelection. I served with Senator DOMENICI for my entire time in the Senate on the Appropriations Committee. We worked on the Energy and Water Subcommittee over many years. During most of that time, he was either chairman or I was chairman, and the other one was the ranking member. We traveled the country looking at different facilities that related to the jurisdiction we had. It was a great subcommittee because all the money we had was discretionary, and it was a subcommittee that did so many good things for the country. There were water projects that were long overdue. We set up the safety and reliability of our nuclear arsenal. It was not easy, but we worked through that.

Senator DOMENICI has a tremendously interesting background. Because of my fascination with athletics, and especially baseball, I was stunned to learn this respectable man—who has so much mental acuity and is good with numbers and all this—had started out as a great baseball player. He was a pitcher, a left-handed pitcher, as I understand. He played professional baseball. He was in the Brooklyn Dodgers' farm system. He left there to become a junior high school math teacher.

He went on to earn a law degree before he began a storied career in the State of New Mexico as a city councilman and mayor. Now, of course, he is one of the more senior Members of the Senate.

During the time Senator DOMENICI and I have known each other, we have gotten to know each other's spouses. He is very kind and thoughtful to Landra, my wife, as I try to be to his very sweet, personable Nancy. They have eight children.

He is a person for whom I have great respect. I will miss him. He has a unique knowledge of the importance of our National Laboratories. One reason, of course, is we have two of them in the State of New Mexico. But we have them in other places—California, Illinois. I have traveled with him to Missouri.

He is a person who has looked out for the Nevada test site—a place where almost 1,000 nuclear devices were exploded, most of them underground, but not all of them underground. He worked with me to make sure that facility—that is a billion-dollar facility—is still used for the security of this Nation. He has worked on, as I have indicated, the safety of our nuclear stockpile.

He made his decision to retire for reasons that are certainly valid, but that does not take away from the fact we will all miss him.

I must say, one of the other issues he has worked so hard on—originally with Senator Wellstone, but after that much of the time alone—deals with mental health parity. Fortuitously, a week before we adjourned for the Columbus Day recess, we passed that legislation

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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in the Senate. Now we have to make sure our bill and the House bill are conferenced and we finish those two bills. But it certainly is a step in the right direction.

So I do offer Senator DOMENICI my congratulations for the wonderful job he has done as a Senator and, as I told him on the phone, I express how much—after the next 15 months—I will miss him.

SENATOR TED KENNEDY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I think it is also important to tell everyone Senator KENNEDY is strong and well and happy. He had some minor surgery that was important surgery. A lot of people do not know Senator KENNEDY was nearly killed in an airplane crash. His life was saved by EVAN BAYH's father, Birch Bayh.

He never complains, but Senator KENNEDY has constant pain from his back. As a result of that, he had some work done to see what was going on with his back. They did a CAT scan of his full spine, which normally is not done because most of the trouble in his back is in the low back, not the high back. As a result of that, they fortuitously—with good fortune because of the high x-ray—checked and a carotid artery was plugged.

It was very fortuitous that was done. His wife Jackie thinks that is a miracle, and it certainly is a blessing in their lives because as a result of taking a look at his spine, they were able to spot that and avoid some serious problems in the future.

I cannot possibly overstate the importance of Senator KENNEDY's leadership in this body as we address the critical issues that lie ahead in this work period. For 45 years he has been a person who has been on the cutting edge of doing the right thing for this country and certainly for the State of Massachusetts.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today, we are going to have morning business for an hour after Senator MCCONNELL and I finish our brief remarks to the Senate. The time will be equally divided and controlled. Following the period of morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Department of Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Act.

Under an order previously entered, people have until 2:30 p.m. today to file any first-degree amendments to the bill. We are going to finish this bill perhaps not tonight, but I hope we can finish it tomorrow because we are going to move then to the Labor-HHS legislation.

Tonight we are going to have a vote, and we are going to see if we can come up with an amendment to the appropriations bill we are working on. If not, there is still a judge we need to have approved, and we will do that tonight.

I hope everyone understands we need to do the Labor-HHS bill. That would be the sixth bill we will have completed. We are going to start that bill as soon as we finish the bill that is before us, the Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill, and we are going to finish that bill this week. We have to do that.

The farm bill is so important all across this country, and the markup of that bill is scheduled for next week. The reason we have to finish the Labor-HHS appropriations bill this week is the chairman of the committee the farm bill will come out of is Senator HARKIN, who is also the chairman of the subcommittee that deals with Labor-HHS. So we have to finish that. I hope it does not spill into the weekend. We have talked about that several times this year and rarely have we had to do it. But we need to get that done.

After this week, we will only have four work weeks before we have our Thanksgiving Day recess. We are all on line to see what we can do to work out our differences with the White House to finish our funding for this year. We need to do that, and finishing this bill will point us in that direction.

Thank you, Mr. President.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

SENATORS DOMENICI AND KENNEDY AND APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me commend the majority leader for his comments about our colleague, Senator DOMENICI's long and extraordinarily distinguished career. We are indeed fortunate he will be here for another 15 months and we look forward to serving with him. I will have, obviously, a lot more to say about his remarkable tenure in the Senate later.

It is also good to have a health update on our colleague Senator KENNEDY, and to learn his operation went well and he is doing well and will be back with us soon.

Finally, let me underscore the observations the majority leader made. It is our goal to pass as many of the appropriations bills as possible. There will be significant cooperation on this side of the aisle toward that end. That is, after all, the basic work of Government, and we need to try to complete it as rapidly as possible.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for a period of 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from New Mexico.

PRESIDENTIAL RECORDS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2007

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2007.

The Presidential Records Act of 1978 declared a President's papers were the property of the people of the United States and were to be administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. The act provided that Presidential papers would be available 12 years after a President left office, allowing the former or incumbent President the right to claim executive privilege for particularly sensitive documents.

In order to fulfill that mandate—that mandate that was in the 1978 law—President Reagan, in 1989, signed Executive Order 12667, which gave the former or incumbent President 30 days to claim executive privilege.

However, in 2001, early in his administration, President Bush issued Executive Order 13233, and this executive order by President Bush nullified President Reagan's order and imposed new regulations for obtaining Presidential and Vice Presidential documents. President Bush's new order greatly restricts access to Presidential papers by requiring that all requests for documents, no matter how innocuous, be approved by both the former President, whose papers are involved, and also by the current White House occupant. There is no time limit to the White House review, and the right to review and assert executive privilege has been extended by President Bush in his Executive order to include the Vice President and to include Presidential family members. In this way, the order goes against the spirit of the Presidential Records Act and against the letter of the Presidential Records Act by creating a presumption of nondisclosure and expanding the executive privilege claim, thus allowing the White House to prevent the release of records literally for generations in the future.

H.R. 1255, the Presidential Records Act Amendments of 2007—which is the bill I came to the floor to speak about—was passed in the House by a vote of 333 to 93 on June 20 of this year. I introduced a similar bill, S. 886, in March of this year in the Senate. The bill I introduced is a bipartisan bill which is cosponsored by Senators CORNYN, LEAHY, SUNUNU, FEINSTEIN, and OBAMA. Two weeks ago, Senator FEINSTEIN sought unanimous consent for the Senate to proceed to H.R. 1255, but an objection was heard from another Senator.

H.R. 1255 is a bipartisan bill that merely seeks to clarify the process under which the Presidential Records Act is to be implemented. The bill seeks to nullify President Bush's Executive order by limiting claims of executive privilege to the President and to former Presidents in requiring that the President notify the Archivist of any claims of executive privilege within 60 days preceding a notice of a request for a document with an additional 30 days if requested. These measures essentially return the process to the procedural framework that had been in place since President Reagan issued his original Executive order.

This is an important matter that deserves to be brought to a vote in the Senate. There is strong bipartisan support for the reasonable approach to the Presidential Records Act that is contained in H.R. 1255. Now is not the time, in my view, for political ploys but for, instead, a thoughtful debate and an ultimate vote on this bill.

Two weeks ago, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ruled that Executive Order 13233 is, in part—this is the Executive order President Bush entered—invalid in requiring the Archivist of the United States to delay release of the records of former Presidents at their request as permitted under the order. The Court found that the Archivist's reliance on section 3(b) of that Executive order is without constitutional basis and violates the Administrative Procedures Act. This holding gives us clear direction in legislatively addressing the problems that have arisen as a result of Executive Order 13233.

Under the Presidential Records Act, there is a clear and an unequivocal assumption that the records of a President's administration belong to the people of this Nation, barring the national security interests or an executive privilege claim. The people of this Nation hired the President. His work is undertaken on behalf of the people. Can anyone doubt that the Nation is made stronger and our Government and the electorate are better served by the study of the actions of past Presidents? This is not a matter of trying to uncover dark secrets; rather, it is in everyone's interests and certainly in the interests of this Nation that scholars, students, and the public have access to the records of former Presidents in order to fully understand and appreciate the work of those Presidents and to provide guidance for future Presidents and future administrations.

I strongly urge that H.R. 1255 be brought to the Senate floor for debate and for ultimate passage.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, would the Senator withhold?

Mr. BINGAMAN. I certainly do withhold.

RECORD CORRECTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I made a mistake in my statement a few minutes ago. I have known Vicki Kennedy for many years. My staff tells me I mispronounced her name. That was certainly not intentional. I know Vicki. She was so kind and thoughtful to call me very early Saturday morning to let me know Ted was going into the hospital and I asked her to please call me when the surgery was finished, and Vicki did that. I called her Jackie for reasons unknown to anyone other than whoever puts words in my mouth. I want the RECORD to be corrected.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, my understanding is that we are in morning business, and the minority side is actually allocated certain amounts of time. They are not here.

I ask unanimous consent that I may speak in morning business, with the understanding that if someone on the minority side comes to speak in morning business on their time, I will relinquish the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I believe midweek this week the House will take up the veto override of the President's veto on the Children's Health Insurance Program. There has been a lot of discussion about what this Congress has or has not done. I think despite all of the obstacles and roadblocks we have made progress in a wide range of areas. But the one in which we have made significant progress, which I am very proud of, is expanding children's health insurance coverage.

Regrettably, we have a lot of children in this country who have no health insurance coverage at all. So the question of whether when they are sick they have a doctor to go to is a function, in many cases, of whether the parents have any income or any money in their checkbook or in their pockets. Many times those children get no health care.

In 1997, we put in place the Children's Health Insurance Program. We know it works because we have had it for 10 years. In my State, for example, the Children's Health Insurance Program is not a government program that has created more bureaucracy. It is a block grant to my State that is used by State government to purchase health insurance from Blue Cross/Blue Shield and cover children who have no health insurance. Most States do that.

This is not a big government program. This Congress passed a bipartisan piece of legislation. Let me emphasize that it is a bipartisan piece of legislation expanding health insurance coverage for children. I am proud that we have done that. In the Senate, we had 67 Senators vote in favor of it. Two Senators who were in favor of that bill were absent at that time, so that is 69 Senators who said, yes, let's expand the program. It was fully paid for. It doesn't increase the debt by one penny. It expands the program and would allow 3.8 million additional children in this country to have access to health care coverage.

Mr. President, I don't know what is in second or third or even fourth place in terms of people's priorities. I know what is in first place for most people: their children and their children's health.

The President says he vetoed this legislation because it is big government. He vetoed this legislation because he says it would cover kids at the family level of income of $83,000. The President knows better than that. He wasn't telling the truth. Let me just, if I can, speak a bit of truth to this issue. This is not big government. Contrary to most of what the President is sending down to the Congress, this is paid for. Contrast this children's health insurance—a proposal from the Congress that is paid for—with the proposals that sit in front of the Congress from the President for Iraq and Afghanistan to prosecute the war. Right now, we have a $189 billion request by this President to continue funding the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Not one penny of it is paid for.

We send the soldiers to war, and the President says let's send them the bill later when they come home and they can help pay for it. Contrast that with what we have done with children's health insurance. It is $35 billion over 5 years, all of it paid for, and 3.8 million children, who at this point don't have access to health insurance coverage, will get that coverage. Is that something we ought to be proud of? In my judgment, it is. Now, the President, when he vetoed this, he said this is going to provide coverage to kids whose parents are at the $83,000 level. That is not the poverty level. There is no $83,000 level. That was a level requested by the State of New York, which was not approved.

It is true that there are a number of States that cover children from families who have incomes above the 200-percent level of poverty, but let me point out that this George W. Bush administration approved these expansions, and I will give an example. In 2003, New Jersey applied for a waiver to be able to cover parents in their program. Secretary Thompson of the Bush

administration said: Absolutely. He signed the waiver saying:

With this waiver, New Jersey will be able to expand health insurance coverage to thousands of residents who otherwise would be uninsured.

California asked for a waiver. The Bush administration said:

By giving parents of children with the CHIP program health insurance, we are providing quality health care to the whole family.

This is the Bush administration that has actually approved these waivers, the very waivers the President seems now to be critical of.

Let me also say this. The President campaigned—he campaigned—on expanding children's health insurance. In 2004, here is what he said:

In a new term, we will lead an aggressive effort to enroll millions of poor children who are eligible but not signed up for the government's health insurance programs. We will not allow a lack of attention or information to stand between these children and the health care they need.

So the President vetoed this bill. The sky is the limit when it comes to the other spending, but this bill, which is fully paid for, gets a veto. There are plenty of votes in the Senate to override the President's veto. The question is in the House. My hope is that Members of the House will understand the opportunity to override this veto and to establish a clear priority for this Congress on a bipartisan basis. My hope is they will round up the votes in the House to override this President's veto.

This is about priorities. The fact is 100 years from now all of us will be dead and gone and the record of our service here and the record of this President's service, the record of this Government, will be in the history books. They will be able to tell a bit about our value system by looking at how did we spend our money. They will see there was a time in October of 2007 that this Congress had a couple of choices: First of all, the President says, give me another $189 billion for Iraq and Afghanistan to prosecute the war; give me another $189 billion, and by the way, I don't intend to pay for a penny of it. Just add it to the debt. Another priority was the Congress saying, let's expand health insurance for children—$35 billion over 5 years. Let's expand health insurance for children and, by the way, we will pay for it in the bill, which we did. And the President says the second priority is the one that is inappropriate? What can he be thinking of?

When historians look at this value system and determine that the value system said children are less important, children are not the priority, they are going to scratch their heads and wonder how on Earth we came to that conclusion. I hope that is not the lesson that will come from this effort to override the President's veto. I hope the lesson will be a bipartisan Congress saying to this President: Not this time. Not today. Your priorities aren't square with what we ought to be doing in this country today. Our priority is, No. 1, expand health insurance coverage for America's children. My hope is at the end of this week that will be the result from the House of Representatives. I know very soon the Senate will vote and easily override the President's veto.

DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY

In a moment I will talk about General Sanchez's speech this weekend, which I read about in the Washington Post, but before I do that, there is some interesting news about what is happening at the Defense Department in advanced research in something called DARPA—Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

The head of DARPA, Dr. Tony Tether, came and spoke at a technology conference I had in Fargo, ND, last week. His speech was extraordinary. He is a good presenter and a wonderful public servant. I know there are some who wonder if the Government ever does anything right. Well, the Government does a lot of things to improve and help the American people and advance this country's interests, and I will describe one of them.

Dr. Tether described experiments that are going on in advanced research in DARPA, in which they have taken a monkey, and the monkey sits at a console with a joystick. He sees a red ball go across in front of him, and he uses the joystick to touch the red ball with the arm of the joystick, and he is then given a treat. That is learned behavior for the monkey. The ball goes across the screen, the monkey exercises the joystick, the joystick aperture touches the red ball, and the monkey gets a treat. Then they took the joystick away and instead put on the monkey a mechanical electrical arm they are working on for those who have lost their limbs. They implanted electrodes in the brain of the monkey. Now, when the red ball goes across in front of the monkey, the monkey has no joystick, but the monkey thinks about touching the ball and getting the treat and so the electrodes capture the thought. Think of that—the electrodes capture the thought, which sends the electric impulse to the prosthetic arm that has been developed, and the arm reaches out and touches the ball, all because the monkey is thinking about touching the ball.

This is about breathtaking new technology and research into approaches that will help those who have lost limbs in warfare, yes, and in every other area of life. There is so much going on that is interesting and breathtaking in the advanced research area, and again I say to Dr. Tether that I appreciated his coming to North Dakota and giving such a wonderful presentation. It was extraordinary.

Well, that is something called DARPA. Not a lot of people know about DARPA at the Department of Defense.

RETIRED GENERAL SANCHEZ ON IRAQ POLICY

Now, let me go from DARPA to the issue of General Sanchez's speech on Iraq policy that he gave this past weekend. General Sanchez was in charge of the war in Iraq and he has now retired and General Sanchez has some very strong things to say about the war in Iraq since his retirement.

He says the war began with:

A catastrophically flawed, unrealistically optimistic war plan . . . Since the start of this war, America's leadership has known that our military alone could not achieve victory in Iraq. Starting in July 2003, the message repeatedly communicated to Washington by military commanders on the ground was that the military alone could never achieve victory in Iraq.

General Sanchez said the ''surge,'' which he called the ''latest revised strategy,'' is, in his words, ''a desperate attempt by an administration that has not accepted the political and economic realities of this war and they have definitely not communicated that reality to the American people.''

As a result, the American military, he says:

finds itself in an intractable situation. The best we can do with this flawed approach is stave off defeat. The war in Iraq has been a ''catastrophic failure.''

This, according to General Sanchez, who was in charge of the war in Iraq from mid-2003 to mid-2004. Over 20 other retired generals have spoken out after they have retired. General Eaton said:

The military ethos is: Give your advice privately to those in a position to make changes, not the media, but this administration is immune to good advice.

So retired General Eaton went public with his criticism of this administration's flawed policies.

General Batiste—I had the opportunity to meet General Batiste—was one of the brightest stars in the military and was considered virtually certain for promotion to the highest ranks. But, he turned down his third star and retired rather than continue to implement a war policy that he felt, and that he had experienced firsthand, was flawed. He retired so he could ''speak out on behalf of soldiers and their families.''

The point is, General Sanchez has said, and the other retired generals have said—in fact, I believe that most believe—there is not a military solution in Iraq, there is only a solution that embodies substantial diplomatic efforts and efforts in the political system in Iraq as well. The military alone cannot possibly prevail in Iraq.

I wish to make a point I have made before. We have now apparently trained about 350,000 people in Iraq to be soldiers or to be in law enforcement. To the extent that I have numbers, this was from the 2007 report of the General Jones Commission, we have trained 152,000 members of the Iraqi Army—which incidentally, is about the number of American soldiers in Iraq—and 194,000 members of the Iraqi police. That is 346,000 Iraqis to be soldiers and

police men and women. Now, I think one can reasonably ask the question, after we have been in Iraq longer than we were in the Second World War, that if we have trained over 350,000, or roughly 350,000 police men and women and soldiers, when will they have the will to provide for their own security?

They have a new Constitution. The people of Iraq have seen Saddam Hussein executed. They have a new government. And they have had nearly 350,000 of their own trained to be law enforcement and military soldiers. Yet they cannot provide for their own security?

My nephew went into the Marines about 10 months ago. He is fully trained and now in Iraq. We do it, and we can train 350,000 Iraqis. Yet they can't provide for their own security? Something is wrong with that.

So, Mr. President, I only make the point that I read with interest General Sanchez's comments this weekend, and they mirrored comments we have heard previously from General Eaton, from General Batiste, from Colonel Hammes, and many others that the current strategy has been flawed all along and must change. We must understand that the solution in Iraq is not going to be a military-imposed solution, it is going to be a diplomatic solution and a solution within the political system in Iraq, the absence of which means there will remain in Iraq a protracted long-term civil war.

While we are going door to door in Baghdad in the middle of a civil war with American soldiers, Osama bin Laden continues to send us messages over the internet and the airwaves. Our National Intelligence Estimate says that he is in a ''secure'' hideaway in northern Pakistan and has now rebuilt training camps and reconstituted the al-Qaida leadership.

Now, think of that. Those who committed the acts of terror against our country and murdered thousands of Americans are now in a safe, more secure place, according to our intelligence estimates, and is reconstituting training camps and plotting new attacks against our country. We, on the other hand, have our soldiers going door to door in Baghdad in the middle of a civil war. I think General Sanchez's comments and the comments of over 20 other high-ranking military officers upon their retirement represent a basic body of thought most of us have long understood but is not understood at this point by the President.

All of us want this country to succeed. We want our country to succeed in our war against terrorism. But the fact is we have to develop the right processes and the right policies to embrace that war against terrorism and to eliminate the al-Qaida leadership, which represents the greatest terrorist threat to our country. Again, the National Intelligence Estimate that we have all read says the greatest terrorist threat to our country, including to our homeland, is the leadership of al-Qaida and they are in a safe or secure haven and they are plotting additional attacks against our country and they are reconstituting their training camps to train the terrorists. Now, it should be clear to us what our obligations are.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3093, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3093) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Inouye amendment No. 3214, to establish a factfinding commission to extend the study of a prior commission to investigate and determine facts and circumstances surrounding the relocation, internment, and deportation to Axis countries of Latin Americans of Japanese descent from December 1941 through February 1948 and the impact of those actions by the United States and to recommend appropriate remedies.

Casey (for Biden) amendment No. 3256, to appropriate an additional $110,000,000 for community-oriented policing services and to provide a full offset for such amount.

Brown amendment No. 3260, to prohibit the use of any funds made available in this act in a manner that is inconsistent with the trade remedy laws of the United States.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, Senator MIKULSKI, the chair of the subcommittee, will be here at 4 o'clock. I know Senator SHELBY is here, and I believe he will be out momentarily. I have agreed to be on the floor until Senator MIKULSKI returns.

I did want to take a moment to talk about an amendment I was discussing when we were previously in session on this bill, dealing with law enforcement on Indian reservations. I did not actually offer the amendment. I had filed the amendment.

The subcommittee itself restored some funds that the President had cut. I indicated to the subcommittee that I hoped we could work between now and next spring, when we begin the new fiscal year legislation, so we could add some funding for these critical areas. I want to make note that Senator MIKULSKI and Senator SHELBY already added funding to accounts the President had decided to zero out. These accounts are accounts dealing with law enforcement on Indian reservations.

We just held a hearing on these issues in the Indian Affairs Committee here in the Senate. It is pretty stark, when you hear from folks who talk about the crisis on reservations with respect to law enforcement.

The U.S. Government made a decision a long time ago, well over a century ago, that law enforcement on Indian reservations is a responsibility of the Federal Government. Our country has a legal obligation to be involved in preventing crime on Indian lands. That obligation is a result of treaty provisions and Federal laws that grant the United States the responsibility and the authority to investigate and prosecute major crimes on Indian reservations. That is not the choice of Indian tribes; that is a decision our Government made over a century ago. The tribal governments on our Indian reservations rely on the Federal Government—specifically, the FBI and the U.S. attorney's office—to investigate and prosecute violent crimes on Indian reservations.

We had a hearing 2 weeks ago. There was testimony at that hearing from some research that had been done that 34 percent of Indian women will be raped or sexually assaulted during their lifetime. One-third of the Indian women will be raped or sexually assaulted during their lifetime. That is the state of violent crime on Indian reservations.

A retired BIA police officer who worked on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation said we do not have the resources. ''We all knew they only take cases with a confession.'' If there wasn't a confession, there wasn't a case. ''We were forced to triage our cases,'' he said. When this violence becomes so commonplace that the police have to triage rape cases, there is something dreadfully wrong.

One of the big factors in the rise of violent crime on Indian reservations is the lack of a police presence or law enforcement presence on Indian lands. There are little more than 2000 Federal and tribal law enforcement officers who patrol 56 million acres of Indian land. In North and South Dakota, we have two police officers who patrol the 2.3 million-acre Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation. We have heard from people who called to report a violent crime as it was occurring, and they waited an hour and 15 minutes for the police to show up. In other cases, they wait days for the police to show up.

The lack of tribal jails and bedspace also adds to the problem because there is no place to put criminals. I have

been in tribal detention facilities. I have seen kids lying on cement floors in tribal detention facilities because there was not a juvenile facility and the other detention facilities did not have proper beds and didn't have enough space, so young children were lying on the floor of a detention facility.

There is a $400 million backlog for construction for tribal jails. One Federal official said that there is what is called a catch-and-release system—just catch the criminals and release many of them back into the community because there is no space to put them. Because of that, the Indian reservations have become soft targets for organized crime and particularly for organized efforts dealing with methamphetamine.

In May of last year, Federal officials seized a huge methamphetamine organization's business plan, and the business plan outlined how that organization wanted to replace alcohol abuse as it infiltrated Indian reservations with methamphetamine abuse on Indian reservations. The plan also outlined how the tribal police could not arrest them while on the reservation. They described in the business plan how they were going to introduce and use the reservations as the basis for their methamphetamine distribution to run their business.

After creating a system in which we said law enforcement is the Federal Government's responsibility, the administration in its budget now wants to tell the tribes: We are too busy, so you are on your own.

The statistics I have described are really sobering: crumbling jails. What does the administration propose to spend for detention facilities, Tribal Jails Discretionary Grants Program? Well, the administration proposes we spend nothing. Not a thing. Assistance to the tribal courts, what does the administration propose that we spend? Nothing.

Those are all programs that have always been funded. These are programs for which the Federal Government has a responsibility by previous agreement. Tribal COPS Program, the President says let's fund it at zero. Tribal Youth Program, fund it at zero; Indian Alcohol and Crime Demonstration Program, zero.

Every single one of those, all except the last, have always been funded. The President says: Not my responsibility, not this administration; we do not intend to provide funding.

Now, let me thank Senator MIKULSKI and the ranking member as well, Senator SHELBY, because they have provided some funding in this subcommittee mark. It is not as much as I would like. It is not as much as I am sure they wanted to do, but they should be complimented for rejecting the President's recommendation at a time when we have a serious problem, and at a time when that problem is our responsibility to deal with because we have made agreements and required that we will be responsible for dealing with it.

The President says: Let's not do it. And Senator MIKULSKI and Senator SHELBY said: We reject that. We have a responsibility.

I was intending to offer an amendment 2 weeks ago—I did not do that—to add even further because Senator MIKULSKI and Senator SHELBY indicated they want to work with me. But, first and foremost, I want to compliment them for rejecting the President's suggestion that we ignore our responsibility, and for Senators MIKULSKI and SHELBY deciding these programs are exactly what we should be funding; it is our responsibility to do so.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHIP

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Senate is just returning from a week home. I spent the week in my home State of Illinois traveling from far southern Illinois to Chicago and most points in between. It was a busy week. I met with a lot of people and continue to be amazed that there is such a disconnect between the real world of America and the world of Capitol Hill.

In about 48 hours, the U.S. House of Representatives is going to have a historic vote. It is about children's health insurance. Here we are, the wealthiest Nation on Earth, with the best doctors, the best hospitals, the best technology, amazing medical research. Yet when it comes down to basic health care protection, America falls short. We spent more money per capita than any nation on Earth on health care, but our outcomes do not show it. Countries that spend a lot less get a lot more. Other countries around the world have made a dedicated effort to make sure every citizen in their nation has the protection of basic health care.

But not America. Forty-seven million Americans have no health insurance. We tried to address that with the Children's Health Insurance Program 10 years ago. We looked at the 40 million uninsured Americans and said: 15 million are kids; let's start there. Let's cover these children. Let's make sure they have health insurance, not through a government plan but through private health insurance. We will take money, grants and money, send it to the States, work with the Governors, share the expense, and bring these kids under hospitalization coverage. In 10 years it worked. From 15 million uninsured, we were able to insure 6.6 million children in America; 300,000 in my home State of Illinois.

Well, with the new Congress and the expiration of this program, we took another look at it and said: Can we do better? Can we extend this beyond 6.6 million kids to more of the 15 million targeted group of children? We found a way to do it. We did it in a bipartisan way, a cooperative effort with the Republican side of the aisle, an effort that involves Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY of Iowa, Senator ORRIN HATCH of Utah, well-known, conservative Republicans who sat down with Senators MAX BAUCUS and TED KENNEDY and hammered out the details—Thirty-five billion dollars more in spending over the next 5 years.

Now, the first reaction, of course, is that most people say: Great, you dreamed up an expansion of a program that costs us $35 billion. Thanks a lot. Our kids will pay for it.

Wrong. We insisted that it be paid for. How is it paid for? By increasing the Federal tax on tobacco products. That is it. I am not going to beat around the bush and tell you there is some secret way to do it. That is how we did it. We raised the Federal tax on tobacco products, cigarettes and cigars. You can sign me up, incidentally, any day of the week. I am one Senator. I am sure there are many like me who have lost a loved one to cancer brought on by tobacco. Most people in America have been touched by tobacco disease and illness.

I believe one of the best things we can do is to keep tobacco products out of the hands of our kids. When you raise the price by raising the tax, children are discouraged from buying the product. Good. If kids do not get addicted early and stick around until they are about 18 to make the choice, they will decide it is a pretty dumb idea. But if they start smoking at 14, 15, 16, an addiction gets started. So we raised the tobacco tax to come up with the $35 billion. Over the next 5 years we will expand the health insurance coverage from 6.6 million children to 10 million children in America—still not 15 but clearly moving in the right direction.

We passed the bill over here with an amazing vote. In a time when we have these death-defying votes of 1 vote here, 1 vote here, 69 Senators voted for the bipartisan approach to expand children's health insurance.

We sent the bill over to the House. They were disappointed because they wanted more. I want more. I would like to see all 15 million kids covered, to be honest with you. I would like to see all Americans covered. I will get to that point in a moment. But they passed it, and we sent it to President Bush.

Now, President Bush is in his seventh year as President of the United States.

He has used his veto pen four times—four times—once to veto a plan passed by Congress on a bipartisan basis to change the policy in Iraq and start bringing our troops home; President Bush vetoed it; next, he had two opportunities and used his pen twice to veto the expansion of medical research using stem cells. You will recall the President stopped this research at the Federal level. States are now doing it, private companies are doing it, and foreign governments are doing it. But the Bush administration will not allow our National Institutes of Health, through Federal funding, to do this. Well, the President used his veto pen twice to stop this promising research to find cures for diseases and causes of death.

His fourth use of the veto pen was to kill the Children's Health Insurance Program. What did they say about it? Why did the President veto this bipartisan bill that came out of the Senate and the House? Well, they said, first, it was socialized medicine—socialized medicine. You know that is a cliche that was probably born in the 1960s, maybe before, on the notion that the Government would provide all the health insurance for America.

Well, it did not work then. We created Medicare, and thank goodness we did, for millions of Americans who have had peace of mind at age 65 because of it. Socialized medicine. What the President failed to say was if he gets sick tomorrow, God forbid, he will go to a military hospital. The doctors will be members of the military. The nurses who answer his call will be members of the military. He will be protected by Government health services as President of the United States.

Is that socialism? I think I will leave it to the President to decide. But I think it is troublesome that we have reached a point that we dismiss a program of such value to so many children and call it socialized medicine. What was even more galling was someone in the White House along the way argued the point that this plan would cover individuals who make up to three times the poverty level in the United States.

Let me translate that into terms Americans can understand. If you make up to $60,000, you get help under this plan. And the argument the White House made was, people making $60,000 a year—or ''well off'' in their terms—do not need this help.

Really? Well, let's think about that for a second. Sixty thousand dollars a year is gross pay. Now, let's take about 40 percent of that for all of the taxes that are taken out and all of the deductions that are taken out. That leaves us somewhere in the range of $36,000 a year, about $3,000 a month in take-home pay.

Now, go out and look for health insurance for a sick child. I will tell you what you will find. You will be lucky to get by with $1,000 a month for health insurance for your family if you have a sick child. If you have a healthy family, it may still cost $600 or $800.

So out of a take-home pay of $3,000, they say you are well enough off that you do not need help to pay $1,000 a month for health insurance. Who is kidding whom? The reality is that families are crippled by these costs. Many of them cannot afford insurance, and they need the help of this program. It is a reasonable thing to do.

Those people in the White House who just want to call this socialism, or whatever the word of the day may be, or dismiss families making $60,000 as not needing a helping hand with health insurance for children, they are so out of touch they do not understand the drama that these families go through every single month for lack of health insurance.

There is a story closer to home for the Members of the Senate. It does not relate to the Children's Health Insurance Program, but I think it is a story worth telling. It is a story about a member of the Senate family, someone whom most of us have seen many times. Many may not know his name, but he is someone who has gone through a life-changing experience because of no health insurance in his family.

Forty-seven million Americans have no health insurance. We who are privileged in the Senate probably do not lie awake at night worrying about it because a bad diagnosis is not going to lead to bankruptcy for us. We are lucky. We are part of the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. We have got the best coverage in America. Eight million Federal employees, Members of Congress, we get an open enrollment period every year. You do not like your company, change it. It is like shopping for a car. There are so many choices out there. You want a big plan, you pay more. You have more money taken out of your check. You want less coverage, pay less. You have less money taken out of your check. It has been around for decades.

Members of Congress benefit from it, and we have a peace of mind that comes with it. But we do not have to look far to see families who are struggling and facing terrible decisions because of the high cost of health insurance. They are everywhere. They are in every town, every county, every State, all across our Nation, and they are right here in the family. There is a young man who works just a few feet away from where I am standing. He is an elevator operator. His name is Sergio Olaya. He has worked here off and on as an intern and has been an elevator operator since last May. He always has a big smile on his face, great young fellow, says hello, and most of us, of course, see him and greet him and head off on our business.

He is 21 years old, a bright young man, happy disposition, a great future ahead of him. But a few months ago, Sergio, who works right outside this door, had a tragedy strike his family. His mother died of an aggressive form of brain cancer. She was 61 years old, a single mom. Sergio was her only child. Doctors think she may have had the tumor for a long time, but the symptoms didn't show up until 2 months ago, and then she died. Before that, she had suffered a stroke which left her paralyzed on her right side. She was an authority on health and nutrition and worked for organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control, USAID, UNICEF, and the Organization of American States, but she had been unemployed and uninsured for 5 months when she got sick. Even COBRA, which is the way to purchase health insurance when one is not working, was too expensive for someone with a limited income such as Sergio's mother. As a result, when she died from an aggressive form of brain cancer, she left $255,000 in unpaid hospital and doctor bills—a quarter of a million dollars.

The hospital first threatened to sue her son for payment. A lawyer who is helping him pro bono negotiated the hospital charges down, first to $216,000, then to $95,000. With another $40,000 in doctors bills, Sergio, a member of the Senate staff, still owes $135,000 in medical bills for his mom. How is he dealing with this? He is selling his home in Bethesda where he and his mom have lived for the last 8 years. It is the only home they have ever owned. The proceeds will go for the payment of these medical bills.

Sergio said when his mom got sick she had been waiting to hear about a possible new job with the Federal Government, and it would have had health insurance. When the job offer finally came, his mother had just suffered a stroke and couldn't get out of bed to answer the phone. Two months and $255,000 in medical bills later, she passed away at the age of 61. In another week or month, she might have had health coverage with a new job. In another 4 years, she would have been eligible for Medicare. Instead, she had the bad luck and bad timing to fall through one of the gaping holes in America's unravelling health care safety net. Now her only child, her son, is paying the price.

I wonder how many Senators have been in the elevator with Sergio, talked to him, shared a smile with him, but had no idea of the terrible burden he and his mother were carrying as a result of the cost of health care and the cost of being uninsured in America today. How many more families will have to sell their homes? How many more bright, talented young people will have to drop out of college so their family can pay medical bills before we finally come up with a real plan to make health care more affordable for all Americans? The truth is, almost every family is at risk because of a fraying and failing health care safety net. Almost all of us could be one pink slip, one election, one bad diagnosis, or one serious accident away from a health and economic disaster for our family.

This affects Sergio, our Senate family. It affects all families. We need to

deal with it. We need to find a way or a combination of ways to give every American access to affordable health coverage. We can't help Sergio pay these bills, but we can sure look to the possibility of 3.4 million children across America and their moms and dads finally having the peace of mind of knowing that their kids are covered. It is a small step for a big nation, but isn't it the kind of step we want to take together in a bipartisan way? President Bush says no. He vetoed the bill. He sent it back to the House of Representatives, and on Wednesday they will take a vote. Fifteen Republican Congressmen who voted against the plan have to change their votes to override his veto. Overall, 62 Republican Senators and Congressmen voted for this plan, so it is bipartisan. I hope the 15 who are thinking about it now will think about the vulnerability of a lot of people such as Sergio, people we don't know who every single day have to wrestle with this terrible challenge in our great Nation.

Mr. DORGAN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. DURBIN. I am happy to yield.

Mr. DORGAN. The Senator from Illinois has raised the issue of the override of the President's veto that will occur in the House this week. When the President vetoed the bipartisan legislation that would expand opportunities for health coverage for America's children—another 3.8 million kids who don't have health coverage now would have it under that bill—the President referred to it as some kind of socialized medicine, some sort of big-government solution. Then he talked about the prospect of families with $83,000 in income.

Isn't it the case that most States—my State included—receive a block grant and use the block grant to provide coverage by buying the coverage from BlueCross BlueShield? In other words, it is a block grant the States use to purchase coverage for children. Is that what the President was referring to as big government? If so, isn't the President misrepresenting what this bill does?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, that is the case in almost every State. This isn't a matter of the State of Illinois health insurance plan; it is a matter of our State or the State of North Dakota taking the Federal funds and buying private health insurance, which is something these families currently cannot afford. It strikes me as reasonable for us to give them a helping hand. It is not socialism, whatever that definition may be. It is not a big-government plan.

The President argued that he thought it was unfair to the health insurance industry. I don't understand that. If these 15 million children have not had health insurance for years, that industry has had plenty of chances to sell it. The fact is, it is too expensive for these families.

Mr. DORGAN. If the Senator will yield further for a question, the President, when vetoing the legislation, referred to some families with $83,000 who will be getting this largess so that their children can get subsidized health insurance coverage. My State, as an example, covers children at 140 percent of poverty, most States at around 200 percent of poverty, which I believe is around $44,000 gross income, and the $83,000 to which the President referred does not exist. It was a request from the State of New York which was not granted. In any event, all those requests that have been granted for above the 200 percent have been approved willingly and in a way that allowed this administration to boast that they had approved them. Now the President objects to the very thing they had approved.

The other point is, didn't this President actually campaign in the year 2004 saying he supports expansion of this very program? I ask the question about the $83,000. That clearly must be a misrepresentation. Is that the judgment of the Senator from Illinois as well?

Mr. DURBIN. The State of New York said: We want to cover families up to $83,000; it is more expensive to live in New York than it might be in some other State. But ultimately it was a decision to be made by the President. The President had to give them permission, and he denied it. Under this bill, the President still has that authority to deny States permission to go beyond $62,000 a year. So he still has that authority. Arguing $83,000 makes no sense. He turned it down. We didn't change that in this bill. The President still has the authority to stop any program that would expand in that direction.

In my State and others, I concede, we have been trying to find every way we can to insure people. Our Governor, the general assembly, and other people have tried to find ways to work with the Federal Government to cover people who don't have health insurance.

As a reminder—I know the Senator from North Dakota is well aware—the poorest children in America are covered by Medicaid. The poorest children have health insurance. The children who are fortunate enough to have parents with health insurance aren't the ones we are talking about. We are talking about the group of children who belong to families who go to work every single day and have no health insurance. That is a lot of Americans and a lot of kids. I have had several press conferences during the break at hospitals with doctors and nurses. They tell the story of these children. These children don't have a regular physician, regular checkups, a regular place to go. So an earache turns into a substantial infection. Asthma at an early stage becomes a serious challenge. Diabetes goes undetected because these kids are not brought into our health care system until they have reached such a grievous situation that they end up in emergency rooms, and we all pay for it.

This really is an ounce of prevention that we would have health insurance for more of these kids to be covered, the children of working families who go to work every single day and don't have health insurance. The President vetoed the bill.

Mr. DORGAN. If the Senator will yield for one additional question, the Senator from Illinois is on the Appropriations Committee with me. My understanding is the President is going to be sending down a second supplemental request within days. I understand the White House might not want to send it down before the override issue on the SCHIP program. But the SCHIP program would spend $7 billion a year for 5 years. That is $35 billion. All of it is paid for. None of it is contributing one penny to the debt. The result of that spending? The 3.8 million children who at this point have no health insurance coverage would now be fully covered with health insurance. The President seemed to, when he vetoed the legislation, be saying: I am going to be the guardian of the Federal Treasury and the taxpayers' checkbook. This is big-government bureaucracy—socialized medicine, in fact.

This is fully paid for, $7 billion a year. Isn't it the case that the President has requested two things of us? One is already here, and the other will come next week. One is $145 billion in emergency funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, not a penny of it paid for all this year, and on top of that, we believe another roughly $44 billion supplemental. So that will be a $189 billion emergency supplemental this year. In other words, $7 billion for kids is too much; $189 billion, which will bring us somewhere close to two-thirds of a trillion dollars, the President has requested we spend, not a penny of it paid for. The implication of all that is, let's send soldiers to fight. When they come back, they can pay for the debt we have incurred because we don't intend to pay for any of it.

Isn't it the case that the very same President who says $7 billion a year which is fully paid for and which will result in children's health insurance for 3.8 million children is the President who is sending us a $189 billion additional request for 1 year, none of it paid for?

Mr. DURBIN. The math is right. This President has funded this war in Iraq and Afghanistan borrowing money from future generations. He has not paid for a single day of this war by imposing a tax or cutting spending in some other area. He is the first President in the history of the United States, in the entire history of our Nation, to cut taxes in the midst of war.

I am sure the Senator from North Dakota joined a lot of us in watching the Ken Burns documentary ''The War.'' It has been on for the last couple weeks on public television. One of our great friends and heroes in the Senate, DANNY INOUYE of Hawaii, was featured in it, as he should have been. A Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, he

told the story of his life that led to his service to our country. You couldn't help but feel that America was at war. It wasn't just our soldiers and sailors and marines and airmen; America was at war. We were all involved.

This war which has claimed 3,821 American lives, this war which has injured more than 30,000 of our fighting men and women, this war which has left 10,000 grievously injured with amputations and serious burns, this war has been waged in a much different way.

When America was going to wage this war on terrorism, the President said: We are going to invade Iraq. And America, you can help: go shopping.

That isn't what they said in World War II. They said: We can all pitch in together and get behind this effort.

Then he said: We have to sacrifice. We have to give tax cuts to people at the wealthiest levels.

So we end up with a debt, a debt that continues to grow because the President does not pay for a penny of this war. The Senator from North Dakota is right. It will be close to $750 billion by the end of next year. We are spending $12 to $15 billion a month on this war in Iraq, none of it is paid for, none of it is generated by taxes, and none of it is paid for by compensating cuts in other spending. It is added to our debt.

The President who proclaims himself a fiscal conservative when it comes to vetoing a children's health insurance program within the next several days will send us a massive spending bill of $190 or $200 billion for the next year of this war. The $7 billion for health insurance for children is paid for; the President says it is wasted Federal funds. But $200 billion for a war with no end in sight he considers to be appropriate. I don't understand this. I understand we have to stand behind our men and women in uniform. But a strong America begins at home. It begins with our families and our communities and our parishes and church groups and neighborhoods. It begins with the peace of mind of knowing that you have health insurance. For literally 3.8 million children, the President's veto means no help to buy private health insurance so these families have a chance to have that peace of mind.

I sincerely hope those who feel this is an important program will contact their Members of Congress—both House and Senate—in the next 48 hours. This is a critical moment in our history. We have to decide once and for all whether we are going to start taking important steps forward to bring the peace of mind of health insurance to every family in America. That is a worthy American goal. President Bush's veto should not stand in its way. I certainly hope the House of Representatives, when it votes on Wednesday, will override this Presidential veto.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3233, AS MODIFIED

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that amendment No. 3233, previously agreed to, be modified with the changes at the desk. My understanding is both sides have cleared this request.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3233), as modified, is as follows:

On page 70, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

SEC. 217. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title—

(1) the amount appropriated in this title under the heading ''GENERAL ADMINISTRATION'' is reduced by $10,000,000;

(2) the amount appropriated in this title under the heading ''VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION PROGRAMS'' under the heading ''OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN'' is increased by $10,000,000; and

(3) of the amount appropriated in this title under the heading ''VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PREVENTION AND PROSECUTION PROGRAMS'' under the heading ''OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN''—

(A) $60,000,000 is for grants to encourage arrest policies, as authorized by part U of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796hh et seq.);

(B) $4,000,000 is for engaging men and youth in prevention programs, as authorized by section 41305 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043d–4); and

(C) $1,000,000 is for the National Resource Center on Workplace Responses to assist victims of domestic violence, as authorized by section 41501 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043f).

AMENDMENT NO. 3260, AS MODIFIED

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 5:15 today the Senate resume consideration of the Brown amendment No. 3260, with the time until 5:45 p.m. equally divided and controlled between Senators BROWN and MIKULSKI or their designees; that no amendment be in order to the amendment prior to the vote; and that at 5:45 the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the amendment; that the amendment be modified with the changes at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3260), as modified, is as follows:

On page 97, between lines 9 and 10, and insert the following:

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be used in a manner that is inconsistent with the principal negotiating objective of the United States with respect to trade remedy laws to preserve the ability of the United States—

(1) to enforce vigorously its trade laws, including antidumping, countervailing duty, and safeguard laws;

(2) to avoid agreements that—

(A) lessen the effectiveness of domestic and international disciplines on unfair trade, especially dumping and subsidies; or

(B) lessen the effectiveness of domestic and international safeguard provisions, in order to ensure that United States workers, agricultural producers, and firms can compete fully on fair terms and enjoy the benefits of reciprocal trade concessions; and

(3) to address and remedy market distortions that lead to dumping and subsidization, including overcapacity, cartelization, and market-access barriers.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, while we are waiting for the ranking member, to speak as in morning business for 3 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

DO NOT CALL LIST LEGISLATION

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, last week I introduced some legislation in the Senate for which it is my hope my colleagues will join in. It deals with the issue of the Do Not Call List that is housed down at the Federal Trade Commission.

I do not think there is much more irritating in life than to receive calls from telemarketers. Almost everybody has received bundles of calls from telemarketers—always during mealtime. They always wait until the family has been able to sit down to start a meal, and then the family gets a telephone call: Would you like to take our cable service? Would you like to take our cell phone service? Do you need new siding? We will have some people in your neighborhood tomorrow selling sheetrock or siding.

So on and on and on, telemarketers are unbelievably annoying. So Congress passed a piece of legislation. It says: We are going to set up a list at the Federal Trade Commission called a Do Not Call List. You call in, put your name on that list, and it says to telemarketers: You may not call the names on that list.

So the list has been very successful, except the Federal Trade Commission did one very inexplicable and dumb thing. I guess that is a gentle description. They said of the people who call in and put their names on a Do Not Call List, the list will expire at a certain time, so you would have to call back in.

So we have had 149 million people call in. Think of this: 149 million Americans picked up their phone and called their Federal Government and said: Put my name on a Do Not Call List. I am sick and tired of getting telephone calls from telemarketers. I want my name on a list.

That is the biggest vote in American history, isn't it? They just voted by picking up the phone. Mr. President, 149 million people voted to say: I do not want those calls anymore. Stop it. So the Federal Trade Commission put their names on a list. Then the Federal Trade Commission said: Oh, by the way, your name goes off the list at the end of 5 years. And by the way, next October, on or about the first day or so

of the month—or within a couple of days of that time—we will have about 50 million people whose names come off the list.

That makes no sense to me. If you put your name on a list saying, ''I don't want people making annoying calls to my house,'' that name ought to stay on the list. You ought not have to pick up the phone and recall the Federal Trade Commission.

I do not know who made the decision but what a dumb decision. Let's put a list together. If you call and get your name on the list and say, ''I don't want irritating, annoying calls from telemarketers,'' your name ought to stay on the list until you decide to pull it off.

So I have put in a piece of legislation that says if you put your name on a list, your name is going to stay on the list. You do not have to call in. There is not going to be an automatic expulsion. We did not provide for that in the Congress. The Federal Trade Commission came up with that goofy idea. So my legislation will say that idea is gone. If your name is on a list, it stays on the list. You deserve to have supper or dinner—or whatever you might call it at the end of the day—without having your phone ringing by somebody wanting to sell siding or a new telephone service.

My hope is every Member of the Senate might cosponsor the legislation—except for those Members of the Senate who love to get telemarketing calls. For those who do, I expect they would not sign on, and I will probably come and announce their names soon. But if we can get all of those to cosponsor it, we can get this passed quickly and solve a problem for all American families.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3225, AS MODIFIED

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that amendment No. 3225, previously agreed to, be modified with the changes at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3225), as modified, is as follows:

On page 26, after line 24, insert the following:

SEC. 114. UNITED STATES ECONOMIC DATA.

(a) Of the funds provided in this title for Economic and Information Infrastructure under the heading ''ECONOMIC AND STATISTIC ANALYSIS'', $950,000 may be used to carry out the study and report required under this section.

(b) Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall enter into a contract with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study and report on whether the import price data published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and other economic data collected by the United States accurately reflect the economic condition of the United States.

(c)(1) The report required by subsection (b) shall include an analysis of the methods used to determine the condition of the United States economy and shall address—

(A) whether the statistical measure of the United States economy correctly interprets the impact of imports and outsourced production;

(B) whether the statistical measures of the United States economy result in an accurate report of United States gross domestic product (GDP), productivity, and other aspects of economic performance;

(C) whether the impact of imports on United States manufacturing levels and competitiveness is accurately reported; and

(D) whether other countries are accounting for import prices more accurately or frequently than the United States.

(2) If the findings of the report indicate that the methods used for accounting for imported goods and United States wages result in overstating economic growth, domestic manufacturing output, and productivity growth, the report shall include recommendations with respect to—

(A) what actions should be taken to produce more accurate import price indices on a regular basis; and

(B) what other measures of economic analysis should be used to accurately reflect the globalization of economic activity and offshoring of domestic production.

(d) The report required by subsection (b) shall be completed and submitted to Congress not later than 18 months after the date of the contract described in subsection (b).

Mr. DORGAN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANDERS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHIP

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, to bring our colleagues up to date, we are working on the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations. Senator SHELBY and I are working to clear amendments now. All amendments have been filed. We have 60 of them, but we hope some can be cleared. For those Senators who wish to have a vote on their amendment, I wish they would consider offering the amendment and debating it this evening. I certainly will be willing to stay for that.

While we are working on clearing these amendments, I rise to stand up for my constituents, to stand up for a family in Baltimore who has been vilified by the rightwing bloggers because they dare to say that they benefited from and support a public program called the Children's Health Initiative.

I don't know what is happening in America now, where instead of working to change policies, the right wing tries to change the subject, and they do it by attacking people rather than attacking the problem—the problem of poverty, the problem that our children don't have health care, the problem that one of my constituents, a little boy named Deamante Driver, died in Prince George's County because he didn't have access to dental care and had a severe oral bacterial infection. My colleague Senator CARDIN has taken up the cudgels on that issue, and I support him. It is our Children's Health Initiative, and I will help to override the veto.

Let me tell my colleagues what happened. I am taking up for a family named Bonnie and Halsey Frost who live in Baltimore. A few weeks ago they stood here in the Congress to say that they benefitted from the SCHIP program. They told the story about how two of their children had been in a horrific accident.

Graeme, the boy who gave the Democratic radio address, spoke about what he needed. He had a brain injury. He was treated at Johns Hopkins Hospital. So was his little sister. Graeme was in a coma for weeks. One of his vocal cords was paralyzed. One of his eyes continues to be damaged. Gemma, his little sister, has suffered permanent injuries, which I will not go through. The families had their business spread all over the right wing blogs. I will not spread it all over the Senate floor. But I want to take up for them, for the fact that when they stood up to talk about how they benefitted from this program, they were attacked because they weren't seen as worthy. The Frosts have four children: Graeme, who is 12; Max, Graeme's twin, who saw the accident; Gemma, who also was in the accident; and an older brother named Zeke.

Bonnie and her children were in a car crash in 2004 when the SUV she was driving had an accident. The children had these terrible problems. Who is the Frost family? Well, the Frost family is a family of six. They live in Baltimore and they qualify under the Maryland SCHIP program, which says that if you have a family of this size and an income under $51,000 a year, you qualify. They qualified. What happened?

Through other friends of theirs who were involved with health advocacy in the State, they were invited to come and tell their story to show why there is a compelling need for the Children's Health Initiative. Well, they did it. Then guess what happened. After young Graeme, who, along with his sister, had this terrible thing happen to them—after they then spoke up and Graeme gave the Democratic radio address, what followed was unbelievable. It was a firestorm against them that went across the right wing bloggers. It

was vitriolic, volcanic, ugly, nasty, shredding their names and reputations. You ought to talk to them about what they went through. They could not believe they were in the United States of America. One of the right wingers showed up in the area where he has his business to do on-the-spot investigative reporting. I wish we were as good at keeping our borders safe as we are at keeping the boundaries around SCHIP. I wish we were as good at keeping an eye on terrorists. But, no, they went after the Frost family.

Paul Krugman felt so outraged about it that he wrote a column in the New York Times about it. He called it ''a teaching moment on politics and health care.'' He tells the story about this and then he said what happened to this family should be a teaching moment.

I will read from this and then I will ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD:

. . . The Frosts and their four children are exactly the kind of people SCHIP was intended to help: working Americans who can't afford private health insurance.

The parents have a combined income of about $45,000.

What they have is that the father is a self-employed woodworker and welder. They bought a house in east Baltimore in a neighborhood that is going gentry, called Butchers' Hill. When they bought it, it was called Butchers' Hill from years and years ago, when there were slaughterhouses where they were killing cows for beef and making sausage for the ethnic communities. But it took on another name about the time they bought it. It was like a frontier town—riddled with drugs and all kinds of problems—but they believed in Baltimore, they believed in their country, and they were willing to be urban pioneers, so they bought this home for a modest price. Now, we have been reclaiming Baltimore. Yes, the houses are selling at very high prices, but that is not what they paid for it.

This man is self-employed. When he married, yes, they were from a prominent family. Their wedding announcement was in the New York Times. Since when does that mean anything? He has a small warehouse that provides a modest rental income. His wife works part time at a medical publishing firm. They don't have health benefits.

To go on with what Krugman said, he said that soon after the radio address, right wing bloggers began insisting that there is something wrong with the Frosts; that they have a house in a neighborhood they said is expensive. I can tell you that when they bought it, it was truly Butchers' Hill. They have two children in private school, but they were on scholarship. Nobody bothered to find that out. The right wing bloggers made unfounded accusations against them all of the time. It was led by a woman who, according to the technocrats, is the most trafficked right wing blog on the Internet.

This tone of vitriol and viciousness has to stop. The attack on this family was picked up by Rush Limbaugh, the same guy calling dissident military people ''microphone marines.'' And then the smear went on with that. At the same time this was going on, a CNN report suggested that the Democrats made a tactical error because we had this family on.

I don't know what we are doing here. Again, we are attacking a family when we should be attacking the problems of children's health. First, I called the Frost family. I listened to what they have had to endure because they didn't have health insurance, after what happened to their children after this terrible accident and the recovery. Then I listened to what they had to endure because they spoke up for the Children's Health Initiative.

When I listened to them, I said to them I think the Senate owed them an apology that we now have come to this point. Now, I have watched good people be attacked by the right wing. The other day, we sanctioned MoveOn.org because of what they did to General Petraeus. I voted for that sanction. What about my Frost family? Should we have a sense of the Senate on that? I don't know if I am going to put this family through more. But I will tell you this: I think we have to start changing the tone. We have to start changing the tone in our institution to work on a bipartisan basis the way the Senator from Alabama and I have. We are moving forward a solid bill that promotes scientific research, keeps America's space program going, but equally we are funding local law enforcement.

Can we not change the tone? Do we always have to attack each other? Do we have to be so violent in our language, so vicious, so vitriolic? I don't think so. I think our country has to get back to the basics, where you can disagree without being disagreeable, where you focus on the policies, not on the person, where you try to deal with issues and you don't attack people for the simple reason that they have spoken up and they have spoken out.

I think we need to take a timeout in this country. I respect free speech, I respect the bloggers and what they have; but when there is a deliberate attempt from either the right or the left to go after people simply because they have spoken up, I think it is the wrong direction. I think we have been heading in the wrong direction.

I wanted to bring to everyone's attention what happened to this family. I ask unanimous consent that the Krugman article be printed in the RECORD and that the David Herszenhorn article about what happened be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SLIMING GRAEME FROST

(By Paul Krugman)

Two weeks ago, the Democratic response to President Bush's weekly radio address was delivered by a 12-year-old, Graeme Frost. Graeme, who along with his sister received severe brain injuries in a 2004 car crash and continues to need physical therapy, is a beneficiary of the State Children's Health Insurance Program. Mr. Bush has vetoed a bipartisan bill that would have expanded that program to cover millions of children who would otherwise have been uninsured.

What followed should serve as a teaching moment.

First, some background. The Frosts and their four children are exactly the kind of people S-chip was intended to help: working Americans who can't afford private health insurance.

The parents have a combined income of about $45,000, and don't receive health insurance from employers. When they looked into buying insurance on their own before the accident, they found that it would cost $1,200 a month—a prohibitive sum given their income. After the accident, when their children needed expensive care, they couldn't get insurance at any price.

Fortunately, they received help from Maryland's S-chip program. The state has relatively restrictive rules for eligibility: children must come from a family with an income under 200 percent of the poverty line. For families with four children that's $55,220, so the Frosts clearly qualified.

Graeme Frost, then, is exactly the kind of child the program is intended to help. But that didn't stop the right from mounting an all-out smear campaign against him and his family.

Soon after the radio address, right-wing bloggers began insisting that the Frosts must be affluent because Graeme and his sister attend private schools (they're on scholarship), because they have a house in a neighborhood where some houses are now expensive (the Frosts bought their house for $55,000 in 1990 when the neighborhood was rundown and considered dangerous) and because Mr. Frost owns a business (it was dissolved in 1999).

You might be tempted to say that bloggers make unfounded accusations all the time. But we're not talking about some obscure fringe. The charge was led by Michelle Malkin, who according to Technorati has the most-trafficked right-wing blog on the Internet, and in addition to blogging has a nationally syndicated column, writes for National Review and is a frequent guest on Fox News.

The attack on Graeme's family was also quickly picked up by Rush Limbaugh, who is so important a player in the right-wing universe that he has had multiple exclusive interviews with Vice President Dick Cheney.

And G.O.P. politicians were eager to join in the smear. The New York Times reported that Republicans in Congress ''were gearing up to use Graeme as evidence that Democrats have overexpanded the health program to include families wealthy enough to afford private insurance'' but had ''backed off'' as the case fell apart.

In fact, however, Republicans had already made their first move: an e-mail message from the office of Mitch McConnell, the Senate minority leader, sent to reporters and obtained by the Web site Think Progress, repeated the smears against the Frosts and asked: ''Could the Dems really have done that bad of a job vetting this family?''

And the attempt to spin the media worked, to some extent: despite reporting that has thoroughly debunked the smears, a CNN report yesterday suggested that the Democrats had made ''a tactical error in holding up Graeme as their poster child,'' and closely echoed the language of the e-mail from Mr. McConnell's office.

All in all, the Graeme Frost case is a perfect illustration of the modern right-wing political machine at work, and in particular

its routine reliance on character assassination in place of honest debate. If service members oppose a Republican war, they're ''phony soldiers''; if Michael J. Fox opposes Bush policy on stem cells, he's faking his Parkinson's symptoms; if an injured 12-year-old child makes the case for a government health insurance program, he's a fraud.

Meanwhile, leading conservative politicians far from trying to distance themselves from these smears, rush to embrace them. And some people in the news media are still willing to be used as patsies.

Politics aside, the Graeme Frost case demonstrates the true depth of the health care crisis: every other advanced country has universal health insurance, but in America, insurance is now out of reach for many hard-working families, even if they have incomes some might call middle-class.

And there's one more point that should not be forgotten: ultimately, this isn't about the Frost parents. It's about Graeme Frost and his sister.

I don't know about you, but I think American children who need medical care should get it, period. Even if you think adults have made bad choices—a baseless smear in the case of the Frosts, but put that on one side—only a truly vicious political movement would respond by punishing their injured children.

CAPITOL FEUD: A 12-YEAR-OLD IS THE FODDER

(By David M. Herszenhorn)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—There have been moments when the fight between Congressional Democrats and President Bush over the State Children's Health Insurance Program has seemed to devolve into a shouting match about who loves children more.

So when Democrats enlisted 12-year-old Graeme Frost, who along with a younger sister relied on the program for treatment of severe brain injuries suffered in a car crash, to give the response to Mr. Bush's weekly radio address earlier this month, Republican opponents quickly accused them of exploiting the boy to score political points.

Then, they wasted little time in going after him to score their own.

In recent days, Graeme and his family have been attacked by conservative bloggers and other critics of the Democrats' plan to expand the insurance program, known as S-chip. They scrutinized the family's income and assets—even alleged the counters in their kitchen to be granite—and declared that they did not seem needy enough for government benefits.

But what on the surface appears to be yet another partisan feud, all the nastier because a child is at the center of it, actually cuts to the most substantive debate around S-chip. Democrats say it is crucially needed to help the working poor—Medicaid already helps the impoverished—but many Republicans say it now helps too many people with the means to help themselves.

The feud also illustrates what can happen when politicians showcase real people to make a point, a popular but often perilous technique. And in this case, the discourse has been anything but polite. The critics accused Graeme's father, Halsey, a self-employed woodworker, of choosing not to provide insurance for his family of six, even though he owned his own business. They pointed out that Graeme attends an expensive private school. And they asserted that the family's home had undergone extensive remodeling, and asserted that its market value could exceed $400,000.

One critic, in an e-mail message to Graeme's mother, Bonnie, warned: ''Lie down with dogs, and expect to get fleas.'' As it turns out, the Frosts say, Graeme attends the private school on scholarship. The business that the critics said Mr. Frost owned was dissolved in 1999. The family's home, in the modest Butchers Hill neighborhood of Baltimore, was bought for $55,000 in 1990 and is now worth about $260,000, according to public records. And, for the record, the Frosts say, their kitchen counters are concrete.

Certainly the Frosts are not destitute. They also own a commercial property, valued at about $160,000, that provides rental income. Mr. Frost works intermittently in woodworking and as a welder, while Mrs. Frost has a part-time administrative job at a firm that provides services to publishers of medical journals. Her job does not provide health coverage.

Under the Maryland child health program, a family of six must earn less than $55,220 a year for children to qualify. The program does not require applicants to list their assets, which do not affect eligibility.

In a telephone interview, the Frosts said they had recently been rejected by three private insurance companies because of pre-existing medical conditions. ''We stood up in the first place because S-chip really helped our family and we wanted to help other families,'' Mrs. Frost said.

''We work hard, we're honest, we pay our taxes,'' Mr. Frost said, adding, ''There are hard-working families that really need affordable health insurance.''

Democrats, including the House speaker, Nancy Pelosi, have risen to the Frosts' defense, saying they earn about $45,000 a year and are precisely the type of working-poor Americans that the program was intended to help.

Ms. Pelosi on Tuesday said, ''I think it's really a sad statement about how bankrupt some of these people are in their arguments against S-chip that they would attack a 12-year-old boy.'' The House and Senate approved legislation that would expand the child health program by $35 billion over five years. President Bush, who proposed a more modest increase, vetoed the bill last week. Mr. Bush said the Democrats' plan is fiscally unsound; the Democrats say Mr. Bush is willing to spend billions on the Iraq war but not on health care for American children.

Republicans on Capitol Hill, who were gearing up to use Graeme as evidence that Democrats have overexpanded the health program to include families wealthy enough to afford private insurance, have backed off, glad to let bloggers take the heat for attacking a family with injured children.

An aide to Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican leader, expressed relief that his office had not issued a press release criticizing the Frosts.

But Michelle Malkin, one of the bloggers who has levied harsh criticism against the Frost family, insisted that Republicans should hold their ground and not pull punches. ''The bottom line here is that this family has considerable assets,'' Ms. Malkin wrote in an e-mail message. ''Maryland's S–CHIP program does not means-test. The refusal to do assets tests on federal health insurance programs is why federal entitlements are exploding and government keeps expanding. If Republicans don't have the guts to hold the line, they deserve to lose their seats.''

As for charges that bloggers were unfairly attacking a 12-year-old, Ms. Malkin wrote on her blog. ''If you don't want questions, don't foist these children onto the public stage.''

But Mr. and Mrs. Frost said they were bothered by the assertion that they lacked health coverage by their own choice. ''That is not true at all,'' Mrs. Frost said. ''Basically all these naysayers need to lay the facts out on the page, and say 'How could a family be able to do this?' S-chip is a stopgap.''

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, they speak more eloquently about it than I have been able to. I felt badly about what happened to the Frost family. I hope we can focus on dealing with the Children's Health Initiative. It is for protecting all of the children. Today I stand up here for the Frost family.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama is recognized.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I want to speak on the pending bill before the Senate for a few minutes.

This is the second day of consideration of the fiscal year 2008 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill. This bill funds the Departments of Commerce and Justice, NASA, and the National Science Foundation. Given the extremely diverse subject matters contained within this bill's jurisdiction, we must entertain a wide range of amendments on the Senate floor. This has been true in the past and is true again this year.

Chairwoman MIKULSKI and I are currently reviewing a substantial list of amendments and are working with various Members and staffs to determine appropriate resolutions to the list of amendments. I ask Members to come to the floor to discuss with the chairwoman and myself your concerns so we can move this critical funding bill forward.

We hope and expect to finish this bill no later than mid-day tomorrow, but to accomplish this we will need every Senator's help.

It is Monday afternoon and we can move some things tonight and get this bill moved tomorrow with the help of a lot of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I have an amendment that has been filed. I will call it up so it can be considered at the appropriate time. I gather that to do that I must ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment, and I do so now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3208

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3208.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), for himself, and Mr. SMITH, proposes an amendment numbered 3208.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to clarify that territories and Indian tribes are eligible to receive grants for confronting the use of methamphetamine)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. NATIVE AMERICAN METHAMPHETAMINE ENFORCEMENT AND TREATMENT ACT OF 2007.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Native American Methamphetamine Enforcement and Treatment Act of 2007''.

(b) NATIVE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN METHAMPHETAMINE GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2996(a) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797cc(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting '', territories, and Indian tribes (as defined in section 2704)'' after ''to assist States''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and local'' and inserting '', territorial, Tribal, and local'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting '', territories, and Indian tribes'' after ''make grants to States''; and

(C) in paragraph (3)(C), by inserting '', Tribal,'' after ''support State''.

(2) GRANT PROGRAMS FOR DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN.—Section 755(a) of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 3797cc–2(a)) is amended by inserting '', territories, and Indian tribes (as defined in section 2704 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797d))'' after ''make grants to States''.

(3) GRANT PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS METHAMPHETAMINE USE BY PREGNANT AND PARENTING WOMEN OFFENDERS.—Section 756 of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 3797cc–3) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting '', territorial, or Tribal'' after ''State'';

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by inserting '', territorial, or Tribal'' after ''State''; and

(II) by striking ''and/or'' and inserting ''or'';

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) by inserting '', territory, Indian tribe,'' after ''agency of the State''; and

(II) by inserting '', territory, Indian tribe,'' after ''criminal laws of that State''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian tribe' has the meaning given the term in section 2704 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797d).''; and

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (3), by striking ''Indian Tribes'' and inserting ''Indian tribes''; and

(ii) in paragraph (4)—

(I) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(aa) by striking ''State's''; and

(bb) by striking ''and/or'' and inserting ''or'';

(II) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''State'';

(III) in subparagraph (C), by inserting '', Indian tribes,'' after ''involved counties''; and

(IV) in subparagraph (D), by inserting '', Tribal'' after ''Federal, State''.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, this amendment would ensure that communities throughout Indian country have the resources they need to fight the meth epidemic.

The amendment is based on a bipartisan bill I introduced along with Senator SMITH entitled the Native American Methamphetamine and Treatment Act of 2007. It would ensure that Native American communities are able to access essential Federal funding to fight the use of methamphetamines.

Senators DORGAN, CANTWELL, FEINGOLD, SALAZAR, and BAUCUS are also cosponsors of this amendment.

This last March, after hearings were held in the House Judiciary Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed this legislation by a vote of 423 to 0.

We all know that Indian country has been hard hit by the use of meth. Over 70 percent of Indian tribes surveyed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs identified meth abuse as the greatest threat to their communities, and about 40 percent of violent crime cases investigated in Indian country involve meth in some capacity.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services, or SAMHSA, American Indians, Alaskan natives, and native Hawaiians have the highest rate of meth abuse of any ethnic group in our country. Unfortunately, when Congress passed the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act, tribes were unintentionally left out as eligible applicants under some of the newly authorized grant programs. They were left out of the Department of Justice Hot Spots Program, which helps local law enforcement agencies obtain the tools they need to reduce the production, distribution, and use of meth and to clean up meth labs, support health and environmental agencies, and purchase equipment and support systems. The Combat Meth Act authorized $99 million in new funding under this program.

Tribes were also left out of the Drug Endangered Children Grant Program, which helps children who live in a home in which meth has been used or manufactured or sold. Under this program, law enforcement agencies and prosecutors, child protective services, social services, and health care services work together to ensure that these children get the help they need. The act authorized $20 million for this program.

I can see absolutely no reason Native-American communities that are struggling to contain the meth epidemic should be denied the resources necessary to address the problem, and to this end I hope my colleagues will agree with me and support this important amendment when the time comes for its important consideration.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I wish to say to my colleague from New Mexico that we agree with him on the amendment. Certainly there are challenges facing the West. We see the scourge of meth, and that is one of the largest areas of requests we have for congressionally designated projects. I know my colleague wants them to be eligible for grants and to compete for them, and so we support the intent.

Right now, there is an objection from two Senators, and we also understand that the Senator from Arizona would like to have further conversations with my colleague about the possibility of a modification. If you could have that conversation and see if we can come back, we could either move to a vote or see if it could be accepted.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, first, I thank the manager of the bill, my colleague from Maryland, and respond that, yes, I am anxious to deal with any concern any Senator has, and I have spoken to the Senator from Arizona about his concerns and have tried to accommodate them. To date, we have not been able to get his agreement to an accommodation that has been suggested. So I just want to be sure we have reserved the right to have a vote on the amendment if we are still not able to get agreement.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I think the Senator has our word that he will have—Mr. President, what is the parliamentary mechanism to reserving the right to a vote?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no particular order.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I would say to the Senator from New Mexico that he has our word that if he can work it out, we will see whether we can take it, and if not, we will have the vote.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I very much appreciate that assurance. As I say, I hope very much we can get language that is acceptable to the Senator from Arizona. If not, I think we can allow the Senate to work its will, and hopefully the amendment will pass.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I would further like to say to the Senator from New Mexico, in keeping with what my colleague from Alabama said, we would like to finish this bill before the caucuses tomorrow. So I will discuss this with the Senator from Alabama, but it would be our intention to see how much we can get cleared and then have some stacked votes tomorrow morning. So if the Senator from New Mexico could let us know by tomorrow morning—say, 9:30—whether he has been able to reach an accommodation—or this evening—we will be here and would welcome that.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I appreciate that, and I am glad to advise the Senator if we reach an accommodation. I think, for purposes of ensuring a vote, if there is a group of stacked votes scheduled for tomorrow, if this

can be included in that list, and then, of course, if agreement is reached prior to the time of the vote, we could delete it.

Ms. MIKULSKI. The Senator has our word on that.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I thank my colleague, and I suggest the absence of a quorum, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, we are working very well, here again on a bipartisan basis. I thank Senator SHELBY and his staff for the way we are working. We have been able to look at a variety of amendments colleagues have offered, and we are ready to accept them.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the pending amendment be laid aside.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3309

Ms. MIKULSKI. I now call up amendment No. 3309 offered by myself and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI] proposes an amendment numbered 3309.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide that certain funds be available for the development of educational activities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics related to the civilian space program)

On page 72, line 14, before the period insert the following: ": *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available under this heading for cross-agency support programs, $10,000,000 shall be made available, and distributed in equal increments, to each of NASA's 10 centers for the development of educational activities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics related to the civilian space program of the United States".

Ms. MIKULSKI. I ask unanimous consent the amendment be modified with the modification at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3309), as modified, is as follows:

On page 72, line 14, before the period insert the following: ": *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available under this heading for cross-agency support programs, $10,000,000 may be made available, and distributed in equal increments, to each of NASA's 10 centers for the development of educational activities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics related to the civilian space program of the United States".

Ms. MIKULSKI. This amendment has been cleared on both sides of the aisle. I ask for its immediate adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3309), as modified, was agreed to.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3251

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3251 offered by Senator LAUTENBERG of New Jersey and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI], for Mr. LAUTENBERG, proposes an amendment numbered 3251.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide funds for the National Research Council study on acidification of the oceans as authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006)

On page 16, line 11, strike the period at the end and insert ": *Provided further*, That of the funds available for the Ocean Research Priorities Plan Implementation, such sums as may be necessary shall be set aside to initiate the study to be completed within 2 years on acidification of the oceans and how this process affects the United States as authorized by section 701 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–479; 120 Stat. 3649).".

Ms. MIKULSKI. I ask the amendment be modified with the modification at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3251), as modified, is as follows:

On page 16, line 11, strike the period at the end and insert ": *Provided further*, That of the funds available for the Ocean Research Priorities Plan Implementation, such sums as may be necessary may be set aside to initiate the study to be completed within 2 years, on acidification of the oceans and how this process affects the United States as authorized by section 701 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–479; 120 Stat. 3649).".

Ms. MIKULSKI. This amendment has been cleared on both side of the aisle. I ask for its immediate adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment, (No. 3251), as modified, was agreed to.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3275

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3275 by Senator LEVIN of Michigan and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI], for Mr. LEVIN, proposes an amendment numbered 3275.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require the FBI to submit an annual report to Congress regarding the length of time taken by the FBI to conduct background checks)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. ANNUAL REPORT ON DELAYED BACKGROUND CHECKS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall submit a report to the congressional committees listed in subsection (b) that contains, with respect to the most recently completed fiscal year—

(1) a statistical analysis of the number of background checks processed and pending, including check requests in process at the time of the report and check requests that have been received but are not yet in process;

(2) the average time taken to complete each type of background check;

(3) a description of the efforts and progress made by the Director in addressing any delays in completing such background checks; and

(4) a description of the progress that has been made in automating files used in the name check process, including investigative files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(b) RECIPIENTS.—The congressional committees listed in this subsection are—

(1) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

Ms. MIKULSKI. This amendment has been cleared on both sides of the aisle. I ask for its immediate adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3275) was agreed to.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3247

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3247 by Senator MCCASKILL of Missouri and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI], FOR MRS. MCCASKILL, proposes an amendment numbered 3247.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To require the Departments, agencies, and commissions to establish and maintain on their website homepages a direct link to the websites of their Inspectors General, and for other purposes)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Departments, agencies, and commissions funded under this Act, shall establish and maintain on the homepages of their Internet websites—

(1) a direct link to the Internet websites of their Offices of Inspectors General; and

(2) a mechanism on the Offices of Inspectors General website by which individuals may anonymously report cases of waste, fraud, or abuse with respect to those Departments, agencies, and commissions.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I ask that I be added as a cosponsor of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. This amendment has been cleared on both sides of the aisle, and I ask for its immediate adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3247) was agreed to.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3234

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3234 by Senator OBAMA of Illinois and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI], for Mr. OBAMA, for himself and Mr. DURBIN, proposes an amendment numbered 3234.

The amendment follows:

(Purpose: To provide that none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract in an amount greater than $5,000,000 or to award a grant in excess of such amount unless the prospective contractor or grantee makes certain certifications regarding Federal tax liability)

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 528. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract in an amount greater than $5,000,000 or to award a grant in excess of such amount unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, the contractor or grantee has filed all Federal tax returns required during the three years preceding the certification, has not been convicted of a criminal offense under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and has not, more than 90 days prior to certification, been notified of any unpaid Federal tax assessment for which the liability remains unsatisfied, unless the assessment is the subject of an installment agreement or offer in compromise that has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service and is not in default, or the assessment is the subject of a non-frivolous administrative or judicial proceeding.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, this amendment has been cleared on both sides of the aisle. I ask for its immediate adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3234) was agreed to.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3263

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3263 by Senator PRYOR of Arkansas and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI], for Mr. PRYOR, proposes an amendment numbered 3263.

The amendment follows:

(Purpose: To establish a pilot program for digital and wireless networks to advance online higher education opportunities for minority students)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. DIGITAL AND WIRELESS NETWORKS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''ED 1.0 Act''.

(b) APPROPRIATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, from the amount appropriated under title I under the heading ''Technology Opportunities Program'', $4,500,000 may be available for the pilot program under this section, to remain available until expended.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

(2) ELIGIBLE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term ''eligible educational institution'' means an institution that is—

(A) a historically Black college or university;

(B) a Hispanic-serving institution as that term is defined in section 502(a)(5) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(5));

(C) a tribally controlled college or university as that term is defined in section 2(a)(4) of the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801(a)(4));

(D) an Alaska Native-serving institution as that term is defined in section 317(b)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b)(2)); or

(E) a Native Hawaiian-serving institution as that term is defined in section 317(b)(4) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b)(4)).

(3) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The term ''historically Black college or university'' means a part B institution as that term is defined in section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)).

(d) MINORITY ONLINE DEGREE PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration a pilot program under which the Administrator shall award 9 grants to eligible educational institutions to enable the eligible educational institutions to develop digital and wireless networks for online educational programs of study within the eligible educational institutions. The Administrator shall award not less than 1 grant to each type of eligible educational institution, enumerated under subsection (c)(2).

(B) GRANT NUMBER AND AMOUNT.—

(i) NUMBER.—The Administrator shall award a total of 9 grants under this subsection.

(ii) GRANT PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—The Administrator shall make grant payments under this subsection in the amount of $500,000.

(2) PRIORITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants under this subsection the Administrator shall give priority to an eligible educational institution that, according to the most recent data available (including data available from the Bureau of the Census), serves a county, or other appropriate political subdivision where no counties exist—

(i) in which 50 percent of the residents of the county, or other appropriate political subdivision where no counties exist, are members of a racial or ethnic minority;

(ii) in which less than 18 percent of the residents of the county, or other appropriate political subdivision where no counties exist, have obtained a baccalaureate degree or a higher education;

(iii) that has an unemployment rate of 7 percent or greater;

(iv) in which 20 percent or more of the residents of the county, or other appropriate political subdivision where no counties exist, live in poverty;

(v) that has a negative population growth rate; or

(vi) that has a family income of not more than $32,000.

(B) HIGHEST PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this subsection the Administrator shall give the highest priority to an eligible educational institution that meets the greatest number of requirements described in clauses (i) through (vi) of subparagraph (A).

(3) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible educational institution receiving a grant under this subsection may use the grant funds—

(A) to acquire equipment, instrumentation, networking capability, hardware, software, digital network technology, wireless technology, or wireless infrastructure;

(B) to develop and provide educational services, including faculty development; or

(C) to develop strategic plans for information technology investments.

(4) MATCHING NOT REQUIRED.—The Administrator shall not require an eligible educational institution to provide matching funds for a grant awarded under this subsection.

(5) CONSULTATIONS; REPORT.—

(A) CONSULTATIONS.—The Administrator shall consult with the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, on a quarterly basis regarding the pilot program assisted under this subsection.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall submit to the committees described in subparagraph (A) a report evaluating the progress of the pilot program assisted under this subsection.

(6) LIMITATION ON USE OF OTHER FUNDS.—The Administrator shall carry out this subsection only with amounts appropriated in advance specifically to carry out this subsection.

Ms. MIKULSKI. This amendment has been cleared on both sides of the aisle. I ask for its immediate adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3263) was agreed to.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3271

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3271 by Senator SHELBY of Alabama and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI], for Mr. SHELBY, proposes an amendment numbered 3271.

The amendment follows:

On page 30 line 4 strike the ''.'' and insert '': Provided, That within 200 days of enactment of this act, the Inspector General shall conduct an audit and issue a report to the Committees on Appropriations of all expenses of the legislative and public affairs offices at each location of the Justice Department, its bureaus and agencies, including but not limited to every field office and headquarters component; the audit shall include any and all expenses related to these activities.''

Ms. MIKULSKI. This amendment has been cleared on both sides of the aisle. I ask for its immediate adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3271) was agreed to.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3272

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I call up another amendment by Senator SHELBY, No. 3272, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI], for Mr. SHELBY, proposes an amendment numbered 3272.

The amendment follows:

(Purpose: For the review of IT and 2010 Census related activities at the Bureau of the Census)

On page 18 line 13 strike the ''.'' and insert the following:

'': *Provided*, That of the amounts provided to the Secretary within this account, $10,000,000 shall not become available for obligation until the Secretary certifies to the Committees on Appropriations that the Bureau of the Census has followed, and met all best practices, and all Office of Management and Budget guidelines related to information technology projects: *Provided further*, That the Secretary, within 120 days of enactment of this Act, shall provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations that audits and evaluates all decision documents and expenditures by the Bureau of the Census as they relate to the 2010 Census: *Provided further*, That the Secretary, within 120 days of the enactment of this Act, shall provide a report to Congress that is publicly available on the Bureau's website on the steps that the Census Bureau will take to allow citizens the opportunity to complete the decennial census and the American Community Survey over the Internet.''

Ms. MIKULSKI. This amendment has been cleared on both sides of the aisle. I ask for its immediate adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3272) was agreed to.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3273

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I now call up amendment No. 3273 by Senator SHELBY and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI], for Mr. SHELBY, proposes an amendment numbered 3273.

The amendment follows:

On page 69 line 13 after the second ''.'' strike all through page 70 line 10 and insert:

''Of the funds appropriated in this Act for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Sentinel program, $25,000,000 shall not be available for obligation until 60 days after the Committees on Appropriations receive from the Federal Bureau of Investigation a report on the results of a completed integrated baseline review for that program: *Provided*, That the report shall be submitted simultaneously to the Government Accountability Office: *Provided further*, That the Government Accountability Office shall review the Bureau's performance measurement baseline for the Sentinel program and shall submit its findings to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives within 60 days of its receipt of the report.

SEC. 216. None of the funds appropriated in this or any other Act shall be obligated for the initiation of a future phase or increment of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Sentinel program until the Attorney General certifies to the Committees on Appropriations that existing phases or increments currently under contract for development or fielding have completed 70 percent of the work for that phase or increment under the performance measurement baseline validated by the integrated baseline review referred to in SEC. 215 of this Act: *Provided*, That this restriction does not apply to planning and design activities for future phases or increments: *Provided further*, That the Bureau will notify the Committees of any significant changes to the baseline.''

Ms. MIKULSKI. This amendment has been cleared on both sides of the aisle. I ask for its immediate adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3273) was agreed to.

Mr. SHELBY. I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3288

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3288 by Senator SHELBY and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI], for Mr. SHELBY, proposes an amendment numbered 3288.

The amendment follows:

(Purpose: To provide transparency and accountability in funding for conferences and meetings of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration)

After the period on page 97 line 9, insert the following:

SEC. xx. (a) The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall submit quarterly reports to the Inspector General of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration regarding the costs and contracting procedures relating to each conference or meeting, held by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration during fiscal year 2008, and each year thereafter, for which the cost to the Government was more than $20,000.

(b) Each report submitted under subsection (a) shall include, for each conference described in that subsection held during the applicable quarter—

(1) a description of the number of and purpose of participants attending that conference or meeting;

(2) a detailed statement of the costs to the Government relating to that conference or meeting, including—

(A) the cost of any food or beverages;

(B) the cost of any audio-visual services;

(C) the cost of all related travel; and

(D) a discussion of the methodology used to determine which costs relate to that conference or meeting; and

(3) a description of the contracting procedures relating to that conference or meeting, including—

(A) whether contracts were awarded on a competitive basis; and

(B) a discussion of any cost comparison conducted by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in evaluating potential contractors for any conference or meeting.

Ms. MIKULSKI. This amendment also has been cleared on both sides of the aisle. I ask for its immediate adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3288) was agreed to.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3318

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3318 by Senator COBURN of Oklahoma and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI], for Mr. COBURN, proposes an amendment numbered 3318.

The amendment follows:

(Purpose: To provide additional transparency and accountability in funding for conferences and meetings of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SECTION ___. LIMITATION AND REPORTS ON TRAVEL EXPENSES TO CONFERENCES

(a) In this section, the term conference means a meeting that—

(1) is held for consultation, education, awareness, or discussion;

(2) includes participants who are not all employees of the same agency;

(3) is not held entirely at an agency facility;

(4) involves costs associated with travel and lodging for some participants; and

(5) is sponsored by 1 or more agencies, 1 or more organizations that are not agencies, or a combination of such agencies or organizations.

(b) The Administrator of NASA shall, not later than September 30, 2008, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress and post on the public Internet website of the agency in a searchable, electronic format, a report on each conference for which the agency paid travel expenses during Fiscal Year 2008 that includes—

(1) the itemized expenses paid by the agency, including travel expenses and any agency expenditure to otherwise support the conference;

(2) the primary sponsor of the conference;

(3) the location of the conference;

(4) in the case of a conference for which the agency was the primary sponsor, a statement that—

(A) justifies the location selected;

(B) demonstrates the cost efficiency of the location;

(C) the date of the conference;

(D) a brief explanation how the conference advanced the mission of the agency; and

(E) the total number of individuals who travel or attendance at the conference was paid for in part or full by the agency.

Ms. MIKULSKI. This amendment has been cleared on both sides of the aisle. I ask for its immediate adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3318) was agreed to.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, we have now cleared 28 amendments. As we continue to move toward a vote that we will be having at 5:45 on the Brown amendment dealing with international trade, we hope if colleagues do have amendments on which they wish to have a vote they will please come now and offer the amendment and let's have a debate on it. We would like very much to debate as many amendments as we could to have stacked votes tomorrow, and even to come to final passage before the 12:30 caucus.

Colleagues out there on both sides of the aisle, Senator SHELBY and I are here. We are open for business. We are ready to hear your ideas and ready to debate them and follow through on our regular process. Either that, or if you do not wish to offer it, come see us and withdraw it and perhaps offer it at another time.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. STABENOW). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I rise this afternoon to raise my voice in strong support of H.R. 3093, the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Act of 2007. I wish to thank and congratulate Chairwoman MIKULSKI and Ranking Member SHELBY, Chairman BYRD and Ranking Member COCHRAN for their strong leadership on this bill.

As a former attorney general for Colorado, I am particularly proud of the investment that this bill will make in the local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies across our country, the more than 800,000 officers who patrol America's streets and put their lives on the line every day to help make our communities safe and secure. They are truly the frontlines of America's homeland security.

In my 6 years as attorney general of Colorado, and in the last 2½ years as a Senator, I have traveled thousands of miles through my State to visit with county sheriffs, police chiefs, and law enforcement officers working in our small towns, rural counties, and big cities. They are public servants through and through. They know that security is the foundation of a free society. They know that to enjoy our liberties and a prosperous economy, Americans must live in a society governed by the rule of law, free from the threat of violence and secure in their place of residence.

It is the voices of these men and women in uniform across our country, America's peace officers, that should help guide our law enforcement efforts in this country. They should help us make sure we are prepared to meet the emergency we will confront and that will help us address the domestic security priorities we face in the Nation. We should therefore take notice when sheriffs and police officers tell us they do not have the resources they need to combat the scourge of meth that is devastating so many communities across our Nation.

Meth is tearing families apart and financing an underground economy in abandoned farm buildings, fire traps, and houses that are shrouded with plastic. When police go to raid a lab, they never know what they are going to find; whether it is going to be a drug armed to the teeth, whether it is going to be chemicals that are ready to burn and to explode or drug users who are in desperate need of medical attention.

In my State, on a raid on a meth lab in Aurora, CO, this past summer, police found a 2-year-old boy lying in the basement next to a highly toxic cocktail of chemicals. The police rescued him. But what his parents were doing or thinking one can only imagine. Stories such as this story have been too common across our country.

We should also take notice when people such as the U.S. attorney in Colorado, Troy Eid, tell us we do not have enough Federal law enforcement officers to serve Native American communities in southwestern Colorado. Last year, we had a total of five Bureau of Indian Affairs officers policing 600,000 acres in one corner of my State. This is astonishing—five Bureau of Indian Affairs officers policing 600,000 acres.

Criminals, in fact, were calling in false crime reports on one side of the reservation, drawing police away from their target they were aiming to hit on the other side of the reservation.

With this shortage of law enforcement, the murder rate on the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute reservations in Southwestern Colorado has climbed to almost 20 percent of the national average. We need to take notice when people such as recently retired Sheriff Liggett, of Mineral County, CO, tell us our communications equipment in rural communities is woefully inadequate.

I have known Sheriff Liggett for many years. On snowy nights, Sheriff Liggett would call ahead and make sure that I and other travelers made it safely over Slumgullion Pass or Wolf Creek Pass on our way to our destinations.

That is the way things are done in rural Colorado. Sheriff Liggett knows very well the boundaries of his department's communications coverage and the risks that the limitations of that coverage pose to residents and travelers.

The Mineral County Sheriff's Department, similar to so many rural sheriffs' departments, need broader communications coverage and a better ability to talk across agencies and jurisdictions in case an emergency arises.

In late 1990, we made some progress in helping bring safety and security to American's communities. The Federal Government, seeing the homicide rate on the rise, responded to the public's

call for a crackdown on crime by making smarter investment in law enforcement and crime prevention. These investments paid off, with violent crime in the United States dropping by nearly 40 percent from the record highs of the early 1990s.

Unfortunately, these investments have lagged in recent years, and the administration has tried to cut key programs at the very moment, at the very moment that our law enforcement officers are facing a set of growing challenges from homeland security and emergency preparedness to combating meth, to all of the other issues that the 800,000 men and women who keep the security in our country face every day.

I know this administration has been focused on Iraq and that this has consumed a massive proportion of Federal spending; almost $750 billion in the last 4½ years. But this focus on Iraq and our security objectives abroad should not come at the expense of American security right here at home in our United States.

Too many Americans live with fear of drug-related violence in their communities. Too many Americans have seen meth destroy the lives of a family member or of a neighbor. Too many Americans worry that when a disaster strikes, the way it did with Katrina, help will come but help will not come quickly enough.

This bill, which the chairperson from Maryland and Ranking Member SHELBY have put together, resets our priorities to where they should be, on the safety and security of America's families. For that I thank and applaud the leadership of Senator MIKULSKI.

The Appropriations Committee has reported a bill that restores critical investments on law enforcement that this President had proposed to cut. I wish to briefly talk about a few of those provisions that will benefit the peace officers of my State of Colorado.

First, I am pleased the bill we are considering today includes $1.4 billion for State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance, including $660 million for the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants and $190 million for Byrne discretionary grants.

This program, which the President had—beyond my understanding—proposed to eliminate, provides grants to State and local governments for law enforcement, for prosecution and court programs, for prevention and community education programs, drug treatment, and community corrections programs. These are the kinds of programs that the men and women in law enforcement in this country know do, in fact, work to make our communities safe.

Secondly, this bill includes $550 million for the Community Oriented Policing Services, known as COPS. These funds go to tribal, State, and local law enforcement agencies for community policing initiatives which put law enforcement professionals on the streets with a beat so they can build relationships with the people they serve and they protect.

By earning the trust of the members of their communities and making these individuals stakeholders in their own safety, community policing makes law enforcement safer and more efficient. Some of the COPS Program funds that are set forth in this bill will go directly to the drug task forces that have been operational and effective in my State of Colorado. They include: The San Luis Valley Drug Task Force, my native valley; they include the 22nd Judicial District Drug Task Force, the North Metro Task Force, the Delta/Montrose Drug Task Force, the Eagle County Drug Task Force, the Greater Routt and Moffatt Narcotics Enforcement Team, the Weld County Drug Task Force.

Rest assured that from my point of view as a former attorney general of the State of Colorado, I know these task forces are at the point of the spear in combating the scourge of drugs in my State of Colorado, and these important funds will allow us to keep up that fight.

Finally, I am pleased this bill provides $5.6 billion for the Bureau of Prisons to help curb the staff shortages, construction needs and operations budgets for the Federal prison system.

The correctional officers who handle some of the most dangerous criminals in America will tell you the funding levels over the past few years have been inadequate.

At the Supermax Prison in Florence, CO, which houses inmates such as Ted Kaczynski, al-Qaida terrorist Zacarias Moussaoui, and the shoe bomber, Richard Reid, at that Supermax facility, where we house the most dangerous of the most dangerous of America's enemies, funding cuts have left them short staffed and short on beds.

At the prison that houses terrorists, gang leaders and the most violent members of society, this is a dangerous game that we cannot afford, and this legislation moves forward in a way to address those shortfalls.

I am not going to take time to go through all the other good that is included in this bill, but I would mention very briefly the $340 million this bill provides to the juvenile justice program and the investment this bill makes in all our Federal law enforcement agencies such as the DEA, the FBI, and the ATF.

When you look at these investments, you begin to understand how important this bill is to our Nation's law enforcement authority. Anyone who has worked or who works in law enforcement today and who takes the time to look at this bill, will understand this is a strong statement of support for peace officers and for protecting our public across the country. That is why I am perplexed that there is a veto threat by the President on this bill.

There should not be that veto threat because this is a bill that takes a strong position to secure Americans here in the homeland. I hope that as this bill makes it through the Congressional process and to the President's desk, President Bush will decide he is going to stand up for the Nation's law enforcement and for the security here in the homeland and will, in fact, sign this bill.

I end where I began. This is a very good bipartisan product that Senator MIKULSKI and Ranking Member SHELBY have put together for the consideration of this Chamber. I am proud to be a supporter of this bill. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Will the Senator from Colorado yield for a question?

Mr. SALAZAR. I will.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I thank the Senator for his comments about our bill that were so complimentary and for speaking out. As a former attorney general of the State of Colorado, who is essentially the top cop in Colorado, knows one of the hallmarks of good law enforcement is strong law enforcement opportunities, along with prevention in terms of intervening with our young people. But is the Senator aware why this bill is under a veto threat?

Mr. SALAZAR. I have understood that the President has said he doesn't like the funding levels in this bill which I interpret to mean that he doesn't support funding of these very important programs.

Ms. MIKULSKI. The Senator is exactly right. We face a veto threat not because we have done bad legislation but because we have done good funding.

Is the Senator aware that the legislation called for the elimination of the COPS Program?

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I am aware that the President has called for elimination of the COPS Program. I am also aware that when I speak to the law enforcement community throughout the country and throughout my State, sheriffs and chiefs of police across the board say the COPS Program is, in fact, working, and when we see what happened with the dip in violent crime in the 1990s, it occurred precisely because we had programs such as the COPS Program which were very effective.

Ms. MIKULSKI. So then it is the belief of the Senator that our addition of over $500 million to guard the streets and neighborhoods and communities of America will be well spent?

Mr. SALAZAR. I can think of no more important priority for all of us. As we deal with issues of crime and violence and the rule of law in places far away such as Iraq and Afghanistan, it ought to be an important priority, a high priority for us to make sure we are enforcing the rule of law and providing security for Americans at home; that we take care of the homeland first.

I strongly agree with the Senator from Maryland that, in fact, this bill moves us in that direction.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I thank the Senator from Colorado. I appreciate his comments and support.

Madam President, by way of information for our colleagues, when we talk about the COPS Program, one might recall, as the Senator from Colorado said, violent crime really skyrocketed in the mid-1990s. President Clinton, working then with our colleague who continues to be in the Senate, Senator JOE BIDEN, a leader on the Judiciary Committee, came up with the COPS Program. During the Clinton administration, from 1993 to 1998, they put 118,000 extra police officers on the streets of America. They were in 13,000 communities, and violent crime dropped 10 percent. Cops do make a difference. We are concerned that by eliminating the COPS Program, the thin blue line that protects us in our communities is even getting smaller. So working on a bipartisan basis within the Senate, we have added over $500 million to restore that COPS Program; not that we micromanage from the national level, but we empower the local communities to apply for these grants and deploy where they know best to protect their citizens.

We think we have a great bill. We want to move it along. We thank the Senator for the kind words. Now our colleagues can help us not only with words but with deeds, which is, if they have an amendment, offer it or send their staff to either see if we can modify it or have it withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 2360

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of amendment No. 2360 offered by the Senator from Ohio, Mr. BROWN. There will be 30 minutes of debate equally divided between the Senator from Ohio and the Senator from Maryland, Ms. MIKULSKI, or their designees, prior to a vote in relation to the amendment.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I begin my thanking Senator MIKULSKI and Senator SHELBY, as well as Senators BAUCUS and GRASSLEY, for their support of this amendment. The amendment is cosponsored by Senators STABENOW, BYRD, ROCKEFELLER, and LEVIN. I should note that the Finance Committee chair has drafted a bill to boost trade enforcement. I look forward to working on that very important piece of legislation.

This amendment will help America's manufacturers compete on even terms with foreign manufacturers. For generations American manufacturing has been a tremendous source of pride and work for our whole country. Especially for working families, it has been a ladder to the middle class. American manufacturing fuels our economy and supplies our national defense infrastructure. It would be dangerous on many levels for our country to ignore the anticompetitive forces that are buffeting every day our manufacturing sector. In the State of Michigan, in Ohio, across the Midwest, throughout the country, it would be and is dangerous to ignore that.

Over the last several years, U.S. manufacturing has faltered. Millions of good jobs have been lost. In my State of Ohio, from Toledo to Gallipolis, from Ashtabula to Middletown, well over 200,000 manufacturing jobs have disappeared in the last 6 years.

American industry, we know, can compete with anyone in the world when it is a fair fight. Our international trade laws are intended to secure a level playing field. Unfortunately, some of our trading partners have repeatedly found ways to circumvent these laws to gain an unfair advantage against our workers and our companies. This has led to record-breaking trade deficits—some $800 billion in 2006—which threaten the long-term health of our economy and massive job losses which have wreaked havoc on the middle class. Foreign governments have unfairly and illegally doled out massive subsidies to their own companies and others willing to reestablish offshore, contributing to the migration of manufacturing jobs overseas and artificial price advantages for imported products. Despite ample evidence that something is very wrong—when I first ran for Congress in 1992, the U.S. multilateral trade deficit was $38 billion. Last year it was literally more than 20 times that, and we can look at job loss figures, the trade deficit, outsourcing figures, offshoring figures—the Bush administration needs to aggressively enforce American trade law.

Recent WTO decisions threaten to create enormous loopholes in trade law enforcement. This affects industries and local economies throughout the country. We know about steel. We know about paper. But it affects all American manufacturing. That is why we need to be more aggressive in enforcement of the trade laws. If the WTO continues to target U.S. trade remedy laws, we in this Chamber need to fight back. This amendment is a modest reminder to the administration that we need to vigorously enforce our trade laws.

I thank the chairman and ranking member of the subcommittee for their support. I ask my colleagues for their support.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I stand here with my colleague from Alabama to tell all of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle it is the intention of Senator SHELBY and myself to finish this bill tomorrow. We have some amendments that have been filed, and yet we do not know what the intent is of the Senators who have filed such amendments. We are going to be voting very shortly—in a matter of minutes—and we would like every Senator who has filed an amendment to come and tell us what their intent is. Do they intend to offer it? When do they intend to offer it? Or do they wish to seek another accommodation?

We would like to present to the leaders on both sides of the aisle—the majority leader and the Republican leader—a finite list tonight before Senator SHELBY and I go home so we can have the finite list for tomorrow and assiduously, earnestly, thoroughly work through these amendments. But we must know the intent of the Senators.

I believe there is an old-fashioned saying: It is now time to fish or cut bait. We would prefer Senators actually cut their bait. But being an old Maryland fisherwoman myself, we want to talk to our colleagues. Talk to us during this vote. Senator SHELBY is at his desk. I will be at mine. Let's talk things over and see how we can move this bill and make America proud of us. Too often when all is said and done, too much gets said and nothing gets done.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, I join with Senator MIKULSKI. She is telling our colleagues—and I join with her—that we have accepted and are working through a lot of amendments on both sides of the aisle. There are a number of amendments that have been filed. We, as she pointed out, need to know if people are going to insist on amendments or if there is some way we can accommodate Senators, if they would come to the floor and meet with us, because in a few minutes we are going to vote. The leaders will be on the floor and they are going to want a report from us as to what is pending, because tomorrow we want to move this bill. This is a very important bill, as the Presiding Officer knows. We need to move on with it and not delay it more. We are back now in a new week and I think we can make some progress. If my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will meet with us and tell us if they want a vote, we will debate it and vote. If they want to see if we can work out something with them, we will do that. But it is our intention again to move this bill tomorrow.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3260, as modified, offered by the Senator from Ohio, Mr. BROWN.

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN),

the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) would vote ''yea.''

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted ''yea.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANDERS. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 85, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 364 Leg.]

YEAS—85

Akaka	Durbin	Menendez
Barrasso	Ensign	Mikulski
Baucus	Enzi	Nelson (FL)
Bennett	Feingold	Pryor
Bingaman	Feinstein	Reed
Bond	Graham	Reid
Boxer	Grassley	Roberts
Brown	Gregg	Rockefeller
Bunning	Harkin	Salazar
Burr	Hatch	Sanders
Byrd	Hutchison	Schumer
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sessions
Cardin	Inouye	Shelby
Carper	Isakson	Smith
Casey	Johnson	Snowe
Chambliss	Kerry	Specter
Coburn	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cochran	Kohl	Stevens
Coleman	Kyl	Sununu
Collins	Landrieu	Tester
Conrad	Lautenberg	Thune
Corker	Leahy	Vitter
Cornyn	Levin	Voinovich
Craig	Lieberman	Warner
Crapo	Lincoln	Webb
DeMint	Martinez	Whitehouse
Dole	McCain	Wyden
Domenici	McCaskill	
Dorgan	McConnell	

NAYS—3

Allard	Hagel	Lugar

NOT VOTING—12

Alexander	Clinton	Murkowski
Bayh	Dodd	Murray
Biden	Kennedy	Nelson (NE)
Brownback	Lott	Obama

The amendment (No. 3260), as modified, was agreed to.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. INOUYE. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3277

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to lay aside any pending amendment or business so that the Vitter amendment, No. 3277, may be called up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Louisiana [Mr. VITTER], for himself, Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. DEMINT, proposes amendment numbered 3277.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit funds from being used in contravention of section 642(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996)

On page 70, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

SEC. 217. None of the amounts made available in this title under the heading ''COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES'' may be used in contravention of section 642(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1373(a)).

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, this is amendment No. 3277, and it is very simple and straightforward and, I believe, very needed. The amendment would simply prohibit COPS funding, which is governed under this bill, from going to so-called sanctuary cities. In doing so, it would do nothing more than to enforce current Federal law.

Mr. President, as you know, in 1996, Congress passed the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act. In that 1996 legislation, which is current law, there is a very clear section on sanctuary city policy. It is section 642(a), and it states in clear unmistakable terms:

Federal, State or local government entity or official may not prohibit, or in any way restrict, any government entity or official from sending to, or receiving from, the Immigration and Naturalization Service information regarding the citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual.

Mr. President, the idea behind that policy is very simple. Law enforcement around the country should be free to cooperate with Federal authorities regarding immigration, regarding immigration enforcement, and no State or local government should be able to contradict Federal law by establishing a State or local law which bars this sort of commonsense cooperation. Unfortunately, that is exactly what several local jurisdictions and at least two States on a statewide basis have done. They have established, by State law, by local law, by local ordinance, so-called sanctuary policies absolutely prohibiting law enforcement and other public personnel in their jurisdiction from working with or cooperating with Federal authorities with regard to immigration enforcement.

This is by no means the majority policy of jurisdictions around the country. Far from it, Mr. President, because I think a clear overwhelming majority of the American people and their State and local elected officials support commonsense cooperation with the Federal Government in enforcing our laws. But it is a very significant trend, a very significant happening around the country. Many local jurisdictions and at least two States have adopted this very conscious and very boldly proclaimed policy, calling themselves sanctuary cities, or sanctuary jurisdictions.

My amendment would simply prohibit COPS funding from going to these jurisdictions. It would say this is our Federal law, and that States, that localities must cooperate with Federal immigration officials. And if they are not going to do that, if they are going to pass laws clearly in contravention, 180 degrees opposed to Federal law, then they will not get COPS funding under this bill.

Again, Mr. President, it couldn't be simpler. It couldn't be more straightforward—COPS money, COPS funds, will not go to sanctuary cities, so-called sanctuary jurisdictions, if my amendment passes. And, again, this is doing nothing more than enforcing present Federal law, a policy or law that has been on the books for over 10 years. So why shouldn't we put some meaningful teeth in that Federal law and prevent these local and State jurisdictions from simply flaunting Federal law and not abiding by Federal law?

I would note that the House of Representatives has already acted on this issue in the companion bill to this CJS appropriations bill. In the House bill, a similar amendment to mine passed by voice vote. Having said that, I would hope that a huge majority of the Senate similarly votes to pass this Vitter amendment, to adopt it, and to put it on the CJS appropriations bill.

This is common sense. It does nothing more than enforce current Federal policy and Federal law. It is clearly the sort of commonsense, straightforward legislation that a huge majority of the American people support. I know there will be a vote on this sometime tomorrow, Mr. President, so I urge all my colleagues, Republican and Democrat, to join with the huge majority of the American people behind this reasonable and commonsense policy.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise to speak against the Vitter amendment. I don't believe it is common sense, I don't believe it is reasonable, and I want to lay out the reasons.

This body has, during the immigration debate, actually acted on a very similar amendment and defeated it. And the reason this body was wise enough to defeat it was because they understood that some of the toughest law enforcement officials in our country, from sheriffs to prosecutors, and a whole host of law enforcement officials in between, understand that the cooperation of a community is essential

for police and law enforcement entities to do their job.

Under Senator VITTER's amendment, denying money to municipalities across the landscape of the country—and this would deny monies to about 126 cities in a whole host of States represented by people on both sides of the aisle—would set up a series of circumstances under which a crime could be committed and the witness to that crime happens to be someone who is undocumented in some fashion. Do we want the witness to be able to come forward and provide essential, crucial eyewitness testimony about the crime or do we want them to hide in the darkness and not talk to the police because they are afraid of their immigration status?

I want to solve the crime, Mr. President. I want to get the perpetrator. I want to convict that person and put them in jail. I don't want the opportunity to do that to go wasted because of some political statement that has nothing to do with the core issue of security in our communities.

I want to make sure a witness comes forth and testifies against a perpetrator and has no fear to do so.

Senator VITTER's amendment would undermine that ability. Senator VITTER's amendment would undermine the ability of someone who is a victim of a crime and who happens to be in an undocumented capacity to come forward because they might very well be concerned that their status is such that it might create a problem for them. So victims of a crime would not come forward, which not only is inhuman as it relates to the victim of that crime—and that crime could be of all types and manner that was committed against the individual—but the unwillingness of that person to come forward because of fear—fear—may lead to another crime committed against someone else by that same individual in that same community; perhaps to a child who might be molested, to a person who might be assaulted, to a family who might get robbed.

So instead of catching the perpetrator, the criminal element, and being able to prosecute them either through the witness or through the victim, no, we prefer to deny monies to that community because they have a view that in their own interest—and I hear so many times in debates that States and municipalities know best, but when it comes to this, they know nothing. They know nothing about how best to secure their communities. They have made decisions across the landscape of the country—urban, suburban, and rural—to say we care more about prosecuting the crime and having witnesses come forward to tell us about the crime than we care about the person's status, and we are not going to put a chilling effect across the landscape of our community to being able to achieve those goals.

That is what tough law enforcement will tell you—sheriffs will tell you, prosecutors will tell you, and police chiefs will tell you. They will tell you that they want the community to participate.

Now, when Secretary Chertoff was before the committee recently testifying in a House hearing, he responded to a question about this issue. He said: I am not aware of any city that actually interferes with our ability to enforce the law.

So let's not mix apples and oranges. The suggestion is that these cities interfere with the Department of Homeland Security and ICE's ability to go ahead and pursue someone to be deported. That is not the case. But that is the argument that is trying to be made in pursuit of an amendment that is all about immigration and nothing about security. We need to be about security in our communities. We need to be able to have witnesses come forward and be able to have victims come forward.

Now, local governments have taken the initiative to reassure these communities in order to deliver services vital to the public health and safety. And these may be immigrant families who also, in fact, have perfect status in this country. But the message being sent out is: Don't talk to the local police.

We have had incidents where people who, in fact, have total legal status, and who, because they came forward as witnesses to a crime, ended up feeling more like a criminal themselves than the person they were trying to testify against. That sends a chilling effect across immigrant communities which says: Do not participate.

It would not be in the interest of security in our communities to have that be the message. If immigrant families are afraid to access the opportunities for local law enforcement to have their participation as the eyes and ears of what is happening, it would have a negative effect and be a ripple effect of what would happen. If that is the message, then if you are a perpetrator of a crime and you want to do breaking and entering, robbing in a community, God forbid you want to do rapes, you say: This community will not go to the police. Let's do it in that sector. Then the crime continues and the perpetrator continues to be free and the process gets worse and worse.

It seems to me all Americans are at higher risk of preventable crimes when the population fears coming forward to give information.

This is also about telling municipalities that they cannot figure out for themselves what is the best way to combat crime in their communities. Our whole effort under the fantastic bill that Senator MIKULSKI has put together is to ensure communities have the wherewithal to combat the rise in crime we have seen over the past 2 years, according to recent reports. The way to do that is to have citizens come forward and participants in communities come forward and tell the police about what is happening. It is not to put a chilling effect on it.

The Senate has in the past already largely rejected these amendments—in good judgment. Let's listen to the cops, let's listen to the prosecutors, let's listen to the sheriffs, let's listen to the tough law enforcement people, let's listen to the communities that have elected officials who are in the midst of these communities and who say: When it comes to identifying crime and victims of crime, we want them to come forward. That is in the public interest.

Nothing in these cities is used in a way, as Secretary Chertoff said, to impede the opportunity for ICE to do what they want to do should they want to deport somebody.

For all those reasons, I urge my colleagues to reject the Vitter amendment when it comes up for a vote and preserve the security of our communities.

I yield the floor.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I, too, rise to oppose the Vitter amendment. For the benefit of our colleagues, they should know a similar amendment was defeated on the immigration bill this year. I opposed the amendment then and I oppose it now. I oppose it on substantive grounds, and I oppose it also on the grounds related to States rights and home rule.

To refresh everyone, what the Vitter amendment would do is ban local governments from receiving Federal law enforcement funds if a city or a locality has passed a law prohibiting police from asking an immigration status.

Why is this bad? First of all, local law enforcement officers all across America are opposed to this amendment. Their opposition has been very well articulated by our colleague from New Jersey. What has been articulated by local law enforcement communities is they believe they should not be held responsible for enforcing Federal immigration laws; that Federal laws on immigration should be enforced by Federal immigration authorities.

This amendment would also make it harder for local police to enforce laws and stop crime. One of the things that would happen, if police are forced to do this, it would foster great mistrust in our immigrant communities—meaning immigrants who are here legally. You know, there are many immigrants who are here legally. Because you might have a last name such as Sanchez doesn't mean you are an illegal immigrant. You might be the owner of an IT business in Silver Spring, MD.

One of the things we are concerned about is that immigrants, then, will not report crimes or will not give information to those who could go after serious crimes—such as the gang effort.

We are also concerned when people will not come forward particularly related to domestic violence. If there is domestic violence, a battered spouse might not call the police because it could trigger some type of raid in their own community.

This is not a good way to go. Let's go to the consequences of local communities deciding what they want to do.

What we are talking about is a situation where a city or a locality has passed a law prohibiting police from asking an immigration status. That is their right. That is their right, to say what they want to do in their own community. Then to deny Federal funds for law enforcement, funds for all the other things they might be applying for funds for, I think is outrageous. What happens if they are applying for interoperable communication equipment so they can fight violent crime? Oh, no, they can't have it.

What happens when they have applied for funds for the Violence Against Women Act, to deal with battered spouses or abused children? Oh, no, they would not be able to get their Federal funds.

What happens, then, in the issue of sexual predators? We have a robust effort to go after sexual predators in our communities. If they have applied for grants to be able to protect our children, they will not be able to get them under the Vitter amendment. So the Vitter amendment is not targeted at illegal aliens or illegal immigrants. What the Vitter amendment does is target law enforcement. If the Vitter amendment is agreed to, in many of these communities it will stifle, shackle, and impede local law enforcement from applying for Federal funds to which they would otherwise be entitled.

I think this is misguided. I think it is misdirected. For those of us who are very concerned about the issues of protecting our borders, we understand we need to protect our borders, but we also need to protect our communities. One of the ways we protect our communities is to let law enforcement apply for Federal funds for a variety of things, from cops on the beat, which they wouldn't be able to get; Byrne grant money for technology or bulletproof vests, they wouldn't be able to get it; violence against women funds, they wouldn't be able to get that. I think the Vitter amendment is misguided and misdirected. We should defeat it.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3256, AS MODIFIED

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, we are making great progress. We have some amendments we wish to clear.

I call up amendment No. 3256, as modified, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is pending and will be so modified.

The amendment (No. 3256), as modified, is as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3256, AS MODIFIED

On page 57, line 7, strike ''$550,000,000'' and insert ''$660,000,000''.

On page 60, line 2, strike ''and'' and all that follows through ''Funds'' on line 3, and insert the following:

(12) $110,000,000 is for grants under section 1701 of title I of the 1968 Act (42 U.S.C. 3796dd) for the hiring and rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers under part Q of such title, notwithstanding subsection (i) of such section; and

(13)

On page 97, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

Of the unobligated balances made available for the Department of Justice in prior fiscal years, $110,000,000 are rescinded: *Provided*, That within 30 days after the date of enactment of this section the Attorney General shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report specifying the amount of each recission made pursuant to this section.

Ms. MIKULSKI. This amendment has been cleared on both sides of the aisle. I ask for its immediate adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3256), as modified, was agreed to.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3310

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I call up amendment 3310 for myself and Senator COLLINS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI], for herself and Ms. COLLINS, proposes an amendment numbered 3310.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide for certain public-private competition requirements)

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 528. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available for a public-private competition conducted under Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76 or to convert a function performed by Federal employees to private sector performance without such a competition unless a representative designated by a majority of the employees engaged in the performance of the activity or function for which the public-private competition is conducted or which is to be converted without such a competition is treated as an interested party with respect to such competition or decision to convert to private sector performance for purposes of subchapter V of chapter 35 of title 31, United States Code.

Ms. MIKULSKI. This amendment has been cleared on both sides of the aisle. I ask for its immediate adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate? If not, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3310) was agreed to.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3239

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3239 by Senator KENNEDY and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI], for Mr. KENNEDY, proposes an amendment numbered 3239.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To clarify that student loan repayment assistance does not violate section 209 of title 18, United States Code relating to Federal salary)

On page 70, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. ____. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a public or private institution of higher education may offer or provide an officer or employee of any branch of the United States Government or of the District of Columbia, who is a current or former student of such institution, financial assistance for the purpose of repaying a student loan or forbearance of student loan repayment, and an officer or employee of any branch of the United States Government or of the District of Columbia may seek or receive such assistance or forbearance.

Ms. MIKULSKI. This amendment has been cleared on both sides of the aisle. I ask for its immediate adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3239) was agreed to.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, we are making great progress. Our staffs are going to be working through the night. We have about 36 amendments pending; 10 on the Democratic side, about 26 on the Republican side. We know the staffs are working well after 7. This is a good time to come over and work with us. We hope tomorrow morning we will be able to have some votes and also further progress. It is the intention of the majority leader and the Republican leader to finish this bill tomorrow, even if we have to work through the night. The best way not to work through the night tomorrow night is to work through the night tonight. So come over, help clear up some of these amendments. It would be a great help.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUPPORTING THE WORK OF FIREFIGHTERS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 345.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 345) supporting the work of firefighters to educate and protect the Nation's communities, and the goals and ideals of Fire Prevention Week, October 7–13, 2007, as designated by the National Fire Protection Association.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 345) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 345

Whereas firefighters have maintained their dedication to the health and safety of the American public since the first American fire departments were organized in the colonial era;

Whereas today's firefighters provide a multitude of services, including emergency medical services, special rescue response, hazardous material and terrorism response, and public safety education;

Whereas more than 1,130,000 firefighters protect the United States through their heroic service;

Whereas the Nation's fire departments respond to emergency calls nearly once per second and dispatch to fire emergencies every 20 seconds;

Whereas approximately 1,600,000 fires are reported annually;

Whereas firefighters respond with courage to all disasters, whether they be acts of terrorism, natural disasters, or other emergencies;

Whereas 343 firefighters sacrificed their lives responding heroically to the events of September 11, 2001;

Whereas firefighters from across the Nation responded with remarkable selflessness throughout the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina;

Whereas 89 firefighters lost their lives in 2006, and over 80,000 were injured in the line of duty;

Whereas we have honored firefighters for educating the American public since President Harding declared the first Fire Prevention Week in 1922;

Whereas the National Fire Protection Association has designated the week of October 7–13, 2007 as Fire Prevention Week; and

Whereas educating Americans on methods of fire prevention and escape planning continues to be a priority for all firefighters: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the work of firefighters to educate and protect the Nation's communities; and

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Fire Prevention Week, October 7–13, 2007, as designated by the National Fire Protection Association.

NATIONAL TEEN DRIVER SAFETY WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 36, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 36) supporting the goals and ideals of National Teen Driver Safety Week.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 36) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

Whereas motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for adolescents and young adults in the United States, and many of these deaths are preventable;

Whereas almost 7,500 drivers between the ages of 15 and 20 years were involved in fatal crashes in 2005 throughout the United States;

Whereas the fatality rate in the United States for drivers between the ages of 16 and 19 years, based on miles driven, is 4 times the fatality rate for drivers between the ages of 25 and 69 years;

Whereas the majority of teen driver crashes in the United States are due to driver error and speeding, and 15 percent of the crashes are due to drunk driving;

Whereas roughly two-thirds of the teenagers killed in motor vehicle accidents in the United States each year do not use seatbelts;

Whereas approximately 63 percent of teen passenger deaths in the United States occur while other teenagers are driving;

Whereas it is necessary to explore effective ways to reduce the crash risk for young drivers by focusing research and outreach efforts on areas of teen driving that show the most promise for improving safety;

Whereas the National Teen Driver Survey, developed with input from teenagers and administered by The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, demonstrates a national need to increase overall awareness about the safe use of electronic handheld devices, the risk of nighttime and fatigued driving, the importance of consistent seatbelt use, and the practice of gradually increasing driver privileges over time as a young driver gains more experience under supervised conditions;

Whereas in 2005, 1,553 crash fatalities involving a teen driver occurred in the fall, when teenagers are in the first months of the school year and faced with many decisions involving driving, including whether to drive with peer passengers and other distractions; and

Whereas designating the third week of October as National Teen Driver Safety Week is expected to increase awareness of these important issues among teenagers and adults in communities throughout the United States, as additional research is conducted to develop and test effective interventions that will help teenagers become safe drivers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Teen Driver Safety Week; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate activities that promote the practice of safe driving among the Nation's licensed teenage drivers.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND JUSTICE, AND SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008—Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have on this bill that is now before the Senate—the Commerce-Justice appropriations bill—about eight amendments that Democrats have pending or wish to offer, and we have 26 Republican amendments. Everyone should understand we are going to finish this bill tomorrow. It does not matter what events are going on around town, we are going to work and finish this bill. If it takes until 8 o'clock tomorrow night, fine; there will be no windows. We are going to work right through this. If people try to hold this up, we will have a bunch of votes. We will have the Sergeant at Arms instructed. We are going to move through this.

I am told we want to finish appropriations bills. This is our second week on this bill. We are going to finish this bill tomorrow or sometime early Wednesday morning. We are going to continue working on this until it is completed or until we find there is such intransigence by the Republicans that they do not want us to finish this bill. I hope that is not the case.

We have had on our appropriations bills some decent cooperation from the Republicans, for which I am appreciative, but we have other bills we have to do. If we finish this legislation, we will still have seven appropriations bills to do.

I am aware we have had to file cloture 49 different times this year to defeat Republican filibusters or to turn them around, and if it is necessary to file the 50th, we will do that. I think that would be a shame to have to do that.

We have a finite number of amendments now, and we need to try to work through them. What we could do, of course, here—there are more Democrats than Republicans—we could move to table all the Republican amendments. It would take a lot of time to do that. I hope we do not have to do that. I hope we can work through these amendments and some of them will be accepted and some will be voted upon.

I want to be as reasonable as possible, but I have the Nation's business to be concerned about. We have to

work through this. We have been off work now doing other things in our districts. We all worked hard. Now we are back to legislating. As part of that legislation is this bill that is before the Senate now. We are going to work on it and complete it. I was hopeful that with the 2:30 deadline we would come back with a reasonable number of amendments, but that is not, in fact, the case.

We have on the Republican side a number of Senators who are offering multiple amendments. I know they are important, and I understand that, but I hope that we can, as I have said, work our way through these. We will one way or the other work through these, because I do not want and do not intend to file cloture. I intend to work until we finish this bill.

I don't know how I can be more clear than that. We have to move after this to another appropriations bill, one that is extremely important, the Labor-HHS bill, an extremely important piece of legislation involving so many different and important issues, as the Presiding Officer, for example, is well aware.

It is my understanding the distinguished junior Senator from South Dakota wishes to call up an amendment before I do the closing matters, and I am happy to wait. I ask now to return to legislative business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. What is the matter before the Senate now, Mr. President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Vitter amendment is the pending question.

AMENDMENT NO. 3317

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for yielding to give me an opportunity to offer this amendment. I call up amendment No. 3317 and ask unanimous consent that it be made pending.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 3317.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide, in a fiscally responsible manner, additional funding for United States attorneys to prosecute violent crimes in Indian country)

On page 70, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

SEC. 217. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated under the heading ''UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS SALARIES AND EXPENSES'' under the heading ''LEGAL ACTIVITIES'' under this title is increased by $20,000,000, which shall be used for the prosecution of crimes described in section 1152 or 1153 of title 18, United States Code.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated under the heading ''PAYMENT TO THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION'' under the heading ''LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION'' under title IV is reduced by $20,000,000.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this appropriations bill, as all appropriations bills, comes down to a matter of priorities. We have a limited amount of resources and we have to figure out where to put those limited resources to the most effective use for the taxpayers.

My amendment is very simple. It takes $20 million from an authorized program that has problems with wasteful spending and it spends that $20 million instead to give Federal prosecutors badly needed additional funding to fight violent crime in Indian country. Violent crime has become a serious problem on reservations in South Dakota and elsewhere, and I am determined to put an end to it. If our tribal communities are to have a chance to be prosperous, they must first have strong public safety.

A few weeks ago I cosponsored an amendment with Senator DORGAN to provide more law enforcement presence in Indian country. I strongly support this effort. The other part of the equation, though, is to ensure that those who have been arrested for violent crimes are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Because the Federal Government has a trust responsibility to the tribes, the task for prosecuting violent crimes in Indian country lies with our U.S. attorneys. However, our U.S. attorneys often cannot prosecute crimes because of a lack of resources. An article published last June in the Wall Street Journal by Gary Fields about crime in Indian country pointed out that Federal prosecutors often do not intervene in cases involving serious crimes due to the long distances involved, lack of resources, and the cost of hauling witnesses and defendants to Federal court. The same article goes on to say that in the past two decades, only 30 percent of tribal land crimes referred to U.S. attorneys were prosecuted, according to Justice Department data compiled by Syracuse University. That compares with 56 percent for all other cases. I ask unanimous consent that the June 12, 2007 Wall Street Journal article headlined ''Tattered Justice on U.S. Indian Reservations, Criminals Slip Through Gaps'' be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. THUNE. I hasten to add that the U.S. attorney in South Dakota is doing a fantastic job prosecuting violent crime and white-collar crime on South Dakota's Indian reservations. However, I am certain he can put more funding to good use in his office, as could every U.S. attorney prosecuting violent crime in Indian country.

The rate of violent crime in Indian country is disproportionately high. The Department of Justice reported that from 1992 to 2001, the average rate of violent crime among American Indians was 2½ times the national rate. According to one report in the Indian Country Today newspaper, Native American women are 7 times more likely to be victims of domestic violence than all other women are, and more than 60 percent of Indian women will be victims of violent assault during their lifetimes. According to the same report, nearly one-third of all Native American women will be raped. This is unacceptable.

The FBI estimates that 40 to 50 percent of Indian country violent crime is now methamphetamine related. In fact, we know that meth traffickers and dealers target Indian country jurisdictions because they believe they will not be prosecuted, even if they are apprehended. According to Chris Chaney, the BIA Deputy Director of the Office of Justice Services, meth distribution on tribal lands often occurs due to the belief that it is easier to get away with such a crime in Indian country. That is why we must dramatically ramp up prosecutions of violent crime, of meth-related violent crime in Indian country.

I offer my amendment today to help provide more resources to U.S. attorneys in Indian country to prosecute more crimes referred to them. Specifically, my amendment would provide an additional $20 million to U.S. attorneys that can only be spent to prosecute crimes under the Major Crimes Act of 1885 and the Indian country Crimes Act of 1834. The amount will be paid for by subtracting $20 million from the amount appropriated under this bill to the Legal Services Corporation.

This bill provides $390 million to the Legal Services Corporation, a program that has not been reauthorized since 1980. This is a 12-percent increase over the amount appropriated to the LSC in fiscal year 2007, and a 30-percent increase above the administration's recommendation. This substantial increase comes at a time when the Legal Services Corporation has faced serious questions about its management and expenditure of taxpayer dollars.

In August, the GAO published a report entitled ''Legal Services Corporation: Governance and Accountability Practices Need to be Modernized and Strengthened.'' In the report, the GAO noted that a dozen officers and employees of the Legal Services Corporation had received compensation in excess of the statutory compensation limitation. According to the GAO, an outside legal counsel issued an opinion last May concluding that the Legal Services Corporation had not complied with the statutory limitation on the rate of compensation. The GAO agreed with that conclusion and went on to state that without a properly designed and implemented process for overseeing

compensation, the Legal Services Corporation remains at risk of not complying with related laws and regulations and engaging in imprudent management practices.

The GAO also noted in the report that:

> In recent years, LSC management has engaged in practices that may have been prevented through effective implementation of strong ethics policies.

These practices are reported by the LSC's inspector general. The inspector general found that food costs at meetings exceeded per diem allotments by 200 percent and that LSC used funds to pay travel expenses for its president for business related to her positions with outside organizations. The inspector general also found that LSC hired acting special counsels from grant recipient organizations, causing potential conflicts of interest, and could not complete an investigation into this practice because of the failure to provide documentation required by Federal law and LSC grant agreements. The GAO concluded that:

> Without the presence of a strong ethics committee providing effective oversight in the development, implementation, updating, and training for the code of ethics, the LSC is at increased risk of fraud or other ethical misconduct.

I ask unanimous consent that the executive summary of the LSC Office of Inspector General ''Report on Certain Fiscal Practices at the Legal Services Corporation,'' dated September 25, 2006 be printed in the RECORD at the end of my remarks. Also, I commend to my colleagues a GAO report entitled ''Legal Services Corporation Governance and Accountability Practices Need to be Modernized and Strengthened,'' dated August of 2007.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 2).

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I do not believe an organization that has received such stinging criticism from the GAO about management practices and its handling of taxpayer dollars should be receiving such a substantial increase in funding that is reflected in the underlying bill. My amendment simply reduces a $40 million increase to a $20 million increase for the Legal Services Corporation for fiscal year 2008. That is, the Legal Services Corporation would still receive an increase under my amendment, just not nearly as substantial as originally reflected in the underlying bill.

As I said earlier, we must begin to choose priorities. Should we provide more badly needed funding to fight violent crime in Indian country or should we reward an organization that is engaged in wasteful spending of taxpayer dollars by providing a massive increase over the President's recommendation of $300 million, and a massive increase even compared to the amount of funding it received in the last fiscal year of $348 million?

I urge the Senate to join me in voting for more funding to help reduce violent crime in Indian country and to address what is a very desperate need across Indian reservations in South Dakota, and to do it in a way that is consistent, I believe, with what the priorities in this underlying bill ought to be, by paying for it with a $20 million increase, actually, that is going to be allocated this year to the Legal Services Corporation. In my judgment, in my view, that makes sense. It is an issue that needs to be addressed, and my amendment would take us down that road, coupled with the agreement that was earlier reached on the Dorgan amendment, to provide more of a law enforcement presence on Indian reservations. So I hope we can accomplish both of those objectives through the appropriations process this year, and it starts right here with adopting this amendment.

I urge my colleagues to do that. I again thank the distinguished majority leader for his patience in yielding me time to speak to this amendment.

Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of my time.

EXHIBIT 1

[From the Wall Street Journal, June 12, 2007]

ON U.S. INDIAN RESERVATIONS, CRIMINALS SLIP THROUGH GAPS

(By Gary Fields)

CHEROKEE, N.C.—Jon Nathaniel Crowe, an American Indian, had a long-documented history of fighting with police officers and assaulting women. But the tribal court for the Eastern Band of the Cherokee, under whose jurisdiction he lives, couldn't sentence him to more than one year for any charge. Not when he left telephone messages threatening to kill an ex-girlfriend, not when he poured kerosene into his wife's mouth, not when he hit her with an ax handle.

''We put him away twice for a year, that's all we could do,'' says James Kilbourne, prosecutor for the tribe. ''Then he got out and committed the same crime again.''

Indian tribes are officially sovereign nations within the U.S., responsible for running services such as schools and courts. But a tangle of federal laws and judicial precedents has undermined much of their legal authority. As a result, seeking justice on Indian reservations is an uneven affair.

Tribes operate their own court systems, with their own judges and prosecutors. Sharply limited in their sentencing powers, they are permitted to mete out maximum jail time of only 12 months for any crime, no matter how severe. The law also forbids tribal courts to prosecute non-Indians, even those living on tribal land.

Federal prosecutors can intervene in serious cases, but often don't, citing the long distances involved, lack of resources and the cost of hauling witnesses and defendants to federal court. In the past two decades, only 30% of tribal-land crimes referred to U.S. attorneys were prosecuted, according to Justice Department data compiled by Syracuse University. That compares with 56% for all other cases. The result: Many criminals go unpunished, or minimally so. And their victims remain largely invisible to the court system.

The justice gap is particularly acute in domestic-violence cases. American Indians annually experience seven sexual assaults per 1,000 residents, compared with three per 1,000 among African-Americans and two per 1,000 among whites, says the Justice Department. The acts are often committed by non-Indians living on tribal land whom tribal officials cannot touch. Local prosecutors say members of Indian communities have such low expectations about securing a prosecution that they often don't bother filing a report.

''Where else do you ask: How bad is the crime, what color are the victims and what color are the defendants?'' asks Mr. Kilbourne, who has prosecuted cases on Cherokee lands since 2001. ''We would not allow this anywhere else except Indian country.''

The lack of prosecutorial discretion is one of many ways in which Indian justice has been split off from mainstream American due process. For example, some defendants appearing before Indian courts lack legal counsel, because federal law doesn't require tribes to provide them with a public defender. Although some tribes have them, others can't afford to offer their members legal assistance. It's not unusual for defendants to represent themselves.

The Indian Civil Rights Act, passed by Congress in 1968, limited to six months the sentences tribes could hand down on any charge. At the time, tribal courts were seeing only minor infractions. Congress increased the maximum prison sentence to one-year in 1986, wrongly assuming that the Indian courts would continue to handle only misdemeanor-level crimes. Tribal offenses, meanwhile, escalated in both number and severity, with rape, murder and kidnapping among the cases.

The Supreme Court weighed in on another level, with its 1978 Oliphant decision ruling that tribes couldn't try non-Indian defendants in tribal courts—even if they had committed a crime against a tribe member on the tribe's land. In its ruling, the court held that it was assumed from the earliest treaties that the tribes did not have jurisdiction over non-Indians.

''If you go to Canada and rob someone, you will be tried by Canadian authorities. That's sovereignty,'' says University of Michigan law professor and tribal criminal-justice expert Gavin Clarkson. ''My position is that tribes should have criminal jurisdiction over anybody who commits a crime in their territory. The Supreme Court screwed it all up and Congress has never fixed it.''

Jeff Davis, an assistant U.S. Attorney in Michigan who handles tribal-land cases, acknowledges that his hands are often tied. Mr. Davis is also a member of North Dakota's Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. ''I've been in the U.S. Attorney's office for 12 years, and both presidents I have served under have made violent crime in Indian country a priority. But because of the jurisdictional issue and questions over who has authority and who gets to prosecute, it is a difficult situation.''

Often cases don't rise to the level of felony Federal crimes unless the victim has suffered a severe injury. Federal prosecutors have limited resources and focus almost exclusively on the most serious cases. Compounding that is the fact that domestic-abuse cases are difficult to prove, especially if the lone witness recants.

''It requires stitches, almost a dead body,'' says Mr. Davis. ''It is a high standard to meet.''

For some non-Indians, tribal lands are virtual havens. Chane Coomes, a 43-year-old white man, grew up on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota—home to the Oglala Lakota, near the site of the infamous 1890 massacre at Wounded Knee. Marked by a small obelisk, the mass grave is a symbol of unpunished violence, literally buried in the soil of the tribe. The 2000 census documented Shannon County, which encompasses the remote and desolate reservation, as the second-poorest county in the U.S., with an annual per-capita income of $6,286 at the time. Only Buffalo County, SD, was poorer.

According to local authorities, Mr. Coomes used his home on the reservation as a sanctuary, knowing he would be free from the attentions of tribal prosecutors.

Tribal Police Chief James Twiss says Mr. Coomes was suspected of dealing in small amounts of methamphetamine for years. Tribal police also thought he might be trafficking in stolen goods.

In 1998, Mr. Coomes assaulted a tribal elder, Woodrow Respects Nothing, a 74-year-old decorated World War II and Korean War veteran. Because it couldn't prosecute, the tribe ordered Mr. Coomes off its land. But attempts to remove him were unenforceable.

''All I could do was to escort him off the reservation,'' says tribal police officer Eugenio White Hawk, who did that several times, the last when he spotted the banned man hauling horses in a trailer. ''He kept coming back. After a while I just left him alone and let it go. It was just a waste of time.''

Mr. Coomes remained in his Shannon County home until 2006 when he was accused of beating his estranged wife in nearby Nebraska and threatening to kill her, according to Dawes County District Attorney Vance Haug. The crime was committed off the reservation, and the subsequent investigation gave state authorities official jurisdiction.

After raiding his home, they found stolen equipment as well as 30 grams of methamphetamine and $13,000 hidden in the bathroom, along with syringes.

Mr. Coomes is now in the Fall River County Jail charged with possession of stolen property, grand theft and unauthorized possession of a controlled substance. He also faces separate charges, of assault and ''terroristic threats'' related to his wife, in Dawes County, NE. If convicted on the latter charges, he faces up to six years in prison, Mr. Haug said. Mr. Coomes's attorney declined to comment.

The jurisdictional quagmire also has implications for Indian members on the other side of the tribal border. Gene New Holy, an ambulance driver on Pine Ridge, had been arrested by the tribe more than a dozen times for various drunk-driving offenses, for which he received only two convictions totaling about a month in a tribal jail. In state court, four convictions would have led to a maximum sentence of five years.

Lance Russell, the state prosecutor for Shannon County and neighboring Fall River County, had never heard of Mr. New Holy until Feb. 11, 2001, when Mr. New Holy got drunk at a Fall River County bar. According to court documents, he nearly hit one car on a main highway, forced two others into a ditch and sideswiped a third that had pulled off the road as Mr. New Holy approached it in the wrong lane.

The last car he hit contained three tribe members—cousins Bart Mardinian, Anthony Mousseau and Russell Merrival—all of whom died. The accident was less than a mile off the reservation, enough to give Mr. Russell and the state jurisdiction in the case. Mr. New Holy is serving 45 years in state prison for three counts of vehicular homicide—much longer than the 12 months per count he would have served under tribal law. His attorney didn't return a call seeking comment.

''The holes in the system are more practical than legal, and the victims of crime pay the price,'' says Larry Long III, the South Dakota attorney general. ''The crooks and the knotheads win.''

The Eastern Band of Cherokee, located in the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina, is one of the most efficiently run tribes in the country. Its ancestors hid in these mountains while Cherokee east of the Mississippi River were forcibly moved to present-day Oklahoma, a migration known as the ''Trail of Tears.'' Today the tribe is spread across five counties and is economically well off: It takes in more than $200 million annually from the Harrah's Cherokee Casino & Hotel, which it owns, and has a robust tourist industry. About half of the tribe's gambling spoils go to pay for infrastructure and government services.

Its court, which is housed in a prefabricated building, looks like any other in the U.S., except the judges wear bright, red robes. The offices, while cramped, are modern and computerized, and are a little over one hour's drive from the federal prosecutor's office in Asheville. Tribal authorities meet regularly with federal prosecutors for training. The tribe's top jurist is a former federal prosecutor who has regular contact with his successors.

Yet even here, the justice system works erratically. In 2005, tribal police received a tip that James Hornbuckle, 46, an Oklahoma Cherokee who had moved to the reservation, was dealing marijuana. Officers built a case for weeks. They raided the business and then Mr. Hornbuckle's home, where they found 10 kilograms of marijuana, packaged in small bricks. By tribe standards, it was a big haul, and authorities approached the U.S. Attorney's office.

Gretchen Shappert, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina, says federal sentencing guidelines for marijuana are so lenient, that ''we'd need 50 kilograms in a typical federal case'' to pursue it. The feds rejected the case.

If the state court had jurisdiction to prosecute the crime, Mr. Hornbuckle might have received a three-year term. Instead, he pleaded guilty to the marijuana charge and was sentenced to one year in tribal court. Recently the tribal council voted to permanently ban him from the reservation, with backing from the feds. Messages left for Mr. Hornbuckle's attorney weren't returned.

Mr. Crowe's name is all too familiar on the reservation. Tribal Police Chief Benjamin Reed has known him since he was a juvenile. ''What I remember is his domestic-violence incidents. He just wouldn't stop,'' Mr. Reed says.

Crystal Hicks, who dated Mr. Crowe before his marriage, says the tribal member was verbally abusive. She says she left him after she had a miscarriage, when he berated her for not giving him a ride to a motorcycle gathering. ''He said I was using the miscarriage as an excuse,'' says Ms. Hicks, 27 years old.

After that, in several telephone messages saved by Ms. Hicks and her family, Mr. Crowe threatened to kill them and bury Ms. Hicks in her backyard. He was jailed by the tribe and ordered to stay away from the Hicks family.

''One year,'' says Ms. Hicks. ''He even told me he was fine in jail. He got fed three times a day, had a place to sleep and he wasn't going to be there long.''

After he married, the violence escalated, says Police Chief Reed. During one incident he drove to the home Mr. Crowe shared with his wife, Vicki. ''He had threatened her, and dug a grave, and said no one would ever find her. We believed him,'' Mr. Reed said. ''Just look at some of the stuff he'd done. That girl was constantly coming down here, her face swollen up.'' At one point, he choked his wife, poured kerosene into her mouth and threatened to light it, police reports say. Mr. Crowe's attorney didn't return calls seeking comment.

None of these acts led to more than one year in jail, a sentence he has been given twice since 2001. His criminal file at the tribal court building fills a dozen manila folders. There are reports of trespassing and assault convictions, telephone harassment, threats and weapons assaults—one for an incident when he hit his wife with an ax handle, breaking her wrist. His latest arrest, in September, came about a week after he finished his most recent sentence, when he came home and beat his now-estranged wife—again.

After seven years, his crimes finally triggered federal involvement, although almost by accident. Federal prosecutors from around the country met at Cherokee earlier this year to discuss crime on tribal land. One federal official mentioned to Mr. Kilbourne, the tribal prosecutor, a new statute that allows federal intervention where defendants have at least two domestic-violence convictions, regardless of the crime's seriousness.

Mr. Kilbourne, who was preparing for a new trial against Mr. Crowe the following week, quickly turned the case over. Mr. Crowe pleaded guilty to assault last Friday and is awaiting sentencing.

EXHIBIT 2

[From the Office of Inspector General, Sept. 25, 2006]

REPORT ON CERTAIN FISCAL PRACTICES AT THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In response to a Congressional request, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) initiated a review of allegations concerning fiscal practices, conflicts of interest, and general mismanagement at the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). This report presents our findings with respect to certain LSC fiscal practices, including allegations of fiscal abuse and wasteful spending. Other matters identified for review will be addressed in subsequent reports.

With respect to many of the allegations, our review found spending practices that may appear excessive and inappropriate to LSC's status as a federally-funded non-profit corporation, particularly in light of its mission in distributing taxpayer dollars to fund legal services for the poor. We also found a number of transactions which did not follow LSC's own policies and a number which would be impermissible under the rules governing federal agency spending. While generally those rules are not directly applicable to LSC, they provide a familiar reference point for Congressional overseers and the public. Our principal findings and recommendations are summarized below:

We found the cost of food at Board of Directors meetings appeared excessive in some instances and should be reduced. In nine of the eleven Board meetings that we were able to examine, we found that the total cost of food was equivalent to more than 200 percent of the applicable per diem food allowance.

We found lunch costs at the January 2006 Board meeting to be more than $70 per person, afternoon snack breaks costing as much as $27 per person, and a total hotel food cost (breakfast, lunch, and snacks) of $8,726 for the entire two-day meeting. We also found the contracting process for Board meetings was not in compliance with LSC's own policies. LSC did not generally follow its competitive contracting practices in selecting a hotel venue for Board meetings or properly document the selection process or the justification for the selection. Finally, we found LSC could save thousands of dollars by holding its local, Washington, D.C., board meetings at its headquarters rather than at a hotel.

We found that the LSC Chairman's authorization to allow the LSC president to travel to or from any of her homes in connection with official travel was contrary to the terms of the General Services Administration (GSA) travel contract and LSC's obligations as a mandatory user thereunder. We

also found that the LSC president's use of a foreign air carrier violated GSA's regulations implementing the Fly America Act, which LSC is contractually bound to follow. Further, we question the use of LSC funds to pay expenses associated with the LSC president's continued service in various capacities with outside organizations with which she was involved prior to her selection as LSC president.

We found that LSC officials traveled first or business class in three instances. In one instance in 2005, the LSC Chairman traveled first class round trip from Atlanta, Georgia, to Washington, D.C. The first class ticket was less than a government ticket on the same flights. In a second instance in 2005, the LSC president traveled one-way first class to an international legal aid conference in Ireland at an additional cost to LSC. Instead of using the government fare initially booked, the president was ticketed full fare coach, allowing her to secure an immediate first class upgrade as a frequent flyer member, which would not be available immediately with a government ticket. Finally, an LSC vice president traveled business class round trip to Melbourne, Australia, to attend the 2001 International Legal Aid Conference. As the trip was well in excess of 14 hours, it appears that business class would have been authorized for this trip under the Federal Travel Regulation.

We estimate that LSC spent over $100,000 on coffee, holiday parties and picnics, working lunches, and business entertainment, going back as far as August 2000. These expenditures did not violate LSC policy. While LSC is generally not subject to Federal spending practices, these expenditures would be impermissible under those practices and we question whether many of them were reasonable and necessary, and whether they were appropriate for LSC.

We found LSC has spent over $1 million in the past 10 years in settlement agreements with departing employees.

We concluded that some of the allegations were unfounded, or could not be substantiated. Specifically:

We found no evidence of excessive or undisclosed bonuses or of other confidential or indirect payments by LSC to the LSC president. We found no evidence of any ''secret deal'' between the LSC president and the LSC Board of Directors.

We did find, however, that the LSC president has been receiving a ''Locality Pay'' supplement at a rate that is 1 percent of salary greater than that received by any other LSC employee, all of whom work in Washington, D.C. (The Inspector General also received locality pay with a 1 percent differential for the first four months of his employment. This ended December 2004.) We questioned the propriety of such a payment. Locality pay rates by their nature are geographically based; under the Federal system there would be no variation for an individual payee within a given area.

We did not find unreasonable LSC's justification for holding a board meeting in Puerto Rico. LSC stated that it was appropriate to visit the largest LSC grantee and meet with various judicial officials and members of the bar who are involved in promoting the delivery of legal services to low-income individuals in Puerto Rico.

We did not find widespread first-class travel and found only one instance of questionable first-class travel.

We did not find LSC spending practices violated any laws. However, we did find that LSC is not adhering to its contractual obligations under the GSA City Pair Contract, as well as instances where it is not following its own controls and procedures regarding spending, contracting, and travel.

Our overall recommendations to the LSC Board and LSC management include the following:

Undertake a comprehensive review to bring LSC's spending policies and practices, particularly in the areas of travel, meals, meetings, and entertainment, in line with those applicable to Federal agencies, and require that the board review and approve any deviation from Federal practice.

Review the overall cost of LSC board meetings to determine whether there are ways to reduce costs. Also, require that LSC's competitive requirements are followed in contracting for board meeting locations.

Provide training and education for LSC staff to ensure that all LSC policies are followed, particularly in the areas of contracting and the Federal Travel Regulation related to the GSA City Pair Contract.

Review LSC employment policies and practices to determine if there are opportunities to reduce its potential liability, and review its settlement policies and practices to determine whether costs can be reduced and whether they are in the best interest of the corporation and appropriate expenditures of public funds.

LSC Response: The LSC Board and management responded positively to a draft copy of this report. They have agreed to implement substantially all of the report's recommendations. In some cases, they have already taken steps to do so, as noted in the specific recommendations within the report.

BACKGROUND

LSC is a private, non-profit corporation established by Congress in 1974 to help provide equal access to the system of justice in our nation to those who otherwise would be unable to afford adequate legal counsel by making financial support available to provide high quality civil legal assistance. In establishing LSC, Congress explicitly recognized ''providing legal assistance to those who face an economic barrier to adequate legal counsel will serve best the ends of justice, assist in improving opportunities for low-income persons,'' and that the availability of legal assistance ''has reaffirmed faith in our government of laws.'' LSC has said, ''The goal of providing equal access to justice for those who cannot afford to pay an attorney remains the reason for LSC's existence and the benchmark for its efforts.''

LSC's statutory mission is to provide ''financial support for legal assistance in noncriminal proceedings or matters to persons financially unable to afford legal assistance.'' Pursuant to its mission, LSC funds 138 non-profit legal aid organizations across the United States and its territories to address the most basic and critical civil legal needs of the poor. Controlling statutes require that LSC choose grantees to provide such legal assistance to the poor through a process of competitive bidding, and also require LSC to ensure grantee compliance with applicable laws and implementing regulations and guidelines, and to ensure the maintenance of high quality service. LSC is required to ensure that grant dollars are provided so as to make the most economical and effective use of its taxpayer-provided resources in the delivery of legal assistance to eligible persons.

LSC is wholly funded through taxpayer dollars; its 2006 annual appropriation was $326.6 million, including $12.7 million to support LSC headquarters operations (not including the OIG). Given its mission as the principal provider of federal funds for legal assistance to the poor and its status as a quasi-federal agency, it is reasonable to expect that LSC management should conform to the highest standards with respect to fiscal responsibility and accountability. Indeed, LSC, ''[a]s a matter of principle, [is] committed to being a careful and frugal steward of taxpayer funds [and declares that it has] strict policies in place to ensure LSC funds are spent wisely and appropriately.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before my friend leaves the floor, one of the areas we need to get to—and I want to do it before we leave on November 16—is Indian health, which is something that is long overdue. If we talk about people who need health care, everybody would stand in line as second in need to the Indians around this country. We have a bill, and the Finance Committee is in the process of getting money to get it done. It is not everything we need, but it is starting something that is long overdue.

I say to my friend, who has the most needy reservation—Pine Ridge—in the country that we need to have the time to get rid of some of these appropriations bills so we can do something about Indian health. I have made a commitment that we are going to do that some way before we leave this legislative year. We have to do that piece of legislation. I know my friend from South Dakota understands the need in Indian Country for health care. As I said, it is great that we want to take care of the children's health initiative, which is important because we have 50 million people with no health insurance. All those problems are really in the shadows of how badly it is needed in Indian Country.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I filed an amendment with Senator GRAHAM as a cosponsor which may provide up to $2 million, within the Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs account, for the Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking, SMART, Office. The funding will be used to help hire additional staff and cover expenses for the office. The SMART Office was created by the Adam Walsh Act to help States change their sex offender registry statutes to come into compliance with the law. Currently, the SMART office is only funded through various discretionary accounts, so it is critical that we ensure they have enough staff and resources to help enforce this important law to protect our communities.

Mr. President, today I filed an amendment with Senator KENNEDY as a cosponsor which would authorize the Director of the Federal Prison System to carry out a pilot program to assist the children of female prisoners. The pilot program can be developed at any Federal correctional facility that houses women in the United States. Specifically, the amendment gives the Director of the Federal prison system discretion to make expenditures to institute a pilot program for nonviolent female offenders and their children up to age 36 months to allow the children

to be housed, fed, and cared for in Federal, or federally contracted, correctional facilities housing women, in programs specifically designed to benefit mother and child.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to thank my colleagues Senator MIKULSKI and Senator SHELBY for their first-class work on the Fiscal Year 2008 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. They have written legislation that strengthens communities against crime and terrorism, provides important research dollars for science and technology, and protects jobs here in the United States against unlawful trade practices.

Unfortunately, we know from Federal crime statistics that violent crime is on the rise in the United States. To combat this increase, we must make a commitment to boost Federal support for State and local law enforcement. This bill contains $2.66 billion for community police departments, $26 million to hire an additional 100 FBI agents to fight violent crime, and $5 million for the FBI to create a task force on gang violence. Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, we have asked our local law enforcement officials to assume yet another role in protecting citizens, namely homeland security. I believe that the Federal Government must step in and provide a share of the resources to community policing for their efforts.

I also commend my colleagues for the impressive funding package they have devised for science and technology. This year, along with Senator BOND, I helped lead the charge in the Senate for an increase in the National Science Foundation's budget. This bill includes over $6.5 billion for the NSF, with a substantial $850 million for educational programs to develop the next generation of leaders in science, technology, and math. The future of innovation rests upon our ability to recruit more talented students who want to pursue careers in science and engineering. Looking at the challenges the United States faces in maintaining global economic leadership, a comparatively small investment now in the National Science Foundation will provide exponential benefits for years to come.

Finally, I commend the adoption of Senator MIKULSKI and Senator SHELBY's amendment to add $1 billion to NASA's budget for this upcoming fiscal year. Along with several other Senators, I was a proud co-sponsor of this amendment, and I laud its adoption by unanimous consent. The additional funding will enable NASA to revive its basic science programs, such as its earth science and aeronautics research initiatives. Global warming is a reality, and NASA's capabilities make it uniquely positioned to provide the world's scientific community with vital data about changes in Earth's atmosphere and the subsequent impact on climate. Furthermore, we must remember that there are two ''As'' in NASA, and forgetting the ''Aeronautics'' component of the agency's mission would be a grave mistake. Once again, I congratulate my colleagues on a well formulated piece of legislation, and I urge the President to sign this bill into law.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Domestic Violence Month. During the month of October, I urge my fellow colleagues and Americans to join me in committing to end violence in our homes. It is my hope that we can stand together this month and show abusers that we will not tolerate their actions.

We must never forget that domestic violence is a wide spread ailment with devastating implications. Domestic violence affects not only the victims of abuse, but their families and communities as well. The consequences of domestic abuse do not end with the violence. Victims lucky enough to escape their abusers are sometimes left with no home, no money, and no means to support themselves. And most unfortunately, children are often caught in middle of this tragedy. With as many as three million women experiencing abuse a year, it is clear we must do more to prevent these crimes and help those who are victims.

That is why I would like to recognize several organizations that have done extraordinary work to protect the victims of domestic violence in Nevada. For almost 20 years, the Shade Tree has provided shelter to abused women, and their families. Now, Shade Tree has taken on another aspect of domestic violence. On October 9, 2007, Shade Tree opened Noah's Animal House, a shelter for the animals of battered women. Shade Tree realized that animal abuse occurs in 85 percent of homes from which battered women arrive. Of those, 20 percent refuse to leave their abusers without their pets. Shade Tree's commitment to ending domestic violence knows no boundaries, and I know its impact on countless lives will continue.

The Safe Nest is another important organization that has made tremendous strides in ending domestic violence in Nevada. Safe Nest recognizes the importance of addressing all sides of domestic violence and helps with a range of services from court advocacy to crisis intervention. Safe Nest also serves Nevada by sheltering victims and educating the public. On October 19, Safe Nest will hold its annual Domestic Violence Awareness Month luncheon. On this day, I hope that Nevada and our Nation will recognize Safe Nest's years of success and hard work.

Finally, I would like to recognize the S.A.F.E—Stop Abuse in the Family Environment—House for their work. S.A.F.E. House is a community based organization that provides counseling, advocacy, and intervention for victims of domestic abuse. In addition, S.A.F.E. House collaborates with organizations across Nevada to search for ways to end domestic violence. For example, on October 25, S.A.F.E. House and the state chapter of National Organization for Women will team up to bring awareness to domestic violence. I am pleased to commend S.A.F.E. House for motivating hundreds of Nevadans to take action in their community.

It is also important to recognize thousands of other organizations in Nevada and our Nation that have committed time, labor, and financial resources to help victims of domestic abuse. Please join me in commending the dedicated efforts of those individuals who work each day to stop aggression in our homes. With their example in mind, I hope that Congress can reflect and take action during this important month. I urge all Americans to participate in Domestic Violence Month activities and pledge to make this issue their own.

NATIONAL LATINO AIDS AWARENESS DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, October 15 is the fifth annual National Latino AIDS Awareness Day, NLAAD. I rise in observance of this important day to increase our understanding of the Latino community's struggle with the HIV/AIDS epidemic. As we draw attention to the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS crisis on the Nation's Latino population, let us recognize the resulting call to action as well.

When America first observed the annual National Latino AIDS Awareness Day in 2003, we took stock of the dismaying statistics on HIV/AIDS among Latinos. Even though they comprise 14 percent of the U.S. population, they accounted for 19 percent of the new HIV infections estimated to occur in the country each year. Over 71,000 Latinos were thought to be living with AIDS, constituting one-fifth of all AIDS patients in America. Of those, teens and women were among the Latino population subgroups considered especially hard hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

These troubling disparities persist today. Latinos continue to be overrepresented among HIV/AIDS patients, the greater barriers they face in accessing care have not gone away, and too many remain in the dark about the importance of prevention. While advances in medical technology have improved the outcome for HIV/AIDS patients in general, these benefits are also not reaching Latinos on par with the rest of the population. Underlying

all these statistics is the sobering message that HIV/AIDS still devastates real people and real families across the Latino community. It is a message with special significance for me as the senior Senator from Nevada, where 18 percent of the newly diagnosed are Latinos.

We must be mindful of other statistics that provide context. According to the U.S. Census, individuals of Latino or Hispanic origin numbered over 44 million in 2005. They are also the fastest growing minority group in the Nation. In Nevada alone, the Hispanic population has soared by 40 percent from 2000 to 2005.

All these factors highlight the need to reverse the course of the epidemic among Latinos, if we are to make headway against HIV/AIDS in America. Fortunately, the disparities and challenges facing the Latino community also point to the steps we can take. From teaching health care providers to deliver culturally competent care to funding vital programs like the Ryan White CARE Act, these steps are critical to winning the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Educating and engaging the public remains a cornerstone of our efforts. In southern Nevada, for example, nonprofit organizations are partnering with public health officials to provide HIV testing and information to the public in observance of National Latino AIDS Awareness Day. Similar events are expected to take place across the Nation.

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day is a time not just to spread the word about HIV/AIDS issues specific to the Latino community. It is also a day of hope, an opportunity to reflect on the milestones we have reached and to reaffirm the goals and ideals of this day. So, in looking toward the future, let us all renew our commitment to ending the HIV/AIDS crisis—among Latinos and all Americans everywhere.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT JOSEPH B. MILLEDGE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I must inform the Senate of the death of Sergeant Joseph B. Milledge a Glenwood, IA, native who was killed in Iraq on October 5, 2007, during combat patrol in Baghdad. Sergeant Milledge was part of the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division stationed in Vilseck, Germany. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends, especially his wife Amanda and their 1-year-old son Joseph, Jr., as well as his parents, Carla and Jack.

Joseph Milledge was born in Council Bluffs, IA, and later moved to Glenwood with his family where he attended high school. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 2003, a year after he graduated. By all accounts, Joseph was a highly literate man who enjoyed reading books on religion and philosophy and writing poetry. In fact, I understand he gave his wife a book of his unpublished poetry this summer. Joseph loved his family unconditionally and cherished spending time with his son, nieces, and nephews.

Sergeant Milledge was very dedicated to his country and the cause for which he was fighting. His mother explained that he didn't want to go back for a second tour because of his family but did so because he knew it was his duty to his country. Carla Milledge said, ''You couldn't have asked for a better father or husband. He loved his wife and son. He loved them with his whole being.''

I know his loss will be felt very strongly, not least by his infant son. But, as his wife Carla said, ''He'll know his daddy was a hero and died for what he believed in.'' Sergeant Joseph B. Milledge is indeed a great American hero who will be remembered for his courage, his strength, and his love. He gave the ultimate sacrifice for his family, friends, and country, and we are forever grateful.

TRIBUTE TO JO ANN DAVIS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, the First Congressional District of Virginia is, like all of Virginia, a unique treasure. Beginning not far from the Nation's Capital, it stretches down Virginia's eastern coast along the Chesapeake Bay, as far south as the cities of Newport News and Hampton. Today, the First District is home to crucial national defense resources, like the Marine Corps' installation at Quantico and Langley Air Force Base. It is also home to national historic landmarks like Jamestown, Yorktown, and Williamsburg, places that gave birth to Virginia and that are forever tied to the independence of our Nation and our Constitution.

On October 6, 2007, the people of Virginia's First Congressional District lost one of its most respected and admired leaders, a dedicated Member of Congress and loyal friend, Representative Jo Ann Davis. It is with deep sadness that I share my thoughts on the passing of my colleague.

Born in North Carolina, Jo Ann Davis attended Hampton Roads Business College in Virginia, later obtaining her real estate license and real estate broker's license over the next several years. In 1990, she started her own company, Jo Ann Davis Realty, and followed this successful endeavor with a run for public office in 1997. Serving as a delegate in the Virginia General Assembly for 4 years, Jo Ann Davis became the first Republican woman to serve Virginia in the U.S. Congress after winning election in 2000.

Representative Davis was a relentless champion for the needs of the First District. It was my privilege to work with her on many matters, ranging from national defense to the environment, and in that regard she worked hard to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Also, I commend her diligent leadership in the removal of the James River Reserve Fleet from Newport News. From her support for the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge to her concern with the preservation of Dragon Run or providing funding for oyster restoration, she always put the quality of Virginia's environment above politics.

With sincere passion and concern, Representative Davis worked to improve our Nation's armed services and the lives of the men and women who bravely answer the call to duty. She provided strong representation for the communities in and surrounding the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Dahlgren and the Marine Corps base at Quantico, ensuring that these facilities continue to make important contributions to protecting the Nation and to the economic foundations of their respective areas. Her initiative to increase the life insurance benefit paid to survivors of military members and her advocacy on behalf of the rights and benefits of Federal employees will continue to be appreciated in the years ahead.

I have always admired Representative Davis for her strong convictions and the tenacity that she brought to bear in acting on them. She fought a courageous struggle against cancer, and I will miss her insights and her friendship in our Virginia congressional delegation.

I close with a personal note that we both shared interests in equestrian activities. There is an old English saying that ''the outside of the horse is good for the inside of the man.'' As an avid, accomplished rider, she often quipped with me that the saying applies equally to a woman. She loved the noble horse.

I join with my colleagues from the Commonwealth and from the entire U.S. Congress in expressing my deepest sympathies to her husband, her two sons, and her extended family. They will remain in our thoughts and prayers during the difficult days ahead.

BAN ASBESTOS IN AMERICA ACT

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, In the nearly 7 years that I have worked to pass the Ban Asbestos in America Act, I have been aided by so many dedicated and driven individuals without whom this day would not have been possible. I wish to take a minute to thank them for all they have done.

I would like to begin by thanking my entire personal staff who have taken on this fight with me. Over 7 years many of them have come and gone, but I know they are all very proud today because each and every one of them, in their own unique way, has helped this effort along.

In particular I would like to thank Bill Kamela who, as the head of my HELP Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, has carried the torch on this issue for so many years.

Bill has sat with me in countless meetings reassuring widows, clearing legislative hurdles, and pledging to all to make this ban a reality. Bill's hard work and expertise have been essential to making this possible. I would also like to thank Anna Knudson, a former member of my staff who had the vision and passion to begin this effort.

I would like to thank Bill's hard-working staff Crystal Bridgeman, Mike Waske, and Janice Camp who lent their know-how and support to this effort at a critical juncture.

I would like to thank Alex Glass and my entire press office for their work in spreading the word about the importance of this effort. And I would like to thank Pete Weissman who recently left my office but whose words often helped drive home the urgency of this effort. I would also like to thank Mike Spahn who worked with me on the Senate floor to guide this bill to passage

I also want to recognize and thank Dr. Barry Castleman, Chris Hahn from the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation, MaryAnne Dunlap from Senator INHOFE's office, Ed Egee from Senator ISAKSON's office, Linda Reinstein from the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization, Dr. Aubrey Miller, Dr. Greg Meeker, Dr. Richard Lemen, Dr. Mike Harbut, Dr. Harvey Pass, Andrew Schneider of the Seattle PI, and Matt Bergman.

I also want to say that it has been a pleasure to work with Senator ISAKSON's staff, the staff from EPW, and Senator BOXER's staff.

It takes a lot of people to get something done. A tremendous amount of people have worked on this. I thank them. Because of their work, we are going to ban asbestos, we are going to dramatically expand research and treatment, and we are going to launch a public education campaign so all Americans understand how they can protect themselves from the deadly asbestos products that may be in their home.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR VAUGHN L. WARD

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the valor, leadership, and service of MAJ Vaughn L. Ward, a third-generation Idahoan who grew up working on his family's farm in southern Idaho. On October 22, 2007, Major Ward received the Bronze Star Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device for heroic achievement in combat while serving as a Marine Rifle Company Commander in Fallujah, Iraq, from March to October of 2006.

During 7 months of combat operations, Major Ward distinguished himself as an exemplary leader of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 5. Charlie Company was centrally located in the center of Fallujah and colocated with the Iraqi Police Headquarters. Insurgent forces regularly attacked this strategic position. During the tour, insurgents launched over a dozen complex attacks against his position, utilizing more than 120 rounds of indirect fire, IDF, AK–47 and PKC fire, vehicle borne improvised explosive devices, VBIEDs, improvised explosive devices, IEDs, and sniper fire. Major Ward commanded his marines through these attacks and usually led the counterattack against enemy forces. From March through October, Charlie Company engaged the enemy over 130 times, conducted nearly a thousand foot and vehicle patrols, and carried out over 100 raids against insurgent locations.

Major Ward's military honors are only the latest in a career marked by excellence, leadership, and achievement. After graduating from Boise State University, he worked on Capitol Hill as a legislative aide for former Senator Dirk Kempthorne in 1993. He joined the Marine Corps in 1995 and served until 2000, whereupon he entered the University of Maryland and obtained his masters in business administration, MBA, in 2002. He continued his public service by joining the Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, where he trained as an operations officer and served in the Middle East and Africa. In January 2006, Vaughn went on military furlough from the CIA in order to reactivate with the Marines and serve in Iraq. He left active duty in January 2007 and resigned from the CIA in May 2007. Vaughn, his wife Kirsten, and their daughter Avé will return home to Idaho in November.

Vaughn's penchant for leadership and hard work has its roots on a small family farm in Shoshone. As young as 8 years old, Vaughn was working at his family's farm, which included a dairy with 70 cows, and a few thousand acres of grain and hay, and hundreds of free-range cattle. By age 11, Vaughn was operating a tractor, plowing the fields in the spring and fall and swathing the summer hay crops. He helped to run the family farm throughout most of his teenage years and feels very fortunate to have had this childhood experience. His grandfather homesteaded the farm, and it was there that Vaughn internalized a true appreciation for the importance of hard work.

He was cognizant at an early age of the family's financial challenges. At 14, the age when many teenagers were spending their money on things like music, clothes, and a new electronic invention—computer games—Vaughn bought his family a Christmas tree. They would not have had one, otherwise.

Vaughn credits his mom, Maria Tranmer, with his success and his character development. His mother recounts the circumstances of his birth: Due to complications, they did not expect Vaughn to survive. When the doctor came to his mother's room, he said, ''Little girl, I don't know what this boy is going to do in life, but it's going to be something special.'' Maria took these words to heart and, according to Vaughn, ''she never pushed me to be something I'm not, but she pushed me to realize my potential. She always supports me and, from the time I was young, told me to do what I am capable of doing, and be the best at it. Her and my family's belief in me is what pushes me to do what I do, and accomplish what I have.'' Maria is a remarkable woman herself, raising Vaughn and his sister, Shellie, through many years of hardship alone, yet, in Vaughn's words, ''never leaving us wanting for anything.''

Vaughn also points to mentors that have been there for him along the way and helped him during his formative years—from a first-grade teacher who took the time to care to coaches in high school who acted as role models. At age 7, his stepfather, Andrew Ward, a former Marine Corps officer, introduced Vaughn to hunting and hiking in the Idaho mountains and taught him how to ride a motorcycle. He also calls his grandfather, William Tews, the primary male influence in his life. ''My grandfather taught me how to shoot a rifle, drive a tractor and what it means to pull yourself up by your own bootstraps.'' Vaughn continued stating that ''my grandpa, father, and coaches shaped the life of a young man and those experiences gave me courage and confidence and opened up unique opportunities for me.''

Vaughn's time in Iraq cemented and honed his leadership skills. Vaughn observes that if the talk of leadership doesn't translate into the action of leadership, particularly in combat, your credibility dissolves. In war, he says, fear is a cancer, and leaders have to be willing to do themselves what they order others to do. He lived this in Iraq, personally leading foot patrols from the front against the advice of fellow officers. He felt that it was wrong to order his subordinates to do something that he was unwilling to do himself. This bravery and commitment to walk and stand with his men meant something to them. His award submission in part reads: ''Major Ward's strong leadership style and his willingness to always lead literally from the front inspired his Marines to continue to engage the enemy.''

For Vaughn, excellent leadership also means not being fully committed to one's own ideas in the formulation stage of the decisionmaking process. An effective leader knows how and when to listen to the counsel of others, evaluate all available information, and have the confidence to make a decision and execute that decision. Good leaders are accountable for their actions, good and bad, and a good leader shares accolades with those who are part of the effort—a leader, by definition, has to have able and committed followers. One of the lessons he learned in Iraq was the result of the patrols that he led regularly. He tells of patrolling in unfamiliar territory and encountering times when the way ahead was unclear. ''All you could do was start walking,

and that was how you found your way.''

Vaughn is a committed family man and has the priceless gift of a supportive and loving wife. ''My wife was my strength during the hard times when I suffered casualties and lost Marines. She was the only one I could talk to, and I can't believe how difficult it must have been to hear me broken up over the death of my Marines, and be powerless to do anything but listen and offer words of comfort, thousands of miles away. She got me through my deployment.'' Vaughn also has the support and love of two sisters, Shellie Amundson and Logan Tranmer, both who live in Idaho.

Finally, Vaughn makes a point of sharing the good things that our military is doing in Iraq. He notes that Al Anbar Province has been transformed over the past year. The marines of Charlie Company engaged the enemy, purposefully, and fought al-Qaida on terms determined by the U.S. military, not the insurgents. As a direct result of the actions of Vaughn's company, the insurgents, at one point, issued a public message that if the Marines of Company C would stay ''inside the wire,'' they would cease attacks on coalition forces. Vaughn says, ''We did not let them dictate how we did our job, and we were successful. There are good stories out there—stories that need and must be told.''

I have only highlighted a few of Vaughn's many accomplishments, both on the battlefield and off. He is more than deserving of these accolades, although he is quick to point out that his company deserves the responsibility for his Bronze Star. We can only hope that men of Vaughn's caliber will continue their public service to our great Nation as his generation begins to take the reigns. I am honored to be able to tell of this remarkable Idahoan, his family, and the men of Charlie Company here in the Senate and privileged to publicly offer my humble thanks and that of my family, State, and country for Major Vaughn Ward's extraordinary and valorous service to the United States of America, and I am proud to call him an Idaho son.

BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I am grateful for this opportunity to join my many friends across the United States, Mexico, Canada, Guatemala, and El Salvador in celebrating the seventh annual Binational Health Week.

Since its inception in 2001, Binational Health Week has afforded us an opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate the many successful efforts made here in the United States in cooperation with Mexican, Canadian, Guatemalan, and Salvadorian consulates and health care providers to promote healthy lifestyles and well-being amongst migrant populations that might otherwise lack access to important health care services.

Binational Health Week originated as an effort by Mexico's Secretary of Health to direct health care services to the underserved migrant populations living and working in the United States. The network of Mexican consulates throughout the country has partnered with U.S. Federal, State, and local agencies, Mexico's Secretariats of Health and Foreign Affairs, as well as private companies and foundations. These growing partnerships and the information they provide have reached an estimated 238,000 people across the United States and Canada.

We must continue to work together at the Federal, State, and community levels with our friends throughout the world to encourage individuals and families to practice healthy lifestyles. I wish all those celebrating Binational Health Week every continuing success as they pursue new and exciting opportunities to promote health and well-being in our communities.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN MEMORY OF HOWARD HOLTAN

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, on September 22, 2007, lifelong Alaskan Howard Holtan died when his plane crashed during takeoff near Whittier, AK. Howard not only was a personal friend of mine but also to the hundreds of Alaskan children he coached through the Alyeska Mighty Mites, a volunteer-operated ski racing program for children. Under Howard's guidance, my two sons developed their skills and a passion for ski racing while my husband and I volunteered as Mighty Mites parents.

Howard began coaching skiing in 1971. He was the magic and the muscle behind the Mighty Mites, running the program almost singlehandedly from his personal laptop since the mid-1980s when he became the Mighty Mites director. Howard strove to introduce the fundamentals and joy of alpine ski racing to children of all abilities, while also giving kids self-confidence, a sense of accomplishment, and an appreciation for good sportsmanship. Howard ensured that lots of fun was had by all. There is no doubt that he helped make the Mighty Mites one of the most successful youth ski programs in America. In fact, Olympians Megan Gerety and Rosey Fletcher and former U.S. Ski Team members Mike Makar and Kjersti Bjorn-Roli started out as young Mighty Mites. For the ski community, it will be hard to imagine a Mighty Mites ski race without Howard's trademark ''cherub'' smile or his presence somewhere on the hill.

Howard's passion for downhill skiing and dedication to Alaska's youth was almost matched by his commitment to public service—he spent 16 years working for the municipality of Anchorage, and was promoted to director of project management and engineering 8 years ago. Howard's legacy is everywhere in Anchorage as he had a hand in most of the roads and major projects in the city.

Howard will be sorely missed by countless Alaskans. Not surprisingly, the Discovery Theatre at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts overflowed with all those who came to celebrate and honor Howard's life. Howard is survived by his wife Roberta Carney; son Aaron Holtan and his wife, Carrie Holtan; daughter Kathryn Holtan, now at Washington State University; grandchildren, Erik and James; and brother Jay Holtan and his wife, Patricia O' Gorman. I would like to extend my condolences to his family and friends, and I wish his wife Roberta, who was injured in the crash, a speedy recovery.•

TRIBUTE TO DR. JEROLD F. LUCEY

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, the State of Vermont is proud that one of its residents, Dr. Jerold F. Lucey, recently received the Alfred I. duPont Award for Excellence in Children's Health Care. The award is offered each year to an individual in the health care profession who has made a major contribution to preventing childhood diseases.

Dr. Lucey helped pioneer phototherapy to prevent infant jaundice. He also played an essential role in bringing artificial surfactants from Japan to this country. The surfactants help premature newborns breathe, and since their introduction in the United States just over 15 years ago they have helped reduce infant mortality respiratory distress rate by 90 percent.

In addition, Dr. Lucey has developed the Vermont Oxford Network, which links 700 medical institutions in 25 nations to a network that tracks data on underweight-newborns, managing the data of more than 50,000 infants each year. This collaborative system has enabled advanced research, and the sharing of medical procedures that work, among pediatricians all over the globe.

Jerrold Lucey is Professor of Neonatology at the University of Vermont College of Medicine, where he has taught for more than 50 years. He also was the chief of Newborn Services at Fletcher Allen Health Care medical center in Burlington, VT, and in addition served as editor-in-chief of the journal Pediatrics for 35 years.

We in Vermont are very proud of the work Dr. Jerold F. Lucey has done, both with infants in our State, and for the health of children everywhere.•

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL AIDS WALK PORTLAND

• Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, next Sunday, October 14, dedicated residents of the Portland area will gather for the 21st annual AIDS Walk, an event that raises much needed funding to support the work of the Cascade AIDS Project, CAP. I would like to recognize the

commitment of the more than 10,000 walkers who are expected to turn out for this year's walk. Their efforts will better enable CAP, as well as a number of its community partners, including Our House and Esther's Pantry, to continue gaining ground in Oregon's fight against HIV/AIDS.

In over two decades, AIDS Walk Portland has generated over $2.8 million in funding for critical services provided to the 6,000 area-families who have a loved one living with HIV. I understand the challenges organizations like CAP face in securing steady funding to support their work. With State and Federal support declining in recent years, more and more is being asked of the community and the private sector. That is why I want to personally thank those participating in this year's AIDS Walk, as well as the generous corporate sponsors who have lent their support to ensure the event is a success.

While community efforts such as AIDS Walk Portland are a key component in generating support for HIV/AIDS services, I believe we can and should do more at the Federal level. While participants will be ''taking a stand'' next Sunday in the fight against AIDS, I want to reaffirm my pledge to do the same in Congress. It is a cause I have fought for in my 11-year tenure, and it is a cause I will continue to fight for until we are successful in eradicating this terrible disease. When Congress returns from the Columbus Day recess, the Senate will be discussing funding levels for next year's health and human services programs. I will do my best to secure additional support for Ryan White initiatives, especially those that support the work of local cities and communities like Portland. When we combine our efforts—at the local, State and Federal levels—we are stronger and more capable of turning the tide against HIV/AIDS.

In closing, I congratulate the Cascade AIDS Project on yet another successful AIDS Walk and wish all this year's participants a safe and enjoyable time.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 400. An act to prohibit profiteering and fraud relating to military action, relief, and reconstruction efforts, and for other purposes.

H.R. 814. An act to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue regulations mandating child-resisted closures on all portable gasoline containers.

H.R. 1699. An act to direct Consumer Product Safety Commission to require certain manufacturers to provide consumer product registration forms to facilitate recalls of durable infant and toddler products.

H.R. 1721. An act to increase the safety of swimming pools and spas by requiring the use of proper anti-entrapment drain covers and pool and spa drainage systems, by establishing a swimming pool safety grant program administered by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to encourage States to improve their pool and spa safety laws and to educate the public about pool and spa safety, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2185. An act to amend the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 to provide debt relief to developing countries that take action to protect tropical forests and coral reefs and associated coastal marine ecosystems, to reauthorize such Act through fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2474. An act to provide for an increased maximum civil penalty for violations under the Consumer Product Safety Act.

H.R. 2553. An act to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to provide for the establishment and maintenance of existing libraries and resource centers at United States diplomatic and consular missions to provide information about American culture, society, and history, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2895. An act to establish the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund in the Treasury of the United States to provide for the construction, rehabilitation, and preservation of decent, safe, and affordable housing for low-income families.

H.R. 3056. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the authority of the Internal Revenue Service to use private debt collection companies, to delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, to revise the tax rules on expatriation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3308. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 216 East Main Street in Atwood, Indiana, as the ''Lance Corporal David K. Fribley Post Office''.

H.R. 3518. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1430 South Highway 29 in Cantonment, Florida, as the ''Charles H. Hendrix Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3530. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1400 Highway 41 North in Inverness, Florida, as the ''Chief Warrant Officer Aaron Weaver Post Office Building''.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 717. Resolution relative to the death of the Honorable Jo Ann Davis, a Representative from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1124) to extend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1124. An act to extend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999.

H.R. 2467. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 69 Montgomery Street in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the ''Frank J. Guarini Post Office Building''.

H.R. 2587. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 555 South 3rd Street Lobby in Memphis, Tennessee, as the ''Kenneth T. Whalum, Sr. Post Office Building''.

H.R. 2654. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 202 South Dumont Avenue in Woonsocket, South Dakota, as the ''Eleanor McGovern Post Office Building''.

H.R. 2765. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 44 North Main Street in Hughesville, Pennsylvania, as the ''Master Sergeant Sean Michael Thomas Post Office''.

H.R. 2778. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3 Quaker Ridge Road in New Rochelle, New York, as the ''Robert Merrill Postal Station''.

H.R. 2825. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 326 South Main Street in Princeton, Illinois, as the ''Owen Lovejoy Princeton Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3052. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 954 Wheeling Avenue in Cambridge, Ohio, as the ''John Herschel Glenn, Jr. Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3106. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 805 Main Street in Ferdinand, Indiana, as the ''Staff Sergeant David L. Nord Post Office''.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore [Mr. BYRD].

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 814. An act to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to issue regulations mandating child-resistant closures on all portable gasoline containers; to the Committee on I Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1699. An act to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to require certain manufacturers to provide consumer product registration forms to facilitate recalls of durable infant and toddler products; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 2185. An act to amend the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 to provide debt relief to developing countries that take action to protect tropical forests and coral reefs and associated coastal marine ecosystems, to reauthorize such Act through fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 2474. An act to provide for an increased maximum civil penalty for violations under the Consumer Product Safety Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 2553. An act to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to provide for the establishment and maintenance of existing libraries and resource centers at United States diplomatic and consular missions to provide information about American culture, society, and history, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 2895. An act to establish the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund in the Treasury of the United States to provide for the construction, rehabilitation, and preservation of decent, safe, and affordable housing for low-income families; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3056. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the authority of the Internal Revenue Service to use private debt collection companies, to delay implementation of withholding taxes on government contractors, to revise the tax rules on expatriation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 3308. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 216 East Main Street in Atwood, Indiana, as the ''Lance Corporal David K. Fribley Post Office''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3518. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1430 South Highway 29 in Cantonment, Florida, as the ''Charles H. Hendrix Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3530. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1400 Highway 41 North in Inverness, Florida, as the ''Chief Warrant Officer Aaron Weaver Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR DURING ADJOURNMENT

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2740. An act to require accountability for contractors and contract personnel under Federal contracts, and for other purposes.

S. 2152. A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1721. An act to increase the safety of swimming pools and spas by requiring the use of proper anti-entrapment drain covers and pool and spa drainage systems, by establishing a swimming pool safety grant program administered by the Consumer Product Safety Commission to encourage States to improve their pool and spa safety laws and to educate the public about pool and spa safety, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of October 4, 2007, the following reports of committees were submitted on October 9, 2007:

By Mr. BIDEN, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with amendments:

S. 805. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa in the effort to achieve internationally recognized goals in the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS and other major diseases and the reduction of maternal and child mortality by improving human health care capacity and improving retention of medical health professionals in sub-Saharan Africa, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110–192).

By Mr. BIDEN, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 968. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide increased assistance for the prevention, treatment, and control of tuberculosis, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110–193).

By Mr. BIDEN, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

H.R. 1678. A bill to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110–194).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BIDEN, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. 1839. A bill to require periodic reports on claims related to acts of terrorism against Americans perpetrated or supported by the Government of Libya (Rept. No. 110–195).

By Mr. BIDEN, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and an amendment to the title:

S. 2020. A bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2010, to rename the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 as the ''Tropical Forest and Coral Conservation Act of 2007'', and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110–196).

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 680. A bill to ensure proper oversight and accountability in Federal contracting, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. BIDEN, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

[Treaty Doc. 108–8 Protocol to Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation with Denmark (Ex. Rept. 110–1)]

The text of the committee-recommended resolution of advice and consent to ratification is as follows:

Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Protocol between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Denmark to the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation of October 1, 1951, signed at Copenhagen on May 2, 2001 (Treaty Doc. 108–8).

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of October 4, 2007, the following executive report of a nomination was submitted on October 9, 2007:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Robert M. Dow, Jr., of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BAYH (for himself and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 2158. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit Medicare beneficiaries to continue to rent certain items of complex durable medical equipment; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LOTT, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2159. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2160. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a pain care initiative in health care facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2161. A bill to ensure and foster continued patient safety and quality of care by making the antitrust laws apply to negotiations between groups of independent pharmacies and health plans and health insurance issuers (including health plans under parts C and D of the Medicare Program) in the same manner as such laws apply to protected activities under the National Labor Relations Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 2162. A bill to improve the treatment and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and substance use disorders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

S. 2163. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow income averaging for private forest landowners; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 2164. 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 and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. DODD, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. Res. 345. A resolution supporting the work of firefighters to educate and protect the Nation's communities, and the goals and ideals of Fire Prevention Week, October 7–13, 2007, as designated by the National Fire Protection Association; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. OBAMA):

S. Res. 346. A resolution expressing heartfelt sympathy for the victims of the devastating thunderstorms that caused severe flooding during August 2007 in the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 85

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 85, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to clarify that territories and Indian tribes are eligible to receive grants for confronting the use of methamphetamine.

S. 189

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 189, a bill to decrease the matching funds requirements and authorize additional appropriations for Keweenaw National Historical Park in the State of Michigan.

S. 267

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 267, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to clarify that territories and Indian tribes are eligible to receive grants for confronting the use of methamphetamine.

S. 329

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 329, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for cardiac rehabilitation and pulmonary rehabilitation services.

S. 400

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 400, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that dependent students who take a medically necessary leave of absence do not lose health insurance coverage, and for other purposes.

S. 507

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 507, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for reimbursement of certified midwife services and to provide for more equitable reimbursement rates for certified nurse-midwife services.

S. 545

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) were added as cosponsors of S. 545, a bill to improve consumer access to passenger vehicle loss data held by insurers.

S. 579

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 579, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

S. 617

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 617, a bill to make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available at a discount to certain veterans.

S. 661

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 661, a bill to establish kinship navigator programs, to establish guardianship assistance payments for children, and for other purposes.

S. 714

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 714, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to ensure that all dogs and cats used by research facilities are obtained legally.

S. 725

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 725, a bill to amend the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to reauthorize and improve that Act.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, a bill to establish a competitive grant program to build capacity in veterinary medical education and expand the workforce of veterinarians engaged in public health practice and biomedical research.

S. 773

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 773, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 884

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 884, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act regarding residential treatment programs for pregnant and parenting women, a program to reduce substance abuse among nonviolent offenders, and for other purposes.

S. 887

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUYE) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 887, a bill to restore import and entry agricultural inspection functions to the Department of Agriculture.

S. 911

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 911, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to advance medical research and treatments into pediatric cancers, ensure patients and families have access to the current treatments and information regarding pediatric cancers, establish a population-based national childhood cancer database, and promote public awareness of pediatric cancers.

S. 969

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 969, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to modify the definition of supervisor.

S. 988

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 988, a bill to extend the termination date for the exemption of returning workers from the numerical limitations for temporary workers.

S. 999

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 999, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve stroke prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation.

S. 1015

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1015, a bill to reauthorize the National Writing Project.

S. 1070

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1070, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the social security of the Nation by ensuring adequate public-private infrastructure and to resolve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and for other purposes.

S. 1159

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1159, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part.

S. 1185

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. 1185, a bill to provide grants to States to improve high schools and raise graduation rates while ensuring rigorous standards, to develop and implement effective school models for struggling students and dropouts, and to improve State policies to raise graduation rates, and for other purposes.

S. 1276

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1276, a bill to establish a grant program to facilitate the creation of methamphetamine precursor electronic logbook systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1310

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1310, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of

increased payments for ground ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 1335

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1335, a bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the official language of the Government of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1340

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1340, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiaries with access to geriatric assessments and chronic care coordination services, and for other purposes.

S. 1382

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1382, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry.

S. 1395

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1395, a bill to prevent unfair practices in credit card accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 1418

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1418, a bill to provide assistance to improve the health of newborns, children, and mothers in developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 1451

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1451, a bill to encourage the development of coordinated quality reforms to improve health care delivery and reduce the cost of care in the health care system.

S. 1459

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1459, a bill to strengthen the Nation's research efforts to identify the causes and cure of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, expand psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis data collection, study access to and quality of care for people with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, and for other purposes.

S. 1512

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1512, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to expand Federal eligibility for children in foster care who have attained age 18.

S. 1514

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, a bill to revise and extend provisions under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act.

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, supra.

S. 1518

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1518, a bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to reauthorize the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1661

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1661, a bill to communicate United States travel policies and improve marketing and other activities designed to increase travel in the United States from abroad.

S. 1776

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1776, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a user fee program to ensure food safety, and for other purposes.

S. 1895

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1895, a bill to aid and support pediatric involvement in reading and education.

S. 1924

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1924, a bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any of certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employee's duty.

S. 1930

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1930, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prevent illegal logging practices, and for other purposes.

S. 1958

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1958, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure and foster continued patient quality of care by establishing facility and patient criteria for long-term care hospitals and related improvements under the Medicare program.

S. 1962

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1962, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to authorize a regional water enhancement program in the environmental quality incentives program.

S. 1965

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1965, a bill to protect children from cybercrimes, including crimes by online predators, to enhance efforts to identify and eliminate child pornography, and to help parents shield their children from material that is inappropriate for minors.

S. 2045

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2045, a bill to reform the Consumer Product Safety Commission to provide greater protection for children's products, to improve the screening of noncompliant consumer products, to improve the effectiveness of consumer product recall programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2051

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2051, a bill to amend the small rural school achievement program and the rural and low-income school program under part B of title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

S. 2053

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2053, a bill to amend part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve elementary and secondary education.

S. 2056

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2056, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore financial stability to Medicare anesthesiology teaching programs for resident physicians.

S. 2058

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2058, a bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to close the Enron loophole, prevent price manipulation and excessive speculation in the trading of energy commodities, and for other purposes.

S. 2063

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2063, a bill to establish a Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action, to assure the economic security

of the United States, and to expand future prosperity and growth for all Americans.

S. 2080

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2080, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to ensure that sewage treatment plants monitor for and report discharges of raw sewage, and for other purposes.

S. 2089

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2089, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the coverage gap in prescription drug coverage under part D of such title based on savings to the Medicare program resulting from the negotiation of prescription drug prices.

S. 2096

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2096, a bill to amend the Do-Not-Call Implementation Act to eliminate the automatic removal of telephone numbers registered on the Federal ''do-not-call'' registry.

S. 2099

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2099, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare competitive bidding project for clinical laboratory services.

S. 2119

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2119, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. 2127

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2127, a bill to provide assistance to families of miners involved in mining accidents.

S. 2135

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2135, a bill to prohibit the recruitment or use of child soldiers, to designate persons who recruit or use child soldiers as inadmissible aliens, to allow the deportation of persons who recruit or use child soldiers, and for other purposes.

S. 2147

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2147, a bill to require accountability for contractors and contract personnel under Federal contracts, and for other purposes.

S. 2152

At the request of Mr. THUNE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2152, a bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 20

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 20, a joint resolution to disapprove a final rule of the Secretary of Agriculture relating to the importation of cattle and beef.

S. RES. 178

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 178, a resolution expressing the sympathy of the Senate to the families of women and girls murdered in Guatemala, and encouraging the United States to work with Guatemala to bring an end to these crimes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3208

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3208 proposed to H.R. 3093, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3232

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3232 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3093, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3247

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3247 proposed to H.R. 3093, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3249

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3249 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3093, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3256

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3256 proposed to H.R. 3093, a bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS ON OCTOBER 4, 2007

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2152

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Kids First Act''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. 5-Year reauthorization.
Sec. 3. Allotments for the 50 States and the District of Columbia based on expenditures and numbers of low-income children.
Sec. 4. Limitations on matching rates for populations other than low-income children or pregnant women covered through a section 1115 waiver.
Sec. 5. Prohibition on new section 1115 waivers for coverage of adults other than pregnant women.
Sec. 6. Standardization of determination of family income.
Sec. 7. Grants for outreach and enrollment.
Sec. 8. Improved State option for offering premium assistance for coverage through private plans.
Sec. 9. Treatment of unborn children.
Sec. 10. 50 percent matching rate for all Medicaid administrative costs.
Sec. 11. Reduction in payments for Medicaid administrative costs to prevent duplication of such payments under TANF.
Sec. 12. Effective date.

SEC. 2. 5-YEAR REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) INCREASE IN NATIONAL ALLOTMENT.—Section 2104(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9), by striking ''and'' at the end'

(2) in paragraph (10), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(11) for fiscal year 2008, $7,000,000,000;

''(12) for fiscal year 2009, $7,200,000,000;

''(13) for fiscal year 2010, $7,600,000,000;

''(14) for fiscal year 2011, $8,300,000,000; and

''(15) for fiscal year 2012, $8,800,000,000.''.

(b) CONTINUATION OF ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENTS TO TERRITORIES.—Section 2104(c)(4)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(c)(4)(B)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''and'' after ''2006,''; and

(2) by inserting before the period the following: '', $56,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, $58,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, $61,000,000 for fiscal year 2010, $66,000,000. for fiscal year 2011, and $70,000,000 for fiscal year 2012''.

SEC. 3. ALLOTMENTS FOR THE 50 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BASED ON EXPENDITURES AND NUMBERS OF LOW-INCOME CHILDREN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2104 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i) DETERMINATION OF ALLOTMENTS FOR THE 50 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR FISCAL YEARS 2008 THROUGH 2012.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this subsection and subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary shall allot to each subsection (b) State for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012, the amount determined for the fiscal year that is equal to the product of—

''(A) the amount available for allotment under subsection (a) for the fiscal year, reduced by the amount of allotments made under subsection (c) (determined without regard to paragraph (4) thereof) for the fiscal year; and

''(B) the sum of the State allotment factors determined under paragraph (2) with respect to the State and weighted in accordance with subparagraph (B) of that paragraph for the fiscal year.

''(2) STATE ALLOTMENT FACTORS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (l)(B), the State allotment factors are the following:

''(i) The ratio of the projected expenditures for targeted low-income children under the State child health plan and pregnant women under a waiver of such plan for the fiscal year to the sum of such projected expenditures for all States for the fiscal year, multiplied by the applicable percentage weight assigned under subparagraph (B).

''(ii) The ratio of the number of low-income children who have not attained age 19 with no health insurance coverage in the State, as determined by the Secretary on the basis of the arithmetic average of the number of such children for the 3 most recent Annual Social and Economic Supplements to the Current Population Survey of the Bureau of the Census available before the beginning of the calendar year before such fiscal year begins, to the sum of the number of such children determined for all States for such fiscal year, multiplied by the applicable percentage weight assigned under subparagraph (B).

''(iii) The ratio of the projected expenditures for targeted low-income children under the State child health plan and pregnant women under a waiver of such plan for the preceding fiscal year to the sum of such projected expenditures for all States for such preceding fiscal year, multiplied by the applicable percentage weight assigned under subparagraph (B).

''(iv) The ratio of the actual expenditures for targeted low-income children under the State child health plan and pregnant women under a waiver of such plan for the second preceding fiscal year to the sum of such actual expenditures for all States for such second preceding fiscal year, multiplied by the applicable percentage weight assigned under subparagraph (B).

''(B) ASSIGNMENT OF WEIGHTS.—For each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012, the following percentage weights shall be applied to the ratios determined under subparagraph (A) for each such fiscal year:

''(i) 40 percent for the ratio determined under subparagraph (A)(i).

''(ii) 5 percent for the ratio determined under subparagraph (A)(ii).

''(iii) 50 percent for the ratio determined under subparagraph (A)(iii).

''(iv) 5 percent for the ratio determined under subparagraph (A)(iv).

''(C) DETERMINATION OF PROJECTED AND ACTUAL EXPENDITURES.—For purposes of subparagraph (A):

''(i) PROJECTED EXPENDITURES.—The projected expenditures described in clauses (i) and (iii) of such subparagraph with respect to a fiscal year shall be determined on the basis of amounts reported by States to the Secretary on the May 15th submission of Form CMS–37 and Form CMS–21B submitted not later than June 30th of the fiscal year preceding such year.

''(ii) ACTUAL EXPENDITURES.—The actual expenditures described in clause (iv) of such subparagraph with respect to a second preceding fiscal year shall be determined on the basis of amounts reported by States to the Secretary on Form CMS–64 and Form CMS–21 submitted not later than November 30 of the preceding fiscal year.''.

(b) 2-YEAR AVAILABILITY OF ALLOTMENTS; EXPENDITURES COUNTED AGAINST OLDEST ALLOTMENTS.—Section 2104(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(e)) is amended to read as follows:

''(e) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS ALLOTED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in the succeeding paragraphs of this subsection, amounts allotted to a State pursuant to this section—

''(A) for each of fiscal years 1998 through 2007, shall remain available for expenditure by the State through the end of the second succeeding fiscal year; and

''(B) for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012, shall remain available for expenditure by the State only through the end of the succeeding fiscal year for which such amounts are allotted.

''(2) ELIMINATION OF REDISTRIBUTION OF ALLOTMENTS NOT EXPENDED WITHIN 3 YEARS.—Notwithstanding subsection (f), amounts allotted to a State under this section for fiscal years beginning with fiscal year 2008 that remain unexpended as of the end of the second succeeding fiscal year shall not be redistributed to other States and shall revert to the Treasury on October 1 of the third succeeding fiscal year.

''(3) RULE FOR COUNTING EXPENDITURES AGAINST FISCAL YEAR ALLOTMENTS.—Expenditures under the State child health plan made on or after October 1, 2007, shall be counted against allotments for the earliest fiscal year for which funds are available for expenditure under this subsection.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 2104(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(b)(1)) is amended by striking ''subsection (d)'' and inserting ''the succeeding subsections of this section''.

(2) Section 2104(f) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397 dd(f)) is amended by striking ''The'' and inserting ''Subject to subsection (e)(2), the''.

SEC. 4. LIMITATIONS ON MATCHING RATES FOR POPULATIONS OTHER THAN LOW-INCOME CHILDREN OR PREGNANT WOMEN COVERED THROUGH A SECTION 1115 WAIVER.

(a) LIMITATION ON PAYMENTS.—Section 2105(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397ee(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(8) LIMITATIONS ON MATCHING RATE FOR POPULATIONS OTHER THAN TARGETED LOW-INCOME CHILDREN OR PREGNANT WOMEN COVERED THROUGH A SECTION 1115 WAIVER.—For child health assistance or health benefits coverage furnished in any fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2008:

''(A) FMAP APPLIED TO PAYMENTS FOR COVERAGE OF CHILDREN OR PREGNANT WOMEN COVERED THROUGH A SECTION 1115 WAIVER ENROLLED IN THE STATE CHILD HEALTH PLAN ON THE DATE OF ENACTMENT OF THE KIDS FIRST ACT AND WHOSE GROSS FAMILY INCOME IS DETERMINED TO EXCEED THE INCOME ELIGIBILITY LEVEL SPECIFIED FOR A TARGETED LOW-INCOME CHILD.—Notwithstanding subsections (b)(1)(B) and (d) of section 2110, in the case of any individual described in subsection (c) of section 105 of the Kids First Act who the State elects to continue to provide child health assistance for under the State child health plan in accordance with the requirements of such subsection, the Federal medical assistance percentage (as determined under section 1905(b) without regard to clause (4) of such section) shall be substituted for the enhanced FMAP under subsection (a)(1) with respect to such assistance.

''(B) FMAP APPLIED TO PAYMENTS ONLY FOR NONPREGNANT CHILDLESS ADULTS AND PARENTS AND CARETAKER RELATIVES ENROLLED UNDER A SECTION 1115 WAIVER ON THE DATE OF ENACTMENT OF THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION OF 2007.—The Federal medical assistance percentage (as determined under section 1905(b) without regard to clause (4) of such section) shall be substituted for the enhanced FMAP under subsection (a)(1) with respect to payments for child health assistance or health benefits coverage provided under the State child health plan for any of the following:

''(i) PARENTS OR CARETAKER RELATIVES ENROLLED UNDER A WAIVER ON THE DATE OF ENACTMENT OF THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION OF 2007.—A nonpregnant parent or a nonpregnant caretaker relative of a targeted low-income child who is enrolled in the State child health plan under a waiver, experimental, pilot, or demonstration project on the date of enactment of the Kids First Act and whose family income does not exceed the income eligibility applied under such waiver with respect to that population on such date.

''(ii) NONPREGNANT CHILDLESS ADULTS ENROLLED UNDER A WAIVER ON SUCH DATE.—A nonpregnant childless adult enrolled in the State child health plan under a waiver, experimental, pilot, or demonstration project described in section 6102(c)(3) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 1397gg note) on the date of enactment of the Kids First Act and whose family income does not exceed the income eligibility applied under such waiver with respect to that population on such date.

''(iii) NO REPLACEMENT ENROLLEES.—Nothing in clauses (i) or (ii) shall be construed as authorizing a State to provide child health assistance or health benefits coverage under a waiver described in either such clause to a nonpregnant parent or a nonpregnant caretaker relative of a targeted low-income child, or a nonpregnant childless adult, who is not enrolled under the waiver on the date of enactment of the Kids First Act.

''(C) NO FEDERAL PAYMENT FOR ANY NEW NONPREGNANT ADULT ENROLLEES OR FOR SUCH ENROLLEES WHO NO LONGER SATISFY INCOME ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—Payment shall not be made under this section for child health assistance or other health benefits coverage provided under the State child health plan or under a waiver under section 1115 for any of the following:

''(i) PARENTS OR CARETAKER RELATIVES UNDER A SECTION 1115 WAIVER APPROVED AFTER THE DATE OF ENACTMENT OF THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION OF 2007.—A nonpregnant parent or a nonpregnant caretaker relative of a targeted low-income child under a waiver, experimental, pilot, or demonstration project that is approved on or after the date of enactment of the Kids First Act.

''(ii) PARENTS, CARETAKER RELATIVES, AND NONPREGNANT CHILDLESS ADULTS WHOSE FAMILY INCOME EXCEEDS THE INCOME ELIGIBILITY LEVEL SPECIFIED UNDER A SECTION 1115 WAIVER APPROVED PRIOR TO THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION OF 2007.—Any nonpregnant parent or a nonpregnant caretaker relative of a targeted low-income child whose family income exceeds the income eligibility level referred to in subparagraph (B)(i), and any nonpregnant childless adult whose family income exceeds the income eligibility level referred to in subparagraph (B)(ii).

''(iii) NONPREGNANT CHILDLESS ADULTS, PARENTS, OR CARETAKER RELATIVES NOT ENROLLED UNDER A SECTION 1115 WAIVER ON THE DATE OF ENACTMENT OF THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION OF 2007.—Any nonpregnant parent or a nonpregnant caretaker relative of a targeted low-income child who is not enrolled in the

State child health plan under a section 1115 waiver, experimental, pilot, or demonstration project referred to in subparagraph (B)(i) on the date of enactment of the Kids First Act, and any nonpregnant childless adult who is not enrolled in the State child health plan under a section 1115 waiver, experimental, pilot, or demonstration project referred to in subparagraph (B)(ii)(I) on such date.

''(D) DEFINITION OF CARETAKER RELATIVE.—In this subparagraph, the term 'caretaker relative' has the meaning given that term for purposes of carrying out section 1931.

''(E) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as implying that payments for coverage of populations for which the Federal medical assistance percentage (as so determined) is to be substituted for the enhanced FMAP under subsection (a)(1) in accordance with this paragraph are to be made from funds other than the allotments determined for a State under section 2104.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2105(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd(a)(1)) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or subsection (c)(8)'' after ''subparagraph (B)''.

SEC. 5. PROHIBITION ON NEW SECTION 1115 WAIVERS FOR COVERAGE OF ADULTS OTHER THAN PREGNANT WOMEN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2107(f) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397gg(f)) is amended—

(1) by striking '', the Secretary''; and inserting '':

''(1) The Secretary''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(2) The Secretary may not approve, extend, renew, or amend a waiver, experimental, pilot, or demonstration project with respect to a State after the date of enactment of the Kids First Act that would allow funds made available under this title to be used to provide child health assistance or other health benefits coverage for any other adult other than a pregnant woman whose family income does not exceed the income eligibility level specified for a targeted low-income child in that State under a waiver or project approved as of such date.

''(3) The Secretary may not approve, extend, renew, or amend a waiver, experimental, pilot, or demonstration project with respect to a State after the date of enactment of the Kids First Act that would waive or modify the requirements of section 2105(c)(8).''.

(b) CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY FOR COVERAGE OF PREGNANT WOMEN.—Section 2106 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397ff) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) NO AUTHORITY TO COVER PREGNANT WOMEN THROUGH STATE PLAN.—For purposes of this title, a State may provide assistance to a pregnant woman under the State child health plan only—

''(1) by virtue of a waiver under section 1115; or

''(2) through the application of sections 457.10, 457.350(b)(2), 457.622(c)(5), and 457.626(a)(3) of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of the Kids First Act).''.

(c) ASSURANCE OF NOTICE TO AFFECTED ENROLLEES.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall establish procedures to ensure that States provide adequate public notice for parents, caretaker relatives, and nonpregnant childless adults whose eligibility for child health assistance or health benefits coverage under a waiver under section 1115 of the Social Security Act will be terminated as a result of the amendments made by subsection (a), and that States otherwise adhere to regulations of the Secretary relating to procedures for terminating waivers under section 1115 of the Social Security Act.

SEC. 6. STANDARDIZATION OF DETERMINATION OF FAMILY INCOME.

(a) ELIGIBILITY BASED ON GROSS INCOME.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2110 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397jj) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) STANDARDIZATION OF DETERMINATION OF FAMILY INCOME.—A State shall determine family income for purposes of determining income eligibility for child health assistance or other health benefits coverage under the State child health plan (or under a waiver of such plan under section 1115) solely on the basis of the gross income (as defined by the Secretary) of the family.''.

(2) PROHIBITION ON WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.—Section 2107(f) (42 U.S.C. 1397gg(f)), as amended by section 5(a), is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) The Secretary may not approve a waiver, experimental, pilot, or demonstration project with respect to a State after the date of enactment of the Kids First Act that would waive or modify the requirements of section 2110(d) (relating to determining income eligibility on the basis of gross income) and regulations promulgated to carry out such requirements.''.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall promulgate interim final regulations defining gross income for purposes of section 2110(d) of the Social Security Act, as added by subsection (a).

(c) APPLICATION TO CURRENT ENROLLEES.—The interim final regulations promulgated under subsection (b) shall not be used to determine the income eligibility of any individual enrolled in a State child health plan under title XXI of the Social Security Act on the date of enactment of this Act before the date on which such eligibility of the individual is required to be redetermined under the plan as in effect on such date. In the case of any individual enrolled in such plan on such date who, solely as a result of the application of subsection (d) of section 2110 of the Social Security Act (as added by subsection (a)) and the regulations promulgated under subsection (b), is determined to be ineligible for child health assistance under the State child health plan, a State may elect, subject to substitution of the Federal medical assistance percentage for the enhanced FMAP under section 2105(c)(8)(A) of the Social Security Act (as added by section 4(a)), to continue to provide the individual with such assistance for so long as the individual otherwise would be eligible for such assistance and the individual's family income, if determined under the income and resource standards and methodologies applicable under the State child health plan on September 30, 2007, would not exceed the income eligibility level applicable to the individual under the State child health plan.

SEC. 7. GRANTS FOR OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT.

(a) GRANTS.—Title XXI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 2111. GRANTS TO IMPROVE OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT.

''(a) OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT GRANTS; NATIONAL CAMPAIGN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated for a fiscal year under subsection (f), subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to conduct outreach and enrollment efforts that are designed to increase the enrollment and participation of eligible children under this title and title XIX.

''(2) 10 PERCENT SET ASIDE FOR NATIONAL ENROLLMENT CAMPAIGN.—An amount equal to 10 percent of such amounts for the fiscal year shall be used by the Secretary for expenditures during the fiscal year to carry out a national enrollment campaign in accordance with subsection (g).

''(b) AWARD OF GRANTS.—

''(1) PRIORITY FOR AWARDING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities that—

''(i) propose to target geographic areas with high rates of—

''(I) eligible but unenrolled children, including such children who reside in rural areas; or

''(II) racial and ethnic minorities and health disparity populations, including those proposals that address cultural and linguistic barriers to enrollment; and

''(ii) submit the most demonstrable evidence required under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c).

''(B) 10 PERCENT SET ASIDE FOR OUTREACH TO INDIAN CHILDREN.—An amount equal to 10 percent of the funds appropriated under subsection (f) for a fiscal year shall be used by the Secretary to award grants to Indian Health Service providers and urban Indian organizations receiving funds under title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.) for outreach to, and enrollment of, children who are Indians.

''(2) 2-YEAR AVAILABILITY.—A grant awarded under this section for a fiscal year shall remain available for expenditure through the end of the succeeding fiscal year.

''(c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity that desires to receive a grant under subsection (a) shall submit an application to the Secretary in such form and manner, and containing such information, as the Secretary may decide. Such application shall include—

(1) evidence demonstrating that the entity includes members who have access to, and credibility with, ethnic or low-income populations in the communities in which activities funded under the grant are to be conducted;

''(2) evidence demonstrating that the entity has the ability to address barriers to enrollment, such as lack of awareness of eligibility, stigma concerns and punitive fears associated with receipt of benefits, and other cultural barriers to applying for and receiving child health assistance or medical assistance;

''(3) specific quality or outcomes performance measures to evaluate the effectiveness of activities funded by a grant awarded under this section; and

''(4) an assurance that the eligible entity shall—

''(A) conduct an assessment of the effectiveness of such activities against the performance measures;

''(B) cooperate with the collection and reporting of enrollment data and other information in order for the Secretary to conduct such assessments.

''(C) in the case of an eligible entity that is not the State, provide the State with enrollment data and other information as necessary for the State to make necessary projections of eligible children and pregnant women.

''(d) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Federal funds awarded under this section shall be used to supplement, not supplant, non-Federal funds that are otherwise available for activities funded under this section.

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means any of the following:

''(A) A State with an approved child health plan under this title.

''(B) A local government.

''(C) An Indian tribe or tribal consortium, a tribal organization, an urban Indian organization receiving funds under title V of the Indian

Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.), or an Indian Health Service provider.

''(D) A Federal health safety net organization.

''(E) A State, national, local, or community-based public or nonprofit private organization.

''(F) A faith-based organization or consortia, to the extent that a grant awarded to such an entity is consistent with the requirements of section 1955 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x–65) relating to a grant award to non-governmental entities.

''(G) An elementary or secondary school.

''(H) A national, local, or community-based public or nonprofit private organization, including organizations that use community health workers or community-based doula programs.

''(2) FEDERAL HEALTH SAFETY NET ORGANIZATION.—The term 'Federal health safety net organization' means—

''(A) a Federally-qualified health center (as defined in section 1905(l)(2)(B));

''(B) a hospital defined as a disproportionate share hospital for purposes of section 1923;

''(C) a covered entity described in section 340B(a)(4) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256b(a)(4)); and

''(D) any other entity or consortium that serves children under a federally-funded program, including the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children (WIC) established under section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), the head start and early head start programs under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9801 et seq.), the school lunch program established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, and an elementary or secondary school.

''(3) INDIANS; INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATION; URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATION.—The terms 'Indian', 'Indian tribe', 'tribal organization', and 'urban Indian organization' have the meanings given such terms in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603).

''(4) COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER.—The term 'community health worker' means an individual who promotes health or nutrition within the community in which the individual resides—

''(A) by serving as a liaison between communities and health care agencies;

''(B) by providing guidance and social assistance to community residents;

''(C) by enhancing community residents' ability to effectively communicate with health care providers;

''(D) by providing culturally and linguistically appropriate health or nutrition education;

''(E) by advocating for individual and community health or nutrition needs; and

''(F) by providing referral and followup services.

''(f) APPROPRIATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There is appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of awarding grants under this section—

''(A) $100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009;

''(B) $75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 and 2011; and

''(C) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.

''(2) GRANTS IN ADDITION TO OTHER AMOUNTS PAID.—Amounts appropriated and paid under the authority of this section shall be in addition to amounts appropriated under section 2104 and paid to States in accordance with section 2105, including with respect to expenditures for outreach activities in accordance with subsections (a)(1)(D)(iii) and (c)(2)(C) of that section.

''(g) NATIONAL ENROLLMENT CAMPAIGN.—From the amounts made available under subsection (a)(2) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall develop and implement a national enrollment campaign to improve the enrollment of underserved child populations in the programs established under this title and title XIX. Such campaign may include—

''(1) the establishment of partnerships with the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop national campaigns to link the eligibility and enrollment systems for the assistance programs each Secretary administers that often serve the same children;

''(2) the integration of information about the programs established under this title and title XIX in public health awareness campaigns administered by the Secretary;

''(3) increased financial and technical support for enrollment hotlines maintained by the Secretary to ensure that all States participate in such hotlines;

''(4) the establishment of joint public awareness outreach initiatives with the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Labor regarding the importance of health insurance to building strong communities and the economy;

''(5) the development of special outreach materials for Native Americans or for individuals with limited English proficiency; and

''(6) such other outreach initiatives as the Secretary determines would increase public awareness of the programs under this title and title XIX.''.

(b) NONAPPLICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURES CAP.—Section 2105(c)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397ee(c)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(C) NONAPPLICATION TO EXPENDITURES FOR OUTREACH AND ENROLLMENT.—The limitation under subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect to expenditures for outreach activities under section 2102(c)(1), or for enrollment activities, for children eligible for child health assistance under the State child health plan or medical assistance under the State plan under title XIX.''.

SEC. 8. IMPROVED STATE OPTION FOR OFFERING PREMIUM ASSISTANCE FOR COVERAGE THROUGH PRIVATE PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2105(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397ee(c)), as amended by section 4(a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9) ADDITIONAL STATE OPTION FOR OFFERING PREMIUM ASSISTANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the succeeding provisions of this paragraph, a State may elect to offer a premium assistance subsidy (as defined in subparagraph (C)) for qualified employer sponsored coverage (as defined in subparagraph (B)) to all targeted low-income children who are eligible for child health assistance under the plan and have access to such coverage in accordance with the requirements of this paragraph.

''(B) QUALIFIED EMPLOYER SPONSORED COVERAGE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph, the term 'qualified employer sponsored coverage' means a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered through an employer that is—

''(I) substantially equivalent to the benefits coverage in a benchmark benefit package described in section 2103(b) or benchmark-equivalent coverage that meets the requirements of section 2103(a)(2);

''(II) made similarly available to all of the employer's employees and for which the employer makes a contribution to the premium that is not less for employees receiving a premium assistance subsidy under any option available under the State child health plan under this title or the State plan under title XIX to provide such assistance than the employer contribution provided for all other employees; and

''(III) cost-effective, as determined under clause (ii).

''(ii) COST-EFFECTIVENESS.—A group health plan or health insurance coverage offered through an employer shall be considered to be cost-effective if—

''(I) the marginal premium cost to purchase family coverage through the employer is less than the State cost of providing child health assistance through the State child health plan for all the children in the family who are targeted low-income children; or

''(II) the marginal premium cost between individual coverage and purchasing family coverage through the employer is not greater than 175 percent of the cost to the State to provide child health assistance through the State child health plan for a targeted low-income child.

''HIGH DEDUCTIBLE HEALTH PLANS INCLUDED.—The term 'qualified employer sponsored coverage' includes a high deductible health plan (as defined in section 223(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) purchased through a health savings account (as defined under section 223(d) of such Code).

''(C) PREMIUM ASSISTANCE SUBSIDY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph, the term 'premium assistance subsidy' means, with respect to a targeted low-income child, the amount equal to the difference between the employee contribution required for enrollment only of the employee under qualified employer sponsored coverage and the employee contribution required for enrollment of the employee and the child in such coverage, less any applicable premium cost-sharing applied under the State child health plan, subject to the annual aggregate cost-sharing limit applied under section 2103(e)(3)(B).

''(ii) STATE PAYMENT OPTION.—Subject to clause (iii), a State may provide a premium assistance subsidy directly to an employer or as reimbursement to an employee for out-of-pocket expenditures.

''(iii) REQUIREMENT FOR DIRECT PAYMENT TO EMPLOYEE.—A state shall not pay a premium assistance subsidy directly to the employee, unless the State has established procedures to ensure that the targeted low-income child on whose behalf such payments are made are actually enrolled in the qualified employer-sponsored coverage.

''(iv) TREATMENT AS CHILD HEALTH ASSISTANCE.—Expenditures for the provision of premium assistance subsidies shall be considered child health assistance described in paragraph (1)(C) of subsection (a) for purposes of making payments under that subsection.

''(v) STATE OPTION TO REQUIRE ACCEPTANCE OF SUBSIDY.—A State may condition the provision of child health assistance under the State child health plan for a targeted low-income child on the receipt of a premium assistance subsidy for enrollment in qualified employer-sponsored coverage if the State determines the provision of such a subsidy to be more cost-effective in accordance with subparagraph (B)(ii).

''(vi) NOT TREATED AS INCOME.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a premium assistance subsidy provided in accordance with this paragraph shall not be treated as income to the child or the parent of the child for whom such subsidy is provided.

''(D) NO REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTAL COVERAGE FOR BENEFITS AND ADDITIONAL COST-SHARING PROTECTION PROVIDED UNDER THE STATE CHILD HEALTH PLAN.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A State that elects the option to provide a premium assistance subsidy under this paragraph shall not be required to provide a targeted low-income child enrolled in qualified employer-sponsored coverage with supplemental coverage for items or services that are not covered, or are only partially covered, under the qualified employer-sponsored coverage or cost-sharing protection other than the protection required under section 2103(e)(3)(B).

''(ii) NOTICE OF COST-SHARING REQUIREMENTS.—A State shall provide a targeted low-income child or the parent of such a child (as appropriate) who is provided with a premium assistance subsidy in accordance with this paragraph with notice of the cost-sharing requirements and limitations imposed under the qualified employer-sponsored coverage in which the child is enrolled upon the enrollment of the child in such coverage and annually thereafter.

'' (iii) RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS.—A State may require a parent of a targeted low-income child that is enrolled in qualified employer-sponsored coverage to bear the responsibility for keeping track of out-of-pocket expenditures incurred for cost-sharing imposed under such coverage and to notify the State when the limit on such expenditures imposed under section 2103(e)(3)(B) has been reached for a year from the effective date of enrollment for such year.

''(iv) STATE OPTION FOR REIMBURSEMENT.—A State may retroactively reimburse a parent of a targeted low-income child for out-of-pocket expenditures incurred after reaching the 5 percent cost-sharing limitation imposed under section 2103(e)(3)(B) for a year.

''(E) 6-MONTH WAITING PERIOD REQUIRED.—A State shall impose at least a 6-month waiting period from the time an individual is enrolled in private health insurance prior to the provision of a premium assistance subsidy for a targeted low-income child in accordance with this paragraph.

''(F) NON-APPLICATION OF WAITING PERIOD FOR ENROLLMENT IN THE STATE MEDICAID PLAN OR THE STATE CHILD HEALTH PLAN.—A targeted low-income child provided a premium assistance subsidy in accordance with this paragraph who loses eligibility for such subsidy shall not be treated as having been enrolled in private health insurance coverage for purposes of applying any waiting period imposed under the State child health plan or the State plan under title XIX for the enrollment of the child under such plan.

''(G) ASSURANCE OF SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD UNDER GROUP HEALTH PLANS IN CASE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PREMIUM SUBSIDY ASSISTANCE.—No payment shall be made under subsection (a) for amounts expended for the provision of premium assistance subsidies under this paragraph unless a State provides assurances to the Secretary that the State has in effect laws requiring a group health plan, a health insurance issuer offering group health insurance coverage in connection with a group health plan, and a self-funded health plan, to permit an employee who is eligible, but not enrolled, for coverage under the terms of the plan (or a child of such an employee if the child is eligible, but not enrolled, for coverage under such terms) to enroll for coverage under the terms of the plan if the employee's child becomes eligible for a premium assistance subsidy under this paragraph.

''(H) NO EFFECT ON PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PREMIUM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as limiting the authority of a State to offer premium assistance under section 1906, a waiver described in paragraph (2)(B) or (3), a waiver approved under section 1115, or other authority in effect on June 28, 2007.

''(I) NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY.—A State shall—

''(i) include on any application or enrollment form for child health assistance a notice of the availability of premium assistance subsidies for the enrollment of targeted low-income children in qualified employer sponsored coverage;

''(ii) provide, as part of the application and enrollment process under the State child health plan, information describing the availability of such subsidies and how to elect to obtain such a subsidy; and

''(iii) establish such other procedures as the State determines necessary to ensure that parents are informed of the availability of such subsidies under the State child health plan.''.

(b) APPLICATION TO MEDICAID.—Section 1906 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396e) is amended by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) The provisions of section 2105(c)(9) shall apply to a child who is eligible for medical assistance under the State plan in the same manner as such provisions apply to a targeted low-income child under a State child health plan under title XXI. Section 1902(a)(34) shall not apply to a child who is provided a premium assistance subsidy under the State plan in accordance with the preceding sentence.''.

SEC. 9. TREATMENT OF UNBORN CHILDREN.

(a) CODIFICATION OF CURRENT REGULATIONS.—Section 2110(c)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397jj(c)(1)) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: '', and includes, at the option of a State, an unborn child. For purposes of the previous sentence, the term 'unborn child' means a member of the species Homo sapiens, at any stage of development, who is carried in the womb.''.

(b) CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING COVERAGE OF MOTHERS.—Section 2103 (42 U.S.C. 1397cc) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(g) CLARIFICATIONS REGARDING AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE POSTPARTUM SERVICES AND MATERNAL HEALTH CARE.—Any State that provides child health assistance to an unborn child under the option described in section 2110(c)(1) may—

''(1) continue to provide such assistance to the mother, as well as postpartum services, through the end of the month in which the 60–day period (beginning on the last day of pregnancy) ends; and

''(2) in the interest of the child to be born, have flexibility in defining and providing services to benefit either the mother or unborn child consistent with the health of both.''.

SEC. 10. 50 PERCENT MATCHING RATE FOR ALL MEDICAID ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

Section 1903(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (2);

(2) by redesignating paragraph (3)(E) as paragraph (2) and re-locating and indenting it appropriately;

(3) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), and indenting them appropriately;

(4) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4);

(5) in paragraph (5), by striking ''which are attributable to the offering, arranging, and furnishing'' and inserting ''which are for the medical assistance costs of furnishing'';

(6) by striking paragraph (6);

(7) in paragraph (7), by striking ''subject to section 1919(g)(3)(B)''; and

(8) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (7) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

SEC. 11. REDUCTION IN PAYMENTS FOR MEDICAID ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS TO PREVENT DUPLICATION OF SUCH PAYMENTS UNDER TANF.

Section 1903 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(7), by striking ''section 1919(g)(3)(B)'' and inserting ''subsection (h)'';

(2) in subsection (a)(2)(D) by inserting '', subject to subsection (g)(3)(C) of such section'' after ''as are attributable to State activities under section 1919(g)''; and

(3) by adding after subsection (g) the following new subsection:

''(h) REDUCTION IN PAYMENTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS TO PREVENT DUPLICATION OF PAYMENTS UNDER TITLE IV.—Beginning with the calendar quarter commencing October 1, 2007, the Secretary shall reduce the amount paid to each State under subsection (a)(7) for each quarter by an amount equal to 1/4 of the annualized amount determined for the Medicaid program under section 16(k)(2)(B) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2025(k)(2)(B)).''.

SEC. 12. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), the amendments made by this Act shall take effect as if enacted on October 1, 2007.

(b) DELAY IF STATE LEGISLATION REQUIRED.—In the case of a State child health plan under title XXI of the Social Security Act or a waiver of such plan under section 1115 of such Act which the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines requires State legislation (other than legislation appropriating funds) in order for the plan or waiver to meet the additional requirements imposed by the amendments made by this Act, the State child health plan or waiver shall not be regarded as failing to comply with the requirements of such title XXI solely on the basis of its failure to meet such additional requirements before the first day of the first calendar quarter beginning after the close of the first regular session of the State legislature that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act. For purposes of the previous sentence, in the case of a State that has a 2–year legislative session, each year of such session shall be deemed to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.

(c) CONTINGENT EFFECTIVE DATE FOR SCHIP FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if funds are appropriated under any law (other than this Act) to provide allotments to States under title XXI of the Social Security Act for all (or any portion) of fiscal year 2008—

(1) any amounts that are so appropriated that are not so allotted and obligated before the date of the enactment of this Act are rescinded; and

(2) any amount provided for such title XXI allotments to a State under this Act (and the amendments made by this Act) for such fiscal year shall be reduced by the amount of such appropriations so allotted and obligated before such date.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. AKAKA. (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2160. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a pain care initiative in health care facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I, along with my colleague Senator BROWN, introduce legislation that would enhance VA's pain management program. It is estimated that nearly 30 percent of Americans, that is some 86 million people, suffer from chronic or acute pain every year. A recent study conducted by VA researchers in Connecticut found that nearly 50 percent

of veteran patients that are seen at VA facilities reported that they experience pain regularly.

While pain increases in severity with age, it is also a growing problem among younger veterans who have been injured in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Many of these veterans are coming home with severe injuries, often traumatic brain injuries, that require intensive rehabilitation. In some cases, these younger veterans will have to live with the long-term effects of their injuries, of which pain is a large and debilitating part.

Pain management is an area of health care that by many accounts is not yet up to par, in both the private and public sectors. The bill we are introducing would enhance VA's pain management program on a national, system-wide level, by requiring VA to establish a pain care initiative at every VA health care facility. Every hospital and clinic would be required to employ a professionally recognized pain assessment tool or process, and ensure that every patient who is determined to be in chronic or acute pain is treated appropriately.

The profile of a veteran in pain is often times different than that of his or her counterpart in the private sector. For example, veterans suffering from chronic pain are more likely to be receiving treatment for other problems including depression, substance abuse, alcoholism, or post traumatic stress disorder. Understanding and treating their pain must be a priority, and this bill will help VA enhance the department's existing pain management program.

VA's current pain management efforts are worthwhile, but are unfortunately not adequate to meet the all of the needs of veterans. Pain management in VA continues to be relatively decentralized and unstandardized. Some VA medical centers have adopted successful approaches and procedures to deal with pain, while others have been less active. Fortunately, VA has begun the work of identifying professional talent and developing ideas that provide the groundwork of an effective pain management program. This bill would build upon that foundation and help ensure that these ideas become practice.

This bill provides us with an opportunity to help the thousands of veterans who are living in pain each and every day. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2160

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Veterans Pain Care Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Acute and chronic pain are prevalent conditions within the population of veterans.

(2) Methods of modern warfare, including the use of improvised explosive devices, produce substantial numbers of battlefield casualties with significant damage to both the central and peripheral nervous systems.

(3) The successes of military health care, both on and off the battlefield, result in high survival rates of severely injured military personnel who will be afflicted with significant pain disorders on either an acute or chronic basis.

(4) Failure to treat pain appropriately at the time of transition from receipt of care from the Department of Defense to receipt of care from the Department of Veterans Affairs contributes to the development of long-term chronic pain syndromes, in some cases accompanied by long-term mental health and substance use disorders.

(5) Pain is a leading cause of short-term and long-term disability among veterans.

(6) The Department of Veterans Affairs has implemented important pain care programs at some facilities and in some areas, but comprehensive pain care is not consistently provided on a uniform basis throughout the health care system of the Department to all patients in need of such care.

(7) Inconsistent and ineffective pain care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs leads to pain-related impairments, occupational disability, and medical and mental complications for veterans with acute and chronic pain, with long-term costs for the health care and disability systems of the Department and for society at large.

(8) Research, diagnosis, treatment, and management of acute and chronic pain for veterans constitute health care priorities of the United States.

SEC. 3. PAIN CARE INITIATIVE IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 1720F. Pain care

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out at each health care facility of the Department an initiative on pain care.

''(b) ELEMENTS.—The initiative at each health care facility of the Department shall ensure that each individual receiving treatment in such health care facility receives the following:

''(1) An assessment for pain at the time of admission or initial treatment, and periodically thereafter, using a professionally recognized pain assessment tool or process.

''(2) Appropriate pain care consistent with recognized means for assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and management of acute and chronic pain, including when appropriate, access to specialty pain management services.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1720E the following new item:

''1720F. Pain care.''.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the pain care initiatives required by section 1720F of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), are implemented at all health care facilities of the Department of Veterans affairs by not later than—

(1) January 1, 2008, in the case of inpatient care; and

(2) January 1, 2009, in the case of outpatient care.

SEC. 4. PROGRAM ON RESEARCH AND TRAINING ON PAIN IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 7330A. Program of research and training on acute and chronic pain

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out within the Medical and Prosthetic Research Service of the Veterans Health Administration a program of research and training on acute and chronic pain.

''(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the program shall include the following:

''(1) To identify research priorities most relevant to the treatment of the types of acute and chronic pain suffered by veterans.

''(2) To promote, conduct, and coordinate research in accordance with such research priorities—

''(A) through the facilities and programs of the Department; and

''(B) in cooperation with other agencies, institutions, and organizations, including the Department of Defense.

''(3) To educate and train health care personnel of the Department with respect to the assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and management of acute and chronic pain.

''(c) DESIGNATION OF CENTERS.—(1) The Secretary shall designate an appropriate number of facilities of the Department as cooperative centers for research and education on pain. Each such center shall be designated with a focus on research and training on one or more of the following:

''(A) Acute pain.

''(B) Chronic pain.

''(C) A research priority identified under subsection (b)(1).

''(2) The Secretary shall designate at least one of the centers designated under paragraph (1) as a lead center for research on pain attributable to central and peripheral nervous system damage commonly associated with the battlefield injuries characteristic of modern warfare.

''(3) The Secretary shall designate one of the centers designated under paragraph (1) as the lead center for coordinating the pain care research activities of the centers designated under this subsection. The functions of such center shall be the following:

''(A) To review and evaluate periodically the research of the centers designated under this subsection and to ensure that such research is conducted in accordance with the research priorities identified pursuant to subsection (b)(1).

''(B) To collect and disseminate the results of the research of the centers designated under this subsection.

''(C) To develop and disseminate educational materials and products—

''(i) to enhance the assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and management of acute and chronic pain by the health care professionals and facilities of the Veterans Health Administration; and

''(ii) for veterans suffering from acute or chronic pain and their families.

''(d) AWARD OF FUNDING.—Centers designated under subsection (c) may compete for the award of funding from amounts appropriated to the Department each fiscal year for medical and prosthetics research.

''(e) NATIONAL OVERSIGHT.—The Under Secretary of Health shall designate an appropriate officer—

''(1) to oversee the operation of the centers designated under subsection (c); and

''(2) to review and evaluate periodically the performance of such centers.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is

amended by inserting after the item relating to section 7330 the following new item:

''7330A. Program of research and training on acute and chronic pain.''.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 2162. a Bill to improve the treatment and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and substance use disorders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I introduce comprehensive legislation to improve the capacity of the Department of Veterans Affairs to care for veterans with invisible wounds.

For too many veterans, returning home from battle will not bring an end to conflict. They will return home, but the war will follow them in their hearts and minds. Just as we support our troops as they fight in Iraq and Afghanistan, we must support them when they return from war marked by their service. Invisible wounds are complicated and wide-ranging, and our solutions must rise to the challenge.

What do we know about the scope of the problem? A March 2007 study published in the Archives of Internal Medicine reported that more than one-third of war veterans who have served in either Iraq or Afghanistan are suffering from various mental ailments, including post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, substance use disorder and other problems. According to the study, a disproportionate number of young soldiers suffer mental health problems.

There is no question that action is needed. One in five Iraq War veterans are likely to develop PTSD, as studies have estimated, and this is but one aspect of the mental health challenges faced by veterans.

We also know that veterans suffering from physical and mental wounds use drugs and alcohol to assuage their pain. Experts believe that stress is the number one cause of drug abuse, and of relapse to drug abuse. Mr. President, 60 to 80 percent of Vietnam veterans who have sought PTSD treatment have alcohol use disorders. VA has been dealing with substance abuse issues for decades, but much remains to be done.

On April 25, 2007, I chaired a Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearing on veterans' mental health concerns and on VA's response. We heard heart-wrenching testimony from the witnesses. Randall Omvig spoke of his son's suicide upon returning from Iraq. Tony Bailey spoke of his son's struggle with substance abuse, and of his death. Patrick Campbell shared his own experience with PTSD and the experiences of his close friends. Witnesses urged us to learn, and they urged us to act.

The provisions of this bill are a direct outgrowth of that hearing and the testimony given by those who have suffered with mental health issues, and by their family members.

This bill addresses the immediate needs of veterans by ensuring high quality mental health services at VA facilities and in their communities. The bill also looks to the future. Our legislation has eleven core provisions. I will highlight some of them:

First, VA medical centers would be required to offer a minimum range of services for veterans in need of help to overcome their substance use disorders. It would require programs to prevent relapse and to provide medical treatments to reduce cravings for alcohol and drugs, among others. Many VA facilities have some of these programs but there is no universal minimum.

We know that there are large numbers of veterans suffering with a terrible confluence of substance use disorders and other mental health disorders. The bill would require that both issues be treated by a well-qualified team of health professionals who would treat the disorders concurrently.

To ensure that innovative mental health services are tailored to individual communities, the legislation would create grants to enhance programs and fill holes. VA facilities would compete for grants for various purposes, from increasing weekend and evening hours to creating programs which encourage urgent care physicians, who are often gateways for new patients, to quickly refer those whom they believe may have a mental health disorder.

Veterans with debilitating mental health issues, including substance use disorder and PTSD, may need inpatient care. VA has moved rapidly to reduce their inpatient mental health capacity, but there is no doubt that inpatient stays are necessary for many veterans. This legislation would require the VA Secretary to designate six inpatient facilities to provide recovery services for veterans with comorbid PTSD and substance use disorders.

The legislation would also require a comprehensive review of VA's residential mental health facilities. This provision stems directly from the hearing testimony of Tony Bailey, whose son suffered from PTSD and substance abuse. Tony's son, Justin, died while in a VA domiciliary. He overdosed on medications provided to him by VA. Residential facilities are a necessary part of VA's effort to treat mental health problems and they must be up to par.

It has been made clear to me, by mental health experts and veterans experiencing mental health problems, that families need to be much more involved in the care of their loved ones. Families are suffering in much the same way that veterans themselves are suffering. They must have access to care which will aid in the effective treatment and rehabilitation of a veteran. An existing provision of law allows such care for family members. Our legislation simply restates this law and clarifies the type of services to which family members should have access.

Finally, our goal is to define the best possible treatments for veterans now and in the future. To that end, this legislation sets up a mental health research program based on the successful pediatric oncology model. We are proposing a network of sites with adequate patient flow and clinical and research expertise. The goal is to promote rapid progress from research to therapeutic advancement and effective treatments for PTSD and PTSD in the presence of a substance use disorder.

An aggressive mental health agenda for veterans begins by providing VA with financial support. Our comprehensive legislation authorizes the creation of new programs and expansion of existing ones. While these changes amount to significant new funding, every dollar was included in our Committee's Views and Estimates Letter to the Budget Committee. The Committee on Veterans' Affairs requested a $700 million dollar increase in fiscal year 2008 for mental health programs, and the full Senate supported this level in the final budget resolution. A similar level of funding was supported by the full Senate in the VA appropriation bill.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this innovative and comprehensive legislation, which will bring hope and progress to many veterans suffering from invisible wounds.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 2164. 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 and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I introduce the NOAA Scholarship Act of 2007 with my colleague from Mississippi, Senator COCHRAN. This bill provides a scholarship program for promising students who seek to pursue an education in a relevant field of study and commit to work for a branch of the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, including the National Weather Service, upon graduation.

Few can contend with the fact that there is a shortage of American students devoting themselves to the study of science, math and engineering. However, the demand for trained individuals in these professions is rising. In order to achieve their missions, Federal organizations like NOAA require a cadre of young talent to enter the workforce with training in fields like meteorology, hydrology, and oceanography.

In my great State of Oklahoma, we know the importance of NOAA, and particularly the study of meteorology. Two weeks ago, I met with a group of Fire Marshalls who informed me that there are more declared natural disasters per capita in Oklahoma than in

any other State in the Union. In May of each year, we experience an average of twenty tornadoes. In fact, the fastest wind speed ever recorded was in one of the May tornadoes to hit Oklahoma in 1999. As Oklahomans, we know that having accurate and timely reporting of atmospheric changes can mean the difference between life and death.

It is no surprise, then, that the University of Oklahoma, OU, has developed an exceptional program for the study of meteorology. The OU School of Meteorology is the largest meteorology program in the nation, with over 320 undergraduate students and 80 graduate students. It ranks first in the Nation in severe storms and mesoscale research and is among the top seven meteorology programs in the country. OU President David Boren, my predecessor in the Senate, targets the OU School of Meteorology to become the leading radar meteorology program in the world.

The OU School of Meteorology is fortunate to have a state of the art facility in the recently constructed National Weather Center. In this 244,000 square foot structure, federal, state, and OU organizations partner together to better understand weather events occurring in the atmosphere. The research that occurs in this center is truly groundbreaking. The scientists who work at NWC, many of them working with NOAA, have expertise in severe weather, local and regional climate, numerical modeling, hydrology, and radar meteorology. Their work is both abstract and tangible, using theory and advanced scientific research to improve the lives of individuals in Oklahoma and around the world.

The National Weather Center is the home of many notable achievements. NWC scientists were able to demonstrate that the Doppler weather radar can be useful in detecting tornadoes, hail, and other severe weather events. Using the Doppler radar, they have developed numerical forecasting models for government and industry applications. The scientists at NWC are also known for taking risks to discover new and improved ways of collecting data and making observations; for example, they can be credited with showing the effectiveness of rapidly deployable, truck-mounted radars that they drive into the middle of fierce storms.

It is with the first-hand knowledge of the important work of the National Weather Service and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's research in marine research, atmospheric research, and satellite programs that I introduce this bill. The NOAA Scholarship Act of 2007 will establish a scholarship program for promising students who desire to pursue an education in a relevant field of study and then serve as full-time employees of NOAA at the completion of their degrees. The students will be required to work for NOAA for 24 months in return for each academic year that a scholarship is given. This program will provide an opportunity and an incentive for students to develop scientific expertise that will continue to enable NOAA, at facilities like the National Weather Center in Norman, Oklahoma and elsewhere, to attain its mission.

On September 17, 2007, the House of Representatives passed identical legislation, H.R. 1657, by a vote of 360–16. I request that the Senate move quickly on this bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2164

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''NOAA Scholarship Act of 2007''.

SEC. 2. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator is authorized to establish a Science and Technology Scholarship Program to award scholarships to individuals to recruit and prepare students for careers in the National Weather Service and in Administration marine research, atmospheric research, and satellite programs.

(2) COMPETITIVE PROCESS.—Individuals shall be selected to receive scholarships under the scholarship program through a competitive process primarily on the basis of academic merit, with consideration given to financial need and the goal of promoting the participation of individuals described in section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a or 1885b) in the scholarship program.

(3) SERVICE AGREEMENTS.—To carry out the scholarship program, the Administrator shall enter into contractual agreements with individuals selected under paragraph (2) under which the individuals agree to serve as full-time employees of the Administration, for the period described in subsection (f)(1), in positions needed by the Administration in fields described in paragraph (1) and for which the individuals are qualified, in exchange for receiving a scholarship.

(b) SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligible to participate in the scholarship program, an individual shall—

(1) be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a full-time student at an institution of higher education in an academic program or field of study described in the list made available under subsection (d);

(2) be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States; and

(3) at the time of the initial scholarship award, not be an employee (as that term is defined in section 2105 of title 5, United States Code) of the United States.

(c) APPLICATION REQUIRED.—An individual seeking a scholarship under the scholarship program shall submit an application to the Administrator at such time, in such manner, and containing such information, agreements, or assurances as the Administrator may require to carry out this section.

(d) ELIGIBLE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall make publicly available a list of academic programs and fields of study for which scholarships may be utilized in fields described in subsection (a)(1), and shall update the list as necessary.

(e) SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may provide a scholarship under the scholarship program for an academic year if the individual applying for the scholarship has submitted to the Administrator, as part of the application required under subsection (c), a proposed academic program leading to a degree in a program or field of study on the list made available under subsection (d).

(2) DURATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—An individual may not receive a scholarship under the scholarship program for more than 4 academic years, unless the Administrator grants a waiver.

(3) SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT.—The dollar amount of a scholarship under the scholarship program for an academic year shall be determined under regulations issued by the Administrator, but may not exceed the cost of attendance, as described in paragraph (4).

(4) AUTHORIZED USES.—A scholarship provided under the scholarship program may be expended for tuition, fees, and other authorized expenses as established by the Administrator by regulation.

(5) CONTRACTS REGARDING DIRECT PAYMENTS TO INSTITUTIONS.—The Administrator may enter into a contractual agreement with an institution of higher education under which the amounts provided for a scholarship under this section for tuition, fees, and other authorized expenses are paid directly to the institution with respect to which the scholarship is provided.

(f) PERIOD OF OBLIGATED SERVICE.—

(1) DURATION OF SERVICE.—Except as provided in subsection (h)(2), the period of service for which an individual shall be obligated to serve as an employee of the Administration shall be 24 months for each academic year for which a scholarship under the scholarship program is provided.

(2) SCHEDULE FOR SERVICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), obligated service under paragraph (1) shall begin not later than 60 days after the individual obtains the educational degree for which the scholarship was provided.

(B) DEFERRAL.—The Administrator may defer the obligation of an individual to provide a period of service under paragraph (1) if the Administrator determines that such a deferral is appropriate. The Administrator shall prescribe the terms and conditions under which a service obligation may be deferred through regulation.

(g) PENALTIES FOR BREACH OF SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT.—

(1) FAILURE TO COMPLETE ACADEMIC TRAINING.—Scholarship recipients who fail to maintain a high level of academic standing, as defined by the Administrator by regulation, who are dismissed from their educational institutions for disciplinary reasons, or who voluntarily terminate academic training before graduation from the educational program for which the scholarship was awarded, shall be in breach of their contractual agreement and, in lieu of any service obligation arising under such agreement, shall be liable to the United States for repayment not later than 1 year after the date of default of all scholarship funds paid to them and to the institution of higher education on their behalf under the agreement, except as provided in subsection (h)(2). The repayment period may be extended by the Administrator when determined to be necessary, as established by regulation.

(2) FAILURE TO BEGIN OR COMPLETE THE SERVICE OBLIGATION OR MEET THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF DEFERMENT.—Except as provided in subsection (h), an individual who receives a scholarship under the scholarship program and who, for any reason, fails to begin or complete a service obligation under this section after completion of academic

training, or fails to comply with the terms and conditions of deferment established by the Administrator pursuant to subsection (f)(2)(B), shall be in breach of the contractual agreement. Such an individual shall be liable to the United States for an amount equal to—

(A) the total amount received by the individual under the scholarship program; plus

(B) the amount of interest that would have been earned on such amount, at the maximum legal prevailing rate as determined by the Treasurer of the United States, during the period between the date the amount was awarded to the individual and the date of the breach of the agreement.

(h) WAIVER OR SUSPENSION OF OBLIGATION.—

(1) DEATH OF INDIVIDUAL.—Any obligation of an individual incurred under the scholarship program (or a contractual agreement thereunder) for service or payment shall be canceled upon the death of the individual.

(2) IMPOSSIBILITY OR EXTREME HARDSHIP.—The Administrator shall by regulation provide for the partial or total waiver or suspension of any obligation of service or payment incurred by an individual under the scholarship program (or a contractual agreement thereunder) whenever compliance by the individual is impossible or would involve extreme hardship to the individual, or if enforcement of such obligation with respect to the individual would be contrary to the best interests of the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(a) ADMINISTRATION.—The term ''Administration'' means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(b) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere of the Department of Commerce.

(c) COST OF ATTENDANCE.—The term ''cost of attendance'' has the meaning given that term in section 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ll).

(d) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(e) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—The term ''scholarship program'' means the Science and Technology Scholarship Program established under section 2(a).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 345—SUPPORTING THE WORK OF FIREFIGHTERS TO EDUCATE AND PROTECT THE NATION'S COMMUNITIES, AND THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, OCTOBER 7–13, 2007, AS DESIGNATED BY THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. DODD, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 345

Whereas firefighters have maintained their dedication to the health and safety of the American public since the first American fire departments were organized in the colonial era;

Whereas today's firefighters provide a multitude of services, including emergency medical services, special rescue response, hazardous material and terrorism response, and public safety education;

Whereas more than 1,130,000 firefighters protect the United States through their heroic service;

Whereas the Nation's fire departments respond to emergency calls nearly once per second and dispatch to fire emergencies every 20 seconds;

Whereas approximately 1,600,000 fires are reported annually;

Whereas firefighters respond with courage to all disasters, whether they be acts of terrorism, natural disasters, or other emergencies;

Whereas 343 firefighters sacrificed their lives responding heroically to the events of September 11, 2001;

Whereas firefighters from across the Nation responded with remarkable selflessness throughout the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina;

Whereas 89 firefighters lost their lives in 2006, and over 80,000 were injured in the line of duty;

Whereas we have honored firefighters for educating the American public since President Harding declared the first Fire Prevention Week in 1922;

Whereas the National Fire Protection Association has designated the week of October 7-13, 2007 as Fire Prevention Week; and

Whereas educating Americans on methods of fire prevention and escape planning continues to be a priority for all firefighters: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the work of firefighters to educate and protect the Nation's communities; and

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Fire Prevention Week, October 7-13, 2007, as designated by the National Fire Protection Association.

SENATE RESOLUTION 346—EXPRESSING HEARTFELT SYMPATHY FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE DEVASTATING THUNDERSTORMS THAT CAUSED SEVERE FLOODING DURING AUGUST 2007 IN THE STATES OF ILLINOIS, IOWA, MINNESOTA, OHIO, AND WISCONSIN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. OBAMA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 346

Whereas, during August 2007, severe thunderstorms were responsible for bringing as much as 18 inches of torrential rain to parts of the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, resulting in devastating floods;

Whereas these storms tragically took the lives of 14 people;

Whereas these storms injured countless other people, damaged or destroyed thousands of homes, and devastated businesses and institutions;

Whereas, on August 21, 2007, the Governor of Minnesota declared Fillmore, Houston, Steele, Olmsted, Wabasha, and Winona Counties, Minnesota, to be in a state of disaster as a result of these storms, and subsequently Dodge and Jackson Counties, Minnesota, received a Federal major disaster declaration as well;

Whereas, on August 20 and 21, 2007, the Governor of Wisconsin declared Crawford, La Crosse, Richland, Sauk, and Vernon Counties, Wisconsin, to be in a state of disaster as a result of these storms;

Whereas, on August 22, 2007, and in the days following, the Governor of Iowa declared Allamakee, Appanoose, Boone, Calhoun, Cherokee, Davis, Humboldt, Mahaska, Montgomery, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Wayne, Webster, and Winneshiek Counties, Iowa, to be in a state of disaster as a result of these storms;

Whereas, on August 22, 2007, the Governor of Ohio declared Allen, Crawford, Hancock, Hardin, Putnam, Richland, Seneca, Van Wert, and Wyandot Counties, Ohio, to be in a state of disaster as a result of these storms;

Whereas, on August 24, 2007, and in the days following, the Governor of Illinois declared Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Lake, LaSalle, Kane, Knox, McHenry, Warren, and Will Counties, Illinois, to be in a state of disaster as a result of these storms;

Whereas President Bush declared 8 counties in Minnesota, 8 counties in Ohio, 14 counties in Wisconsin, 6 counties in Illinois, and 14 counties in Iowa to be major disaster areas as a result of these storms, and individuals and families, State and local Governments, and certain private nonprofit organizations in these areas became eligible for individual or public Federal disaster assistance or both;

Whereas numerous individuals and entities have selflessly and heroically given of themselves and their resources to aid in the disaster relief efforts; and

Whereas the catastrophic injury, death, and damage in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin would have been even worse in the absence of local relief efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses heartfelt sympathy for the victims of the devastating thunderstorms that caused severe flooding during August 2007 in the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin;

(2) conveys gratitude to the local, State, and Federal officials and emergency personnel who responded swiftly to the crisis, including emergency management teams in each of the affected States, Michael Chertoff, Secretary of Homeland Security, and David Paulison, Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(3) recognizes the generous and selfless support of citizens, local businesses, the American Red Cross, the United Way, Catholic Charities, and the Salvation Army; and

(4) reaffirms support for helping the victims of the flooding rebuild their homes and lives.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3270. Mr. SHELBY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3271. Mr. SHELBY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra.

SA 3272. Mr. SHELBY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra.

SA 3273. Mr. SHELBY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra.

SA 3274. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. SMITH, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3275. Mr. LEVIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra.

SA 3276. Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3277. Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. DEMINT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra.

SA 3278. Mr. STEVENS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3279. Mr. KYL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table .

SA 3280. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3281. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3282. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3283. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3284. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3285. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3286. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3287. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3288. Mr. SHELBY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra.

SA 3289. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3290. Mr. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3291. Mr. KYL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3292. Mr. KYL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3293. Ms. SNOWE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3294. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3295. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3296. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3297. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3298. Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3299. Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3300. Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself, Mr. DOMENICI, and Mr. INOUYE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3301. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3302. Mrs. CLINTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3303. Ms. MIKULSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3304. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3305. Ms. MIKULSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3306. Ms. MIKULSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3307. Ms. MIKULSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3308. Ms. MIKULSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3309. Ms. MIKULSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, supra.

SA 3310. Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, supra.

SA 3311. Ms. MIKULSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3312. Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Mr. INOUYE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3313. Mrs. DOLE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3314. Mr. SUNUNU (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. GREGG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3315. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3316. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3317. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra.

SA 3318. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, supra.

SA 3319. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3274 submitted by Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. SMITH, and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3093, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3270. Mr. SHELBY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On 88, line 1, strike ''$625,000,000'' and all that follows through line 2 and insert the following: ''$645,000,000 shall not be available for obligation until the following fiscal year and, notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated to the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program is reduced by $20,000,000.''

SA 3271. Mr. SHELBY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 30 line 4 strike the ''.'' and insert '': *Provided*, That within 200 days of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General shall conduct an audit and issue a report to the Committees on Appropriations of all expenses of the legislative and public affairs offices at each location of the Justice Department, it's bureaus and agencies, including but not limited to every field office and headquarters component; the audit shall include any and all expenses related to these activities.''

SA 3272. Mr. SHELBY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 18 line 13 strike the ''.'' and insert the following:

'': *Provided*, That of the amounts provided to the Secretary within this account, $10,000,000 shall not become available for obligation until the Secretary certifies to the Committees on Appropriations that the Bureau of the Census has followed, and met all best practices, and all Office of Management and Budget guidelines related to information technology projects: *Provided further*, That the Secretary, within 120 days of enactment of this Act, shall provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations that audits and evaluates all decision documents and expenditures by the Bureau of the Census as they relate to the 2010 Census: *Provided further*, That the Secretary, within 120 days of the enactment of this Act, shall provide a report to Congress that is publicly available on the Bureau's website on the steps that the Census Bureau will take to allow citizens the opportunity to complete the decennial census and the American Community Survey over the Internet.''

SA 3273. Mr. SHELBY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 69 line 13 after the second ''.'' strike all through page 70 line 10 and insert:

''Of the funds appropriated in this Act for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Sentinel program, $25,000,000 shall not be available for obligation until 60 days after the Committees on Appropriations receive from the Federal Bureau of Investigation a report on the results of a completed integrated baseline review for that program: *Provided*, That the report shall be submitted simultaneously to the Government Accountability Office: *Provided further*, That the Government Accountability Office shall review the Bureau's performance measurement baseline for the Sentinel program and shall submit its findings to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives within 60 days of its receipt of the report.

SEC. 216. None of the funds appropriated in this or any other Act shall be obligated for the initiation of a future phase or increment of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Sentinel program until the Attorney General certifies to the Committees on Appropriations that existing phases or increments currently under contract for development or fielding have completed 70 percent of the work for that phase or increment under the performance measurement baseline validated by the integrated baseline review referred to in SEC. 215 of this Act: *Provided*, That this restriction does not apply to planning and design activities for future phases or increments: *Provided further*, That the Bureau will notify the Committees of any significant changes to the baseline.''

SA 3274. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. SMITH, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 70, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

SEC. 217. (a) In addition to any other amounts otherwise appropriated to the Attorney General under this Act, there is appropriated to the Attorney General, $500,000, to conduct a study, in conjunction with other Federal agencies, on—

(1) the connection between methamphetamine crimes and identity theft crimes, and assess the degree of correlation between such crimes;

(2) how individuals who use methamphetamine and commit identity theft crimes typically obtain the information of the victim of such crimes;

(3) how individuals who use methamphetamine and commit identity theft crimes misuse the information of the victims of such crimes;

(4) the possible linkages between the sale and distribution of methamphetamine, gang activity, and gang-related crimes, including whether there is an increase in gang-related crime with respect to identity theft;

(5) the needs of Federal, State, local, and tribal law enforcement to pursue and prosecute methamphetamine crimes related to identity theft and whether any changes are needed to Federal law;

(6) the advisability of imposing a sentencing enhancement—

(A) if a person commits both a methamphetamine crime and an identity theft crime; and

(B) if a person is part of a conspiracy to commit methamphetamine and identity theft crimes; and

(7) the advisability of establishing a password-protected electronic clearinghouse within the Department of Justice for Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to—

(A) share information on crimes involving both methamphetamine and the commission of identity theft;

(B) create a better understanding of the correlation between such crimes; and

(C) share best practices.

(b) Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit a report to Congress describing the findings of the study conducted under (a).

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount rescinded for the Working Capital Fund of the Department of Justice under the heading ''GENERAL ADMINISTRATION'' under the subheading ''WORKING CAPITAL FUND (RESCISSION)'' under title VI of this Act is increased by $500,000.

SA 3275. Mr. LEVIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. ANNUAL REPORT ON DELAYED BACKGROUND CHECKS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall submit a report to the congressional committees listed in subsection (b) that contains, with respect to the most recently completed fiscal year—

(1) a statistical analysis of the number of background checks processed and pending, including check requests in process at the time of the report and check requests that have been received but are not yet in process;

(2) the average time taken to complete each type of background check;

(3) a description of the efforts and progress made by the Director in addressing any delays in completing such background checks; and

(4) a description of the progress that has been made in automating files used in the name check process, including investigative files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(b) RECIPIENTS.—The congressional committees listed in this subsection are—

(1) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

SA 3276. Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 98, between lines 18 and 19, insert the following:

TITLE VII—RESTITUTION

SEC. 701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Restitution for Victims of Crime Act of 2007''.

Subtitle A—Collection of Restitution

SEC. 721. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Collection of Restitution Improvement Act of 2007''.

SEC. 722. PROCEDURE FOR ISSUANCE AND ENFORCEMENT OF RESTITUTION.

Section 3664(f) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraphs (2) through (4) and inserting the following:

''(C)(i) Each restitution order shall—

''(I) contain information sufficient to identify each victim to whom restitution is owed;

''(II) require that a copy of the court order be sent to each such victim; and

''(III) inform each such victim of the obligation to notify the appropriate entities of any change in address.

''(ii) It shall be the responsibility of each victim to whom restitution is owed to notify the Attorney General, or the appropriate entity of the court, by means of a form to be provided by the Attorney General or the court, of any change in the victim's mailing address while restitution is still owed to the victim.

''(iii) The confidentiality of any information relating to a victim under this subparagraph shall be maintained.

''(2) The court shall order that the restitution imposed is due in full immediately upon imposition.

''(3) The court shall direct the defendant—

''(A) to make a good-faith effort to satisfy the restitution order in the shortest time in which full restitution can be reasonably made, and to refrain from taking any action that conceals or dissipates the defendant's assets or income;

''(B) to notify the court of any change in residence; and

''(C) to notify the United States Attorney for the district in which the defendant was sentenced of any change in residence, and of any material change in economic circumstances that might affect the defendant's ability to pay restitution.

''(4) Compliance with all payment directions imposed under paragraphs (6) and (7) shall be prima facie evidence of a good faith effort under paragraph (3)(A), unless it is shown that the defendant has concealed or dissipated assets.

''(5) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the purpose of enforcing a restitution order, a United States Attorney may receive, without the need for a court order, any financial information concerning the defendant obtained by the grand jury that indicted the defendant for the crime for which restitution has been awarded, the United States Probation Office, or the Bureau of Prisons. A victim may also provide financial information concerning the defendant to the United States Attorney.

''(6)(A) At sentencing, or at any time prior to the termination of a restitution obligation under section 3613 of this title, the court may—

''(i) impose special payment directions upon the defendant or modify such directions; or

''(ii) direct the defendant to make a single, lump sum payment, partial payments at specified intervals, in-kind payments, or a combination of payments at specified intervals and in-kind payments.

''(B) The period of time over which scheduled payments are established for purposes of this paragraph shall be the shortest time in which full payment reasonably can be made.

''(C) In-kind payments may be in the form of the return of property, replacement of property, or, if the victim agrees, services rendered to the victim or a person or organization other than the victim.

''(D) In ordering restitution, the court may direct the defendant to—

''(i) repatriate any property that constitutes proceeds of the offense of conviction, or property traceable to such proceeds; and

''(ii) surrender to the United States, or to the victim named in the restitution order, any interest of the defendant in any non-exempt asset.

''(E) The court may enter a restraining order or injunction, require the execution of a satisfactory performance bond, or take any other action to preserve the availability of property for restitution.

''(7)(A) In determining whether to impose or modify specific payment directions, the court may consider—

''(i) the need to provide restitution to the victims of the offense;

''(ii) the financial ability of the defendant;

''(iii) the economic circumstances of the defendant, including the financial resources and other assets of the defendant and whether any of those assets are jointly controlled;

''(iv) the projected earnings and other income of the defendant;

''(v) any financial obligations of the defendant, including obligations to dependents;

''(vi) whether the defendant has concealed or dissipated assets or income; and

''(vii) any other appropriate circumstances.

''(B) Any substantial resources from any source, including inheritance, settlement, or other judgment, shall be applied to any outstanding restitution obligation.

''(8)(A) If the court finds that the economic circumstances of the defendant do not allow the payment of any substantial amount as restitution, the court may direct the defendant to make nominal payments of not less than $100 per year toward the restitution obligation.

''(B) Any money received from the defendant under subparagraph (A) shall be disbursed so that any outstanding assessment imposed under section 3013 is paid first in full.

''(9) Court-imposed special payment directions shall not limit the ability of the Attorney General to maintain an Inmate Financial Responsibility Program that encourages sentenced inmates to meet their legitimate financial obligations.

''(10)(A) The ability of the Attorney General to enforce restitution obligations ordered under paragraph (2) shall not be limited by appeal, or the possibility of a correction, modification, amendment, adjustment, or reimposition of a sentence, unless the court expressly so orders for good cause shown and stated on the record.

''(B) Absent exceptional circumstances, as determined by the court, an order limiting the enforcement of restitution obligations shall—

''(i) require the defendant to deposit, in the registry of the district court, any amount of the restitution that is due;

''(ii) require the defendant to post a bond or other security to ensure payment of the restitution that is due; or

''(iii) impose additional restraints upon the defendant to prevent the defendant from transferring or dissipating assets.

''(C) No order described in subparagraph (B) shall restrain the ability of the United States to continue its investigation of the defendant's financial circumstances, conduct discovery, record a lien, or seek any injunction or other relief from the court.''.

SEC. 723. IMPOSITION OF CRIMINAL FINES AND PAYMENT DIRECTIONS.

Subsection 3572(d) of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(d) PAYMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The court shall order that any fine or assessment imposed be due in full immediately upon imposition.

''(2) EFFORTS TO MAKE PAYMENT.—The court shall—

''(A) direct the defendant to make a good-faith effort to satisfy the fine and assessment in the shortest time in which full payment can be reasonably made, and to refrain from taking any action that conceals or dissipates the defendant's assets or income;

''(B) direct the defendant to notify the court of any change in residence; and

''(C) order the defendant to notify the United States Attorney for the district in which the defendant was sentenced of any change in residence, and of any material change in economic circumstances that might affect the defendant's ability to pay restitution.

''(3) GOOD FAITH.—Compliance with all payment directions imposed by paragraphs (5) and (6) shall be prima facie evidence of a good faith effort under paragraph (2)(A), unless it is shown that the defendant has concealed or dissipated assets;

''(4) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the purpose of enforcing a fine or assessment, a United States Attorney may receive, without the need for a court order, any financial information concerning the defendant obtained by a grand jury, the United States Probation Office, or the Bureau of Prisons.

''(5) PAYMENT SCHEDULE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—At sentencing, or at any time prior to the termination of a restitution obligation under section 3613 of this title, the court may—

''(i) impose special payment directions upon the defendant or modify such directions; or

''(ii) direct the defendant to make a single, lump sum payment, or partial payments at specified intervals.

''(B) PERIOD OF TIME.—The period of time over which scheduled payments are established for purposes of this paragraph shall be the shortest time in which full payment can reasonably be made.

''(C) REPATRIATION.—The court may direct the defendant to repatriate any property that constitutes proceeds of the offense of conviction, or property traceable to such proceeds.

''(D) SURRENDER.—In ordering restitution, the court may direct the defendant to surrender to the United States any interest of the defendant in any non-exempt asset.

''(E) THIRD PARTIES.—If the court directs the defendant to repatriate or surrender any property in which it appears that any person other than the defendant may have a legal interest—

''(i) the court shall take such action as is necessary to protect such third party interest; and

''(ii) may direct the United States to initiate any ancillary proceeding to determine such third party interests in accordance with the procedures specified in section 413(n) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 853(n)).

''(F) EXCLUSIVITY OF REMEDY.—Except as provided in this section, no person may commence an action against the United States concerning the validity of the party's alleged interest in the property subject to reparation or surrender.

''(G) PRESERVATION OF PROPERTY.—The court may enter a restraining order or injunction, require the execution of a satisfactory performance bond, or take any other action to preserve the availability of property for payment of the fine or assessment.

''(6) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining whether to impose or modify special payment directions, the court may consider—

''(A) the need to satisfy the fine or assessment;

''(B) the financial ability of the defendant;

''(C) the economic circumstances of the defendant, including the financial resources and other assets of the defendant, and whether any of those assets are jointly controlled;

''(D) the projected earnings and other income of the defendant;

''(E) any financial obligations of the defendant, including obligations to dependents;

''(F) whether the defendant has concealed or dissipated assets or income; and

''(G) any other appropriate circumstances.

''(7) USE OF RESOURCES.—Any substantial resources from any source, including inheritance, settlement, or other judgment shall be applied to any fine or assessment still owed.

''(8) NOMINAL PAYMENTS.—If the court finds that the economic circumstances of the defendant do not allow the immediate payment of any substantial amount of the fine or assessment imposed, the court may direct the defendant to make nominal payments of not less than $100 per year toward the fine or assessment imposed.

''(9) INMATE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM.—Court-imposed special payment directions shall not limit the ability of the Attorney General to maintain an Inmate Financial Responsibility Program that encourages sentenced inmates to meet their legitimate financial obligations.

''(10) ENFORCEMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The ability of the Attorney General to enforce the fines and assessment ordered under paragraph (1) shall not be limited by an appeal, or the possibility of a correction, modification, amendment, adjustment, or reimposition of a sentence, unless the court expressly so orders, for good cause shown and stated on the record.

''(B) EXCEPTIONS.—Absent exceptional circumstances, as determined by the court, an order limiting enforcement of a fine or assessment shall—

''(i) require the defendant to deposit, in the registry of the district court, any amount of the fine or assessment that is due;

''(ii) require the defendant to post a bond or other security to ensure payment of the fine or assessment that is due; or

''(iii) impose additional restraints upon the defendant to prevent the defendant from transferring or dissipating assets.

''(C) OTHER ACTIVITIES.—No order described in subparagraph (B) shall restrain the ability of the United States to continue its investigation of the defendant's financial circumstances, conduct discovery, record a lien, or seek any injunction or other relief from the court.

''(11) SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS.—The requirements of this subsection shall apply to the imposition and enforcement of any assessment imposed under section 3013 of this title.''.

SEC. 724. COLLECTION OF UNPAID FINES OR RESTITUTION.

Section 3612(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(b) INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN JUDGMENT; JUDGMENT TO BE TRANSMITTED TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A judgment or order imposing, modifying, or remitting a fine or restitution order of more than $100 shall include—

''(A) the name, social security account number, mailing address, and residence address of the defendant;

''(B) the docket number of the case;

''(C) the original amount of the fine or restitution order and the amount that is due and unpaid;

''(D) payment orders and directions imposed under section 3572(d) and section 3664(f) of this title; and

''(E) a description of any modification or remission.

''(2) TRANSMITTAL OF COPIES.—Not later than 10 days after entry of the judgment or order described in paragraph (1), the court shall transmit a certified copy of the judgment or order to the Attorney General.''.

SEC. 725. ATTORNEY'S FEES FOR VICTIMS.

(a) ORDER OF RESTITUTION.—Section 3663(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) reimburse the victim for attorneys' fees reasonably incurred in an attempt to retrieve damaged, lost, or destroyed property (which shall not include payment of salaries of Government attorneys); or''; and

(D) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated by this subsection, by inserting ''or (B)'' after ''subparagraph (A)'';

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by inserting ''(including attorneys' fees necessarily and reasonably incurred for representation of the victim, which shall not include payment of salaries of Government attorneys)'' after ''other expenses related to participation in the investigation or prosecution of the offense''; and

(B) by striking ''and'' at the end;

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) in any case, reimburse the victim for reasonably incurred attorneys' fees that are necessary and foreseeable results of the defendant's crime (which shall not include payment of salaries of Government attorneys).''.

(b) MANDATORY RESTITUTION TO VICTIMS OF CERTAIN CRIMES.—Section 3663A(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

''(B) reimburse the victim for attorneys' fees reasonably incurred in an attempt to retrieve damaged, lost, or destroyed property (which shall not include payment of salaries of Government attorneys); or''; and

(D) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated by this subsection, by inserting ''or (B)'' after ''subparagraph (A)'';

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by inserting ''(including attorneys' fees necessarily and reasonably incurred for representation of the victim, which shall not include payment of salaries of Government attorneys)'' after ''other expenses related to participation in the investigation or prosecution of the offense''; and

(B) by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) in any case, reimburse the victim for reasonably incurred attorneys' fees that are necessary and foreseeable results of the defendant's crime (which shall not include payment of salaries of Government attorneys).''.

Subtitle B—Preservation of Assets for Restitution

SEC. 741. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Preservation of Assets for Restitution Act of 2007''.

SEC. 742. AMENDMENTS TO THE MANDATORY VICTIMS RESTITUTION ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 232 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3664 the following:

''§ 3664A. Preservation of assets for restitution

''(a) PROTECTIVE ORDERS TO PRESERVE ASSETS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon the Government's ex parte application and a finding of probable cause to believe that a defendant, if convicted, will be ordered to satisfy an order of restitution for an offense punishable by imprisonment for more than 1 year, the court—

''(A) shall—

''(i) enter a restraining order or injunction;

''(ii) require the execution of a satisfactory performance bond; or

''(iii) take any other action necessary to preserve the availability of any property traceable to the commission of the offense charged; and

''(B) if it determines that it is in the interests of justice to do so, shall issue any order necessary to preserve any nonexempt asset (as defined in section 3613) of the defendant that may be used to satisfy such restitution order.

''(2) PROCEDURES.—Applications and orders issued under paragraph (1) shall be governed by the procedures under section 413(e) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 853(e)) and in this section.

''(3) MONETARY INSTRUMENTS.—If the property in question is a monetary instrument (as defined in section 1956(c)(5)) or funds in electronic form, the protective order issued under paragraph (1) may take the form of a warrant authorizing the Government to seize the property and to deposit it into an interest-bearing account in the Registry of the Court in the district in which the warrant was issued, or into another such account maintained by a substitute property custodian, as the court may direct.

''(4) POST-INDICTMENT.—A post-indictment protective order entered under paragraph (1) shall remain in effect through the conclusion of the criminal case, including sentencing and any post-sentencing proceedings, until seizure or other disposition of the subject property, unless modified by the court upon a motion by the Government or under subsection (b) or (c).

''(b) DEFENDANT'S RIGHT TO A HEARING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a preindictment protective order entered under subsection (a)(1), the defendant's right to a post-restraint hearing shall be governed by paragraphs (1)(B) and (2) of section 413(e) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 853(e)).

''(2) POST-INDICTMENT.—In the case of a post-indictment protective order entered under subsection (a)(1), the defendant shall have a right to a post-restraint hearing regarding the continuation or modification of the order if the defendant—

''(A) establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that there are no assets, other than the restrained property, available to the defendant to retain counsel in the criminal case or to provide for a reasonable living allowance for the necessary expenses of the defendant and the defendant's lawful dependents; and

''(B) makes a prima facie showing that there is bona fide reason to believe that the court's ex parte finding of probable cause under subsection (a)(1) was in error.

''(3) HEARING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the court determines that the defendant has satisfied the requirements of paragraph (2), it may hold a hearing to determine whether there is probable cause to believe that the defendant, if convicted, will be ordered to satisfy an order of restitution for an offense punishable by imprisonment for more than 1 year, and that the seized or restrained property may be needed to satisfy such restitution order.

''(B) PROBABLE CAUSE.—If the court finds probable cause under subparagraph (A), the protective order shall remain in effect.

''(C) NO PROBABLE CAUSE.—If the court finds under subparagraph (A) that no probable cause exists as to some or all of the property, or determines that more property has been seized and restrained than may be needed to satisfy a restitution order, it shall modify the protective order to the extent necessary to release the property that should not have been restrained.

''(4) REBUTTAL.—If the court conducts an evidentiary hearing under paragraph (3), the court shall afford the Government an opportunity to present rebuttal evidence and to cross-examine any witness that the defendant may present.

''(5) PRETRIAL HEARING.—In any pretrial hearing on a protective order issued under subsection (a)(1), the court may not entertain challenges to the grand jury's finding of probable cause regarding the criminal offense giving rise to a potential restitution order. The court shall ensure that such hearings are not used to obtain disclosure of evidence or the identities of witnesses earlier than required by the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure or other applicable law.

''(c) THIRD PARTY'S RIGHT TO POST-RESTRAINT HEARING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A person other than the defendant who has a legal interest in property affected by a protective order issued under subsection (a)(1) may move to modify the order on the grounds that—

''(A) the order causes an immediate and irreparable hardship to the moving party; and

''(B) less intrusive means exist to preserve the property for the purpose of restitution.

''(2) MODIFICATION.—If, after considering any rebuttal evidence offered by the Government, the court determines that the moving party has made the showings required under paragraph (1), the court shall modify the order to mitigate the hardship, to the extent that it is possible to do so while preserving the asset for restitution.

''(3) INTERVENTION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B) or paragraph (1), a person other than a defendant has no right to intervene in the criminal case to object to the entry of any order issued under this section or otherwise to object to an order directing a defendant to pay restitution.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—If, at the conclusion of the criminal case, the court orders the defendant to use particular assets to satisfy an order of restitution (including assets that have been seized or restrained pursuant to this section) the court shall give persons other than the defendant the opportunity to object to the order on the ground that the property belonged in whole or in part to the third party and not to the defendant, as provided in section 413(n) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 853(n)).

''(d) GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE OF ORDER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A district court of the United States shall have jurisdiction to enter an order under this section without regard to the location of the property subject to the order.

''(2) OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—If the property subject to an order issued under this section is located outside of the United

States, the order may be transmitted to the central authority of any foreign state for service in accordance with any treaty or other international agreement.

''(e) NO EFFECT ON OTHER GOVERNMENT ACTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude the Government from seeking the seizure, restraint, or forfeiture of assets under the asset forfeiture laws of the United States.

''(f) LIMITATION ON RIGHTS CONFERRED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to create any enforceable right to have the Government seek the seizure or restraint of property for restitution.

''(g) RECEIVERS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A court issuing an order under this section may appoint a receiver under section 1956(b)(4) to collect, marshal, and take custody, control, and possession of all assets of the defendant, wherever located, that have been restrained in accordance with this section.

''(2) DISTRIBUTION OF PROPERTY.—The receiver shall have the power to distribute property in its control to each victim identified in an order of restitution at such time, and in such manner, as the court may authorize.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The section analysis for chapter 232 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3664 the following:

''Sec. 3664A. Preservation of assets for restitution.''.

SEC. 743. AMENDMENTS TO THE ANTI-FRAUD INJUNCTION STATUTE.

Section 1345(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''or'' at the end; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) committing or about to commit a Federal offense that may result in an order of restitution;''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''a banking violation'' and all that follows through ''healthcare offense'' and inserting ''a violation or offense identified in paragraph (1)''; and

(B) by inserting ''or offense'' after ''traceable to such violation''.

SEC. 744. AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL DEBT COLLECTION PROCEDURES ACT.

(a) PROCESS.—Section 3004(b)(2) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting after ''in which the debtor resides.'' the following: ''In a criminal case, the district court for the district in which the defendant was sentenced may deny the request.''.

(b) PREJUDGMENT REMEDIES.—Section 3101 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1) by inserting after ''the filing of a civil action on a claim for a debt'' the following: ''or in any criminal action where the court may enter an order of restitution''; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) by inserting after ''The Government wants to make sure [name of debtor] will pay if the court determines that this money is owed.'' the following:

''[In a criminal action, use the following opening paragraph: You are hereby notified that this [property] is being taken by the United States Government [the Government], which says that [name of debtor], if convicted, may owe as restitution $ [amount]. The Government says it must take this property at this time because [recite the pertinent ground or grounds from section 3101(b)]. The Government wants to make sure [name of debtor] will pay if the court determines that restitution is owed.''';

(B) by inserting after ''a statement that different property may be so exempted with respect to the State in which the debtor resides.]'' the following:

''[In a criminal action, the statement summarizing the types of property that may be exempt shall list only those types of property that may be exempt under section 3613 of title 18.]''; and

(C) by inserting after ''You must also send a copy of your request to the Government at [address], so the Government will know you want the proceeding to be transferred.'' the following:

''If this Notice is issued in conjunction with a criminal case, the district court where the criminal action is pending may deny your request for a transfer of this proceeding.''.

(c) ENFORCEMENT.—Section 3202(b) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting after ''a statement that different property may be so exempted with respect to the State in which the debtor resides.]'' the following:

''[In a criminal action, the statement summarizing the types of property that may be exempt shall list only those types of property that may be exempt under section 3613 of title 18.]''; and

(2) by inserting after ''you want the proceeding to be transferred.'' the following:

''If this notice is issued in conjunction with a criminal case, the district court where the criminal action is pending may deny your request for a transfer of this proceeding.''.

SA 3277. Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. DEMINT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 70, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

SEC. 217. None of the amounts made available in this title under the heading ''COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES'' may be used in contravention of section 642(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1373(a)).

SA 3278. Mr. STEVENS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ———. Section 2301 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (47 U.S.C. 901 note) is amended by striking ''the 'Improving Emergency Communications Act of 2007'.'' and inserting ''the '911 Modernization Act'.''.

SA 3279. Mr. KYL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 70, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

SEC. 217. FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION ANALYSIS OF DNA SAMPLES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amount appropriated under the heading ''SALARIES AND EXPENSES '' under the heading ''FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION'' under this title is increased by $23,000,000, which shall be used for personnel, equipment, build-out/acquisition of space, and other resources to be used for the analysis of DNA samples.

(b) REDUCTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated for the Advanced Technology Program under the heading ''INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES '' under the heading ''NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY'' under title I of this Act is reduced by $23,000,000.

SA 3280. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. VISAS FOR HIGH ACHIEVING FOREIGN STUDENTS.

IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, 25,000 of the immigrant visas allocated under section 203 (c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act for Diversity Immigrants shall be made available to aliens seeking immigrant visas who:

(1) are otherwise admissible under the INA;

(2) achieve the highest scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test or the American College Testing placement exam administered in that fiscal year; and

(3) take the exams described in (2) above in the English language.

SA 3281. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 32, line 13, strike ''$1,747,822,000: *Provided*,'' and insert ''$2,247,822,000: *Provided*, That of the total amount appropriated, $500,000,000 shall be used by the agencies involved in Operation Streamline to incrementally expand this program across the entire southwest border of the United States, beginning with the border sector that had the highest rate of illegal entries during the most recent 12-month period: *Provided further*, That the amount provided to expand Operation Streamline is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 204 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress): *Provided further*,''.

SA 3282. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 32, line 13, strike ''$1,747,822,000: *Provided*,'' and insert ''$2,247,822,000: *Provided*, That of the total amount appropriated,

$500,000,000 shall be used by the agencies involved in Operation Streamline to incrementally expand this program across the entire southwest border of the United States, beginning with the border sector that had the highest rate of illegal entries during the most recent 12-month period: *Provided further*,''.

SA 3283. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 70, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

SEC. 217. The Attorney General shall make available $10,000,000 from the Department of Justice Working Capital Fund to incrementally expand Operation Streamline across the entire southwest border of the United States, beginning with the border sector that had the highest rate of illegal entries during the most recent 12-month period.

SA 3284. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, line 11, insert '', and of which $10,000,000 shall be used to incrementally expand Operation Streamline across the entire southwest border of the United States, beginning with the border sector that had the highest rate of illegal entries during the most recent 12-month period'' before the semicolon.

SA 3285. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Insert in the appropriate place:

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:

(1) The Census, taken every ten years since 1790, is necessary for determining Congressional representation, Electoral College votes, and government program funding;

(2) The United States Census Bureau is required to count citizens and non-citizens alike;

(3) The data provided by the United States Census Bureau is essential to understanding population trends and providing the federal government and the Congress with important information related to public policy debates, including information on the number of undocumented persons living in the United States; however, the collection of this information is not more important than the full and effective enforcement of our immigration laws;

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the administration of the 2010 Census by the United States Census Bureau should not reduce the ability of the Department of Homeland Security to effectively enforce the immigration laws of the United States, and that the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Bureau of the Department of Homeland Security should continue aggressive enforcement of federal immigration laws during the administration of the census.

SA 3286. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 97, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

SEC. 528. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to circumvent any statutory or administrative formula-driven or competitive awarding process to award funds to a project in response to a request from a Member of Congress (or any employee of a Member or committee of Congress), unless the specific project has been disclosed in accordance with the rules of the Senate or House of Representatives, as applicable.

SA 3287. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 70, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

SEC. 217. (a) None of the amounts made available in this title under the heading ''COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES'' may be used in a subdivision of a State if such subdivision does not comply with section 642(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1373(a)).

(b) Any amount that is not available for a subdivision of a State under the limitation set out in subsection (a) shall be made available to the government of that State for community oriented policing services.

SA 3288. Mr. SHELBY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; as follows:

After the period on page 97 line 9, insert the following:

SEC. xx. (a) The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall submit quarterly reports to the Inspector General of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration regarding the costs and contracting procedures relating to each conference or meeting, held by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration during fiscal year 2008, and each year thereafter, for which the cost to the Government was more than $20,000.

(b) Each report submitted under subsection (a) shall include, for each conference described in that subsection held during the applicable quarter—

(1) a description of the number of and purpose of participants attending that conference or meeting;

(2) a detailed statement of the costs to the Government relating to that conference or meeting, including—

(A) the cost of any food or beverages;

(B) the cost of any audio-visual services;

(C) the cost of all related travel; and

(D) a discussion of the methodology used to determine which costs relate to that conference or meeting; and

(3) a description of the contracting procedures relating to that conference or meeting, including—

(A) whether contracts were awarded on a competitive basis; and

(B) a discussion of any cost comparison conducted by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in evaluating potential contractors for any conference or meeting.

SA 3289. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 97, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

SEC. 528. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to purchase first class or premium airline travel that would not be consistent with sections 301–10.123 and 301–10.124 of title 41 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

SA 3290. Mr. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 70, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

SEC. 217. ADDITIONAL PROSECUTORS FOR OFFENSES RELATING TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amount appropriated under the heading ''SALARIES AND EXPENSES'' under the heading ''GENERAL ADMINISTRATION'' under this title is increased by $30,000,000, which shall be used for salaries and expenses for hiring 200 additional assistant United States attorneys to carry out section 704 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–248; 120 Stat. 649) concerning the prosecution of offenses relating to the sexual exploitation of children.

(b) REDUCTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated for the Advanced Technology Program under the heading ''INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES '' under the heading ''NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY'' under title I of this Act is reduced by $30,000,000.

SA 3291. Mr. KYL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 97, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

SEC. 528. SOUTHWEST BORDER PROSECUTOR INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the amounts appropriated for the Southwest

Border Prosecutor Initiative in title II under the heading ''STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE'', there is appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, $20,000,000 for the Southwest Border Prosecutor Initiative to reimburse State, county, parish, tribal, or municipal governments only for costs associated with the prosecution of criminal cases declined by local United States Attorneys offices.

(b) OFFSET.—The amount appropriated for the Advanced Technology Program of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in title I under the heading ''STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE'' is reduced by $20,000,000.

SA 3292. Mr. KYL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 53, line 6, strike '', of which $30,000,000'' and all that follows through ''offices'' on line 11.

On page 97, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

SEC. 528. SOUTHWEST BORDER PROSECUTOR INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, $50,000,000 for the Southwest Border Prosecutor Initiative to reimburse State, county, parish, tribal, or municipal governments only for costs associated with the prosecution of criminal cases declined by local United States Attorneys offices.

(b) OFFSET.—The amount appropriated for the Advanced Technology Program of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in title I under the heading ''STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE'' is reduced by $50,000,000.

SA 3293. Ms. SNOWE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 26, after line 24, insert the following:

SEC. 114. Section 3009(a) of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–171; 120 Stat. 26) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking ''fiscal year 2009'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2009 through 2012''; and

(2) in the second sentence, by striking ''October 1, 2010'' and inserting ''February 18, 2009''.

SA 3294. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 33, line 26, strike the period and insert '': *Provided further*, That an additional $7,845,000 shall be available to carry out the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 offset by a reduction in the amount available for the Advanced Technology Program under the heading 'INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES' in title I of $7,845,000.''.

SA 3295. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 53, line 11, strike the semicolon and insert '': *Provided*, That an additional $150,000,000 shall be available for such program offset by a reduction in the amount under the heading 'NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION' 'SCIENCE, AERONAUTICS AND EXPLORATION' in title III of $150,000,000;''.

SA 3296. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 97, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

SEC. 528. INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.

(a) INCREASE IN FUNDING.—The amount appropriated or otherwise made available under title I under the heading ''NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY'' is hereby increased by $100,000,000 for scientific and technical research and services.

(b) DECREASE IN FUNDING.—The amount appropriated or otherwise made available under title I for necessary expenses of the Advanced Technology Program is hereby decreased by $100,000,000.

SA 3297. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 97, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

SEC. 528. LIMITATION ON EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act to carry out return to flight activities associated with the space shuttle may be designated as an emergency requirement or necessary to meet emergency needs pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of section 204 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress).

SA 3298. Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 51, line 15, insert '': *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, $2,000,000, may be made available for salaries and expenses for the Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking Office'' before the period.

SA 3299. Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 45, line 11, after ''other custodial facilities'' insert the following: '': *Provided further*, That the Director of the Federal Prison System may use amounts made available under this heading to carry out a pilot program for children (not older than 36 months of age) of nonviolent female offenders, under which such children will be housed, fed, and cared for in Federal correctional facilities housing women (including such a facility in which Federal prisoners are housed under a contract with the Government) and participate in programs specifically designed to benefit mother and child''.

SA 3300. Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself, Mr. DOMENICI, and Mr. INOUYE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 26, after line 24, insert the following:

SEC. 114. DTV CONSUMER EDUCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amount appropriated under the heading ''PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION'' under this title is increased by $10,000,000, which shall be used for competitive grants to public television broadcast stations, or a consortium of such entities, to assist such stations in conducting consumer education efforts concerning the transition from analog to digital television: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Commerce shall award such grants not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That such grants shall not be subject to the requirements of section 392(b) of the Communications Act of 1934: *Provided further*, That receipt of any grant amounts for consumer education efforts shall in no way prohibit or affect the eligibility of such public televison broadcast stations from receiving funds for any other grant amounts for construction and planning as authorized under section 391 of such Act.

(b) OFFSET.—The amount made available under each account in this title for the Department of Commerce for administrative travel expenses, supplies, and printing expenses shall be reduced on a pro rata basis, so that the total of the reductions equals $10,000,000.

SA 3301. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 26, after line 24, add the following:

SEC. _____. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE 2010 CENSUS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:

(1) Article I of the United States Constitution requires the taking of a census that counts all persons in the United States.

(2) The census, taken every 10 years since 1790, is necessary for determining Congressional representation, Electoral College votes, and Government program funding.

(3) The data provided by the United States Bureau of the Census is essential to understanding population trends and providing the Federal Government and Congress with important information related to public policy debates.

(4) According to the Brookings Institution, the Federal Government disburses $323,000,000,000 through 100 Federal programs to State and local governments based on data provided by the census.

(5) Congress has historically provided increased funding resources to the United States Bureau of the Census in years prior to each decennial census to allow the Bureau to adequately prepare for the taking of the census.

(6) Public Law 110–92, the continuing resolution, which held funding increases for the census at previous fiscal year levels, jeopardizes the ability of the United States Bureau of the Census to prepare for the 2010 census.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that during the 2010 Census, all Federal agencies should cooperate with the United States Bureau of the Census in a manner consistent with the constitutional requirement to count all persons in the United States, and that Congress should provide adequate funding resources to the United States Bureau of the Census to achieve an accurate census.

SA 3302. Mrs. CLINTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 97, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

SEC. 528. ITC REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the International Trade Commission shall submit a report to Congress on each free trade agreement in force with respect to the United States. The report shall, with respect to each free trade agreement, contain an analysis and assessment of the analysis and predictions made by the International Trade Commission, the United States Trade Representative, and other Federal agencies, before implementation of the agreement and actual results of the agreement on the United States economy.

(b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—Each report required by subsection (a) shall contain the following:

(1) With respect to the United States and each country that is a party to a free trade agreement, an assessment and quantitative analysis of how each agreement—

(A) is fostering economic growth;

(B) is improving living standards;

(C) is helping create jobs; and

(D) is reducing or eliminating barriers to trade and investment.

(2) An assessment and quantitative analysis of how each agreement is meeting the specific objectives and goals set out in connection with the implementation of that agreement, the impact of the agreement on the United States economy as a whole, and on specific industry sectors, including the impact the agreement is having on—

(A) the gross domestic product;

(B) exports and imports;

(C) aggregate employment, and competitive positions of industries;

(D) United States consumers; and

(E) the overall competitiveness of the United States.

(3) An assessment and quantitative analysis of how each agreement is meeting the goals and objectives for the agreement on a sector-by-sector basis, including—

(A) trade in goods;

(B) customs matters, rules or origin, and enforcement cooperation;

(C) sanitary and phytosanitary measures;

(D) intellectual property rights;

(E) trade in services;

(F) electronic commerce;

(G) government procurement;

(H) transparency, anti-corruption; and regulatory reform; and

(I) any other issues with respect to which the International Trade Commission submitted a report under section 2104(f) of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002.

(4) A summary of how each country that is a party to an agreement has changed its labor and environmental laws since entry into force of the agreement.

(5) An analysis of whether the agreement is making progress in achieving the applicable purposes, policies, priorities, and objectives of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002.

SA 3303. Ms. MIKULSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 82 line 2 strike ''2006 and 2007'' and insert ''2007 and 2008''.

SA 3304. Mrs. BOXER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 16, line 11, strike the period at the end and insert '': *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, $2,000,000 is made available for the Office of Response and Restoration for the Damage Assessment Restoration Revolving Fund for sampling, analysis, and clean-up related to the disposal of obsolete vessels owned or operated by the Federal Government in Suisun Bay, California.''.

SA 3305. Ms. MIKULSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 81 line 5 strike ''373,000'' and insert ''370,800''.

SA 3306. Ms. MIKULSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 81 line 7 strike ''3,200'' and insert ''3,100''.

SA 3307. Ms. MIKULSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 81 line 9 strike ''13,800'' and insert ''13,100''.

SA 3308. Ms. MIKULSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 32, line 14, strike ''$8,000,000'' and insert ''$8,000''.

SA 3309. Ms. MIKULSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 72, line 14, before the period insert the following: '': *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available under this heading for cross-agency support programs, $10,000,000 shall be made available, and distributed in equal increments, to each of NASA's 10 centers for the development of educational activities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics related to the civilian space program of the United States''.

SA 3310. Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 528. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available for a public-private competition conducted under Office of Management and Budget Circular A–76 or to convert a function performed by Federal employees to private sector performance without such a competition unless a representative designated by a majority of the employees engaged in the performance of the activity or function for which the public-private competition is conducted or which is to be converted without such a competition is treated as an interested party with respect to such competition or decision to convert to private

sector performance for purposes of subchapter V of chapter 35 of title 31, United States Code.

SA 3311. Ms. MIKULSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. SMALL AND SEASONAL BUSINESSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 214(g)(9)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(g)(9)(A)) is amended by striking ''an alien who has already been counted toward the numerical limitation of paragraph (1)(B) during fiscal year 2004, 2005, or 2006 shall not again be counted toward such limitation during fiscal year 2007.'' and inserting ''an alien who has been present in the United States as an H–2B nonimmigrant during any 1 of the 3 fiscal years immediately preceding the fiscal year of the approved start date of a petition for a nonimmigrant worker described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(b) shall not be counted toward such limitation for the fiscal year in which the petition is approved.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall be effective during the 1-year period beginning October 1, 2007.

SA 3312. Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Mr. INOUYE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. LIST OF VESSELS AND VESSEL OWNERS ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, OR UNREGULATED FISHING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1821 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

''SEC. 208. LIST OF VESSELS AND VESSEL OWNERS ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED, OR UNREGULATED FISHING.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may—

''(1) develop, maintain, and make public a list of vessels and vessel owners engaged in illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing, including vessels or vessel owners identified by an international fishery management organization, whether or not the United States is a party to the agreement establishing such organization; and

''(2) take appropriate action against listed vessels and vessel owners, including action against fish, fish parts, or fish products from such vessels, in accordance with applicable United States law and consistent with applicable international law, including principles, rights, and obligations established in applicable international fishery management and trade agreements.

''(b) RESTRICTIONS ON PORT ACCESS OR USE.—Action taken by the Secretary under subsection (a)(2) that include measures to restrict use of or access to ports or port services shall apply to all ports of the United States and its territories.

''(c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may promulgate regulations to implement this section.''.

SA 3313. Mrs. DOLE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 53, line 11, insert '', and of which not less than $75,000,000 shall be used by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement for activities that support State and local law enforcement agencies in their efforts to assist the Federal Government's enforcement of immigration laws'' before the semicolon at the end.

SA 3314. Mr. SUNUNU (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. GREGG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 16, line 11, strike the period at the end and insert '': *Provided further*, That of the funds provided, not less than $15,000,000 shall be available to carry out activities under section 315 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (8 U.S.C. 1864).''.

SA 3315. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 70, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

SEC. 217. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated under the heading ''UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS SALARIES AND EXPENSES'' under the heading ''LEGAL ACTIVITIES'' under this title is increased by $40,000,000, which shall be used for the prosecution of crimes described in section 1152 or 1153 of title 18, United States Code.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated under the heading ''PAYMENT TO THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION'' under the heading ''LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION'' under title IV is reduced by $40,000,000.

SA 3316. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 70, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

SEC. 217. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated under the heading ''UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS SALARIES AND EXPENSES'' under the heading ''LEGAL ACTIVITIES'' under this title is increased by $20,000,000, which shall be used for the prosecution of crimes described in section 1152 or 1153 of title 18, United States Code.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, each amount made available under this Act, except for the amount under the heading ''UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS SALARIES AND EXPENSES'' under the heading ''LEGAL ACTIVITIES'' shall be reduced on a pro rata basis by the appropriate percentage to reach $20,000,000.

SA 3317. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 70, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

SEC. 217. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated under the heading ''UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS SALARIES AND EXPENSES'' under the heading ''LEGAL ACTIVITIES'' under this title is increased by $20,000,000, which shall be used for the prosecution of crimes described in section 1152 or 1153 of title 18, United States Code.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated under the heading ''PAYMENT TO THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION'' under the heading ''LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION'' under title IV is reduced by $20,000,000.

SA 3318. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. LIMITATION AND REPORTS ON TRAVEL EXPENSES TO CONFERENCES

(a) In this section, the term conference means a meeting that—

(1) is held for consultation, education, awareness, or discussion;

(2) includes participants who are not all employees of the same agency;

(3) is not held entirely at an agency facility;

(4) involves costs associated with travel and lodging for some participants; and

(5) is sponsored by 1 or more agencies, 1 or more organizations that are not agencies, or a combination of such agencies or organizations.

(b) The Administrator of NASA shall, not later than September 30, 2008, submit to the appropriate committees of Congress and post on the public Internet website of the agency in a searchable, electronic format, a report on each conference for which the agency paid travel expenses during Fiscal Year 2008 that includes—

(1) the itemized expenses paid by the agency, including travel expenses and any agency expenditure to otherwise support the conference;

(2) the primary sponsor of the conference;

(3) the location of the conference;

(4) in the case of a conference for which the agency was the primary sponsor, a statement that—

(A) justifies the location selected;

(B) demonstrates the cost efficiency of the location;

(C) the date of the conference;

(D) a brief explanation how the conference advanced the mission of the agency; and

(E) the total number of individuals whose travel or attendance at the conference was paid for in part or full by the agency.

SA 3319. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3274 submitted by Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. SMITH, and Ms. COLLINS) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

On page 1, line 7 of the amendment, after ''agencies'' insert ''and the United States Sentencing Commission''.

UNITED STATES TRANSPORTATION COMMAND 20TH ANNIVERSARY

On Tuesday, October 2, 2007, the Senate agreed to S. Res. 319 and its preamble, as follows:

S. RES. 319

Whereas the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–433) revoked prohibitions on the consolidation of military transportation functions, and President Reagan subsequently ordered the establishment of a unified transportation command within the Armed Forces;

Whereas October 1, 2007, marks the 20th year anniversary of the activation of the United States Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois;

Whereas the United States Transportation Command consists of—

(1) the United States Transportation Command at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois;

(2) the Air Mobility Command at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois;

(3) the Military Sealift Command in Washington, District of Columbia; and

(4) the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois;

Whereas Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm provided a wartime test for the United States Transportation Command, resulting in a command that is fully operational in both peacetime and wartime;

Whereas the United States Transportation Command has continued to prove its worth during United States contingency operations, such as Operation Desert Thunder (enforcing United Nations resolutions in Iraq) and Operation Allied Force (North Atlantic Treaty Organization operations against Serbia), and United States peacekeeping endeavors, such as Operation Restore Hope (in Somalia), Operation Support Hope (in Rwanda), Operation Uphold Democracy (in Haiti), Operation Joint Endeavor (in Bosnia-Herzegovina), and Operation Joint Guardian (in Kosovo);

Whereas the United States Transportation Command has also supported numerous humanitarian relief operations transporting relief supplies to victims of natural disasters at home and abroad;

Whereas the United States Transportation Command is a vital element in the war against terrorism, supporting the Armed Forces around the world;

Whereas since October 2001, the United States Transportation Command, and its components and national partners, have transported nearly 4,000,000 passengers, 9,000,000 short tons of cargo, and more than 4,000,000,000 gallons of fuel in support of the war on terrorism;

Whereas in 2003 the Secretary of Defense designated the Commander of the United States Transportation Command as Distribution Process Owner to serve as the single Department of Defense entity to ''improve the overall efficiency and interoperability of distribution related activities—deployment, sustainment and redeployment support during peace and war'';

Whereas the Quadrennial Defense Review of 2005 recognized the importance of joint mobility and the critical role that it plays in global power projection; cited the successful investment in cargo transportability, strategic lift, and pre-positioned stock; and called for continued recapitalization and modernization of the airlift and aerial tanker fleet; and

Whereas the assigned responsibilities of the United States Transportation Command include—

(1) providing common-user and commercial transportation, terminal management, and aerial refueling;

(2) providing global patient movement for the Department of Defense through the Defense Transportation System;

(3) serving as the Mobility Joint Force Provider; and

(4) serving as Distribution Process Owner for the Department of Defense: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the sacrifice and commitment of the 155,000 members of the Armed Forces (including the National Guard and Reserve) and civilian employees and contractors that comprise the United States Transportation Command and recognizes the debt of gratitude of the American people;

(2) honors the families of United States Transportation Command members and recognizes their sacrifices while their loved ones are deployed around the world; and

(3) recognizes the success of United States Transportation Command over the last 20 years and its continuing vital contributions to the war against terrorism.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m., Tuesday, October 16; that on Tuesday, following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that there then be a period of morning business for 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and the time be equally divided and controlled between the majority and minority, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final portion; that at the close of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 3093; that on Tuesday, the Senate stand in recess from 12:30 to 2:15 in order to accommodate the respective party conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I see no one wishing to speak further today; therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:43 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, October 16, 2007, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LINDA FAGAN HALDERMAN, M.D., FACS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Doctor Linda Halderman upon being named one of ''The 2007 Women of Distinction'' by The Fresno County and City Republican Women Federated.

Doctor Linda Halderman graduated with honors and high distinction from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1991. She then continued to Hahnemann University School of Medicine, where she received an MD degree in 1997 and academic honors in the following areas: CT surgery, CT surgery subinternship, critical care/SICU, general surgery, surgery research, psychopathology, clinical medicine, obstetrician/gynecologist, pediatrics, family medicine, psychiatry and pathology. Doctor Halderman started her general surgery residency at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and completed her residency at University of California, San Francisco in Fresno, CA.

In her career Doctor Halderman has focused on serving those that live in underserved rural areas of California. For a year she practiced general and trauma surgery coverage in the underserved communities of King City, Needles, Porterville, Selma, and Truckee. About 4 years ago she opened her own practice in Selma, CA. At her private practice she offers numerous services; from focusing on gallbladder disease, to benign and malignant breast disease (and mastectomies) to cosmetic dermatology. Her practice encompasses many areas of general surgery. Her work is important, but it is what she does away from the office that is even more amazing.

Doctor Halderman is involved in government reform, research and volunteer activities. She has over 50 publications and presentations that have focused on the role of government in healthcare. She has spoken on local radio and television news outlets, discussing various medical matters, particularly in regards to the latest medical breakthroughs with breast cancer. Further, Doctor Halderman has served on many panels and roundtables, including a Healthcare Town Hall Meeting co-hosted by California State Assemblyman Bill Maze and Porterville/Tulare/Visalia Chambers of Commerce, ''The California Common Sense Healthcare Revolution: solving the crisis'' a panel sponsored by College Community Congregational Church, and the ''Business Healthcare Summit'' a panel co-hosted by Assemblyman Mike Villines and the Fresno Farm Bureau. She has also made presentations to various Republican party organizations, the American Cancer Society, high schools, and University of California, San Francisco in Fresno.

Doctor Halderman is extremely active within the community on many different levels. She is involved in several community service and professional organizations. Most recently she has been affiliated with American College of Surgeons, American Society of Breast Surgeons, California Health Collaborative Cancer Detection Program (Continuous Quality Improvement Committee Board Member and Physician Educator), California Medical Association, Fresno–Madera Medical Society (Board of Governors 2005, Editorial/Publications Board Member 2003–2004), Selma Community Hospital Foundation (Board of Trustees 2004–2006) and the Selma Community Hospital Foundation (Executive Board Member 2005–2008). She is an amazing advocate for healthcare reform that is beneficial for the patient as well as the physician.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Doctor Linda Fagan Halderman upon being awarded with ''The 2007 Women of Distinction''. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Doctor Halderman many years of continued success.

HONORING RABBI CAROLE MEYERS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, today I would like to take a moment to honor the memory of a good friend and a community leader, Rabbi Carole Meyers. Rabbi Meyers died at the age of 50 on Thursday, July 26, after a brief battle with bone cancer. She served as Rabbi of Temple Sinai in Glendale, CA, from 1986 to 2001.

Over the 15 years Rabbi Meyers served at Glendale's Temple Sinai the congregation nearly doubled in size, boosting its education programs for both children and adults.

Rabbi Meyers significantly raised the profile of the temple through her extensive work in the community. Rabbi Meyers was involved with Habitat for Humanity and the Glendale Community Foundation. She served on the Mayor's Task Force on Hate Crimes, helping to craft a citywide response plan to fight hate crimes. Rabbi Meyers also trained as a chaplain for the Glendale Police Department and helped to create an annual AIDS Awareness Prayer Service with other Glendale religious leaders.

After retiring in 2001 to spend more time with her family, Rabbi Meyers remained active in our community serving on the board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, developing curriculum for Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, and presiding at marriages and bar and bat mitzvahs.

In 2001, shortly after the tragic events of 9/11, Rabbi Meyers had the distinction of delivering the opening prayer in the House of Representatives. In such a sad and somber time Rabbi Meyers's prayer was uplifting and life-affirming. Her words helped console our nation. And her words that day still ring true today as we try to find answers to her untimely death.

On this floor in November 2001, Rabbi Meyers prayed,

> It takes courage to pray meaningfully in the wake of events shaping our lives.
>
> It is not that we do not turn to God, we do. We come with our praise and with our entreaties, but we strain to hear an answer, to sense God's presence radiating back to us, over the abyss that grief and fear have created.
>
> Shall we this morning, just for a moment, stop speaking to God, asking God, about God, entreating God, and instead make an effort to find once again that experience of God's presence that grounds our faith.
>
> Come with me to that place. Perhaps it was when you witnessed the birth of your child, new life so precious and pure, perhaps when you saw your soul reflected back at you in the eyes of someone whose love was infinite. Perhaps in the tangle of pain and darkness when somehow there was a presence to call, to let you know you would move forward. Perhaps when a piece of music shook you to your core, bringing an exquisite awareness of the depth of human experience.
>
> Perhaps when you truly saw the miracle of nature surrounding us, the sun rising and setting, day after day of nature in its magnificent order, there was a moment when you knew that an Other exists before whom we stand in awe and whose greatness we strive to reflect in the actions of our lives.
>
> Eternal God, be with us as we move through this time of uncertainty. Help us know that we can lend Your presence and use our lives to reflect it. Then we will have the faith to bring light and joy, peace and comfort, justice and goodness to this magnificent world God has created. Amen.

IN RECOGNITION OF FOR THE LOVE OF THE LAKE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a local community conservation organization of which I have been a volunteer and supporter, For the Love of the Lake.

This group of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers generously gives of its time and effort to help preserve and enhance White Rock Lake Park in Dallas, Texas. As a member of this local community, I understand the desire to ensure White Rock Lake stays clean and beautiful. I also labor alongside many volunteers as an Adopt-a-Shoreline Leader by picking up litter and recyclables to maintain this urban oasis so that it can continue to be enjoyed by families, local citizens, and visitors. These regularly scheduled weekend clean ups help build a strong sense of community and civic duty, essential to the American spirit.

Beyond preservation, For the Love of the Lake has also sought out innovative opportunities to enhance and renovate White Rock

Lake Park. They have built partnerships with the Dallas Parks and Recreation Department to implement new programs such as the White Rock 'n' Roll Run and, have created ''Litter-free Louie,'' a mascot to help educate others on the importance of keeping our lake clean. I am proud to be associated with this valuable organization and am grateful for all that they do for White Rock Lake Park and the city of Dallas.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in recognizing their passion and hard work.

HONORING READERS' BOOKS, OF SONOMA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Readers' Books, which has been named the 2007 Sonoma Valley Business of the Year. This store has become an institution for Sonoma and the surrounding communities as a source not simply of literature, but intellectual fulfillment in many different forms.

Sixteen years ago, Andy and Lilla Weinberger dropped by my office to run an idea past me: they wanted to move into the Bay Area, and were hoping to open a bookstore that would do more than sell books. They imagined a location for the community to gather to enjoy books and hear authors, but also to serve as a forum for local issues and current events. Sonoma was suggested, and after a visit they were off and running.

Readers' Books has been an incredible resource to the community over the last 16 years, and has played host to a wide variety of groups and events. The Weinbergers have supported programs for young and old, such as sponsoring authors at the Vintage House Senior Center. They have worked to bring many of these authors into schools to read for students, and have helped serve as judges for a students' writing contest. Similarly, they provide a meeting space for many community groups, and offer the store as a forum for political discussion, including an impartial explanation of ballot measures around election time.

Readers' Books exemplifies the importance of independent stores for the sense of community in a town. Despite the rise of chain stores and Internet shopping, Readers' Books and small, independent stores like it continue to offer an irreplaceable location not just for shopping, but for communities to come together.

Readers' Books is indeed a wonderful bookstore. With a friendly staff happy to step forward with assistance or recommendations, the Weinbergers have created a bibliophile's heaven. If something isn't available from their selection, they can help a customer find it quickly and efficiently.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we congratulate Andy and Lilla Weinberger on the occasion of Readers' Books being named the 2007 Business of the Year. They are truly pillars of their community, and we have all greatly benefited from the wonderful store they started 16 years ago.

HONORING VIOLET HEINTZ

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Violet Heintz upon being named one of ''The 2007 Women of Distinction'' by The Fresno County and City Republican Women Federated.

Mrs. Heintz served on the Fresno County Board of Education for 32 years. She has demonstrated her lifelong commitment to community service through numerous education projects and community activities benefiting the children of Fresno County. Her dedication to education advancements led Mrs. Heintz to serve on the original governing board and licensee for the local television channel KVPT Channel 18. KVPT is better known as Valley Public Television and is one of only 14 channels in California that is part of the Public Broadcasting System. The mission of the station is to ''deliver information through broadcast programming and related services to enhance and promote life long learning.'' This is also the mission of Mrs. Heintz. She has served on the Fresno County Trustees Association's Executive Board, the Central Valley Technology Center committee and the Fresno County Educator of the Year committee.

Her involvement in and contributions to the community have been recognized through many awards, including; the Fresno County Association of California School Administrator's Golden Apple Award, California and National PTA Honorary Service Award, Women of the Year finalist, Fresno County Status of Women, Phi Delta Kappa Community Education Award, the William E. Nili Scholarship Service Award, and the Alison Berg Award. In recognition of her timeless service, on April 23, 1999, The Elkhorn Correctional Facility Boot Camp in Fresno County was dedicated in her honor. The school is now called the Violet Heintz Education Academy. The Academy is designed to educate students that have been committed by the Juvenile Court to a long-term program for non-violent offenders. This dedication is a tribute to all of the great things that Mrs. Heintz has done for the Fresno County Department of Education.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Violet Heintz upon being awarded ''The 2007 Women of Distinction''. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Heintz many years of continued success.

COMMEMORATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORANGE GROVE MONTHLY MEETING OF RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS IN PASADENA, CA

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Religious Society of Friends in Pasadena, CA.

The Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends was founded in 1907 by a group of 20 Eastern Quakers who had moved to Pasadena. Quakers have played leading roles in working for peace and an end to war, promoting racial and gender equality, and supporting environmental and other social justice causes. After World War I, the Meeting members supported the American Friends Service Committee, AFSC, which engaged in post-war relief efforts in Western Europe and Russia, and also helped establish AFSC's Pacific Coast branch.

During World War II, the Meeting house served as a hostel for Japanese-Americans being sent to internment camps, and aid was sent to those already interned. The Meeting members provided hospitality and financial support to area conscientious objectors and their families, and after the end of the war, hosted families displaced by the war and its aftermath.

Meeting members have frequently led the way in civil rights and social justice movements. Meeting members took part in efforts to desegregate the Pasadena school system, participated in freedom rides in the South and attended the Selma, AL, protests.

The Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends founded educational institutions that provide a nurturing educational environment for children. Pacific Ackworth Friends School (1942) and Pacific Oaks School (1945) were established by Meeting parents. In 1961, Mara Moser, an Orange Grove Friends member, established Mothers' Club to support families of men in prison. Mothers' Club later evolved into a child development and family center serving low-income families.

Members of the Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends are active participants in the community. Meeting members routinely provide dinner for the homeless at Union Station in Pasadena, participate in many prison visitation programs and allow the meeting house to be used by local groups for activities such as a tutoring program for elementary school children.

It is my pleasure to recognize the Orange Grove Friends Meeting of Pasadena on its 100th anniversary of active participation in the life of our community. I ask all members to join me in extending a hearty congratulations.

HONORING NANCY GARDNER, OF SONOMA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Nancy Gardner, who is leaving the North Bay Regional Center after 15 years as that group's executive director. She is moving on to serve as CEO of Guide Dogs for the Blind, but she leaves behind an organization that she has developed into an incredible resource for people with developmental disabilities, families, and our community.

Ms. Gardner was born in Kansas, and graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. She received a master's degree in special education and human development from the University of Kansas in 1976 before moving to California and working for with NBRC from

1980–1982. During this time she also taught courses on developmental issues and adult education at local community colleges. From 1983 to 1992, she helped coordinate several different efforts to provide services at the county and State level to adults and children in need of a helping hand. She also served the State Assembly as an analyst on legislation relating to social and developmental services, mental health and rehabilitation.

In 1992, Ms. Gardner joined NBRC as executive director, taking responsibility for leadership and management of this $105 million organization. NBRC serves a population of over 6,000 people with developmental disabilities around the North Bay region of Sonoma, Napa, and Solano counties. Based on a belief that people with developmental disabilities should have access to the same opportunities available to other citizens, NBRC offers a wide variety of services tailored to the individual. These services include diagnostic functions, individual planning, family support, advocacy and transition services, as well as an excellent array of community education and program development opportunities. The work Ms. Gardner has led at NBRC has been of immense value to thousands of individuals and families throughout the North Bay to help them rise above disability.

Ms. Gardner has served on too many boards and commissions to enumerate them all. Her work with non-profits and commissions throughout California has made her a truly valued member of our community and an acknowledged leader in her field. In addition to her work on disabilities, she remains dedicated to her husband, five children, five grandchildren, and two dogs.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Nancy Gardner for 15 years of hard work guiding the North Bay Regional Center. Her determined leadership has bettered the lives of thousands of individuals throughout the region. Her work is not done, however, and she is moving on to fuse her love of dogs with her deep passion for aiding people with disabilities.

HONORING DR. LUIS LEAL ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Professor Luis Leal on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Professor Leal is a distinguished member of the Santa Barbara community. He is a man who has devoted his life to scholarship and education, a man dedicated to expressing and revealing the richness of Mexican, Latin American, and Chicano literature and culture.

Luis Leal was born in 1907 and grew up in Mexico City during the Mexican Revolution. He came to the United States seeking a college education and earned a bachelor's degree at Northwestern University. After a hiatus to serve in World War II, Leal earned his doctorate from the University of Chicago.

After a career teaching at the University of Mississippi, Emory University, and the University of Illinois, Leal ''retired'' to the Santa Barbara area at the age of 69, only to be invited to join the faculty at UC Santa Barbara as a scholar and teacher, first in the Spanish and Portuguese Department and then in the newly established Center for Chicano Studies.

Leal has enjoyed a distinguished career as one of the most highly regarded scholars of Mexican and Latin American literature, and was one of the first to draw attention to this relatively new field of study. He is the author of over 30 books and 300 articles. In 1988, he received the Distinguished Scholar Award from the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies in recognition of his lifetime achievement. In 1995, UCSB created the Luis Leal Endowed Chair in Chicano Studies in recognition of his accomplishments.

Leal has also received renowned cultural honors from the Mexican and American governments. In 1992, Mexican President Salinas awarded Leal the Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle, the highest award granted to foreign citizens. It was President Bill Clinton who presented Leal with the National Humanities Medal in 1997.

As a man who has devoted his life to education and to advancing the study of Mexican, Latin American, and Chicano literature, I today recognize Luis Leal as a distinguished scholar and professor, and as a man dedicated to making our community and this Nation a richer, more vibrant place.

HONORING JUDGE DEBRA KAZANJIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Honorable Debra Kazanjian upon being named one of ''The 2007 Women of Distinction'' by the Fresno County and City Republican Women Federated.

Judge Kazanjian is a graduate of California State University, Fresno where she received a bachelor of arts degree, summa cum laude. She earned her juris doctor degree from McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific. After completing her education, she returned to Fresno, CA, where she was born and raised. She practiced as an attorney for 19 years before being elected superior court judge in 2000. Currently, she is assigned to the probate court.

Aside from being a Superior Court Judge, Judge Kazanjian has served the legal community of Fresno County in many different capacities, including: president of the Board of Trustees of the Fresno County Law Library, two terms as a member of the Board of Directors of the Fresno County Bar Association, President of the Fresno County Young Lawyers Association, Chair of the Family Law Section of the Bar Association, member of the Domestic Violence Roundtable, and Scoring Judge at the Fresno County Mock Trial Competition. She has also spoken at numerous legal and community forums. Judge Kazanjian's community service record is as long as the list of legal services. Her community service includes: 5 years on the Fresno County Planning Commission where she also served as Chairwoman in 1995, member of the City of Fresno Charter Review Committee, one of the 1993 Top 10 Business/Professional Women of the Year, Member and Chairwoman of the Little Hoover Commission City Clerk's Office Task Force, and member of the City of Fresno Blue Ribbon Task Force on City Council Ethics and Operations. Further, she is a past president of the Fresno State Alumni Association, and a member of the Channel 18 Business Advisory Committee and the Junior League of Fresno. Lastly, she has served in the Fresno Public Education Fund's ''Principal for a Day'' program.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Honorable Debra Kazanjian upon being awarded with ''The 2007 Women of Distinction''. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the Honorable Debra Kazanjian many years of continued success.

HONORING THE WORK OF WILLIE GALVAN

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Willie Galvan for his role as a dedicated advocate of Hispanic and Veterans' family rights. As National Hispanic Heritage month comes to a close, I am honored to recognize a truly invaluable member and voice of our Hispanic community.

For the last 25 years, Willie has been an active member of the American GI Forum of California, an organization that works with returning Hispanic veterans and citizens to find avenues that can improve community conditions. In addition to his long-term commitment as a member, Willie also currently serves as the organization's state commander.

Originally from Victoria, TX, Willie Galvan's community organizing amongst Hispanic veterans and families began in his hometown after his honorable discharge from the U.S. Army. His work to address inequity continued when Willie and his family moved to California in the early 1970s. In the central coast communities, Willie has maintained his support for veterans while also dedicating himself to the needs of low-income families. Willie has worked tirelessly on a range of initiatives, from organizing youth development programs to starting a non-profit health care clinic, later to become Marian Community Clinic.

As a man who has spent his life committed to alleviating the struggles within the Hispanic community, Willie deserves this and many more honors. Today I stand before you expressing thanks and respect for Willie Galvan, a man whose compassion and service to those community members most in need is an example to all.

IN HONOR OF BIG BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (AME) CHURCH

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is an honor that I am able to help celebrate

the 160th Anniversary of Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal, AME, Church in Atlanta. For 160 years, Big Bethel AME Church has been a leader in the Atlanta area and a cornerstone of the community. Big Bethel AME Church stands as one of the oldest and most successful churches in Atlanta, and continues its strong community work today. Big Bethel's anniversary, on October 21, 2007, is truly a day for celebration.

Big Bethel AME Church has a rich and remarkable history. After the Civil War ended slavery, Bethel Church joined the African Methodist Episcopal connection in 1865. The AME Church was founded by Richard Allen, a former slave who had purchased his freedom and started the AME Church partly in response to discrimination. Out of the AME church emerged schools, social welfare programs, character building campaigns and national leaders. Big Bethel AME Church was at the cutting edge of these programs and served as a platform for opportunity in the South, especially for African Americans. For example, in 1879, the Gate City Colored School, the first public school for African Americans in the city, was founded in the basement of Big Bethel. Big Bethel AME Church also played a key role in the early development and growth of Morris Brown College, with the college's first classes being held at the church. Throughout its history the pews of Big Bethel AME Church have held such eminent dignitaries as: Booker T. Washington (early 1900s), President William H. Taft (1911), Mary McLeod Bethune (1937), former Georgia governor and former President Jimmy Carter (1970), Nelson Mandela (1990), and, as a successful presidential candidate, William J. Clinton (1992).

Over the many years, trials and tribulations, successes and honors, Big Bethel AME Church has withstood the test of time. Big Bethel AME Church has been well served throughout its history by dedicated leaders, and active congregations. This tradition continues today under Reverend Gregory V. Eason, Sr., who I would like to recognize for his leadership in the community.

In conclusion, it is my belief that we must all dedicate ourselves to the idea of creating what Dr. Martin Luther King used to call the ''Beloved Community.'' Big Bethel AME Church in Atlanta has been building such a community for 160 years and I am excited for this community to grow and prosper for another 160 years and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RODNEY ROBERTSON, MR. LARRY BURGER, AND DR. JAMES T. BLAKE

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to three patriots who labor in the nuanced field of missile technology for the United States: Dr. Rodney Robertson, Mr. Larry Burger, and Dr. James T. Blake.

Their work—individually and collectively—offers insight into why the United States is a world leader on the cutting edge technology that will determine the future of our nation.

Dr. Rodney Robertson is the Director, U.S. Space and Missile Defense Technology Center where he directs the development of space and directed energy programs for support of Army forces worldwide.

Under his leadership, several notable programs were developed that will keep our Nation free and safe: a solid state laser to destroy artillery and rocket fire aimed at U.S. combat forces; a high altitude sensor to provide persistent surveillance and communications over large combat operations; general space-based information (including satellite communications, imagery distribution, and tracking of friendly and enemy forces).

Mr. Larry Burger is the Director of the Space and Missile Defense Future Warfare Center where he leads efforts to bring space and missile defense capabilities and concepts to the men and women who fight in theatre.

His technical direction has brought the warfighter experimentation element at U.S. Army Strategic Command (ARSTRAT) in Colorado Springs together with the simulation and analysis capabilities of SMDC in Huntsville, AL to develop advanced warfighting techniques and procedures for the U.S. Army.

To accomplish this mission, Mr. Burger organized the Future Warfare Center into several novel divisions to bring new concepts and technologies to our warfighters. The Frontiers Division, which Mr. Burger also directs, looks carefully at the needs of the Army Future Force more than 15 years out. This division works with the U.S. Strategic Command and participates in wargames at that level.

Dr. James T. Blake is the U.S. Army Program Executive Officer for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation, which provides modeling, simulation, training and testing to support the soldier in the field. This work informs the Army leadership and tactical commanders in the development of warfighting analysis and alternative solutions.

Dr. Blake joined the Army as a private in 1968 and retired as a Colonel in 1995. He is a Master Army Aviator and served as the Army's Senior Uniformed Army Scientist. After retirement, Dr. Blake joined Texas A&M University as the Program Manager for the Institute for Creative Technologies, an internationally recognized research Center for Advanced Modeling and Simulation.

Dr. Blake received his B.S. degree in accounting from University of Tampa, an M.S. degree in systems engineering from the Naval Post Graduate School, and a Ph.D. degree in computer science from Duke University.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring these great patriots for their work—past and present—which serves to keep the U.S. military the only superpower on the planet.

HONORING STANISLAUS COUNTY BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK COMMITTEE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Stanislaus County Binational Health Week Committee upon their diligent work and commitment to bring Binational Health Week to their community.

Binational Health Week, BHW, began in 2001 with seven California cities, 98 activities, and 115 agencies involved. There were an estimated 18,720 people that were reached. This service has grown tremendously over the last 6 years. In 2006 those numbers grew to include: 31 states, 42 California cities, 1,014 activities, with about 3,000 agencies involved and an estimated 300,000 people reached. This year the event will take place throughout 31 states in the United States and three provinces in Canada. BHW has extended its outreach to include participation from 46 Mexican, 11 Guatemalan and 15 Salvadoran consulates.

With the efforts of all participating parties, BHW has become one of the largest mobilization efforts in the Americas to improve the health and well-being of an underserved population, including immigrants and migrants of Mexican and Central American descent. It encompasses an annual week long series of health promotion and health education activities that include workshops on health care and health insurance referrals, health education and health promotion by encouraging healthy behaviors and routine health care. They also provide information about local social services and clinics. The success of BHW is due to the thousands of organizations and volunteers dedicated to a common cause.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Stanislaus County Binational Health Week Committee on their success in bringing the Binational Health Week to their county. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the committee many years of continued success.

CONTINUED PROHIBITION OF INTERNET GAMBLING

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, last year, I cosponsored legislation with Congressman BOB GOODLATTE to help stop the widespread growth of gambling over the internet. Though Federal law already prohibits gambling over telephone wires, the passage of this legislation was necessary to maintain the original intent of the law while also bringing it up to speed with the explosion of current and future technology. However, this update of the law made clear that it would only affect interstate commerce, respecting the rights of States by leaving to them the decision whether and how to regulate gambling within their own borders. New legislation before the Financial Services Committee attempts to undo all of this previous work, instead granting the Federal Government the expansive and exclusive right to regulate all online gambling. This new legislation would represent the first time in history that the Federal Government would be given power to issue gambling licenses, and it marks a significant shift away from allowing States to determine for themselves what type of policy is best. Proponents of this legislation state that the bill offers States the right to ''opt out'' of this regulation, but the truth is that the States already have the right to determine their own policy towards gambling without any broader Federal regulation that threatens to undermine their control over licensing standards and enforcement actions.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2007.

DEAR CHAIRMAN FRANK AND RANKING MEMBER BACHUS: We, the Attorneys General of our respective States, have grave concerns about H.R. 2046, the ''Internet Gambling Regulation and Enforcement Act of 2007.'' We believe that the bill would undermine States' traditional powers to make and enforce their own gambling laws.

On March 21, 2006, 49 NAAG members wrote to the leadership of Congress: We encourage the United States Congress to help combat the skirting of state gambling regulations by enacting legislation which would address Internet gambling, while at the same time ensuring that the authority to set overall gambling regulations and policy remains where it has traditionally been most effective: at the state level.

Congress responded by enacting the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006 (UIGEA), which has effectively driven many illicit gambling operators from the American marketplace.

But now, less than a year later, H.R. 2046 proposes to do the opposite, by replacing state regulations with a federal licensing program that would permit Internet gambling companies to do business with U.S. customers. The Department of the Treasury would alone decide who would receive federal licenses and whether the licensees were complying with their terms. This would represent the first time in history that the federal government would be responsible for issuing gambling licenses.

A federal license would supersede any state enforcement action, because 5387 in H.R. 2046 would grant an affirmative defense against any prosecution or enforcement action under any Federal or State law to any person who possesses a valid license and complies with the requirements of H.R. 2046. This divestment of state gambling enforcement power is sweeping and unprecedented.

The bill would legalize Internet gambling in each State, unless the Governor clearly specifies existing state restrictions barring Internet gambling in whole or in part. On that basis, a State may ''opt out'' of legalization for all Internet gambling or certain types of gambling. However, the opt-out for types of gambling does not clearly preserve the right of States to place conditions on legal types of gambling. Thus, for example, if the State permits poker in licensed card rooms, but only between 10 a.m. and midnight, and the amount wagered cannot exceed $100 per day and the participants must be 21 or older, the federal law might nevertheless allow 18–year-olds in that State to wager much larger amounts on poker around the clock.

Furthermore, the opt-outs may prove illusory. They will likely be challenged before the World Trade Organization. The World Trade Organization has already shown itself to be hostile to U.S. restrictions on Internet gambling. If it strikes down state opt-outs as unduly restrictive of trade, the way will be open to the greatest expansion of legalized gambling in American history and near total preemption of State laws restricting Internet gambling.

H.R. 2046 effectively nationalizes America's gambling laws on the Internet, ''harmonizing'' the law for the benefit of foreign gambling operations that were defying our laws for years, at least until UIGEA was enacted. We therefore oppose this proposal, and any other proposal that hinders the right of States to prohibit or regulate gambling by their residents.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS GANSLER,
Attorney General of Maryland.

BILL MCCOLLUM,
Attorney General of Florida.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL LATINO AIDS AWARENESS DAY AND 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIV/AIDS

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, today we celebrate National Latino AIDS Awareness Day, and the 25th anniversary of HIV/AIDS. Let us mark this day with a renewed spirit and effort to battle against this deadly virus.

HIV/AIDS disproportionately affects Latinos in this country, for while Latinos only represent 14 percent of the population of this country, 19 percent of those with HIV/AIDS are Latinos. 100,000 Latinos have died from this disease. We cannot continue to allow HIV/AIDS to ravage our communities.

Educating and reaching out to our children, family, and friends to address drug use, sexuality, and sexual activity should be our number one priority, because knowledge is the first step in successful prevention. The fact that these are topics that have been deemed unmentionable for generations is one of the reasons the epidemic of HIV/AIDS affects Latinos disproportionately; this is something that we must strive to change.

We must utilize our strengths to defeat this epidemic in our communities; we cannot allow silence and lack of information on this virus to be the cause of such tragic illness and death any longer.

Access to care is also a major issue for many Latinos. This week the House will be voting to override the President's veto of the Children's Health Insurance Program, legislation which will provide 10 million low-income children with health insurance. This access to health care will allow these children to begin and continue to live healthy lives.

For a person with HIV/AIDS, access health care is imperative. Many cannot obtain private insurance, are uninsured, or do not know how to apply for public insurance. This lack of insurance leads to less access to care, which further stymies the possibilities of successfully living with HIV/AIDS. I believe that access to appropriate and affordable health care is a basic human right, and while the passage of the Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP, will be a good first step, it is by no means the only step we need to take.

This has been a long, frustrating battle, and it is far from over. Today I join in solidarity with those who have suffered or watched a loved one suffer from HIV/AIDS. As I recommit myself to the fight against this virus I ask you to please join me.

TRIBUTE TO JUNIUS W. WILLIAMS, ESQ.

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to recognize and honor a good friend of my Congressional District and dedicated public servant, Junius Williams, Esq., a multi-faceted contributor to the community. Mr. Williams is being honored for his many years as a torch bearer in a variety of disciplines. Fortunately, for all of us in the Greater Newark Community, Mr. Williams has complete mastery of all these disciplines, which include academia, activism, Christianity, legal proficiency and mentorship.

In his role as an advocate for urban revitalization, Junius Williams served as the Director of Community Development and was at the helm of one of Newark's most significant projects, the Model Cities Program in the early 1970s. He also led the University Heights Neighborhood Urban Renewal Development Corporation. As a planner and developer, he had responsibility for the construction of over 1,200 housing units and accompanying amenities in Newark.

In 1978, Mr. Williams was elected as the youngest president of the National Bar Association. During his tenure as president, he presented a critique to the United Nations of the proposed constitution for the African nation of Zimbabwe. As an attorney, Mr. Williams was successful in representing Rev. Jesse Jackson in the historic court decision to bring single-lever voting to New Jersey, making it possible to cast one vote for the Presidential candidate and all of his delegates. He received his law degree from Yale University.

Mr. Williams has held other significant roles over the years including serving on the board of trustees for Essex County College, chairman of the Board of Education Law Center, chairing the board of trustees at Greater Abyssinian Baptist Church and serving as an official observer of the first South African National Elections in 1994. He is an accomplished musician, producer and performer. He currently serves as the director of the Abbott Leadership Institute, where he teaches parent advocacy skills to parents and professional educators at Rutgers University in Newark.

Madam Speaker, I am sure my colleagues agree that Junius Williams deserved to be feted at a celebration in his honor on Friday, October 12, 2007, for his many years of dedicated service to the community. I am proud to have him working in the 10th Congressional District and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

HONORING BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK COMMITTEE: COUNTIES OF FRESNO, MERCED, TULARE AND KERN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Madam, Speaker, I rise today to commend the Binational Health Week Committee for the Counties of Fresno, Merced, Tulare, and Kern upon their diligent work and commitment to bring Binational Health Week to their community.

Binational Health Week, BHW, began in 2001 with seven California cities, 98 activities, and 115 agencies involved. There were an estimated 18,720 people that were reached. This service has grown tremendously over the last

six years. In 2006 those numbers grew to include: 31 states, 42 California cities, 1,014 activities, with about 3,000 agencies involved and an estimated 300,000 people reached. This year the event will take place throughout 31 states in the United States and three provinces in Canada. BHW has extended its outreach to include participation from 46 Mexican, 11 Guatemalan and 15 Salvadoran consulates.

With the efforts of all participating parties, BHW has become one of the largest mobilization efforts in the Americas to improve the health and well-being of an underserved population, including immigrants and migrants of Mexican and Central American descent. It encompasses an annual week long series of health promotion and health education activities that include workshops on health care and health insurance referrals, health education and health promotion by encouraging healthy behaviors and routine health care. They also provide information about local social services and clinics. The success of BHW is due to the thousands of organizations and volunteers dedicated to a common cause.

Madam, Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Binational Health Week Committee for the counties of Fresno, Merced, Tulare and Kern on their success in bringing the Binational Health Week to their counties. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the committee many years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, on October 2, I inadvertently voted ''no'' on rollcall 931, Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the immediate and unconditional release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. I intended to enter an ''aye'' vote on this rollcall.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WILLIAM JOHN NATHEY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of William John Nathey for his contributions to the settlement of Niceville, a City in my district in Northwest Florida.

William Nathey, born in England in 1820, traveled to the United States on a timber ship. After settling in the community of Boggy, he built a large gristmill in 1857. He traveled as far as Mobile, AL, to retrieve gristmill stones, which he brought back by oxen. The stones from the Nathey Gristmill have been preserved and are now located at the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida.

The Nathey legacy extends much further than the gristmill stones. When he settled in Northwest Florida, he met and married a woman from North Carolina. Their first child, William John, born in 1846, carried on the Nathey family legacy and went on to be a key figure in the establishment of the City of Niceville.

William John followed in his father's footsteps and set up his homestead in Northwest Florida. While his father had worked the land to support his family, William John sold carpentry shingles and often traveled to neighboring cities to support his family.

Strong family values and a solid Christian foundation also carried on from generation to generation in the Nathey family. William John and his wife, Mary Jane, were two of the founding members of the First United Methodist Church in Niceville. The Nathey family tree continued to grow with their children and grandchildren and carries on today. Many of William Nathey's descendents still reside in Northwest Florida.

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Nathey Gristmill, Governor Charlie Crist recently approved the designation of the William Nathey Bridge, which is to be celebrated with a dedication ceremony on November 12, 2007. Appropriately, the William Nathey Bridge crosses Boggy Bayou, which was the southern border to William John's original homestead.

I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to a man and a family who have served as an inspiration to us all. Such a unique family history stretching back so many years is something to truly be admired and honored.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of William Nathey, and as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the construction of the Nathey Gristmill, our community reflects upon how this family has helped to create a home for so many. May God continue to bless them.

REGARDING H.J. RES. 52

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker. I rise to oppose the escalating rhetoric in Washington that is dividing our Nation, diverting attention and resources from the needs of Americans, and extending President Bush's failed policy in Iraq. I join the majority of Americans in seeking an end to the Iraq war and allowing U.S. troops to return home safe and soon.

Americans are united in support of our troops. Americans are beginning to unite behind ending the war. Ratcheting up rhetoric only divides Americans and distracts from the stark reality facing our Nation—our Nation is bogged down in President Bush's Iraq war.

My vote to recommit and amend H.J. Res. 52 was a vote to return to substantive debate of policy and priorities. This was a vote against the rising level of incivility in American political discourse. This was a vote to repudiate the MoveOn.org advertisement questioning General David H. Petraeus' loyalty to our Nation.

While members of MoveOn.org have been allies with Democrats and the majority of Americans who are seeking an end to the Iraq war, the decision by the group's National leaders to attack General Petraeus only contributed to the vitriol in Washington and provided a rally point for those who wish to extend the failed Iraq policies of President Bush and Congressional Republicans.

Just as the Swift Boating of Senators JOHN KERRY and Max Cleland poisoned the political process and disenfranchised the public by questioning the patriotism and character of honorable men, the attempt to discredit General Petraeus is equally damaging. General Petraeus is an honorable person who deserves respect, even as the public deserves to hold him accountable for the policies he implements.

Irresponsible and heated rhetoric has resulted in the current impasse on Federal funding for Government operations. To prevent funding shortfalls that would force a Government shutdown, Congress was forced to pass H.J. Res. 52 as a stopgap bill.

With bipartisan support, the House of Representatives has passed all 12 of the appropriations bills necessary to fund Government operations in Fiscal Year 2008 under pay-as-you-go balanced budget discipline. However, President Bush's combative posturing and veto threats have so thoroughly blocked progress that the Senate has only approved a third of those bills.

During the short 9 months that Democrats have led the House of Representatives, we have taken America in a new direction by developing a fiscally responsible record accomplishment. We are putting the needs of the American people first and making long-delayed investments in our future with no new deficit spending. We are investing in health care for America's children and veterans, strengthening homeland security to better protect the American people and creating American jobs by building safer roads and bridges.

President Bush has responded with vetoes, tough talk of veto threats, including a threatened veto on the bipartisan reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program H.R. 976, which passed the House with 45 Republicans joining the vast majority of Democrats. A veto of this legislation by the President would deny 10 million low-income children the health care they need and deserve.

While President Bush claims that a $35 billion increase for children's health care is too much, he is seeking $190 billion in additional funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan—the largest single-year amount so far. The President continues to pursue an open-ended and dangerous commitment of American troops in Iraq and an open wallet from the American people to pay for it.

It is time for Americans to stand together—Republicans and Democrats—to end the Iraq war.

CONGRATULATING MRS. DONNA DOHERTY, RECIPIENT OF THE 2007 ''SAM AND JANE CALI STAR AWARD'' PRESENTED BY THE BROADWAY THEATRE LEAGUE OF NEPA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute

to Mrs. Donna Doherty, this year's recipient of the Sam and Jane Cali Star Award presented by the Broadway Theatre League of NEPA in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Each year the award is presented to a distinguished community leader who has demonstrated exemplary dedication and service to the arts in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Named for the current president of the Broadway Theatre League of NEPA, Sam Cali and his late wife, Jane Nicolais Cali, the award is sponsored by the Fidelity Deposit Discount Bank and will be presented this year at the BTL's season opening gala on November 3.

Married to Scranton Mayor Chris Doherty, Donna Doherty has a long history of dedicated service in promoting the arts. In addition to serving on the board of trustees of the Everhart Museum in Scranton, Mrs. Doherty served as Scranton coordinator for "Miles of Mules," an initiative of the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor that combined history and art, linking communities in eastern Pennsylvania.

Her long-standing enthusiasm for the arts is evidenced by the success of her numerous arts related community efforts. In 2001, Mrs. Doherty committed herself to "Art and Jazz on the Ave," a project that showcased the energy, diversity and skills of the region's many artists. Using empty retail stores on a historically preserved block of downtown Scranton as gallery space, the event offered juried competition that included over 100 local artists. Accompanied by a street festival featuring local jazz musicians and culinary stylists, the event attracted the attention of thousands of people.

Mrs. Doherty has also served as co-chair of "Arts in Bloom," a fund raising event that benefits the Everhart Museum. Mrs. Doherty is currently the owner of Heart to Art, a full service design and marketing company dedicated to building better communities through collaborative art experiences. Mrs. Doherty and her husband are the parents of six children.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mrs. Doherty on this auspicious occasion. Her selfless devotion to the arts has been an enriching experience for so many and has had a lasting positive impact on improving the quality of life for all who live and work in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I inadvertently missed last Wednesday's vote on final passage of H.R. 2895. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "yes" on the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007.

VISION CARE FOR KIDS ACT 2007

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my continued support for children's vision awareness and the Vision Care for Kids Act of 2007 (H.R. 507). Unfortunately, millions of children in the United States suffer from vision problems, many of which go undetected and negatively affect a child's life.

I know all too well how important it is to have a regular eye exam. When I was young, my own eyesight problems caused me to struggle in school until those problems were properly diagnosed and corrected.

This legislation will help improve access to eyesight testing and follow-up treatment for children so they can see, study, and learn to the best of their ability. I hope the Senate will pass this critical legislation so we ensure that our children are receiving the best eye care possible.

Madam Speaker, I urge everyone to support this legislation and I look forward to working with my colleagues as we strive to increase awareness in preventive vision care for children.

HONORING YUM! BRANDS AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the partnership of YUM! Brands and the World Food Programme (WFP) for their efforts during World Hunger Relief Week.

A 2006 report by the Food and Agriculture Organization estimated that 854 million people worldwide suffer from hunger. This is more people than the populations of the United States, Canada and the entire European Union combined. Hunger is the number one risk to health worldwide. It weakens the immune system, making people, especially children, vulnerable to life-threatening diseases. A report by the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition found that over 5 million children die before the age of 5 from malnutrition.

YUM! Brands, which is headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky has been fighting hunger in the United States for over 10 years. During this period, they have donated over 97 million pounds of food to combat hunger in the United States.

When YUM! Brands wanted to expand their efforts worldwide, they searched for a well established organization that shared their same long-term global mission of eliminating hunger. After an extensive search YUM! Brands teamed with the World Food Programme (WFP). The WFP has been providing food aid to the world for over 41 years. Given the background of both these organizations I know they will make a significant difference toward eradicating this epidemic.

The partnership has already launched an important initiative to bring awareness to and stop world hunger. During World Hunger Relief Week, October 14th–20th, YUM! Brands will be activating a global campaign of TV advertisements, print ads and public service announcements. YUM! Brands employees will mobilize in their communities to bring awareness to this cause. The company will simultaneously promote the partnership and raise millions in funds for the WFP to use in feeding the hungry around the world.

I salute YUM! Brands and their partnership with WFP to end world hunger. I encourage my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in supporting this partnership during World Hunger Relief Week.

HONORING DR. HOWARD KNOBLOCH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Howard Knobloch of Bay City, Michigan. The Bay Medical Foundation will honor Dr. Knobloch for over 60 years of work as a pediatrician in the Bay City community at a dinner to be held on October 24th.

Dr. Knobloch graduated from Maryland University Medical School in 1936. After completing his internship and pediatric residency, Dr. Knobloch joined the practice of Dr. Fernald Foster in 1940. From 1942 to 1946 he served as an Army captain. Once his military service was completed, Dr. Knobloch returned to Bay City and resumed his illustrious career as a pediatrician.

His motto is, "If this were my child, what would I do for him?" and Dr. Knobloch has lived this philosophy daily. In the beginning, he charged $2 for an office visit and $3 for a home visit. He was still making home visits at the age of 77. He never turned away a patient and held office hours 6 days a week. He also served on the staff of Bay Regional Medical Center for 60 years, holding various positions during that time. He was Chief of the Medical Staff for two terms, Medical Staff Secretary/Treasurer for two terms, Vice-President for eight terms and Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics for 35 years.

His peers have recognized Dr. Knobloch on numerous occasions. The Michigan Academy of Pediatrics has awarded him the Franklin D. Roosevelt Service Award, the Harry S. Truman Service Award, and in 1996 named him Doctor of the Year. The American Academy of Pediatrics presented him with the Pediatric Review and Education Program Award. In 1990 the Michigan State Medical Society recognized him as the oldest practicing physician in their membership and in 2002 Bay Regional Medical Center presented the first Excellence in Teaching Award. This award was created in honor of Dr. Knobloch for his dedication, commitment and compassion for the health care of the community. Recently at the age of 96, Dr. Knobloch published an autobiographical book entitled, "An American Pediatrician's Odyssey."

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding the life and career of Dr. Howard Knobloch. He is an inspiration to all health care providers, and anyone desiring to improve and deliver quality healthcare to our children.

NATIONAL LATINO AIDS AWARENESS DAY

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize National Latino AIDS Awareness Day. Today marks the fifth consecutive year that the U.S. has acknowledged October 15th as National Latino AIDS Awareness Day. This day presents us with the important opportunity to remember that Latinos, who represent only 14 percent of the population, account for nearly 19 percent of all AIDS cases. Today there are approximately 200,000 Latinos living with AIDS in the U.S.

Latinos make up the fastest growing minority population in the United States. Therefore, it is increasingly important that we work to achieve equality in treatment and ensure that Latinos who suffer from HIV and AIDS do not face barriers to care. National Latino AIDS Awareness Day serves both as a day of remembrance for those who are living with or have lost their lives to AIDS as well as a day to promote awareness of this disease among the Latino population.

TRIBUTE TO LAWRENCE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a talented group of students from Lawrence Technological University in Southeastern Michigan for being selected to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy's 2007 Solar Decathlon. Lawrence Tech's AloeTerra team is one of just twenty teams from across the United States, Europe and Canada chosen to participate in this event.

The Solar Decathlon is an international competition organized by the Department of Energy that brings together young people from many countries to design, build and operate an energy-efficient, completely solar-powered house. More than that, the Solar Decathlon is a chance to engage the public on how small changes in building and design practices can have a big impact. With rising energy prices and increased public concern over global warming, Americans want to know what they can do in their own lives to use energy more efficiently and cleanly. Indeed, the name of the Lawrence Tech team says it all: AloeTerra means "healing the land."

At the same time, there is a large and growing world market for renewable energy and efficiency technologies. This market is worth hundreds of billions of dollars over the next decade. Clean energy creates good jobs, and that is something that all of us should encourage.

I am proud that Lawrence Technological University is in the 12th Congressional District and I am proud to represent these bright young people who have worked so hard to show how sustainability, aesthetics, and comfort can coexist. I urge all my colleagues to go down to the National Mall where the twenty Solar Decathlon teams have assembled their homes into a solar village.

TRIBUTE TO MARY LEE SLATER, A LIFE OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CARING AND PROMISE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay tribute to the late Mary Lee Slater, a mother of four, and grandmother to an only grandson. She died on Tuesday, October 9, 2007 and will be buried this Friday October 19, 2007 at Bethany Seventh Day Adventist Church in Miami, Florida where she was a member for many years.

Born on March 1, 1935 to the late Murdic and Illinois Jordan in Soperton, Georgia, she was the oldest of four siblings: James, Elvin, Floyd and Randolph. She moved to Miami, Florida with her family where she attended public schools, graduating from Booker T. Washington High School in 1953. She attended Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia.

Mary worked in the insurance industry for more than 30 years as an agent for such companies as Atlanta Life and American General. Because of her outstanding professionalism, work ethic and dedication to her career, she received numerous honors and awards including National Sales Achievement Award and Outstanding Sales Achievement Recognition.

Effectively balancing work and family, Mary was the dedicated mother of four loving children, Michael, Ronald, Surette and Illka. She was also the proud grandmother of one grandson, David "Boom Boom" Jonathan whom she loved and adored.

Always demonstrating love for her community, Mary was President of the High Ridge Neighborhood Improvement Association. With a reputation for helping others, solving problems and improving her community, she was a source of inspiration and wisdom. One of Mary's favorite programs was the Association's annual Thanksgiving Dinner, which provided an opportunity for residents, families and friends to gather in fellowship to give thanks to God for His many blessings. Mary received numerous awards and honors for her dedication and commitment to the community, including Making a Difference Award from Team Metro and Inner City Education Foundation Parent Club. She also served on the Model City/Brownsville Charrette Steering Committee.

A committed servant of God, whatever church Mary was a member of, she stood out as a beacon of light, who demonstrated the love of God to whomever she met. An active member in her church, Mary served on several ministries. She was a Deaconess, Sabbath School Teacher and dedicated servant. Her walk with God was evident. At Bethany Seventh Day Adventist Church, she was honored by the Sabbath School Department for Outstanding and Dedicated Service. Mary loved her church family.

Last Tuesday, Mary heard and answered her Lord's call to rest. She leaves to cherish and celebrate her life four loving children, Michael, Ronald, Surette Sands (Christopher), and Illka; one grandson, David "Boom Boom" Jonathan; three brothers James Jordan (Loretta) of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Elvin Floyd Jordan (Sandra) of Oakland, California and Randolph of Miami, Florida; and a host of relatives and friends. May God bless her soul and grant her eternal rest.

MOTIVA ENTERPRISES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, on January 10, 1901, the world changed. It was on this cold day in Jefferson County, Texas, the Gladys City Oil, Gas, and Manufacturing Company discovered the largest oil reserve the world had ever seen. Since that day the modern petroleum age has been upon us and Jefferson County, Texas, has been a leader in the oil and gas industry, fueling our Nation's economy. With Motiva Enterprises recently announced expansion of their Port Arthur Refinery, this tradition of leadership will continue into the future.

Motiva Enterprises will be expanding their 104-year-old Port Arthur Refinery, becoming the largest refinery in the Nation. When construction is complete, it will produce 600,000 barrels of crude oil per day. This project will generate an economic boost to southeast Texas by bringing in 5,000 construction jobs and 300 permanent jobs.

Motiva is more that just an oil company; it is an active corporate citizen concerned about all aspects of the community where it resides. By putting together a community Citizens Action Committee composed of representatives from across the community, Motiva has helped address the community's concerns about health, jobs, environment, education, and children. Through the work of this committee and Motiva, the Motiva Youth Training Academy was opened. This academy partners with local businesses to provide juniors and seniors at local high schools with training to help them transition from high school into a professional career or to higher education.

Motiva is to be commended on its corporate citizenship and giving back to communities not only in southeast Texas but across the Nation.

And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVICE OF MICHAEL J. MADONNA

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Michael J. Madonna for his extraordinary service to the people of the State of New Jersey, and particularly to its law enforcement community.

Last month, Mike retired as President of the New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association. He's been active with the PBA since 1968, when be became the State Delegate of

the Oakland PBA. He later went on to serve on the State PBA Executive Board. In 1996, he began a nearly 11-year tenure as President of the State PBA. Mike has dedicated his life to keeping the people of New Jersey safe, putting his life on the line and sacrificing so much on our behalf.

The PBA is the largest union of law enforcement officers in New Jersey, with more than 350 Locals representing more than 30,000 municipal, county, state, and Federal officers. These officers have benefited greatly from the hard work and dedication that Mike has given the PBA these last forty years.

Tonight, the members of the PBA and community leaders from all across New Jersey will be honoring Mike for his career of service. I join them in thanking Michael J. Madonna for demonstrating such tremendous commitment to the safety and well-being of New Jerseyans statewide. The Garden State is a better place because of the service of people like him.

REMEMBERING NICHOLAS PALMIOTTO

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I bring to the attention of the House Mr. Nick Palmiotto, a dedicated soldier, a leader, a father, a husband, a member of my Service Academy Advisory Board and my constituent from Sterling, Virginia, who passed away at the age of 44 on October 6 after a valiant fight against leukemia.

It was an honor to have Nick serve as a member of my Academy Board which assists in the selection of nominees for military academies. As a 1984 graduate of the Naval Academy, Nick recognized the character and integrity that would enable young men and women to become leaders and heroes, much like himself. Nick was the embodiment of what it meant to be a soldier and a true gentleman.

Nick Palmiotto was born on November 18, 1962, in Mount Kisco, New York. After completing high school at the top of his class, Nick attended the Naval Academy and graduated 11th in his class. He was accepted at the prestigious Nuclear Power School and was commissioned as a nuclear power submariner. Shortly thereafter, however, Nick was medically retired from the Navy after learning of a blood disorder that would prevent him from serving at sea.

Upon leaving the Navy, Nick continued his involvement with the military as a defense contractor, developing many high-tech programs which enhanced operations training and helped to save the lives of many soldiers on the battlefield. During the final years of his career he served in support of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Nick was an asset to the community and he will be greatly missed by all those who knew and loved him, including his two children, Kyleigh and Chad, and his wife, Janelle, of 19 years. We send our condolences to his family and friends and salute Nick Palmiotto for his life of service to his country.

HONORING MS. JANE DECKER

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise, not only for myself, but also on behalf of Congress Members ANNA ESHOO and MIKE HONDA, to honor Ms. Jane Decker who is retiring after 35 years of dedicated and honorable service in county government.

The County of Santa Clara encompasses what is popularly known as Silicon Valley. While the rest of the nation may speak of ''Googling'' or ''Podcasting'' as tech tools, those of us lucky enough to live there tend to regard the companies who invented those terms as neighbors, employers and members of the community.

Known internationally as the high tech center of the universe, Santa Clara County's people are diverse. In addition to those who are highly successful, the County also encompasses individuals who face challenges from life. It is especially those persons upon whom County government focuses. Jane Decker, in her long service to the County, helped make sure that as the County's people celebrated success, they did not forget those who suffered, whether from poverty, health troubles or tragedies. Jane Decker, with her high degree of professionalism, ethics and knowledge helped craft the strategies that allowed the government of Santa Clara County to meet its challenges successfully.

While Congressman HONDA and I served on the County Board of Supervisors, we had the pleasure of working closely with Ms. Decker. We appreciated her outstanding service then. In the roles we three Members of Congress play, each of us can attest to the high degree of intelligence, caring and dedication Ms. Decker has exhibited in her professional life.

Jane Decker joined the County of Santa Clara in 1979 as the Director of Intergovernmental Relations. Because of her demonstrable leadership qualities, she has been promoted several times until her most recent post as Deputy County Executive.

In addition to her professional commitments, Jane Decker is a committed and valued volunteer for several prominent organizations in the County of Santa Clara.

We collectively extend our thanks to Ms. Decker for her years of excellent service and wish her the best upon her retirement and this new phase in her life. She has served the people of Santa Clara County well.

KINGWOOD CIVILIAN SERVES ALONGSIDE THE TROOPS IN IRAQ

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, Linda Shafer Mehrmann, of Kingwood, Texas, has recently returned from Iraq not as a member of our armed forces but as a civilian contractor. She has spent much of her previous working career in fine jewelry sales. Instead of being in an air-conditioned building, surrounded by diamonds and jewels, two years ago she decided to go to a land of sand and rocks in order to support our troops.

In 2004, she was attending a job expo with her brother who was trying to get a job as a truck driver in Iraq. While she was waiting for him, a job recruiter struck up a conversation with Mehrmann and described a unique company position that she might be interested in because of her outgoing personality.

After discussing the position further and thinking about it for a week, she decided to become a Morale Welfare and Recreation Coordinator in Iraq. Even though she was a civilian, she worked alongside our troops in Balad, Iraq working 12 hour days 7 days a week. Her duties included operating a recreation center and a workout area for the troops.

She wanted to go to Iraq during Christmas because she felt that this would be a difficult time for the troops that were away from their families. While the troops defended our Nation's freedom in war, Mehrmann's job was to lift their spirits and be an inspirational force in their lives in Iraq.

She boosted morale by writing what she called, ''love notes'' to the soldiers which were small pieces of hot pink paper with inspirational quotes typed on them from a quote book. The notes were placed in an aluminum coffee can for anyone to reach in and take. At first, the macho soldiers were reluctant to accept the love notes from the 54-year-old grandmother of four, but after the first person took one the popularity of the notes quickly took off.

Her quotes became a commodity on the base and were sought by many from privates up to generals. The quotes became so popular that other areas of the base created their own quote cans and quotes even started to appear on the menu board of the mess hall.

She also distributed stickers and match box cars to the troops which they greatly appreciated and sent to their children in the U.S. The small gifts made a huge impact in brightening the day of the troops and their children were glad to receive a gift from their faraway parent. Some of her other activities on the base included hosting pool tournaments, talent shows and Texas Hold'em tournaments at the recreation center.

When she returned to the U.S. after two years, Mehrmann decided to create a support group for those that have returned from Iraq and for those that have friends and family overseas. The group Combat Zone Here and There meets once a month in a local church in Kingwood so that servicemembers and their families can discuss their Iraq War experiences at home and abroad. When Mehrmann describes the activities that other civilians like her do to boost morale with the troops, she said it helps put the friends and family of our servicemembers at ease.

Her job as a civilian support member brought colorful life to troops living in a land of brown sand and rocks. She turned a gym for the troops into a comfortable home away from home. Mehrmann said that she didn't go to Iraq for political reasons, but to share random acts of kindness with the troops.

I salute Linda Shafer Mehrmann for her bravery and willingness to assist our Nation abroad during a time of war. Her courage and support of our troops is an inspiration to us all. And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF JACK KURLANDER AND HIS LIFE OF SERVICE TO SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the late Jack Kurlander, who spent a lifetime turning Sussex County, New Jersey into a destination for tourists and recreation-seekers. His vision truly transformed this picturesque region of the Garden State.

Born in Rhode Island and raised in Nutley, New Jersey, Jack Kurlander had been New Jersey's boys tennis champ while at Nutley High School. But, his love of sports extended to golf and skiing, as well. Spurred by his love of outdoor sports and recreation, Jack Kurlander set about turning this quiet Highlands region into a popular destination for a variety of outdoor sporting activities.

Jack Kurlander and his business partners, first the Fitzgerald Family and later the Mulvihill Family, were the force behind the development of ski resorts, tennis and swim clubs, picnic grounds, spa resorts, and major golf courses over the course of four decades. The Ballyowen Golf Course, in fact, is the top-rated public golf course in New Jersey.

Long before his vision took hold, Jack Kurlander was an avid inventor. He manufactured the first nylon tennis nets with his friend John Fitzgerald in the basement of a Nutley bakery. He created a ski-waxing machine, using his mother's disassembled washing machine to develop his invention.

This evening, outdoor enthusiasts will join together to dedicate the Memorial Garden at the 7th Hole of the Black Bear Golf Course and to pay tribute to their friend and patron. Jack suffered a heart attack in 1977, but it barely slowed him down from his mission to transform this beautiful region. Nearly thirty years later, a heart attack took his life in 2006 at the age of 76. It is said that Jack Kurlander was able to see things that were unapparent to anyone else. His gift for vision and his love of life are truly missed.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS THOMAS R. WILSON

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, last month we marked the sixth anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks against America. The terrorists responsible carefully selected their targets; the World Trade Center standing for America's success, and the Pentagon for America's strong defense. These extremists sought to bring down the greatest democracy in the history of the world. They thought we were weak—or unprepared to defend our freedom. They were wrong. The terrorists soon discovered America is not comprised of buildings; America is made up of her people. We are strong. We stand together against those who seek to destroy us.

And so it is with great sorrow but immense pride that I recognize one of my own constituents who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Private First Class (PFC) Thomas R. Wilson, United States Army, was killed on August 27, 2007, while proudly serving his country in Afghanistan as part of the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team.

PFC Wilson, who was only 21 years old at the time of his death, grew up in Maurertown located in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. He was a typical all-American boy. He loved being outdoors enjoying nature. His hobbies included hunting, fishing and hiking and he possessed a great love of art and photography. He was an active member of the 4-H and local chapter of Future Farmers of America (FFA). In high school PFC Wilson excelled in the classroom and on the athletic field. He was a member of the National Honor Society in addition to playing on Central High School's basketball and track teams. In 2004, he graduated from high school, where he is remembered by teachers and friends as "a student leader at all times."

After graduation, PFC Wilson went on to West Virginia University where he completed two years before joining the U.S. Army. Upon his completion of boot camp and airborne school, PFC Wilson was sent to Camp Ederly, in Vicenza, Italy and from there was deployed to Afghanistan.

PFC Wilson was a proud soldier. In e-mails he sent home from the war zone, he shared his commitment to the mission and his pride in the U.S. Army. According to his commanding officer, PFC Wilson's fearless actions on the day of his death saved the lives of many of his fellow soldiers. PFC Wilson has been posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Purple Heart for these noble actions.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Julie Hepner, PFC Wilson's mother, and his siblings, Chloe, Chelsea and Ethan. Not only did Tom answer the call of his country and in doing so protect the freedoms that we so cherish, but he also paid a dear price to bring freedom to people he had never met. He gave his life in order to make our Nation stronger and safer for future generations.

In 1962, speaking to a gathering of cadets at West Point General Douglas MacArthur delivered stirring remarks in which he described the "American man at arms." He said, "His name and fame are the birthright of every American citizen. In his youth and strength, his love and loyalty, he gave all that mortality can give. He needs no eulogy from me, or from any other man."

In an age when the word 'hero' is tossed around casually to describe everything from sports stars to singers in bands, PFC Thomas R. Wilson is a hero in the truest sense of the word—a possessor of courage and strength who pursued feats of noble purpose.

HONORING LAVENIA "BEANS" VANDIVER, A TRUE TEXAS ORIGINAL

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true Texas original, Lavenia "Beans" Vandiver who recently passed away. Born and raised in Moody, Texas, Beans was an inspiration and true friend to many, including a young state senator running for Congress in 1990. Beans stayed true to her Central Texas roots attending Moody schools and later attended Mary Hardin Baylor University. A devoted wife to her husband of 50 years Bert Vandiver Sr. and a loving mother to her children and grandchildren, Beans Vandiver was the best America and Texas has to offer, a vibrant force of nature that will be dearly missed.

As a businesswoman, Beans was the hard-working driving force behind several successful local businesses and real estate endeavors. Some of her proudest moments were helping young couples to realize a dream of owning their first home. Because of her success, Beans proved to be ahead of her time setting a positive example for others while shattering the glass ceiling for women in the business world.

As her beloved daughter Karen Vandiver-King also reminded us, Beans was a generous person who cared for the less fortunate and dedicated herself to giving back to the community.

Madam Speaker, today's world needs more people like Beans Vandiver and I join those who mourn her loss but celebrate the many lasting contributions and joys of her wonderful life.

I thank God for the life of Lavenia "Beans" Vandiver and ask his blessings for her family.

STATEMENT INTRODUCING AMERICAN FREEDOM AGENDA ACT OF 2007

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a comprehensive piece of legislation to restore the American Constitution and to restore the liberties that have been sadly eroded over the past several years.

This legislation seeks to restore the checks and balances enshrined in the Constitution by our Founding Fathers to prevent abuse of Americans by their government. This proposed legislation would repeal the Military Commissions Act of 2006 and re-establish the traditional practice that military commissions may be used to try war crimes in places of active hostility where a rapid trial is necessary to preserve evidence or prevent chaos.

The legislation clarifies that no information shall be admitted as evidence if it is obtained from the defendant through the use of torture or coercion. It codifies the FISA process as the means by which foreign intelligence may be obtained and it gives members of the Senate and the House of Representatives standing in court to challenge presidential signing statements that declares the president's intent to disregard certain aspects of a law passed in the U.S. Congress. It prohibits kidnapping and extraordinary rendition of prisoners to foreign countries on the president's unilateral determination that the suspect is an enemy combatant. It defends the first amendment by clarifying that journalists are not to be prevented from publishing information received from the

legislative or executive branch unless such publication would cause immediate, direct, and irreparable harm to the United States.

Finally, the legislation would prohibit the use of secret evidence to designate an individual or organization with a United States presence to be a foreign terrorist or foreign terrorist organization.

I invite my colleagues to join my efforts to restore the U.S. Constitution by enacting the American Freedom Agenda Act of 2007.

CLUBCORP, THE WORLD LEADER IN PRIVATE CLUBS CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, congratulations are in order for ClubCorp of Dallas, TX. ClubCorp, the World Leader in private clubs, is celebrating 50 great years of service and tradition.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent the numerous employees at ClubCorp who have generated millions of dollars for charitable causes and philanthropic events.

On October 19, 2007, ClubCorp will host the world's largest one-day charity golf and dining event to commemorate their anniversary.

Instead of receiving gifts for their 50th anniversary, ClubCorp will again be giving back and helping as many lives as possible. The tournament, the dinners, and the auctions are all designed to give aid to four different foundations and charities.

All proceeds raised during ClubCorp Charity Classic will be divided and donated to The Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), the PGA Foundation, the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation, and ClubCorp's Employee Partners Care Foundation.

ClubCorp continues to provide great service and tradition to its members and charities.

Congratulations again, and thank you, to ClubCorp.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SERGEANT ADAM QUINN TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to SGT Adam Quinn, 22, who died October 6, 2007 while serving our Nation in Afghanistan.

Prior to joining the Army, Adam graduated from DeLand High School in DeLand, Florida where he was a leader in the Junior ROTC program. He also attended the First United Methodist Church in DeLand with his family.

Adam joined the Army and took great pride in serving his country. His colleagues remember a compassionate individual who cared deeply for others while his family recalls his uncanny ability to make people laugh. Adam's character earned him the respect of his family, friends and fellow soldiers. He was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division based in Fort Bragg, North Carolina which was deployed to Afghanistan. Adam served with great distinction—the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart and numerous other awards and citations.

We should all remember Adam's courage and his ultimate sacrifice for our nation. The freedom and liberty we enjoy and the peace in the world for others for which he fought are part of the great legacy that SGT Adam Quinn leaves behind. He was laid to rest at Oakdale Cemetery in DeLand, Florida on October 12.

To Adam's wife, Faye; their child who will arrive in March of 2008; his parents, Charles and Sherry; his brother, Asa; and his entire family, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Madam Speaker, because of SGT Adam Quinn's sacrifice for our country, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing his service in our Nation's Armed Forces and remembering both his life and his dedication to the United States of America.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. DREW MAYS

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commend an individual from the District I represent, the Sixth Congressional District of Alabama, whose recent achievement in the field of music deserves the accolades and esteem of this body.

On June 3, 2007, Dr. Drew Mays of Birmingham took top honors in the world renowned Van Cliburn Foundation International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs in Forth Worth, Texas. His winning performance in the final round included Beethoven's Sonata in C major, Op. 53 "Waldstein" and Liszt's Mephisto Waltz No. 1.

This event, whose prestigious sponsor has long been recognized internationally as a champion of musical excellence, gives its participants from around the world an opportunity to compete for top honors as amateur pianists. Created in 1999, the Van Cliburn Foundation's amateur competition is the most respected amateur piano competition in the United States, and was created to "celebrate the amateur spirit."

It is remarkable to note that as amateurs, competitors may not derive their principal source of income from public performances or piano instruction. Therefore, the level of artistic ability and expression is reached in tandem with balancing the pressures and concerns of daily life. This is an achievement indeed.

In addition to being a master of the piano, Dr. Mays is an ophthalmologist in private practice, specializing in glaucoma. He also serves on the staff of Birmingham's VA Medical Center, and serves as residency program director for the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. However, before his medical career began, Dr. Mays studied advanced music both at the Manhattan School of Music and at the Conservatory of Music in Hannover, Germany. In 1987, he earned a master's degree in music from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, the same year he began to work on his medical degree.

What is even more fascinating in my opinion is that Dr. Mays ended his musical career when he started medical school, starting a 15-year hiatus from playing the piano. Only in 2002 did Dr. Mays start to regularly play the instrument again, which culminated with his winning the Van Cliburn Foundation competition only 5 short years later.

In closing, I must remark that Dr. Mays' achievements are a realization of his unwavering commitment to the art of musical performance. Not only is Dr. Mays now a world renowned pianist committed to sharing the gift of music, but he is also a respected physician committed to helping patients with the gift of sight. Our great Nation should congratulate him on his achievements as one of Alabama's finest, and be honored to call him one of our own.

HONORING JOHN J. DUPLESSIS, SR.

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize John J. DuPlessis, Sr., a remarkable man with a long history of service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Mr. DuPlessis, a resident of Elizabethtown, will receive the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Boy Scouts of America on October 17, 2007.

John J. DuPlessis earned his undergraduate and graduate engineering degrees from North Carolina State University. He was employed for over thirty years with the Magnetic Division of Crucible Materials Corporation. He served as the President of the Crucible Magnetics plant in Elizabethtown from 1985 until his retirement in 1992. During his business career he was an active member of the Magnetic Materials Association, the Associated Industries of Kentucky, and the Gorham International Conference on Magnetic Materials.

Mr. DuPlessis has been an extremely active member of his community. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Elizabethtown Jaycees, was the first President of Let's Spruce Up, and has been active with the Elizabethtown Lions Club. He was also a board member and Chairman of the Elizabethtown Independent School System, and has been involved with Habitat for Humanity, Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, St. James Catholic Church and Baptist Builders.

John DuPlessis has had a long association with the Boy Scouts of America serving as Scout Master for Troop 829. Mr. DuPlessis was also Fundraising Chairman of the Lincoln Trail District Sustaining Membership Enrollment, Lincoln Trail Camping Chairman, Wood Badge trained, and a Silver Beaver recipient.

It is my privilege to recognize John J. DuPlessis, Sr. today, before the entire United States House of Representatives, for his hard work and service to his community.

RECOGNIZING THE TOPOFF EXERCISE IN GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to underline the importance of territories in Homeland Security operations. I commend the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recognizing the importance of United States territories to the defense of the homeland and including Guam as the first U.S. territory to actively partake in the Top Officials or TOPOFF exercise being held this year in Arizona, Oregon, and Guam from October 15th to the 24th.

The 106th Congress directed that TOPOFF exercises be conducted biennially. Originally the TOPOFF exercise was to be conducted by the Department of Justice but was transferred to the DHS on March 1, 2003 along with the Office for Domestic Preparedness. These operations are designed to improve the Nation's capacity to manage complex and extreme terrorist events.

TOPOFF exercises began in 2000 and took place in Denver, Colorado and Portsmouth, New Hampshire. In focused on two different attacks one in each operational area including a bioterrorist attack and a chemical attack. TOPOFF 2 and 3 each incorporated lessons learned from the previous exercises and simulated different manmade and natural disaster events. Most recently, during TOPOFF 3 local, Federal and private sector organizations began to interface with international actors—a facet that is once again included in TOPOFF 4. Moreover, DHS has refined each subsequent exercise to reflect a more realistic scenario for local and Federal first responders.

TOPOFF 4 which begins today, October 15th, will be a 10-day exercise and will focus on five objective areas: prevention, intelligence and investigation, incident management, public information, and evaluation. The simulation will involve a series of radiological detonation devices, better known as ''dirty bombs'', being simultaneously detonated in the participating regions and will involve the interaction of Federal, State, and Territorial officials along with international regional partners and private sector participants. The scenario though plausible is entirely fictional and is based on no specific military or government intelligence and has been tailored to ensure participants' specific training objectives are met.

I am encouraged that Guam will be included in TOPOFF 4 exercises. The inclusion of Guam in TOPOFF 4 adds a new layer of difficulty for national disaster planning and cooperation because it involves dealing with a massive event not in the continental United States. It also shows an underlying commitment by the U.S. government to the territories and their importance to maintain security for the entire Nation. Guam's participation in TOPOFF 4 exercises continues to demonstrate its strategic importance to overall U.S. security posture.

TOPOFF 4 will highlight the ability of Guam's local first responders to respond to a lethal radiological attack on Guam. I know that Guam's emergency first responders have been working closely with the Guam National Guard's 94th Civil Support Team in preparing how to handle radiological release from a ''dirty bomb''. It is this type of coordination at the local level that makes this exercise important and useful. The delayed Federal response following Hurricane Katrina reminds us that our local first responders must be ready and capable of responding to a variety of dangerous scenarios. The TOPOFF exercise is critical to helping our local first responders be prepared for events that are similar if not larger in scale to what happened during Hurricane Katrina so that we may be able to avoid the mistakes of the past and be more successful, as a nation and region, to responding to such catastrophes.

I commend the Department of Homeland Security in its choice to include Guam in the TOPOFF 4 exercise. The knowledge and experience gained from this experience will ultimately strengthen our national security. I also commend the Government of Guam and Federal officials on Guam who have worked very hard over the past several months in preparing for these exercises.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOULDER CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce. The Boulder City Chamber of Commerce has been dedicated to serving the community of Boulder City since its founding in 1932. The Boulder City Chamber of Commerce meets the specific needs of its community members in acting as a tourism bureau, a convention bureau and a business promoter.

The Boulder City Chamber of Commerce is the voice of small business for the Boulder City establishments. The Chamber consists of 408 dues paying members. The logistical operations of the Chamber are run by only two employees and a vast team of active volunteers and ambassadors who contribute their time and energy to serve their community. The Chamber is governed by a Board of Directors who work in and with the community in order to better anticipate its needs.

The Boulder City Chamber of Commerce has always provided extensive services to its members as well as the entire city of Boulder City. They act as the voice of the community on both a statewide and national level. The Chamber also hosts several significant annual events which include Spring Jam and Hometown Christmas. These events are looked forward to yearly and happen because of the tireless and dependable efforts of the members of the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce. I would personally like to thank Jill Lagan and Goldie Begley for taking time out of their lives in order to come to Washington, D.C. Meeting with members of Congress and participating in the ''Las Vegas Chamber Goes to Washington'' event strengthens their status as pillars of the community. The dedication and service of the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce should set an example for all businesses and members of the community alike. I applaud all their efforts and look forward to watching their future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BERNARD SLIGER

HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Bernard F. Sliger, Ph.D., who served as Florida State University's President from 1977 to 1991.

Dr. Sliger will be remembered for his outstanding academic service to the university, as well as for his commitment to FSU's students. During his tenure, student enrollment at Florida State increased by nearly one-third. Dr. Sliger was especially proud to establish the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering and to initiate the Panama City Campus.

Dr. Sliger also led the university to its prominent rise in intercollegiate athletics. Under his leadership, Florida State University decided to join the Atlantic Coast Conference. As a 1990 graduate and former student-athlete at Florida State, I am proud and thankful for these achievements.

His colleagues remember Dr. Sliger for his easygoing nature and love for his school and his students. I will always remember the annual ice cream socials at his residence that brought together students, faculty, and administrators. It was considered one of the highlights of the year among students.

Dr. Sliger is survived by his wife, Greta, and four children, and I want to commend Dr. Sliger in their honor for his noble service to Florida State University.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO COLONEL TERRY S. ROBINSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Terry S. Robinson and congratulate him upon his retirement. Colonel Robinson has committed his life to serving others. He served over 26 years in the Air Force and has held numerous positions at the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Program in Las Vegas over the past 12 years.

Colonel Terry Robinson was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. He remained in Ohio to continue his formal education and received his Bachelor's and Masters Degrees in Psychology. Upon graduation from college, Mr. Robinson joined the U.S. Air Force to fulfill his military obligation. Determined and dedicated to achievement while serving his country, he stayed in until he earned the rank of full colonel. Upon retirement from the United States Air Force, Colonel Robinson began working at the Nevada Power Company supervising their security forces as the Chief of Security and acting as a consultant to ensure a safe working environment for all employees and customers.

Colonel Robinson began serving specialized needs of the citizens of Nevada when he began with the Salvation Army Rehabilitation

Program as a Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor. He advanced to Clinical Supervisor and he worked his way up to his current position of Clinical Program Director from which he is retiring.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Colonel Terry S. Robinson who has served the citizens of the State of Nevada diligently. His commitment to his work in facilitating and supervising the assistance of the people in Nevada is valued and should be applauded by all. I would like to thank him for his military and civilian service and wish him well upon his retirement.

MEJA EXPANSION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JANIS D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Virginia has offered a motion to recommit H.R. 2740, the MEJA Expansion and Enforcement Act, to the Judiciary Committee and to modify the legislation with regard to intelligence activities. I will support this motion to recommit, but wish to clearly state my understanding of the motion.

The motion to recommit would amend H.R. 2740 with a rule of construction, stating, ''nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect intelligence activities that are otherwise permissible prior to the enactment of this Act.'' This amendment does not change the force of the legislation, does not limit the scope of the MEJA jurisdiction, and does not grant immunity to anyone, including contractor employees of the intelligence community. I am voting in support of this motion because it simply restates existing law.

Mr. Price's legislation would place contractor employees of non-defense related agencies under the extraterritorial jurisdiction of United States federal law, granting the Department of Justice authority to prosecute felony offenses committed by non-defense contractors. The motion to recommit restates what the underlying bill requires—that intelligence activities are subject to the requirements of MEJA. Nothing in this motion to recommit or the legislation should ever be construed to authorize, condone or legitimize the abuse of prisoners during detention or interrogations. It is with this understanding alone that I support this motion to recommit.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROB WIGTON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 15, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rob Wigton, the incoming President of the Nevada Association of REALTORS.

Mr. Wigton's career as a realtor started in 1995 when he began working at CENTURY 21 Clark Properties. In his first three years, he became one of the company's top producing agents. Then in 1998, he was offered an opportunity to purchase an interest with the company. In 2000, he joined Patty Clark and Shele Pandl and built an 18,000 square foot ''Real Estate Mall'' which housed many necessary services in real estate such as sales and property management, mortgage brokerage, and homeowner's insurance. This innovative idea has become a model in the real estate industry and remains one of the most ground-breaking ideas in Nevada real estate today.

Mr. Wigton has been actively involved in his local realtor board, serving as the chair of multiple committees and as the president of the board. He has also been actively involved in the Sierra Nevada Association of REALTORS and the Nevada Association of REALTORS.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Rob Wigton. His hard work and dedication to the Nevada REALTORS Association is to be admired, and I wish him well in his upcoming term as President.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, October 16, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 17

9:30 a.m.
Environment and Public Works
Superfund and Environmental Health Subcommittee
To hold oversight hearings to examine the federal Superfund Program's activities to protect public health.
SD–406

Veterans' Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense collaboration, focusing on the report of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors, the report of the Veterans Disability Benefit Commission, and other related reports.
SD–562

10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled ''Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act of 2007,'' an original bill entitled ''Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007,'' and an original bill entitled ''Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2007.''
SD–538

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine consumer wireless issues.
SR–253

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael B. Mukasey, of New York, to be Attorney General.
SH–216

10:30 a.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Department of Homeland Security, focusing on contractors and the work of the government.
SD–342

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the digital television transition, focusing on government and industry perspectives.
SR–253

Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel V. Speckhard, of Wisconsin, to be Ambassador to Greece, Thomas F. Stephenson, of California, to be Ambassador to the Portuguese Republic, and Vincent Obsitnik, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Slovak Republic.
SD–419

OCTOBER 18

9:30 a.m.
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine a parliamentary perspective of challenges facing today's Europe.
B–318RHOB

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Transportation.
SR–253

Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine lead and children's health.
SD–406

Finance
To hold hearings to examine international trade, focusing on import health and safety for today and the future.
SD–215

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine politics in government, focusing on the scope and enforcement of the Hatch Act.
SD–342

2:30 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Science, Technology, and Innovation Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine science parks, focusing on bolstering United States competitiveness.
SR–253

Intelligence
Closed business meeting to markup pending intelligence matters.
SH–219

3 p.m.
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Ellen C. Williams, of Kentucky, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service.
SD–342

OCTOBER 23

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the efficacy of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program, focusing on our Cold War heroes.
SD–430

OCTOBER 24

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine to consider pending legislation.
SD–562

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the future of radio.
SR–253

OCTOBER 25

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gregory F. Jacob, of New Jersey, to be Solicitor, and Howard Radzely, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary, both of the Department of Labor.
SD–430

OCTOBER 31

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine vocational rehabilitation.
SD–562

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine universal telephone service.
SR–253

NOVEMBER 7

10 a.m.
Rules and Administration
To hold hearings to examine the Government Accountability Office report focusing on funding challenges and facilities maintenance at the Smithsonian Institution.
SR–301

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S12831–S12884

Measures Introduced: Seven bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2158–2164, and S. Res. 345–346. **Page S12863**

Measures Reported:

Reported on Tuesday, October 9, during the adjournment: S. 805, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to assist countries in sub-Saharan Africa in the effort to achieve internationally recognized goals in the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS and other major diseases and the reduction of maternal and child mortality by improving human health care capacity and improving retention of medical health professionals in sub-Saharan Africa, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 110–192)

S. 968, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide increased assistance for the prevention, treatment, and control of tuberculosis, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 110–193)

H.R. 1678, to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture. (S. Rept. No. 110–194) **Page S12863**

Reported on Monday, October 15: S. 1839, to require periodic reports on claims related to acts of terrorism against Americans perpetrated or supported by the Government of Libya. (S. Rept. No. 110–195)

S. 2020, to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2010, to rename the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 as the ''Tropical Forest and Coral Conservation Act of 2007''. (S. Rept. No. 110–196)

S. 680, to ensure proper oversight and accountability in Federal contracting, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Measures Passed:

Fire Prevention Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 345, supporting the work of firefighters to educate and protect the Nation's communities, and the goals and ideals of Fire Prevention Week, October 7–13, 2007, as designated by the National Fire Protection Association. **Page S12853**

National Teen Driver Safety Week: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 36, supporting the goals and ideals of National Teen Driver Safety Week, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S12853**

Measures Considered:

Commerce and Justice, and Science Appropriations Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of H.R. 3093, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S12835–53, S12853–58

Adopted:

Mikulski Modified Amendment No. 3309, to provide that certain funds be available for the development of educational activities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics related to the civilian space program. **Page S12844**

Mikulski (for Lautenberg) Modified Amendment No. 3251, to provide funds for the National Research Council study on acidification of the oceans as authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006. **Page S12844**

Mikulski (for Levin) Amendment No. 3275, to require the FBI to submit an annual report to Congress regarding the length of time taken by the FBI to conduct background checks. **Page S12844**

Mikulski (for McCaskill/Mikulski) Amendment No. 3247, to require the Departments, agencies and commissions to establish and maintain on their website homepages a direct link to the websites of their Inspectors General. **Pages S12844–45**

Mikulski (for Obama/Durbin) Amendment No. 3234, to provide that none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to enter into a contract in an amount greater than $5,000,000 or to award a grant in excess of such amount unless the prospective contractor or grantee

makes certain certifications regarding Federal tax liability. **Page S12845**

Mikulski (for Pryor) Amendment No. 3263, to establish a pilot program for digital and wireless networks to advance online higher education opportunities for minority students. **Pages S12845–46**

Mikulski (for Shelby) Amendment No. 3271, of a perfecting nature. **Page S12846**

Mikulski (for Shelby) Amendment No. 3272, relative to the review of IT and 2010 Census-related activities at the Bureau of the Census. **Page S12846**

Mikulski (for Shelby) Amendment No. 3273, of a perfecting nature. **Page S12846**

Mikulski (for Shelby) Amendment No. 3288, to provide transparency and accountability in funding for conferences and meetings of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. **Pages S12846–47**

Mikulski (for Coburn) Amendment No. 3318, to provide additional transparency and accountability in funding for conferences and meetings of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. **Page S12847**

By 85 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. 364), Brown Modified Amendment No. 3260, to prohibit the use of any funds made available in this Act in a manner that is inconsistent with the trade remedy laws of the United States. **Pages S12835, S12839, S12849–50**

Casey (for Biden) Modified Amendment No. 3256, to appropriate an additional $110,000,000 for community-oriented policing services and to provide a full offset for such amount. **Pages S12835, S12852**

Mikulski/Collins Amendment No. 3310, to provide for certain public-private competition requirements. **Page S12852**

Mikulski (for Kennedy) Amendment No. 3239, to clarify that student loan repayment assistance does not violate section 209 of title 18, United States Code, relating to Federal salary. **Page S12852**

Pending:

Inouye Amendment No. 3214, to establish a fact-finding Commission to extend the study of a prior Commission to investigate and determine facts and circumstances surrounding the relocation, internment, and deportation to Axis countries of Latin Americans of Japanese descent from December 1941 through February 1948, and the impact of those actions by the United States, and to recommend appropriate remedies. **Page S12835**

Bingaman/Smith Amendment No. 3208, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to clarify that territories and Indian tribes are eligible to receive grants for confronting the use of methamphetamine. **Pages S12842–44**

Vitter Amendment No. 3277, to prohibit funds from being used in contravention of section 642(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. **Pages S12850–52**

Thune Amendment No. 3317, to provide, in a fiscally responsible manner, additional funding for United States attorneys to prosecute violent crimes in Indian country. **Page S12854**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

Mikulski Amendment No. 3233, to provide additional funding for the Office on Violence Against Women, previously agreed to on Thursday, October 4, 2007, was modified by unanimous consent. **Page S12839**

Mikulski (for Reid) Amendment No. 3225, to require an analysis of the methods for collecting data regarding the status of the United States economy and a determination of whether the current data results in an overstatement of United States economic growth, domestic manufacturing output, and productivity, previously agreed to on Thursday, October 4, 2007, was modified by unanimous consent. **Page S12840**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 11 a.m., on Tuesday, October 16, 2007. **Page S12884**

Executive Reports of Committees: Senate received the following executive report of a committee:

Report to accompany Protocol to Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation with Denmark (Treaty Doc. 108–8) (Ex. Rept. 110–1). **Page S12863**

Messages from the House: **Page S12862**

Measures Referred: **Pages S12862–63**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S12863**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S12863**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S12863–66**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S12866–74**

Additional Statements: **Pages S12861–62**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S12874–84**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—364) **Page S12850**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 7:43 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 16, 2007. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S12884.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 12 public bills, H.R. 3825–3836; and 7 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 234; and H. Res. 738–740, 743–745, were introduced. **Pages H11547–48**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H11548–49**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1424, to amend section 712 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, section 2705 of the Public Health Service Act, and section 9812 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require equity in the provision of mental health and substance-related disorder benefits under group health plans, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–374, Pt. 1);

H.R. 1424, to amend section 712 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, section 2705 of the Public Health Service Act, and section 9812 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require equity in the provision of mental health and substance-related disorder benefits under group health plans, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–374, Pt. 2);

H.R. 20, to provide for research on, and services for individuals with, postpartum depression and psychosis, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–375);

H.R. 507, to establish a grant program to provide vision care to children, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–376);

H.R. 970, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the distribution of the drug dextromethorphan, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–377);

H.R. 1727, to enhance and further research into paralysis and to improve rehabilitation and the quality of life for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–378);

H.R. 2295, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–379);

H.R. 2868, to eliminate the exemption from State regulation for certain securities designated by national securities exchanges (H. Rept. 110–380);

H.R. 1567, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide increased assistance for the prevention, treatment, and control of tuberculosis, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–381, Pt. 1);

H. Res. 741, providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 734) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the withholding of information relating to corruption in Iraq (H. Rept. 110–382); and

H. Res. 742, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2102) to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media (H. Rept. 110–383). **Page H11547**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Hirono to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H11497**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:32 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H11497**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Congratulating the State of Israel on chairing a United Nations committee for the first time in history: H. Res. 624, amended, to congratulate the State of Israel on chairing a United Nations committee for the first time in history; **Pages H11498–H11501**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "Congratulating the State of Israel on chairing a United Nations committee for the first time in history, and for other purposes.". **Page H11501**

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the Government of Syria's continued interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon: H. Res. 738, to express the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the Government of Syria's continued interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 375 yeas to 5 nays with 1 voting "present", Roll No. 961; **Pages H11501–04, H11531**

Expressing the sense of Congress that it is the goal of the United States that, not later than January 1, 2025, the agricultural, forestry, and working land of the United States should provide from renewable resources not less than 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States and continue to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber: H. Con. Res. 25, to express the sense of Congress that it is the goal of the United States that, not later than January 1, 2025, the agricultural, forestry, and working land of the United States should provide from renewable resources not less than 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States and continue to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber; **Pages H11504–07**

Louisiana Armed Services Veterans Post Office Designation Act: H.R. 2089, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 701 Loyola Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the "Louisiana Armed Services Veterans Post Office", by a ⅔ yea-and nay vote of 383 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 962; **Pages H11507–08, H11531–32**

Nate DeTample Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 3297, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 950 West Trenton Avenue in Morrisville, Pennsylvania, as the "Nate DeTample Post Office Building"; **Pages H11508–09**

Wallace S. Hartsfield Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 3572, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4320 Blue Parkway in Kansas City, Missouri, as the "Wallace S. Hartsfield Post Office Building"; **Pages H11509–10**

Melanie Blocker-Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act: H.R. 20, amended, to provide for research on, and services for individuals with, postpartum depression and psychosis, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 382 yeas to 3 nays, Roll No. 963; **Pages H11511–13, H11532–33**

Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act: H.R. 1727, amended, to enhance and further research into paralysis and to improve rehabilitation and the quality of life for persons living with paralysis and other physical disabilities; **Pages H11516–19**

Supporting the goals and ideals of a Long-Term Care Awareness Week: H. Con. Res. 133, to support the goals and ideals of a Long-Term Care Awareness Week; **Pages H11519–21**

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Cancer Research Month: H. Res. 448, to express the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Cancer Research Month; **Pages H11521–22**

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to Diamond-Blackfan Anemia: H. Res. 524, amended, to express the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to Diamond-Blackfan Anemia; **Pages H11524–26**

Dextromethorphan Distribution Act of 2007: H.R. 970, amended, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the distribution of the drug dextromethorphan; and **Pages H11526–27**

Vision Care for Kids Act of 2007: H.R. 507, amended, to establish a grant program to provide vision care to children. **Pages H11527–30**

Recess: The House recessed at 3:47 p.m. and reconvened at 4:02 p.m. **Pages H11510–11**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:49 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H11530**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed until Tuesday, October 16th:

ALS Registry Act: H.R. 2295, amended, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of an Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Registry and **Pages H11513–16**

Recognizing the need to pursue research into the causes, a treatment, and an eventual cure for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, supporting the goals and ideals of National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week: H. Con. Res. 182, to recognize the need to pursue research into the causes, a treatment, and an eventual cure for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and to support the goals and ideals of National Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week. **Pages H11522–24**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H11531, H11531–32, and H11532–33. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Committee Meetings

NATION'S FOOD SUPPLY—CAN THE FDA ASSURE SAFETY AND SECURITY

Committee on Energy and Commerce: On October 11, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations continued hearings entitled "Diminished Capacity: Can the FDA Assure the Safety and Security of the Nation's Food Supply?—Part III." Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Health and Human Services: David W. K. Assistant Commissioner, Food Protection; Margaret O'K. Glavin, Associate Commissioner, Regulatory Affairs, both with the FDA; and Richard Raymond, M.D., Under Secretary for Food Safety, Food Safety and Inspection Service; Martin F. Martin, Analyst in Asian Trade and Finance Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division, CRS, Library of Congress; and a public witness.

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a voice vote, a structured rule providing for one hour of debate on H.R. 2102, Free Flow of Information Act of 2007, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions of the bill.

The rule makes in order only the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report if offered by Representative Boucher or his designee. The amendment shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question, shall be considered as read, and shall be debatable for ten minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. The rule waives all points of order against the amendment printed in this report except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Finally, the rule permits the Chair, during consideration of the bill in the House, to postpone further consideration of the bill to a time designated by the Speaker. Testimony was heard from Representatives Boucher, Smith of Texas and Pence.

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a voice vote, a closed rule providing one hour of debate in the House on H. Res. 734, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the withholding of information relating to corruption in Iraq, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the resolution and provides that the resolution shall be considered as read. The rule provides one motion to recommit which may not contain instructions. Testimony was heard from Chairman Waxman and Representative Tom Davis of Virginia.

Joint Meetings

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: On Thursday, October 11, 2007, Commission concluded a hearing to examine United States and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE) efforts to combat human trafficking for forced labor purposes, after receiving testimony from Mark P. Lagon, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Bureau of International Organization Affairs; Charlotte M. Ponticelli, Deputy Under Secretary of Labor for International Affairs; Michael E. Feinberg, Acting Director, Office of International Affairs, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security; Eva Biaudet, OSCE Special Representative, Helsinki, Finland; Roger Plant, Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour, Geneva, Switzerland; and Kevin Bales, Free the Slaves, Washington, D.C.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D1309)*

S. 1983, to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to renew and amend the provisions for the enhanced review of covered pesticide products, to authorize fees for certain pesticide products, and to expend and improve the collection of maintenance fees. Signed on October 9, 2007. (Public Law 110–94)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2007

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) efforts and progress on H.R. 1, "Implementing the Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007", 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold closed briefings to examine issues relative to security in the Persian Gulf, 11:45 a.m., S–407, Capitol.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the Security and Accountability For Every (SAFE) Port Act (Public Law 109–347) one year after its enactment, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security, to hold hearings to examine improving financial and business management at the Department of Defense, 3:15 p.m., SD–342.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of October 15 through October 20, 2007

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, October 16, 2007, at 11:00 a.m., Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 3093, Commerce and Justice, and Science Appropriations Act.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: October 17, business meeting to consider an original bill entitled ''Sudan Accountability and Divestment Act of 2007'', an original bill entitled ''Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007'', and an original bill entitled ''Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2007'', 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: October 16, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) efforts and progress on H.R. 1, ''Implementing the Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007'', 10 a.m., SR–253.

October 17, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine consumer wireless issues, 10 a.m., SR–253.

October 17, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the digital television transition, focusing on government and industry perspectives, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

October 18, Full Committee, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Transportation, 10 a.m., SR–253.

October 18, Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Innovation, to hold hearings to examine science parks, focusing on bolstering United States competitiveness, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: October 17, Subcommittee on Superfund and Environmental Health, to hold oversight hearings to examine the federal Superfund Program's activities to protect public health, 9:30 a.m., SD–406.

October 18, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine lead and children's health, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: October 18, to hold hearings to examine international trade, focusing on import health and safety for today and the future, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: October 16, to hold closed briefings to examine issues relative to security in the Persian Gulf, 11:45 a.m., S–407, Capitol.

October 17, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel V. Speckhard, of Wisconsin, to be Ambassador to Greece, Thomas F. Stephenson, of California, to be Ambassador to the Portuguese Republic, and Vincent Obsitnik, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Slovak Republic, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: October 16, to hold hearings to examine the Security and Accountability For Every (SAFE) Port Act (Public Law 109–347) one year after its enactment, 10 a.m., SD–342.

October 16, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security, to hold hearings to examine improving financial and business management at the Department of Defense, 3:15 p.m., SD–342.

October 17, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Department of Homeland Security, focusing on contractors and the work of the government, 10:30 a.m., SD–342.

October 18, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine politics in government, focusing on the scope and enforcement of the Hatch Act, 10 a.m., SD–342.

October 18, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Ellen C. Williams, of Kentucky, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, 3 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: October 17, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Michael B. Mukasey, of New York, to be Attorney General, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: October 17, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense collaboration, focusing on the report of the President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors, the report of the Veterans Disability Benefit Commission, and other related reports, 9:30 a.m., SD–562.

Select Committee on Intelligence: October 16, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

October 18, Full Committee, closed business meeting to mark up pending intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, October 18, hearing to review structural changes that are taking place in the agricultural economy and their impacts, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Armed Services, October 16, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on incentives, benefits, and medical care for federal civilian employees deployed to combat zones, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

October 18, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on measuring and increasing the effectiveness of Provincial Reconstruction Teams, 10 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, October 18, hearing on the Tax Code and Health Insurance Coverage, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Labor, October 18, to mark up the following bills: H.R., 3796, Early Warning and Health Care for Workers Affected by Globalization Act; and H.R. 3685, Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2007, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, October 16, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 1236, To make permanent the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a special postage stamp to support breast cancer research; and H.R. 1424, Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act of 2007, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

October 16, Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Internet, hearing entitled ''Status of the DTV Transition—Part 2,'' 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, October 16, Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, to continue hearings on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

October 17, Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade and Technology, hearing on U.S.-Russia Economic Relationship: Implications of the Yukos Affair, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

October 17, Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, hearing on The Impacts of Late Housing Payments on Tenants and Owners in the Project-Based Rental Assistance Program, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, October 17, Subcommittee on Asia, Pacific and the Global Environment, hearing on the Crisis in Burma: Can the U.S. Bring about a Peaceful Resolution? 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

October 18, full Committee, hearing on International Trafficking in Persons: Taking Action to Eliminate Modern Day Slavery, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, October 16, Subcommittee on Transportation Security, and Infrastructure Protection, hearing entitled ''Aviation Security: Are We Truly Protected?'' 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

October 17, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity and Science, and Technology, hearing entitled ''The Cyber Threat To Control Systems: Stronger Regulations Are Necessary To Secure the Electric Grid,'' 2 p.m., 311 Cannon.

October 18, full Committee, hearing entitled ''Homeland Security Failures: TWIC Examined,'' 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, October 16, Subcommittee on Elections, hearing on Expanding and Improving Opportunities to Vote by Mail or Absentee, 2 p.m., 1310 Longworth.

October 17, full Committee, to mark up H.R. 3690, U.S. Capitol Police and Library of Congress Police Merger Implementation Act of 2007, followed by an oversight hearing on The Capitol Visitor Center: the Visitor Experience, 11 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, October 16, hearing on Jena 6 and the Role of Federal Intervention in Hate Crimes and Race-Related Violence in Public Schools, 9:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

October 17, full Committee, hearing on Sex Crimes and the Internet, 9:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

October 18, Task Force on Antitrust and Competition Policy, hearing on the Impact of our Antitrust Laws on Community Pharmacies and their Patients, 9:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

October 18, Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property, hearing on International Piracy: The Challenges of Protecting Intellectual Property in the 21st Century, 10 a.m., 2237 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, October 16, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans, hearing on H.R. 1497, Legal Timber Protection Act, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

October 16, Subcommittee on Water and Power, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 123, To authorize appropriations for the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund; H.R. 236, North Bay Water Reuse Program Act of 2007; H.R. 2085, McGee Creek Project Pipeline and Associated Facilities Conveyance Act; and H.R. 2498, To provide for a study regarding development of a comprehensive integrated regional water management plan that would address four general areas of regional water planning in both the San Joaquin River Hydrologic Region and the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region, inclusive of Kern, Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin Counties, California, and to provide that such plan be the guide by which those counties use as a mechanism to address and solve long-term water needs in a sustainable and equitable manner, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

October 18, full Committee, to mark up H.R. 2262, Hardrcok Mining and Reclamation Act of 2007, 11 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

October 18, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, hearing on H.R. 1975, Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, 2 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, October 16, Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, Census and District of Columbia, hearing on Doing Time: Are DC Prisoners Being Adequately Prepared for Re-Entry? 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

October 16, Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census and National Archives, hearing on Critical Budget Issues Affecting the 2010 Census, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

October 18, full Committee, hearing on Black Carbon and the Arctic, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

October 18, Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization and Procurement, hearing on Technology for Secure Identity Documents, 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, October 16, to consider H.R. 3773, RESTORE Act of 2007, 2:30 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Science and Technology, October 16, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 3776, Energy Storage Technology Advancement Act of 2007, and H.R. 3775, Industrial Energy Efficiency Research and Development Act of 2007, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

October 17, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, hearing on Disappearing Polar Bears and Permafrost: Is a Global Warming Tipping Point Embedded in the Ice? 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

October 17, Subcommittee on Research and Science Education, hearing on Women in Academic Science and Engineering, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, October 17, hearing entitled ''Small Business Energy Priorities,'' 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

October 17, Subcommittee on Regulations, Health Care and Trade, hearing on SGR formula, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

October 18, full Committee, hearing on the FCC's 700 MHz Wireless Spectrum Auction, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, October 16, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, hearing on Railroad-Owned Solid Waste Transload Facilities, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

October 16, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing on The Raw Sewage Overflow Community Right-to Know Act, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

October 17, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing on NextGen: The FAA's Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (AD–B) Contract, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

October 17, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing on Mariner Education and Work Force, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

October 18, full Committee, hearing on the 35th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act: Successes and Future Challenges, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, October 16, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation, hearing on Disability Claims Ratings and Benefits Disparities within the Veterans' Benefits Administration, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

October 17, full Committee, hearing on the Long-Term Costs of the Current Conflicts, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

October 18, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing on Updating the Montgomery G.I. Bill, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

October 18, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on Health Care Professionals—Recruitment and Retention, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, October 16, Subcommittee on Health and the Subcommittee on Oversight, joint hearing on Medicare Advantage: Required Audits of Limited Value, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

October 17, Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures and the Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, joint hearing on the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2007, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, October 16, full Committee, executive, briefing on Amerithax, 10:30 a.m., H–405 Capitol.

October 16, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis, and Counterintelligence, executive, hearing on CIA Activity, 2 p.m., H–405 Capitol.

October 17, full Committee, executive, briefing on Hot Spots, 8:45 a.m., H–405 Capitol.

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, October 18, hearing entitled ''Energy and Global Warming Solutions for Vulnerable Communities,'' 11 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Select Committee to Investigate the Voting Irregularities of August 2, 2007, October 18, briefing on Voting in the House of Representatives—The Rostrum and the Electronic Voting System: a Walkthrough by the Clerk of the House, 8 a.m., House Floor.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: October 18, to hold hearings to examine parliamentary perspective of challenges facing today's Europe, 9:30 a.m., 318–BRHOB.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

10 a.m., Tuesday, October 16

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 60 minutes), Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 3093, Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Act.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

9 a.m., Tuesday, October 16

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of the following suspensions: (1) H.R. 3678—Internet Tax Freedom Act Amendments Act of 2007; (2) H. Res. 725—Recognizing the 35th anniversary of the Clean Water Act; (3) H. Res. 549—Recognizing the importance of America's Waterway Watch program; (4) H. Res. 716—Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to raising awareness and enhancing the state of computer security in the United States, and supporting the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month; (5) H. Con. Res. 225—Honoring the 50th anniversary of the dawn of the Space Age, and the ensuing 50 years of productive and peaceful space activities; (6) H. Res. 736—Honoring the 60th anniversary of the aeronautics research accomplishments embodied in the breaking of the sound barrier; and (7) H. Con. Res. 222—Commending NASA Langley Research Center in Virginia on the celebration of its 90th anniversary on October 26 and 27, 2007. Consideration of H.R. 2102—Free Flow of Information Act of 2007 (Subject to a Rule) and H. Res. 734—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the withholding of information relating to corruption in Iraq (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Altmire, Jason, Pa., E2138
Bachus, Spencer, Ala., E2137
Bordallo, Madeleine Z., Guam, E2138
Capps, Lois, Calif., E2129, E2129
Cooper, Jim, Tenn., E2133
Edwards, Chet, Tex., E2136
Feeney, Tom, Fla., E2130
Garrett, Scott, N.J., E2134, E2136
Goodlatte, Bob, Va., E2136
Grijalva, Raúl M., Ariz., E2131
Johnson, Sam, Tex., E2137
Kanjorski, Paul E., Pa., E2132
Kildee, Dale E., Mich., E2133
Levin, Sander M., Mich., E2134
Lewis, John, Ga., E2129
Lewis, Ron, Ky., E2133, E2137
Lofgren, Zoe, Calif., E2135
McCollum, Betty, Minn., E2132
Mack, Connie, Fla., E2133
Meek, Kendrick B., Fla., E2134
Mica, John L., Fla., E2137
Miller, Jeff, Fla., E2132
Ortiz, Solomon P., Tex., E2130
Paul, Ron, Tex., E2136
Payne, Donald M., N.J., E2131
Poe, Ted, Tex., E2134, E2135
Porter, Jon C., Nev., E2138, E2138, E2139
Radanovich, George, Calif., E2127, E2128, E2129, E2130, E2131
Rodriguez, Ciro D., Tex., E2134
Schakowsky, Janice D., Ill., E2139
Schiff, Adam B., Calif., E2127, E2128
Sessions, Pete, Tex., E2127
Terry, Lee, Nebr., E2132
Thompson, Mike, Calif., E2128, E2128
Wolf, Frank R., Va., E2135

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