

General oversight of programs targeted toward urban and rural economic growth as well as general federal government entrepreneurial development programs; oversight of agricultural issues; and oversight of energy issues.

Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight

Oversight of SBA Administration, Management, and Agency Practices.

Oversight of activities by the Office of the Inspector General at SBA.

12. COMMITTEE STAFF

(A) Majority Staff: The employees of the committee, except those assigned to the minority as provided below, shall be appointed and assigned, and may be removed by the Chairwoman. The Chairwoman shall fix their remuneration, and they shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Chairwoman.

(B) Minority Staff: The employees of the committee assigned to the minority shall be appointed and assigned, and their remuneration determined, as the Ranking Minority Member of the committee shall determine.

(C) Subcommittee Staff: The Chairwoman and Ranking Minority Member of the full committee shall endeavor to ensure that sufficient staff is made available to each subcommittee to carry out its responsibilities under the rules of the committee.

13. POWERS AND DUTIES OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the full committee on all matters referred to it. Subcommittee chairmen shall set meeting and hearing dates after approval of the Chairwoman of the full committee. Meetings and hearings of subcommittees shall not be scheduled to occur simultaneously with meetings or hearings of the full committee.

14. RECORDS

The committee shall keep a complete record of all actions, which shall include a record of the votes on any question on which a record vote is demanded. The result of each subcommittee record vote, together with a description of the matter voted upon, shall promptly be made available to the full committee. A record of such votes shall be made available for inspection by the public at reasonable times in the offices of the committee.

The committee shall keep a complete record of all committee and subcommittee activity which, in the case of any meeting or hearing transcript, shall include a substantially verbatim account of remarks actually made during the proceedings, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks involved.

The records of the committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available in accordance with rule VII of the Rules of the House. The Chairwoman of the full committee shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of the full committee of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of rule VII of the House, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the committee for a determination of the written request of any member of the committee.

15. ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED OR SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Access to classified or sensitive information supplied to the committee and attendance at closed sessions of the committee or its subcommittees shall be limited to members and necessary committee staff and stenographic reporters who have appropriate security clearance when the Chairwoman de-

termines that such access or attendance is essential to the functioning of the committee.

The procedures to be followed in granting access to those hearings, records, data, charts, and files of the committee which involve classified information or information deemed to be sensitive shall be as follows:

(A) Only Members of the House of Representatives and specifically designated committee staff of the Committee on Small Business may have access to such information.

(B) Members who desire to read materials that are in the possession of the committee should notify the clerk of the committee.

(C) The clerk will maintain an accurate access log, which identifies the circumstances surrounding access to the information, without revealing the material examined.

(D) If the material desired to be reviewed is material which the committee or subcommittee deems to be sensitive enough to require special handling, before receiving access to such information, individuals will be required to sign an access information sheet acknowledging such access and that the individual has read and understands the procedures under which access is being granted.

(E) Material provided for review under this rule shall not be removed from a specified room within the committee offices.

(F) Individuals reviewing materials under this rule shall make certain that the materials are returned to the proper custodian.

(G) No reproductions or recordings may be made of any portion of such materials.

(H) The contents of such information shall not be divulged to any person in any way, form, shape, or manner, and shall not be discussed with any person who has not received the information in an authorized manner.

(I) When not being examined in the manner described herein, such information will be kept in secure safes or locked file cabinets in the committee offices.

(J) These procedures only address access to information the committee or a subcommittee deems to be sensitive enough to require special treatment.

(K) If a member of the House of Representatives believes that certain sensitive information should not be restricted as to dissemination or use, the member may petition the committee or subcommittee to so rule. With respect to information and materials provided to the committee by the executive branch, the classification of information and materials as determined by the executive branch shall prevail unless affirmatively changed by the committee or the subcommittee involved, after consultation with the appropriate executive agencies.

(L) Other materials in the possession of the committee are to be handled in accordance with the normal practices and traditions of the committee.

16. OTHER PROCEDURES

The Chairwoman of the full committee may establish such other procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the foregoing rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the committee.

17. AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE RULES

The rules of the committee may be modified, amended or repealed by a majority of the members, at a meeting specifically called for such purpose, but only if written notice of the proposed change has been provided to each such member at least 3 days before the time of the meeting.

18. BUDGET AND TRAVEL

(A) From the amount provided to the Committee in the primary expense resolution adopted by the U.S. House of Representatives for the 110th Congress, the Chair-

woman, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, shall designate one-third of the budget under the direction of the Ranking Minority Member for the purposes of minority staff, travel expenses of minority staff and members, and minority office expenses.

(B) The Chairwoman may authorize travel in connection with activities or subject matters under the general jurisdiction of the Committee.

(C) The Ranking Minority Member may authorize travel for any minority member or minority committee staff member in connection with activities or subject matters under the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Before such travel, there shall be submitted to the Chairwoman in writing the following at least seven calendar days prior: (a) The purpose of the travel; (b) The dates during which the travel is to occur; (c) The names of the States or countries to be visited and the length of time spent in each; and (d) The names of members and staff of the committee participating in such travel.

At the conclusion of such travel, a summary of the activity and its accomplishments shall be provided to the Chairwoman within ten calendar days.

19. COMMITTEE WEBSITE

The Chairwoman shall maintain an official Committee website for the purpose of furthering the Committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about the Committee's activities to Committee members and other Members of the House. The Ranking Minority Members may maintain a similar website for the same purpose, including communicating information about the activities of the minority to Committee members and other Members of the House.

20. VICE CHAIR

Pursuant to House Rules, the Chairwoman shall designate a member of the majority party to serve as Vice Chairman of the Committee. The Vice Chairman shall preside at any meeting or hearing during the temporary absence of the Chairwoman. If the Chairwoman and Vice Chairman are not present at any meeting or hearing, the ranking member of the majority who is present shall preside at the meeting or hearing.

MILITARY SUCCESS IN IRAQ
COMMEMORATION ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced legislation, with the support of a number of my colleagues, entitled the "Military Success in Iraq Commemoration Act of 2007." This legislation is borne from my deeply held belief that we must commend our military for their exemplary performance and success in Iraq. This legislation recognizes the extraordinary performance of the Armed Forces in achieving the military objectives of the United States in Iraq, encourages the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe a national day of celebration commemorating the military success of American troops in Iraq, and provides other affirmative and tangible expressions of appreciation from a grateful Nation to all veterans of the war in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, as lawmakers continue to debate U.S. policy in Iraq, our heroic young men and women continue to willingly sacrifice life and limb on the battlefield. Our troops in Iraq

did everything we asked them to do. We sent them overseas to fight an army; they are now caught in the midst of an insurgent civil war and continuing political upheaval. The United States will not and should not permanently prop up the Iraqi government and military. U.S. military involvement in Iraq will come to an end, and, when U.S. forces leave, the responsibility for securing their nation will fall to Iraqis themselves. However, whether or not my colleagues agree that the time has come to withdraw our American forces from Iraq, I believe that all of us in Congress should be of one accord that our troops deserve our sincere thanks and congratulations.

I very strongly believe that our Nation has a moral obligation to ensure that our veterans are treated with the respect and dignity that they deserve. One reason we are the greatest Nation in the world is because of the brave young men and women fighting for us in Iraq and Afghanistan. They deserve honor, they deserve dignity, and they deserve to know that a grateful Nation cares about them.

The legislation that I introduced today, the Military Success in Iraq Commemoration Act of 2007, pays fitting tribute to the valor, devotion, and heroism of those who fought in Iraq. First, this legislation provides an express acknowledgment by the Congress that the objectives for which the Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) resolution of 2002 authorized the use of force in Iraq were achieved by the Armed Forces of the United States, which performed magnificently in battle. It specifically recounts several notable achievements of the Armed Forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In addition, this legislation authorizes the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the American people to observe a national day of celebration commemorating the Armed Forces' military success in Iraq. This will help ensure that the Iraq War does not suffer the fate of other open-ended engagements like the Korean War, which is often called the "Forgotten War." The soldiers who have served valiantly in Iraq deserve to be recognized and lauded when they return home.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation also authorizes funds to be appropriated and awarded by the Secretary of Defense to State and local governments to assist in defraying the costs of conducting suitable "Success in Iraq" homecoming and commemoration activities and in creating appropriate memorials honoring those who lost their lives in the war. Many of the casualties in the Iraq War come from small towns and villages in rural or economically depressed areas. The local governments are already facing substantial fiscal pressures and need help coming up with the necessary funds.

Finally, my legislation creates a program and authorizes funds to be appropriated pursuant to which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall award to each veteran of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom a grant of \$5,000 to facilitate the transition to civilian life. We don't want veterans to end up homeless or unemployed or unable to take their kids on a vacation or start a business. This \$5,000 bonus is but a small token of the affection the people of the United States have for those who risked their lives so that we may continue to live in freedom.

Mr. Speaker, outside my office there is a poster-board with the names and faces of

those heroes from Houston, Texas who have lost their lives wearing the uniform of our country. To date, the U.S. Department of Defense has confirmed 3838 casualties in Iraq. It is humbling to recognize how lucky we are to live in a Nation where so many brave young men and women volunteer knowing they may be called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice so that their countrymen can enjoy the blessings of liberty. The intent of my legislation is to pay fitting tribute to these great men and women and to let them know they will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to urge all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the efforts of our brave men and women in uniform and to ensure that they can successfully transition to civilian with dignity. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 110TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KLEIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to be here this evening along with my colleagues from our freshman class. It is Halloween, and we are happy to be here. We know that our friends and neighbors are celebrating the holiday with their families, but we are going to talk about a little trick or treat, if you will, tonight. In addition, we are going to talk about some things that tie into a little bit of a Halloween theme and what is important in America right now. Back on the streets and back in the homes of the families that are very, very concerned about our country and the opportunities that their children have, taking care of their parents and grandparents, these are things that we recognize as all Members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans, that we have a responsibility to work with our businesses and our community leaders and our families to make sure that we make life a little bit better.

Before I get into some of the details, I am going to yield to the president of our freshman class, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ).

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to be here tonight with these great legislators to do several things. One is to reiterate the responsibilities of the first branch, article I of the Constitution, the House of Representatives and the Senate as co-equal branches of our government, and also to highlight by the use of finally reinstating after 6 years of capitulation to the administration, finally illustrating to the American people what can be done when there is a coequal branch of government.

As my colleague from Florida was speaking about Halloween, our children are home celebrating Halloween. And the President was very clever today when he talked about a bill that he saw disguised as a trick. This bill he talked

about is the SCHIP legislation which has 43 of our Nation's Governors supporting it, 273 Members of the House of Representatives, 68 Senators, and 81 percent of the American public.

What the President does not realize any more is there is a coequal branch of government functioning here. The President also said we have been wasting time. This perception of Congress failing is not something that is done by chance. It is done on message. Many Members know that a former Speaker of this House, Newt Gingrich, when he talked about how to take control of this House, talked about the only way to do so was to destroy the credibility of this institution and to pull Congress down.

Make no mistake, there is very much an idea here of obstructionism, but I want to be very clear: What the President talks about wasting time is things like ensuring the richest, most prosperous nation on Earth provides health care for its most vulnerable citizens, its children. The measure of this society, if it cannot be by what we are willing to do for our children, I am not sure there is another measure. And as we consider ourselves a great Nation, of which we are, the idea that this President would use the idea of fiscal conservatism, after spending trillions and trillions into debt, and wasting, as you heard one of our previous colleagues speak about, money that disappeared, the money that has disappeared in Iraq and the waste on the contractors alone would pay for this bill. And this President asked us not to ask those questions.

Well, if he thinks that looking for fraud, waste and abuse is wasting time, I guess his definition is correct. I would say it is our constitutional authority.

Making college more affordable for middle-class Americans, making homeownership a reality based on fair lending practices, not predatory lending practices. And making sure we care for our veterans and for our soldiers. Those are the things that this Democratic Congress came here to do. We face massive opposition from a President who never even uttered the word "veto" in his first 6 years, but now utters it every single day on legislation that will improve this country. So I am proud to be part of this new class and I am proud to be part of this movement to once again reassert our authority on this.

The President's definition of wasting time is this country's business that we are doing. He simply dislikes it because, as we all here agree, the President has a very different reality of what makes a great Nation. We would argue a great Nation is one that is founded on those principles that were so critically important to the founding of article I of our Constitution which my colleague is shortly going to discuss. I yield back, and I look forward to a lively conversation here about the real progress that is being made.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. I thank the gentleman from Minnesota. I think you