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# Congressional Record

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# House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE).

## DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
*April 16, 2008.*

I hereby appoint the Honorable DIANA DEGETTE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

## PRAYER

Dr. Charles B. Simmons, Memorial Drive United Methodist Church, Houston, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Ever-present God: Humbly we pause to approach You. Help us to come before You in reverence that You may enter into our presence with power.

In this hallowed House, we thank You for these Your servants who now guard its great legislative inheritance and seek to profit the Nation by wise governance. Endow each with a right understanding, pure purposes and sound speech. Enable them to rise above all personal agendas and party zeal to the nobler concerns of the public good. Give them vision and set their hearts afire with large resolves.

Lord, lead them, that in all deliberations they may faithfully discharge the duties of their office and ever promote the health, safety and well-being of all whom they serve, for the good of the United States of America, the blessing of our world, and the glory of Your holy name. In His, we pray. 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 Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska 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.

## WELCOMING DR. CHARLES B. SIMMONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. CULBERSON. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It's my privilege to rise today to honor my pastor and my good friend, Dr. Charles B. Simmons, our chaplain for the day.

Dr. Simmons joins us from my hometown of Houston, Texas, and it is just a thrill to have him here today. Dr. Simmons baptized our daughter, Caroline. He has been our minister for many, many years at Memorial Drive United Methodist Church.

He is joined here today by his wife, Carol; his son, Christopher; and Christopher's wife, Melissa. We are thrilled to have them here. Dr. Simmons and his wife, Carol, also have a son, Jeffrey, who is not here with us today.

Dr. Simmons is serving in his 10th year as senior minister of Memorial Drive United Methodist Church. He is recognized nationally as a dynamic minister, a dedicated pastor and respected leader among Methodists. He led the way at our church to reach out to the people of Louisiana who suffered as a result of the hurricane and helped rescue many, many lives and put many lives back on track after that devastating storm.

Dr. Simmons is a native of Louisiana, a graduate of Centenary College, who earned his master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Emory University, and completed his further graduate study in Geneva, Switzerland, as a Methodist fellow. He has served in a variety of appointments, and his leadership has enriched the lives of our congregation and grown our church now to 7,000 members of Memorial Drive United Methodist Church.

We are very proud to have him here. His leadership has been instrumental in developing The Connection Center, an off-campus site serving as an outpost for ministry with state-of-the-art facilities for senior adult and youth programs. We have also founded, under Dr. Simmons' leadership, a third site at the former Shepherd Drive United Methodist Church which is now in operation as well.

Outside of our local congregation, Dr. Simmons also serves as chair of the Texas Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, a member of the Large Church Initiative Team, and is active in both the administrations of Centenary College and Emory University.

With deep appreciation for his leadership to Memorial Drive United Methodist Church, his devotion to its members and his beneficial efforts to the community at large, it is my privilege to welcome Dr. Simmons and his family to Washington. I am honored to have him here today as our guest chaplain.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain requests for up to



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15 further 1-minute speeches on each side.

## HONORING MARINE LANCE CORPORAL DEAN OPICKA

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

Mr. KAGEN. Madam Speaker, several days ago, Marine Lance Corporal Dean Opicka was killed in action while serving our Nation in Iraq. Dean was 29 years of age and is the third Luxemburg-Casco High School alumnus killed in Iraq.

David and Donna Opicka of Casco, Wisconsin, are the proud parents of Dean, who graduated from Luxemburg-Casco High School in 1997.

Dean joined the Marines in August of 2005 and graduated from boot camp at Camp Pendleton, California, in November. He was a brave member of the Milwaukee-based 2/24 Fox Company.

William Shakespeare, in his play, ''Julius Caesar,'' wrote, ''Cowards die many times before their deaths; the valiant never taste of death but once.''

On behalf of every citizen in these United States I wish to express our sincerest gratitude to Marine Lance Corporal Dean Opicka. To his parents and family, this House of Representatives expresses our deepest regrets on his passing and thanks for his service.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

In honor of Dean Opicka, I respectfully request a moment of silence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All Members will stand and observe a moment of silence.

## IN APPRECIATION OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today in appreciation of the brave men and women of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Earlier this week, I had the opportunity to tour the DEA's anti-meth lab training facility as well as the chance to briefly speak to agent trainees. Meth leaves lives destroyed and communities shaken to the core. These agents have literally devoted their lives to protect our communities and deserve our thanks for their efforts to combat the scourge of illegal drugs.

Though the number of meth labs in America has decreased since 2006, Mexican drug cartels are creating super labs, which produce a huge percentage of the meth in our country. This is why I introduced the Meth Kingpin Elimination Act last year, which would increase penalties on drug manufacturers and smugglers.

Meth abuse and production knows no borders, and I thank the instructors and students at Quantico for taking time to show us how important it truly is to win the war on drugs.

## IRAQ AND OUR TAXES

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, yesterday our constituents filed their tax returns, but I wonder how many American taxpayers realize that the average tax return will be consumed in less than half a second in the Iraq war. When we grant the President the additional $100 billion he is asking in emergency funding for Iraq, we will be spending $5,000 a minute and $12 billion a month in a lost cause.

The American taxpayer is still paying for Iraq's garbage collection, their schools, their health clinics and their roads. When the Iraqi people themselves are running a surplus. They have almost $70 billion in accumulated surplus now.

The last couple of years, they have had $100 billion come in from oil revenue, and they budgeted it at about $55 a barrel. It is now about $112 a barrel. They are generating an enormous surplus that they don't know what to do with, and a whole lot of it is being stolen.

And yet we are paying still to collect their garbage. There is something wrong with this picture and the American taxpayer needs to stand up and speak out about it with a full measure of outrage.

## CRIME

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, according to the Department of Justice, one person is assaulted in the United States every 7.2 seconds, raped every 2.7 minutes and murdered every 31 minutes. That means that in the last hour, 500 Americans will have been assaulted, 22 raped and 2 murdered. Congress can and must do more to protect American families and keep our communities safe.

In this Congress, Republicans have introduced over 100 bills to help Federal, State and local law enforcement officials combat crime. To date, though, only three have been considered.

As we recognize National Crime Victims' Rights Week, Congress should do more than just honor the victims. Let's help law enforcement officials shield an innocent person from assault, protect a woman from rape and save a life.

## TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE ACT, A GOOD GOVERNMENT TAX BILL

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

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, as millions of Members filled out their tax returns this week, many were concerned that their hard-earned tax dollars will be sent straight to Iraq. We have already spent $44 billion rebuilding Iraq, and the war costs our Nation about $12 billion a month.

We have families struggling here at home that can't pay their bills, are losing their homes, don't have health care, and the Bush administration is spending $12 billion a month on a war that shows no end in sight and no plans for success.

Our monthly investment in Iraq translated into approximately $339 million every single day. Taxpayers are probably wondering how could we better invest that money here in the United States. The $339 million we spend in Iraq a day could provide 48,000 homeless veterans with a place to live or we can assure 317,000 kids receive their vaccinations and live a healthy life.

House Democrats vow to fight to ensure that American tax dollars are used to rebuild America, not Iraq.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER IN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a member of the bipartisan Congressional Prayer Caucus to formally acknowledge the importance of prayer in American life and American history.

Today I am honored to launch the first of what I hope will be weekly reminders of our country's need for prayer. I do so by reading a proclamation given by President Ronald Reagan in 1983 when he said, ''From the birth of our Republic, prayer has been vital to the whole fabric of American life.''

As we crossed and settled the continent, built a Nation in freedom, endured war and critical struggles to become a sentinel of liberty, we repeatedly turned to our Maker for strength and guidance in achieving the awesome tasks before us.

Whether at the ordeal of the Revolutionary War, the stormy days of binding the 13 colonies into one country, the Civil War, or other moments of trial over the years, we have turned to God for His help. As we are told in II Chronicles 7:14: ''If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.''

□ 1015

## CCDBG AND HEAD START FUNDING

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

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about increasing support and funding for the Child Care and

Development Block Grant and the Head Start programs. We know these two Federal programs provide critical resources to support our Nation's children, educators and working families.

At a time when almost 12 million children under age 5 are currently in child care, the resources for their care and early education continue to be stretched after 7 straight years of nearly flat funding. The stagnant support for these programs has caused thousands of children to lose child care assistance, and fewer children today attend Head Start programs than 6 years ago.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant and Head Start are proven programs that lead to increased cognitive and social development. The programs greatly improve the ability of children to succeed in school. Increased funding will also promote greater employment among parents through less time missed from work, higher incomes, and reduced rates of turnover.

In my State of Pennsylvania, over 522,000 children under age 6 need care because the parents are hard at work trying to provide their children with opportunities for success. That is why I support increased funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant and the Head Start and Early Start programs. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

## AMERICAN VICTIMS OF HAMAS

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

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, yesterday SHELLEY BERKLEY and I, along with 55 of our Democratic and Republican colleagues, sent a bipartisan letter to President Carter calling on him to cancel his meeting with Hamas leader Khaled Meshal.

The State Department lists Hamas as a foreign terrorist organization, and Hamas terrorists are responsible for the murders of at least 26 American citizens, some of them teenagers, children and infants.

Here are two of the victims, 3-month-old Shmuel Taubenfeld and 3-year-old Tehilla Nathanson. They are the faces of American citizens with their light extinguished by Hamas terrorists.

If you live in Illinois, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Ohio, California, North Carolina, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, or Florida, then Americans from your State have been murdered by Hamas.

President Carter, do not meet with the man who ordered the deaths of our fellow citizens.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

## MCCAIN DOESN'T UNDERSTAND

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, the presumptive Republican nominee for President, John McCain, wasn't kidding when he said he didn't understand the economy. He has proposed a gas tax holiday. Now let's think about it for a minute. Gas today costs three times as much as it did in 1993, but the Federal gas tax hasn't changed since 1993. So what is the cause of the big run-up?

Well, it might be the $40 billion record profit at ExxonMobil and the $400 million exit given to their last CEO. That might be part of it.

It might be the OPEC cartel colluding to drive up the price of oil and restrict demand. Or it could be the hedge fund speculators and others on Wall Street driving up the cost unnecessarily so they can make money.

But the nominee of the Grand Oil Party, the GOP, he's not going to take on Big Oil. He's not going to take on Wall Street. He's not going to take on OPEC. What he is going to do is cut Federal investment in our crumbling infrastructure, put hundreds of thousands of construction workers out of jobs, and condemn even more Americans to being jammed on congested highways that need improvement and bridges that are collapsing where we don't have the money to rebuild.

## HONORING HOMETOWN U.S.A. PROGRAM

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an organization in my district in Leesburg, Florida, that is making a difference for the people of Florida.

Florida's Hometown U.S.A. was formed to instill in Florida's youth the value of volunteer service. Students from across the State are selected each year to participate in the program. Each year five students are selected from elementary school to high school as participants. The volunteers' focus is on helping children and the elderly by providing food, clothes, personal care items, and assistance wherever it is needed.

Each year the organization holds its Florida Hometown U.S.A. pageant, which serves as its main fundraiser. Florida's Hometown U.S.A. program has received recognition for the positive impact and outcome it has achieved in the local communities.

I want to congratulate these fine young volunteers, especially the fine young students who are selected every year, and especially program director Linda Watts, for all she has done over the past 22 years. She has enhanced the community of Leesburg which I represent. Thank you, Linda, for all of your hard work. Keep up your hard work for the program, and God bless you.

## SETBACKS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker and ladies and gentlemen of the House, our bipartisan efforts to isolate terrorism and terrorists and to find a lasting and secure peace in the Middle East got two setbacks this week from sadly predictable sources.

First, the United Nations appointed a human rights inspector by the name of Richard Falk whom my hometown newspaper, the Daily News, correctly called ''the nutty professor'' because of his position, as he goes into this job of overseeing human rights, that the Israelis are like Nazis. This is who they appoint to try to come to a peaceful human rights conclusion in that part of the world.

And then, sadly, we had another chapter in how not to be a former President from Jimmy Carter who goes to the Middle East, and rather than trying to pursue peace, embraces Hamas, the organization responsible for hundreds of rockets falling in Israel.

It is hard to imagine two institutions or two people that could be more of a setback than these two. The United Nations once again shows that they are unfit for their role of trying to find a moderate and lasting peace in that part of world. And, sadly, Jimmy Carter continues to write a chapter about how not to be a former President.

## HONORING THE MEINEKE COMPANY

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

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor the Meineke Company today and their efforts to employ ex-offenders who have participated in the Second Chance Program.

Meineke is one if not the first national company to actively hire ex-offenders returning from prison while also promoting opportunity within the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Through participation in this program, individuals are ready to not only enter but also contribute to the workforce once they have paid their debt to society. Meineke continues to promote participation in the Second Chance Program at all of its franchise meetings, in newsletters, and through a publication called Second Chance Profiles. This periodical is sent out company wide, and chronicles the personal story of employees who have truly exhibited the meaning of a life-changing experience.

I commend Meineke CEO Ken Walker, Director of National Accounts Dave Holland, and Cordell Riley, President

of Tortal, which serves as Meineke's online trading portal. The tireless efforts of these individuals and the commitment of their ex-offenders has spawned an authentic modern day success story.

## REPUBLICAN ECONOMIC POLICIES

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, with bleak news about the economy continuing to mount, it is no surprise that 25 percent of Americans say their economic situation has not improved in the last 5 years, and 31 percent say they have fallen backward. These represent the highest numbers for the Pew Research Center survey since the question was first asked in 1964.

Economic uncertainty within the middle class is a result of President Bush's economic policies. For 6 years, Republicans have offered tax cuts to the wealthy, refused to close corporate tax loopholes, and even defended multibillion dollar tax subsidies for big oil companies.

House Democrats reject an economic policy that showers billions of dollars on unnecessary tax breaks to corporate interests and to millionaires, while middle-class families are ignored. This year's Democratic budget makes middle class tax relief a priority by calling for the extension of middle-income tax cuts, such as the child tax credit and marriage penalty relief.

Democrats have also been working hard to close corporate tax loopholes and end costly waste, fraud and abuse. Madam Speaker, Democrats are fighting to put the Tax Code back on the side of the working family.

## TAX DAY

(Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, yesterday millions of Americans responsibly filed their taxes with the IRS. At the same time, House Democrats pushed legislation for the largest tax increase in history.

While middle-income families are balancing tight budgets and bracing for an economic crunch, Congress is hastily increasing taxes to keep up with Federal spending.

Madam Speaker, we need to complete an overhaul of the tax-and-spend system in Washington. For taxpayers to keep more of their hard-earned money, the key is to tighten government spending overall now. Next, we need to implement a tax system to revive and stimulate the economy for the long term. This involves offering permanent tax relief for married couples, families with children, small businesses, and putting an end to the death tax.

Reforming the tax system through tax relief will boost the economy, increase revenues, and promote job growth.

American families are acting responsibly with their money. We need to do the same.

## CRISIS OF LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, once again this misguided Democrat majority is looking to set a record. But like their tally for broken promises and historic tax increases, this isn't a record of which anyone should be proud. No, Madam Speaker, this Democrat leadership is overseeing the record price of gasoline.

Today, the national average for gas reached $3.44 a gallon, an all-time high. The American people want to know what Congress is going to do about it, but a crisis of leadership in this Congress continues to leave American families struggling to fill up their tank.

Under this leadership, the price at the pump has shot up more than a dollar a gallon in just 16 months. Now on the campaign trail, they talked about a commonsense plan to bring down gasoline prices. Yet instead of easing the pain at the pump, this majority offers only more gas taxes and less domestic production, and the gas bill only rises.

Madam Speaker, the American people demand relief, and their pleas are being ignored. That is the definition of leadership lacking.

## WELCOMING POPE BENEDICT XVI

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

Mr. DENT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome Pope Benedict to the United States for his first visit since becoming Pope in 2005. At this moment, the Pope is at the White House. This historic visit is a significant moment in history for our country, and an important opportunity for the 65 million American Catholics across the country to build a stronger rapport with their spiritual leader.

For one of my constituents, my friend and neighbor, Dr. Brennan Pursell, the Pontiff's visit is particularly special. Although Dr. Pursell has never met the Pope, he shares an intimate connection with him.

Dr. Pursell, a professor of history at DeSales University in the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania, has spent the past 3 years researching and writing about the upbringing, development, and motivations of Joseph Ratzinger, the man we know today as Pope Benedict.

Dr. Pursell's book, ''Benedict of Bavaria, An Intimate Portrait of the Pope and his Homeland,'' tells the story of a gifted intellectual and spiritual man who has been shaped by the rich traditions of Bavarian culture and deep devotion to the Catholic faith.

The portrait that Dr. Pursell paints in his book will help us all understand more about who the Pope is and what informs his perspectives.

I commend my constituents, Dr. Pursell; his wife, Irmgard, who is a German national; their son, Benedict; and daughter, Elena, for their dedication and for Brennan's significant contribution to history and the Catholic faith in capturing the story of Benedict of Bavaria.

I join with my constituents in warmly welcoming the Pope to our great country. I encourage everybody to take a look at this wonderful work ''Benedict of Bavaria'' by Dr. Brennan Pursell, my good friend and neighbor.

## SANCTUARY CITIES SHOULD LOSE FEDERAL FUNDING

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, American taxpayers ought not be footing the bill for sanctuary cities to serve as safe havens for illegal immigrants, especially hardened criminals.

Sanctuary cities do not allow money or resources to be used to enforce Federal immigration laws. Police or other employees cannot inquire about immigration status. An example is San Francisco as a sanctuary city.

I support the CLEAR Act authored by MARSHA BLACKBURN. The act would empower local law enforcement agencies in the fight against illegal immigration. Under her bill, sanctuary cities would lose Federal crime funding unless local governments rescind the policies that prohibit local law enforcement from working with the Department of Homeland Security.

Illegal immigrants know they are safe from deportation. If these cities refuse to enforce the law, especially when it comes to criminals, it ought to cost them.

This is a first step, and I urge the House to move forward with this legislation. Americans deserve our full support.

## H–2B IS A SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM

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

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, H–2B is a legal, temporary worker program that has been very successful in providing our Nation's small businesses with the workforce they need during peak business seasons. However, an important provision expired last September.

Many in Congress have acted in support of legislation that would have fixed this escalating problem. Bills, amendments, and discharge petitions have been introduced as early as last March; yet, no action.

Yesterday, the House passed an extension of the Religious Worker Visa Program while many of our Nation's small and seasonal businesses are still struggling to find workers, and Congress has responded with nothing but a hearing.

That hearing is today, Madam Speaker, nearly 7 months after the H–2B exemption expired. I can only hope that this Congress will give our small businesses a legal solution to their workforce needs.

□ 1030

## 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 later.

## TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF FARM PROGRAMS

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5813) to amend Public Law 110–196 to provide for a temporary extension of programs authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2008 beyond April 18, 2008.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5813

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

**SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS AND SUSPENSION OF PERMANENT PRICE SUPPORT AUTHORITIES.**

Effective as of April 18, 2008, section 1 of Public Law 110–196 (122 Stat. 653) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''the Secretary of Agriculture shall carry out the authorities, until April 18, 2008'' and inserting ''the authorities shall be carried out, until April 25, 2008''; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking ''April 18, 2008'' and inserting ''April 25, 2008''.

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.R. 5813, a bill to temporarily extend the current farm programs until April 25, 2008.

Madam Speaker, since the House conferees were appointed last week, the conference committee has been meeting to try to work out the remaining unresolved issues between the House and Senate version of the farm bill. I'm pleased to report that on the core farm bill issues we have reached agreement, and there are only a few Member-level issues that must be resolved.

I want to take this moment right now to thank Chairman RANGEL, who has devoted a great deal of his time and his staff's time to helping us to come to resolution with the Senate about how to fund the additional $10 billion of new spending for farm bill priorities. Without his leadership and that of Speaker PELOSI and the leaders on the Republican side, we would not be so close to finalizing this bill.

The farm bill maintains and strengthens the safety net that helps farmers and ranchers stay productive and competitive. It also includes important new investments including $9.5 billion for nutrition programs that are even more important today as food prices continue to climb. It contains $4 billion for conservation programs that will help protect our land, even as crop reduction soars; $1.2 billion for renewable energy programs that will help us address the rising cost of gasoline and help us get independent of foreign oil; and $1.3 billion for new initiatives and programs to support fruit and vegetable producers, including new programs to help socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers.

All these important investments will be lost if we don't have time to finish this conference. This short extension will allow us to finish our work and bring back to the House a conference report that meets the needs of all of American agriculture and the consumers.

Madam Speaker, I'm pleased to report that I've been in conversations with Chairman RANGEL and others that have been involved in the effort to identify the offsets, and can report that they have made significant progress, that we have been able to, apparently, convince the Senate to jettison the extraneous items, and so now we're talking about $10 billion instead of $12.5 billion, which is a major accomplishment and victory, and we are getting very close to being able to resolve the differences in the offsets because, where we've been at is the House has put out one set of offsets and the Senate has put out another, and we're trying to reconcile that.

I also, last night, had discussions with the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. GOODLATTE and others, asking that the Secretary and the White House be brought into this negotiation to help us finish up. And from what I can tell, there appears to be an effort to get that engaged. So I think we're very close to having this offset issue resolved, hopefully, in a way that will have the bipartisan support in this body, as well as in the other body, and also hopefully have the support, at the end of the day, of the White House.

And that is what Mr. GOODLATTE and I have been struggling to accomplish since last July. We've made a lot of progress. We're not there yet, but we feel we've made huge progress in the last few days, enough to warrant another 1-week extension of the farm bill so that we can finish up our work.

I want to commend Congressman GOODLATTE for his outstanding leadership in this effort, his outstanding leadership when he was chairman of the committee last session, and getting this farm bill process started. And I can tell you that, without a doubt, that we would not be at this point without him being willing to work with us and help us make some tough decisions to get to where we are. So I just appreciate very much he and his staff and the leadership that they've shown because, over in the House, what we're trying to do here is not only have a bill that we can be proud of, but also have a bill we can pass. And I think we're heading in that direction.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage of the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the temporary farm bill extension that will extend some provisions of the 2002 farm bill just a little while longer so that we may complete the work on this farm bill. I believe we've made good progress on coming to agreement on the funding which has been the biggest obstacle preventing any real movement on the completion of a farm bill to this point. While we're not there yet, I do believe we are getting close.

The House and Senate conferees have been meeting every day this week, and we intend to continue our work throughout the rest of the week. We are committed to putting together a reform-minded bill that we can bring before this body soon and earn the support of our Members here and in the other chamber, and then go on to the President for his approval.

We all recognize the need for a new farm bill. This process has already been delayed enough, and while it is a long time coming, we shouldn't halt the momentum that is finally getting this process moving to a positive direction.

I urge my colleagues to support this farm bill extension to give us a little more time to work out the rest of the funding issues and wrap up the policy differences so that we can produce a good farm bill.

I want to thank the chairman of the committee, Mr. PETERSON, for his kind words, and say that there is no doubt that no one, in this body or the other, I'll take the chance of saying that, has worked harder or longer in order to try to get to this point than Chairman PETERSON has. He has spoken to innumerable people in order to try to bring about the kind of consensus it takes to get here. He has been down many different avenues, and if one doesn't work, he comes back, starts over again and tries a different approach. And his persistence and his attention to the details in this farm bill and his knowledge of the wide range of issues that comprise the farm bill has enabled us to negotiate effectively with the Senate to negotiate effectively with Members in this body who have legitimate concerns that need to be addressed in the farm bill.

But with the limited resources and the differences of opinion that arise in any bill, particularly one of this complexity, he has done an outstanding job of listening to the concerns of many different people, and I am optimistic that we can move forward and reach a final farm bill to bring before this body and before the other body.

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

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. I thank Mr. GOODLATTE for his kind words. I would just make one final comment, that we are extending this bill for 1 week at this point because we feel that's sufficient time to come to resolution.

I do want to warn people that we fully expect to have these things wrapped up by the 25th in terms of having the policy differences in the Ag Committee and the funding differences resolved. But everybody needs to understand that after that, we're going to need an additional extension probably of 2 weeks in order, this is a very complex, huge bill. It's going to take us time to pull together to enroll to get passed through the House and the Senate and get to the President in time for him to read it before he signs it. So people can expect that we're going to have to have another couple of weeks after next Friday, provided we get everything resolved, which I expect we will.

Again I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), all the other people that have worked with us, and encourage my colleagues to support the bill.

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 pass the bill, H.R. 5813.

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.

## 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 and include extraneous material on H.R. 5813.

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

There was no objection.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3221. An act moving the United States toward greater energy independence and security, developing innovative new technologies, reducing carbon emissions, creating green jobs, protecting consumers, increasing clean renewable energy production, and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of renewable energy and energy conservation.

## PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5715, ENSURING CONTINUED ACCESS TO STUDENT LOANS ACT OF 2008

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1107 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1107

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5715) to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and contrilled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules. Each further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. During consideration in the House of H.R. 5715 pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

□ 1045

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. CASTOR. For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida, my colleague from the Rules Committee, Mr. DIAZ-BALART. All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

I yield myself such time as I may consume. I also ask unanimous consent that Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 1107.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, House Resolution 1107 provides for consideration of H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008, under a structured rule.

The rule provides 1 hour of general debate controlled by the Committee on Education and Labor. The rule makes in order four amendments in the Rules Committee report, each of which is debatable for 10 minutes. The rule also provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008, and the underlying rule. Under this act, the Congress will ensure that low-interest student loans remain available for college students and their families even in the face of the credit crunch. In doing so, the Congress will build on the new commitment to college and university students and their hardworking families that this new Democratic majority has provided.

See, our action today comes on the heels of the historic College Cost Reduction and Access Act that was signed into law a few months ago that saves college students an average of $4,400 on student loan interest. We increased the Pell Grant, and we now will forgive student loans for students that commit to a 10-year career in public service.

This single largest investment in college financial assistance since the GI Bill in 1944 comes at no new cost to taxpayers. The new Congress promised to make college more affordable for all Americans, and we have delivered on that promise.

Our next step today is to ensure that families can continue to access the loans they need to pay for college. See, in today's economy, a college education is as important as a high school diploma was a generation ago. And with college costs growing by nearly 40 percent over the last 5 years, students are graduating from college with more debt than ever before. It is estimated that 200,000 students do not go to college every year because they simply cannot afford the costs. Well, our efforts today will restore the American dream for those families.

We know that many families across this great country are facing severe financial strains. The economic downturn, the cost of housing, the cost of health care, gas prices have hit our families especially hard. Middle class families are especially being squeezed in this unfortunate Bush economy.

In addition to these basic needs, the rising cost of a college education has left many families very concerned that a college education may not be within reach for their children. A recent press report noted that 70 percent of parents said that they are very concerned about how they're going to be able to afford the cost of a college education for their kids.

Families now are forced to pull from many different sources to pay for college and to simply make ends meet. They're drawing on their savings account, Federal loans, private loans, and the equity in their homes all at the same time to send their kids to college. And despite all of their hard work and the fact that they've set money aside, they're still unable to come up with the cost of tuition because these costs are rising. The costs of sending their child away to school or just down the street to the community college is simply out of reach for so many so they turn to the loans.

In 2007, families borrowed almost $60 billion in Federal student loans. Now, in this credit crunch, banks are tightening their loan requirements and raising rates. We want to make sure that families have access to the low-interest loans, that they remain available for these hardworking families so their kids can attend college.

Madam Speaker, this bill has a number of very significant improvements under our Federal college loan program. The best deal going in college loans these days is the Stafford loan. We are going to increase the annual loan limit for the Stafford loan by $2,000 for undergraduates and graduate students. These loans are the most affordable and available to students with the best interest rates.

Currently, there's a cap on the amount that a student can receive, so our legislation today will raise that cap. It increases the total loan limit, as well, over the course of a student's college education from $31,000 for dependent undergraduates to $57,500 for independent graduate students.

The other significant loan available to families these days is the Parent PLUS loan. The Parent PLUS loan, the primary benefit for the PLUS loan for parents is that they can borrow Federally guaranteed low-interest loans, not tied to the students, but that's a loan for the parents. The parents can borrow the total cost of undergraduate education including tuition, room and board, supplies, lab expenses, and travel, and other aids. It's a non-need-based loan. Well, we're going to give parents a little more flexibility under our actions today to pay off their PLUS loans.

Currently, those loans become due 60 days after the bill is sent to them. We're going to give them a little extra time and allow the student to complete their college education before that loan becomes due. We're going to help struggling homeowners pay for college because right now, it is not clear under the law that parents that are struggling with pending foreclosure or difficulty in paying their housing costs can also access the great PLUS loans to help their kids get through college. So we're going to allow for that today.

We're also going to give the Department of Education additional tools so that these, the cost of college and the access to student loans, remain available for America's hardworking families.

I would like to thank Chairman GEORGE MILLER of the Education and Labor Committee here in the House for his leadership on making sure that families continue to have access for student loans but for also being a champion for American families, colleges, and our entire educational system which is in better hands now that the Democrats are in charge here in the House.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my friend, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) for the time, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we've all heard about how the housing crisis is really creating a credit crisis as well. And the credit crisis is not limited to the mortgage industry but is spreading to the many sectors of our economy. And one sector that the credit crisis has hit hard is the student loan industry.

Companies that offer student loans are finding it difficult to have access to the capital needed to finance student loans. There's over $340 billion in outstanding Federal and non-Federal student loans currently funded through capital markets with another $130 billion waiting in the pipeline to be funded by the markets. Because of the current conditions, a good portion of that $130 billion may never make it through the process.

As a result of the credit situation, the difficulty in the credit market, 18 of the top 100 lenders have left the Federal Family Education Loan program, FFEL, while another 45 smaller lenders have suspended their participation or left the program. In total, those lenders account for about 12 percent of the total of Stafford and PLUS student loans. Another 11 lenders have left the non-Federal loan program.

So what does that instability in the credit markets mean for students and parents? Less competition and choice and higher costs through increased interest rates and reduction of repayment benefits and increased fees.

So the Congress should not stand by and let the credit crisis have a detrimental effect on student loan programs. Those programs open the door of higher education to millions of students. And that's why I'm very pleased that the Committee on Education and Labor has decided, in a bipartisan manner, to really try to prevent the credit market instability from producing a crisis in student loan programs. And the underlying legislation, called the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008, will help provide new protections and clarify those in current law that ensure students and families have continued access to Federal loans despite the challenges created by current conditions in the credit market.

Specifically, legislation will increase adding loan limits for unsubsidized Stafford loans by $2,000 for each year of undergraduate and graduate school and increase aggregate limits accordingly. It also permits the Secretary of Education to give an entire institution the authority to become a lender of last resort. This will ensure all students and parents will be eligible to receive lender-of-last-resort loans. The Secretary of Education will also be given temporary authority to negotiate with lenders to purchase new loans, thereby freeing up capital.

I think it's appropriate, and I am pleased to commend the chairman of the committee, Chairman MILLER, and also the ranking member, Mr. MCKEON, who have worked in a bipartisan fashion, very diligently, on this very important issue, and they are to be commended, as is the committee generally.

Although the Education and Labor Committee worked in a bipartisan manner to draft this important legislation, that bipartisan spirit did not make it past the doors of the Rules Committee. Yesterday, the majority in the Rules Committee hit a new record of 50 closed rules. They had the chance to offer an open rule today on the underlying legislation, but instead, by party-line vote, the majority voted against an open rule and also blocked a number of Republican amendments from being offered, including an amendment from the ranking member of the Education and Labor Committee, Mr. MCKEON.

So much for bipartisanship in the Rules Committee.

At this time I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. I thank my colleague, the Member from Florida, and I also thank the chairman of the committee and the ranking member, Representative MILLER and Representative MCKEON.

This whole question of the affordability of higher education we know is a crushing burden on middle class families. And it has been made much worse, as many of the speakers have pointed out, by the credit crisis, innocent victims caught up in the consequences of credit-gone-wild in the

subprime mortgage. So I really appreciate, and I think all of us appreciate, the quick work of the committee to provide flexibility in financing that's going to be beneficial to working families across this country.

One of the questions that has been on the mind of many of us, I think, on both sides of the aisle, however, is whether or not when we go to the well and ask taxpayers to put more money into student aid, as we've done and as we should do, and when we make loan eligibility more generous so families pinch themselves in order to take on additional debt and students take on additional debt, the question we're starting to ask is whether or not that becomes a way in which institutions of higher education simply increase tuition. And then at the end of the day, you find that the families are increasing their debt load. Their kids are going to school, but they're graduating with a mountain of debt that's equal to the mortgage on the house that many of us, when we first bought our home, is equal to.

□ 1100

So Representative CASTLE had an idea, and I joined with him, to ask for the first time to get a study from the General Services Administration to see what connection exists between tuition going up as student aid, both grants and loans, increases.

I am pleased that the committee has seen fit to support this amendment that Congressman CASTLE and I are offering because we have to do two things if we're going to make college affordable: One is, we've got to make grants and loans available to our students and the families. But two, we really have to ask the institutions of higher education to do something on the cost side. And that's the intent of this amendment, to start getting information that will be available to us to consider whether enough is being done on the cost side.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, it's my privilege to yield 5 minutes to my distinguished friend from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

Mr. SESSIONS. I appreciate the gentleman from Florida, my good friend on the Rules Committee.

Madam Speaker, today we walk in to the floor to hear question after question after question. And I admire the gentlewoman from Florida for asking these questions that she asks and posing the issues, the issues of our time, energy policy, tax policy, men and women who are hardworking Americans trying to pay their bills. And yet I would say the conclusion that came out, which I agree with, ''And this is why, thank goodness, we have a Democrat majority,'' the Democrat majority has now been in power for some 17 months, and yet we find the Democrat majority is simply coming to the floor asking questions, ''Oh, my gosh, what's happening?'' And the answer that I heard over and over was, we've got to make sure ''we,'' meaning the government, provide these low-cost loans. We've got to make sure that the government has all these things available for people.

The government should not be the answer to the problem. The answer should be that this Democrat majority needs to understand that they've got to accept responsibility that gas prices have gone up 60 percent since they have taken over, that it is their agenda that this country now operates under; that we have seen and we understood now through not just two budgets, but through the policy that is being enunciated all around this country on behalf of the Democrat Party of raising taxes and making sure that we have an economic policy that is not based upon trying to grow more jobs, but rather, about fairness.

We have seen the tax policy from this new Democrat majority of 17 months, raising taxes, going to double the capital gains tax. Well, Madam Speaker, what I would say to you is, no wonder we're in economic problems. Seventeen months ago, the people who planned for jobs in this country—that are called employers—have understood that they're going to pay higher taxes. We already have the second highest corporate tax rate in the world, but now we're going to tax investors.

So the tax policy is very plain and simple. The tax policy is that we are going to bleed, soak investors for more money so that the government can get the money so that we can then do more from the government perspective. Well, Madam Speaker, I would have to say to you, this could be the death of the free enterprise system. When you tax people, they make decisions. And when you tax something, you get less of it. In this case, we are now seeing economic downturn. We are now seeing dollars that are investment dollars, rather than coming to the United States, they're going overseas. The tax policy does have an impact on the economic viability of this country.

Secondly, the energy policy. We have seen the answer from the Speaker. Speaker PELOSI put forth an energy bill that was really pretty good, but it had nothing to do with supply side. The supply of energy, of gasoline is what America needs today. And so we passed this big energy bill, and we see prices continuing to rise. We're told we're supposed to make this transition to this green environment, and all the jobs that will come as a result of that. But, in fact, what will happen is we will lose the jobs that we have today and wait for that to come.

Madam Speaker, we're almost to the point where a majority of the gasoline is no longer oil, it's gasoline, because the jobs that produce the oil to gasoline are overseas because we don't want those jobs in this country. Dubai is being built and has flourished as a result of Democratic Party policies. The money from American consumers are building Dubai. Since 1995, the Republican Party, in trying to work with President Clinton, we said, let us supply more energy here. What do we do? We get a veto.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I yield 3 additional minutes to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SESSIONS. So, Madam Speaker, today we come to the floor now worried about college students and families trying to pay for college expenses, and what we get is question after question after question. This majority is not prepared, in my opinion, to deal with the things that will produce jobs, which will produce the ability for people to have money in their pocket to pay for their education. And that comes from the policies of tax and spend of the Democratic Party, where they are not in favor of a tax policy for investors to invest in America, but rather, for investors to pay an incredible increase in taxes to Uncle Sam. So what happens is that America no longer can look up and say we are the beacon of freedom, we are producing jobs.

The production of new jobs means that the free enterprise system is alive and well, which means that we don't have to come to government for our needs. It is the policy of the Democratic Party and of our Speaker to tax and spend America to the highest level in the history of our country and it is the policy of this House not to have supply side for our energy. And without a supply side, without a tax policy that allows investment dollars to be here, we will continue to see this Democrat majority come and ask questions and lament about all the problems that lie ahead of us, and we will continue to hear ''and government is the answer.''

Madam Speaker, I would suggest to you that the answer would be: The free enterprise system, lowering taxes, a supply side policy that helps get more energy available to consumers, and one where government is the backstop and not the first answer.

I will end by saying this: Without employers, we will not have employees, and that should be a challenge to the Democrat majority.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), the chairman of the Education and Labor Committee.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. And I thank the Rules Committee for bringing this rule to the floor that will enable us to consider the Continued Access to Student Loans Act to help families and students who are struggling to pay for the cost of education.

One of the more successful programs in this country has been the system of student loans that we provide under Federal guarantees to families and to students to pay for those educations. That program now has been caught up

in the decline and the seizing of the American credit markets, and therefore, we're worried that there will not be loans available to families and students who are applying for school this coming fall.

As a result of that, we have been working with the Secretary of Education and with the entire committee on the Republican side and the Democratic side of the aisle to make sure that we have in place a number of provisions that will allow, if necessary, the Federal Government to step in and assure those families that they will have access to those loans so they will not have to miss classes that they need, miss a semester that they need, and compound their problems by extending the time that they will have to remain in college before they graduate.

We have been meeting with the traditional lending community within the student loan community, and many of them have told us that they expect to participate in the student loans for the coming year, but they also believe that there will be a gap, that the supply of those loans will not meet the demands because of the seizing of the credit market, that the credit markets have failed to function over the last many weeks not only for student loans, but for the municipal bond market, for various joint agencies of the government that have very high credit ratings.

In the case of student loans, these are government-backed loans, but the markets are not purchasing the old loans as they were in the past. For that reason, we are seeking to activate and have on standby authority the lender of last resort authority that the Secretary of Education has under current law where if, in fact, the money is not available for those loans, she will be able to go to the Secretary of Treasury and make a demand to fund those loans.

There will also be available the direct lending program that currently exists. Many universities and students use that program today. We have been talking with them and making sure that they would be able to expand the capacity. Should the universities decide to direct a number of the students to the direct lending program, they have assured us they that could clearly double their capacity and in a short time be able to go beyond that.

So we have the lender of last resort program in place because there is not enough money in the banks to provide for student loans. We have the direct lending program in place for those who choose to go there so they can keep their eligibility for school.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Ms. CASTOR. I yield the gentleman an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. And then we also, in this legislation, provide for the Secretary to purchase existing loans from those lenders so that they can recapitalize their liquidity situation and be able to make new loans to students and to families seeking those loans.

Those three tools should, in fact, provide a seamless system so if the private credit markets fail to provide the necessary resources, or the credit markets fail to provide the liquidity that's necessary, we will be able to stand in their place for a temporary period of time until the credit markets sort it out.

We also make provisions in this legislation to increase the amount of money that undergraduates can borrow in the program so that those students who have been using the private loan markets, which are in complete shambles, will be able to increase the amount of money that they may need to borrow for tuition and for school expenses and be able to continue their education.

I also want to acknowledge the fact that we've made provisions in here so that temporary problems that families may be having with home payments or with health care payments, those would be considered as exigent circumstances so that they can continue to be eligible for the loans under the government guaranteed program. Ms. CASTOR will be offering that amendment. And the gentleman from Vermont will be offering an amendment to really look at this link between increased tuition and increased resources made available to students.

This is an important package. It's a timely package. We hope that it won't be necessary to be used, but we need to have it in place so that we can backstop the failures of the credit market that are currently existing as an outflow of the subprime mortgage problem that is affecting the entire economy of this country and many other countries around the world.

I would urge my colleagues to support this legislation. Again, I want to thank the Rules Committee for recommending this bill to the floor.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, yesterday was a day commonly known as ''Tax Day,'' a day that millions of Americans headed down to their local post office to send their hard-earned money to the Federal Government. It's not to be confused with Tax Freedom Day, which the Tax Freedom Foundation has defined the day on which the average American has finally earned enough to pay this year's tax obligations to the Federal, State and local governments, which unfortunately will not arrive this year until next week, April 23.

□ 1115

In recognition of those two important days on every taxpayer's calendar, today I will be asking my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the previous question to this rule. If the previous question is defeated, I will amend the rule to make it in order for the House to consider H.R. 2734, a bill offered by my friend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG). That legislation would repeal the sunset date of the 2001 Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act and make the tax reductions enacted by that law permanent. I'll say it again. It means that we will make the tax cuts permanent to make certain that all American taxpayers will not have to pay an increase in taxes.

So I will provide Members the opportunity to make those tax cuts permanent and to make certain that our Tax Code encourages economic growth and job creation. It also repeals the termination date for provisions of the 2003 Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act, reducing income tax rates on dividends and capital gains. It amends the Internal Revenue Code to make permanent the tax deduction for State and local sales taxes, which is particularly important in States such as Florida that I'm honored to represent. It also includes a tax deduction for tuition and related expenses, the increased expensing allowance for small business assets and related provisions, and the tax credit for increasing research activities.

In summary, Madam Speaker, what it will do is to maintain, in a time of economic uncertainty, the ability for the Nation's economy to continue to create jobs and compete globally. On the other hand, if Members are for tax increases, if they want taxpayers to pay more in taxes, then they will simply vote with the majority.

Finally, it expresses the sense of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Ways and Means that they should report legislation on or before the end of the year to simplify the Federal income tax system.

Madam Speaker, I can think of no more fitting action for Congress during the week between Tax Day and Tax Freedom Day to provide this kind of certainty to the American taxpayer.

By voting ''no'' on the previous question, Members will not be voting to kill or delay the underlying student loan legislation. They will simply be voting to provide tax relief to Americans.

I encourage all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote ''no'' on the previous question on behalf of taxpayers who wish to continue economic growth.

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

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, today the Congress will build on the new commitment to college and university students and their hardworking families that this new Democratic majority in the Congress has provided. Our efforts to ensure continued access to low-cost student loans for families comes on the heels of the historic College Cost Reduction and Access Act that was signed into law a few months ago that will save college students an average of $4,400 on student loan interest, will increase the Pell Grant, and will forgive loans for those who provide 10 years of public service to their community.

This is the single largest investment in college financial assistance since the

GI Bill in 1944 and comes at no new cost to taxpayers. The new Congress promised to make college more affordable for all Americans, and we have delivered on that promise.

Our next step today is to ensure that families can continue to access the loans they need to pay for college. And let me provide you with one example from my hometown in Tampa, Florida: a student at the University of South Florida, a large public university of over 40,000 students. This student is a communications major and is one semester away from graduation. But she has reached her loan limit. She can't access that Stafford Loan that provides the lowest interest rate available out there. She is the first in her family to ever attend college. She only lacks 11 credit hours to graduate, and she plans to graduate this summer, but she has been forced to apply for a higher interest rate, private loan, to cover the expenses of her summer tuition. Well, this legislation is ready-made for her and thousands of other students across America and their families. It gives them that extra-added flexibility to be able to put the money to good use and graduate on time rather than end up paying higher loans and interest rates.

You see, Madam Speaker, we're not just Members of Congress. We are also parents ourselves. And we are also concerned about the increasing cost of college, especially given the fact that college costs have been increasing more rapidly than available grant and financial aid, Federal loans, and families' ability to pay. Well, our efforts today will restore the American Dream for many families. And we know and appreciate that many families are facing extreme financial strains. The economic downturn, the cost of housing, the cost of health care, gas prices have hit our families hard. Families are really being squeezed in this unfortunate Bush economy.

But there is a reason to hope because we will continue to fight for a new direction for our country, a direction that values access to education, values better jobs, and values an opportunity for all Americans.

With that, Madam Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote on the previous question and on the rule.

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Speaker, this rule will allow consideration of a bill that takes a critical first step in addressing disturbances in the student loan financial markets brought on by broader market turmoil.

We've all read the headlines and spoken with our constituents about this difficult economy. Our economic confidence has been shaken, and people are nervous. But what may be overlooked is that students and families thinking about how to pay for college are in a particular bind.

It's hard enough to pay for college when tuition regularly rises at two or three times the rate of inflation and textbooks can run close to $1,000 each year. Add to that the idea that lenders are scaling back on student loans, and it's easy to see why Americans are nervous about paying for college.

Like most challenges to our economy, there's no easy answer to the difficulties in our student loan programs. We will need a combination of actions—maybe some legislatively, others through regulation—that will increase liquidity and restore confidence among investors and consumers.

This bill is a first step, and one that deserves bipartisan support. It signals our commitment to a strong Federal Family Education Loan program, and should help ease the minds of students and families. And it does these things without a cost to the taxpayer.

Madam Speaker, I am disappointed that the bill is not being brought up under an open rule. H.R. 5715 was developed on a bipartisan basis, and is stronger because of it. The idea that members will not be permitted to collaborate on this effort to protect college students and their families is disappointing, if not surprising given the track record of the 110th Congress.

I will oppose this rule because it limits the full participation of all members. But I will strongly support the underlying measure, H.R. 5715, when it is brought to the floor and I urge all my colleagues to join me in telling students and families that we are committed to college access.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1107, the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5715, ''Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008.''

Every generation sets out to improve upon the previous generation. We teach our children that if they focus, are responsible, and work hard they can be anything. Yet we have provided a false truth for the majority of our children. Rising tuitions in higher education even at our community colleges are keeping a lot of our youth from attending college. For those that are able to attend, they are burdened by extensive loans just to buy books, attend class, and maintain housing.

Families are sending their children to school, trying to qualify for parent loans and wondering how they are going to make the payments when they are struggling to pay their mortgage and facing their own issues with possible unemployment.

In my home State of Texas, families are struggling to assist children with their education while they face an unemployment rate of 4.3 percent across the State. As of the end of last year, Texas was ranked as having the 20th highest unemployment rate (out of the 50 States). And we are not alone as States grapple with unemployment and a falling housing market.

H.R. 5715, ''Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act,'' provides much needed support to our families in a time when they most need it by specifically addressing the needs of parents, students, and even lenders. The Student Loans Act would:

INCREASE UNSUBSIDIZED LOAN LIMITS FOR STUDENTS

This bill will increase unsubsidized loan limits by $2,000 for each year of undergraduate and graduate school. It also increases the aggregate loan limits to $31,000 for dependent undergraduates and $57,500 for independent undergraduate students.

DELAY REPAYMENT OF PARENT PLUS LOANS

Currently PLUS loan borrowers—parents—go into repayment 60 days after disbursement of the loan. This bill would give families an option of not entering repayment for up to 6 months after a student leaves school.

PLUS LOAN ELIGIBILITY FOR STRUGGLING HOMEOWNERS

Under current law, parents with an adverse credit history are ineligible to receive a parent PLUS loan, except under extenuating circumstances. In light of the current housing market, the bill temporarily qualifies up to 180 day delinquency on home mortgages as an extenuating circumstance, therefore making it more possible for parents struggling with the current housing market to secure loans for their children.

LENDER OF LAST RESORT FLEXIBILITY

The bill makes clear in statute that the Secretary of Education has the mandatory authority to advance Federal funds to Guaranty Agencies in the case that they do not have sufficient capital. Further, the bill allows a Guaranty Agency to designate a school (rather than an individual student) as a ''lender of last resort school,'' in accordance with guidelines set by the Secretary.

AUTHORITY FOR THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION TO PURCHASE FFEL LOAN ASSETS

The bill gives the Secretary the temporary authority, upon a determination that there is inadequate availability to meet demand for loans, to purchase loans from FFEL lenders. Such purchases could only be made in the case they are revenue-neutral or beneficial to the Federal Government.

FEDERAL INSTITUTIONS' PARTICIPATION

The bill includes a Sense of the Congress that the Federal Financial Institutions and entities (including the Federal Financing Bank, the Federal Home Loan Banks, and the Federal Reserve) should consider using, in consultation with the Secretaries of Education and the Treasury, available authorities, if needed, to assist in ensuring continued student loan access.

CONCLUSION

I urge my colleagues to support this Rule, so that we can come to floor and discuss the Continued Access to Student Loans Act. I remind my colleagues that many of their own employees, right in the Capitol, are affected by this bill. Let's support education by allowing for greater flexibility, eligibility, and participation for students and their families.

The material previously referred to by Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 1107 OFFERED BY MR. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART OF FLORIDA

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 3. That immediately upon the adoption of this resolution the House shall, without intervention of any point of order, consider the bill (H.R. 2734) to make the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 and certain other tax benefits permanent law. All points of order against the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) an amendment in the nature of a substitute if offered by Representative Rangel of New York, which shall be considered as read and shall be separately debatable for 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

(The information contained herein was provided by Democratic Minority on multiple occasions throughout the 109th Congress.)

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Democratic majority agenda and a vote to allow the opposition, at least for the moment, to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives, (VI, 308–311) describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as ''a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.'' To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that ''the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition'' in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R–Illinois) said: ''The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.''

Because the vote today may look bad for the Democratic majority they will say ''the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.'' But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the definition of the previous question used in the Floor Procedures Manual published by the Rules Committee in the 109th Congress, (page 56). Here's how the Rules Committee described the rule using information from Congressional Quarterly's ''American Congressional Dictionary'': ''If the previous question is defeated, control of debate shifts to the leading opposition member (usually the minority Floor Manager) who then manages an hour of debate and may offer a germane amendment to the pending business.''

Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled ''Amending Special Rules'' states: ''a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.'' (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: ''Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.''

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Democratic majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

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

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

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

## PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2634, JUBILEE ACT FOR RESPONSIBLE LENDING AND EXPANDED DEBT CANCELLATION OF 2008

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1103 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1103

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2634) to provide for greater responsibility in lending and expanded cancellation of debts owed to the United States and the international financial institutions by low-income countries, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. During consideration in the House of H.R. 2634 pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Vermont is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

I yield myself such time as I may consume. I also ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 1103.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, House Resolution 1103 provides for consideration of H.R. 2634, the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation, under a structured rule. The rule provides 1 hour of general debate controlled by the Committee on Financial Services. The rule also makes in order four amendments printed in the Rules Committee report, each of which is debatable for 10 minutes. The rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Madam Speaker, structured, responsible debt relief has been proven to be one of the most effective methods of fighting global poverty. In 1996 the World Bank and the IMF, the International Monetary Fund, developed the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries, or HIPC, Initiative to provide debt relief to the world's most impoverished nations. The 28 countries that participated in this program have been spending the debt relief on good things in their country for the very poor people, on education and health. In the first 10 years of the program, the IMF and the World Bank provided $62 billion of debt relief, cutting the countries' debt by an average of two-thirds.

The results speak for themselves. The participating countries now spend four times as much on health, education, and social services as they do on paying back debt. Tanzania, for instance, has used its money from debt cancellation to eliminate school fees for elementary school education. Think about it. The poorest countries, their kids were having to pay fees to go to elementary school, something that's not even required here, while Zambia eliminated fees for health care in rural areas. Multilateral efforts in Niger reduced debt from 76 percent of their

gross domestic product, and think about that, 76 percent of the gross domestic product was used in debt relief, in 2002 to 14 percent in 2006. With that savings Niger has been able to make investments in health and education. They've reduced the infant mortality rate, cut it in half. Primary school completion has increased from 16 to 28 percent, and access to drinkable water increased from 40 percent for the people in Niger to 69 percent.

The bill that this rule will bring to the floor today will build on this record of quantifiable success to expand efforts to reduce the debts owed by impoverished nations. This legislation makes debt forgiveness immediately possible for nine countries that meet the standards of the Jubilee Act. This is not a giveaway program.

□ 1130

These nations are among the poorest in the world with per capita incomes of less than $3 a day, $1,065 a year. Countries initially eligible under this legislation for debt relief would include Cape Verde, Georgia, Kenya, Mongolia and Vietnam.

But as I mentioned, the Jubilee Act does not give countries that borrowed money a free ride with debt forgiveness. It includes strict parameters to ensure that the participating countries: one, have transparent and effective budget processes; two, do not support terrorism; three, cooperate in international counternarcotic efforts; and, four, uphold human rights standards.

In addition, funds made available as a result of loan forgiveness must be directed toward antipoverty programs, and countries must publish an annual report to be accountable on how those funds were spent.

These criteria ensure the loan forgiveness funds are used wisely and well. They provide an incentive for noneligible countries to reduce corruption and improve human rights practices so they may, one day, become eligible for debt forgiveness.

Fifteen additional countries, including Bangladesh, Nigeria and Zimbabwe would be eligible for debt cancellation upon making required reforms.

This is the brand of leadership that America needs more of where we are doing our share, but we are working with our allies and where we are using the incentive of debt forgiveness. Many of these debts, incidentally, were taken by kleptocrats who formerly ruled in these countries, and now these countries are trying to free themselves of the yoke of this terrible leadership. This debt forgiveness program allows us, working with our allies, the IMF and the World Bank, to give them a boost.

Finally, Madam Speaker, it must be noted that because the international financial institutions like the World Bank and the IMF are expected to pay the bulk of the debt relief, the tremendous improvements that can be achieved under this bill come at a very reasonable cost to the U.S. taxpayer.

The cost of America canceling bilateral debt for the countries initially eligible is estimated to be $197 million. That is less than what we spend for 14 hours in Iraq, just to put it in perspective. However, this bill does not actually authorize any debt cancellation. It authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to enter into negotiations to cancel debt. Any debt cancellation agreement reached by the Secretary returns to Congress for our approval. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office has scored this legislation at no cost to the taxpayers.

Debt reduction has been proven to be one of the most effective, both cost effective and socially effective, ways to achieve significant reductions in global poverty.

I urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friend, the gentleman from Vermont, for the time that he is yielding me to discuss H.R. 2634, the Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Collection Cancellation Act of 2007. This legislation follows on the heels of legislation passed just 2 weeks ago providing aid to mostly African and Caribbean countries to fight AIDS and promote development programs in underdeveloped countries, including programs to improve food, water, the treatment of other infectious diseases, poverty alleviation programs, microcredit, schools and teachers, legal aid, agricultural assistance and biomedical research.

Today's legislation would follow up on this enormous prior financial commitment by further reducing or eliminating the debt obligations of the world's poorest nations. It attempts to accomplish this goal by creating a framework to having the debts of low-income countries owed to the United States and to international financial institutions eliminated.

To do this, this bill authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to negotiate the full cancellation of these countries' debts with the Paris Club, the IMF, and the World Bank, and to reach agreements on future creditor transparency and responsible lending.

It improves oversight by ensuring that countries receiving this debt relief have economies that are capable of redirecting their debt services payments, and requires a GAO audit of countries where illegal loans may have been made. Finally, it includes a sense of Congress that the U.S. should pay off $600 million worth of arrears to multilateral development banks.

Madam Speaker, no one in this body disputes the worthiness of this goal that is enshrined within this legislation. The reduction of global poverty and suffering around the world is a laudable goal, and it is certainly in our national interests to combat conditions that may breed the hopelessness and poverty that allows dictators and terrorists to thrive.

So it is doubtlessly important that the most heavily indebted poor countries be relieved of these kinds of crushing debt that prevents their future development, self-sufficiency and the improvement of their citizens' lives.

This policy should be implemented, along with other policies that increase public sector investment and decrease the barriers to trade with these countries, as well as ensuring that the countries eligible for this relief do not encourage terrorist activities or abuse human rights.

I am surprised, however, that Speaker PELOSI didn't see the irony in scheduling this step forward for developing nations on the first legislative week after handing them a serious defeat by turning off the fast track authority for the Colombia Free Trade Agreement. In other words, here we're trying to help poor countries and now the decision is made that we won't engage in trade with them that would help their countries also grow economically free.

While giving the most heavily indebted countries relief from crushing and unserviceable debt is necessary to increase their future development, it is simply not sufficient. The economies of these countries must be more integrated with the rest of the globe to provide their citizens with real choices and development alternatives for their future, and increased trade with America is a great way of accomplishing this.

So while I appreciate the Financial Services Committee's efforts on the issue of improving conditions for the world's poorest countries, I remind my colleagues that development does not occur in a vacuum, and that by postponing the Colombia Free Trade Agreement, we have effectively told all of these countries, people who should be our friends and we should be concerned about more than just their debt, but about their economic viability, we've said that Congress is less concerned about promoting trade with them and growing their economies than it is with complying with the demands of labor union bosses in an election year.

I encourage the Democrat leadership to take a long-term and more holistic view of global poverty, recognizing that these cycles of abject poverty cannot be broken without creating the conditions that encourage private sector investment, such as respect for contracts and rule of law and that it also encourages international trade.

Madam Speaker, I believe that a broader policy of understanding poverty and the United States' role in helping to make our world better would include trade and would include encouraging the private markets around the world.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr.

FRANK), the chairman of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I am pleased that we appear to have a very broad consensus in favor of this. My friend from Texas is right. There is no one single answer to the problems of poverty. But I am pleased that we have agreement that this is an important part of it.

We have some history here that argues for this bill. In the year, I think it was 2000, we in this House passed a bill on the floor over some objection from the administration at the time, the Clinton administration, and from some of the House leadership. But we passed a bill to begin the process known as the HIPC, the heavily indebted poor country debt relief, and it has worked very well. And for those who think that these enterprises are doomed to failure, we can point to many successes in HIPC. And we did this in a way so that countries that had not lived up to what should have been their part of the bargain didn't get the benefit.

The time has now come to do this again. And if this is done right, relieving countries of debt—debt that was often incurred by prior undemocratic and repressive regimes, and they will be primarily African but not entirely—relieving these countries of debt does as much to promote education and reduce poverty as anything else we can do.

I think it is particularly noteworthy on this day when His Holiness the Pope is in our city that we received a letter from the Most Reverend Thomas G. Wenski, the Bishop of Orlando, who is chairman of the Committee on International Policy of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. He strongly supports the bill, and I ask that that be introduced into the RECORD now, along with a letter from the Jubilee Coalition, the Jubilee Network, many religious and civic organizations, and the NAACP.

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE; DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, PEACE AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, U.S. CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS,

*Washington, DC, April 9, 2008.*

House of Representatives,
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: As Chairman of the Committee on International Policy of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), I urge you to support the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2007 (HR 2634).

Inspired by the call of our late, beloved Pope John Paul II, USCCB has long been a strong advocate of lifting the heavy burden of debt from the backs of millions of people living in the world's poorest countries. As Pope Benedict XVI makes his first Apostolic Visit to the United States, it is fitting that Congress show support for this important initiative that would help alleviate the debt burden of some of our poorest brothers and sisters around the world.

As you know, since 1999 major new debt relief initiatives have been adopted by the international community. These initiatives have resulted in the reduction of the debt of 22 poor countries by over $60 billion. Another 19 countries are receiving, or are potentially eligible to receive, billions more in debt cancellation. These reductions are freeing up substantial funds each year for expenditures in education, health and other investments essential for improving the lives of poor people.

Despite this progress, a substantial number of needy countries are not eligible for the existing debt relief initiatives. HR 2634 represents a major new step towards correcting this deficiency and making debt cancellation a reality for virtually all very poor countries that have participatory processes and financial management systems sufficient to assure that debt cancellation savings will be used to benefit the poor. We urge you to complete the unfinished business of poor country debt relief and support HR 2634.

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS G. WENSKI,
*Bishop of Orlando,*
*Chairman.*

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SEPTEMBER 4, 2007.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: As organizations committed to ending global poverty, we write to urge you to co-sponsor the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2007 (H.R. 2634). The Jubilee Act safeguards the gains made by debt cancellation to date and expands eligibility for cancellation to countries that need it to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Debt cancellation is a proven way to reduce poverty. The debt cancellation supported by Congress in 1999 and 2005 has reached more than two dozen countries in Africa and Latin America. This year, Zambia is using its savings of $23.8 million on agricultural projects and to eliminate fees for health care in rural areas. Uganda is using the $57.9 million freed by debt cancellation to increase spending on primary education, malaria control, health care and infrastructure.

But significant challenges remain. First, the IMF and World Bank continue to urge impoverished nations to adopt policies including privatization of essential services and liberalization of trade in sensitive sectors in exchange for debt cancellation or new aid, the net effect of which can be to limit spending on public services. Today, IMF/World Bank conditions are holding up much needed debt cancellation for eligible countries including Haiti, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Liberia. These economic conditions are undermining the benefits of debt cancellation and hurting the poor; the Jubilee Act would prohibit them. Second, rogue lenders and so-called ''vulture funds'' threaten to compromise the benefits of debt cancellation. The Jubilee Act requires the Secretary of the Treasury to curtail the activity of vulture funds.

2007 marks the half way point to the MDGs, but we are far from halfway to meeting the goals, especially in Africa. Debt cancellation should be expanded to include countries that need it to meet the MDGs and to fight HIV/AIDS and other diseases. The Jubilee Act would make up to 27 additional low-income countries eligible for debt cancellation by the United States, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund provided that they demonstrate their ability to use the money to fight poverty and provide an annual report detailing the use of funds on poverty reduction.

In order to learn from past errors and ensure more responsible lending, we must address the problem of odious and unjust debts (debts accrued by undemocratic regimes or that did not benefit the population). The Jubilee Act does this by requiring the Comptroller General of the US to undertake audits of debt portfolios of previous regimes in countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa, where there is accepted evidence of odious loans.

In order to prevent a continual and wasteful debt/forgiveness cycle, it is essential to establish a framework for responsible and transparent lending in the future. The Jubilee Act calls for the development of responsible financing standards where creditors and aid/loan recipients alike adhere to standards to assure transparency and accountability to citizens, human rights, and the avoidance of odious debt, while encouraging the development of renewable energy and a transition away from dependence on oil.

The U.S. can lead the way to completing the good work already begun on debt cancellation. We urge you to cosponsor H.R. 2634, the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2007.

Sincerely,
ActionAid International USA.
AFL–CIO.
Africa Action.
Ainsworth United Church of Christ, Portland, Oregon.
Alliance for Global Justice.
American Friends Service Committee.
American Jewish World Service.
Americans for Informed Democracy.
Bread for the World.
Capuchin Franciscans, Midwest Province.
The Capuchin Province of Mid-America.
Center of Concern.
Church World Service.
Citizens for Global Solutions.
Conference of Major Superiors of Men.
DATA—Debt AIDS Trade Africa.
The Episcopal Church.
Essential Action.
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
Friends of the Earth US.
Gender Action.
Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti.
Jubilee Justice Task Force of the United Church of Christ.
Jubilee National Capital Area.
Jubilee Northwest Coalition, Seattle, Washington.
Jubilee San Diego.
Jubilee USA Network.
Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Office of the Wheaton Franciscans.
Marianists International.
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns.
Medical Mission Sisters' Alliance for Justice.
Mennonite Central Committee.
Metanoia Peace Community United Methodist Church, Portland, Oregon.
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Justice, Peace/Integrity of Creation Office.
Missionary Society of St. Columban (US Region).
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).
Nicaragua Network.
Oil Change International.
The ONE Campaign.
Oxfam America.
Pax Christi USA: National Catholic Peace Movement.
Presbyterian Church, (USA), Washington Office.
Priority Africa Network.
RESULTS.
SHALOM Network, Dallas Unit of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.
School Sisters of Notre Dame, Mankato Province.
School Sisters of Notre Dame-St. Louis Mission Effectiveness Office.
Sisters of the Holy Cross, Notre Dame, IN.
Sojourners/Call to Renewal.
South Bay Jubilee Coalition.
St. Francis Xavier Jubilee parish, Missoula, MT.

TransAfrica Forum.
Union for Reform Judaism.
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations.
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries.
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society.
Washington Office on Africa.
Witness for Peace.
Women's Edge.

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WASHINGTON BUREAU, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE,
*Washington, DC, April 14, 2008.*

Re Support for the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation Act of 2007, H.R. 2634.

Members,
*House of Representatives,*
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), our nation's oldest, largest and most widely-recognized grassroots civil rights organization, I strongly urge you to support legislation to address the debilitating debt that many countries throughout the world face. While debt is often a necessary tool used for a plethora of economic reasons, unmanageable debt can cripple a country, preventing it from meeting the most basic human needs of its people. Specifically, I urge you to support H.R. 2634, the Jubilee Act, when it comes before you on the floor of the House tomorrow.

As a signatory to the Millennium Development Goals, the U.S. is charged with helping to alleviate poverty as well as promote education and health throughout the world. H.R. 2634, the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2007, would make great strides in freeing resources to achieve these goals through the forgiveness of debts. This crucial piece of legislation would help ease the overwhelming debt burden many countries face while making available funds for these nations to use to provide their citizens with vital resources and services. For example, in countries such as Burundi, Ghana, Honduras, Tanzania and Zambia, money saved from debt relief has been used to improve infrastructure, education, and health care and to increase access to daily necessities of life such as food and clean drinking water.

While these reports are certainly encouraging, more needs to be done. For example, in Sub-Saharan Africa, the approximate number of people living on less than a dollar a day has actually increased since 1990. If current trends are not reversed, Africa will be the only region in the world where there will be more poor people in 2015 than in 1990.

Thank you in advance for your attention to the NAACP position. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at my office at (202) 463–2940.

Sincerely,

HILARY O. SHELTON,
*Director.*

Helping countries reduce the debt is a very effective way of giving them the tools to go forward with development.

One other important point here. We have been plagued in the past by the international financial community and the judgment of many of us, liberal, conservative, Democrat and Republican, unduly injecting itself into the decisions in particular countries. Democratic societies should not be told from the outside what the water rate should be, what the tax structure should be and what education fees should be. And very often in the past, these had a very negative effect from the standpoint of poverty alleviation.

Unanimously out of our committee, this bill includes a restriction on what is called conditionality of that sort. There will be no possibility of using debt relief as a lever for outsiders to impose on these Democratic societies choices that ought to be made within their society. We do say that the donors, and these are both the individual countries and the international financial institutions, should insist on a variety of procedural safeguards of democracy, of openness and negotiating with the minority.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. We have said that from the standpoint of the U.S., in order to be eligible for our help, they will have to cooperate with us against human trafficking, against terrorism and against illegal immigration. Those are the kind of conditions that is appropriate to impose.

Finally, we should note that this bill obviously does not, as it cannot itself, accomplish debt relief. It is a mandate to the United States executive branch to begin negotiations. And these negotiations must be multilateral, because we do not want to see America give debt relief when other countries don't do it and that nullifies the effect. And we also want to press the international financial institutions to do it using our influence there.

Today, we take a step widely hailed by particularly those who are concerned with the alleviation of poverty in other parts of the world. We take the step that does more than any other single step to reach that goal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Massachusetts has again expired.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. We have had a problem in the world of economic growth occurring in ways that shut out a great majority of the people in various countries from the benefit. We need a coordinated strategy so that we can have growth, but we can have growth in an equitable way. Debt relief is an essential part of that overall strategy.

I thank the gentleman.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, if I could inquire of my friend of any remaining speakers that he has.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. I am the last speaker on our side.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the gentleman very much.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized to close.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I would like to put into the RECORD a statement of administrative policy from the White House on this bill.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY, H.R. 2634—JUBILEE ACT FOR RESPONSIBLE LENDING AND EXPANDED DEBT CANCELLATION OF 2008

(Rep. Waters (D) CA and 104 cosponsors.)

The Administration has provided strong international leadership on debt relief for the world's most heavily-indebted poor countries. Ongoing debt relief initiatives, including the Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI), are expected to provide over $100 billion in debt reduction to 32 countries and another eight countries could eventually qualify under these initiatives. To ensure that gains from debt relief are available for the long term, the Administration led efforts in the multilateral development banks to use a debt sustainability framework to determine the appropriate mix of grants and lending. While the Administration believes the goals of this bill are laudable, the Administration does not support H.R 2634 for the reasons stated below.

The countries to be covered by the bill are managing their debt, and some of the countries that would be covered by this bill are now actively working towards expanded access to international capital markets. Providing debt relief to countries that can service their debt sends the wrong message, and undermines efforts to assist countries in developing sound debt management practices that will allow them to transition gradually toward access to private capital markets.

Any debt relief should be conditioned on the adoption of policies that promote sound economic practices. Policy conditionality is important and often necessary to ensure that debt relief is used in a manner that will promote economic growth and provide real benefits to the poor.

The budget impact of such a program would be significant, and would require trade-offs that could affect key foreign policy priorities. The Treasury Department estimates that the budget cost to forgive the $2.5 billion in nominal debt (including loan guarantees) owed to the United States by countries that do not currently qualify under the HIPC Initiative would be approximately $1 billion. This cost estimate assumes that all potentially eligible International Development Association countries would qualify for debt relief in FY 2008 and would change depending on the year that each country qualifies. These countries also owe the World Bank and IMF over $32 billion in nominal debt, in addition to other bilateral and multilateral debts. While the bill calls for international financial institutions to fund debt relief from internal resources, the availability of such resources is very likely to be limited, as recently demonstrated by the requirements for donor funding of the MDRI. Any additional debt relief from the international financial institutions is therefore likely to require substantial additional contributions from the U.S., in addition to the estimated $1 billion cost of the bilateral debt relief portion of the proposal. Rather than embarking on expanded debt relief, the United States must focus on fulfilling its current commitments.

The Responsible Lending Framework described by the bill could also hinder access by poor countries to private capital. The bill calls for the creation of a binding international legal framework for lending by all multilateral, bilateral, and private creditors. While we recognize the goals underlying such a framework—to encourage sustainable lending and borrowing levels—the prospects for such an agreement are doubtful. Given the wide range of international creditors, creation of such a framework would be very difficult and enforcement would be nearly impossible. Finally, the threat of sanctions

based on such a framework would likely discourage legitimate creditors from lending to poor countries, further reducing these countries' access to financial markets.

Finally, H.R. 2634 contains several provisions raising constitutional concerns by purporting to limit the President's ability to conduct the Nation's foreign affairs.

Madam Speaker, as every American taxpayer is acutely aware, yesterday was Tax Day, or the final day for individuals and families to file taxes without incurring financial penalties. This is not to be confused with Tax Freedom Day, which the Tax Freedom Foundation has defined as the day on which the average American has finally earned enough money to pay this year's tax obligations at the federal, State and local level, which won't arrive this year until next week on April 23.

□ 1145

In recognition of these two important days on every taxpayer's calendar, today I will be asking each of my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the previous question to this rule. If the previous question is defeated, I will amend the rule to make in order for the House to consider H.R. 2734, a comprehensive bill offered by my friend from Michigan, Congressman TIM WALBERG.

This legislation repeals the sunset date of the 2001 Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act and makes the tax reductions enacted by that act permanent. In other words, instead of increasing taxes, we would like to make these tax cuts permanent for economic growth and development in this country, which will encourage investment and thereby grow jobs in this country.

We have heard today several speakers from the Democrat majority question what is wrong with America today, and even blaming President Bush for the economic woes that exist. But today the Republican Party is saying if we want to do the things that President Bush wants, and I think that the American people want, let's make tax cuts permanent to ensure that we have job growth and development of companies and employers in America.

It also repeals the termination date for provisions of the 2003 Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003, reducing income tax rates on dividends and capital gains, because that is how you grow jobs. The reverse is happening, which America understands right now, and that is the new Democratic majority wants to increase taxes, which causes the economy not to stimulate, but to contract, which is exactly what is happening now, which is exactly what we understand the new policies of the Democratic majority have been about for 17 months.

At some point, this Democratic majority is going to have to take responsibility for the things that happen under their watch, instead of just blaming President Bush. President Bush says let's make these tax cuts permanent. That is what has worked up to now, and we need to do it today.

We will also amend the Internal Revenue Code to make permanent a tax deduction for State and local sales tax. That needs to be done. We have done that each of the last 5 years. Also the tax deductions for tuition. Let me repeat that; the tax deduction for tuition. Here we are on the floor trying to do something for students, to get student loans, but yet we will not have a deduction for tuition and related expenses.

The increased expensing allowed for small businesses. Small business is the engine of our economy. That is why Republicans want to make the tax cuts permanent, so that we make sure that we allow small businesses to grow, not contract.

And the tax credit for increasing research and development. Research and development is how we are going to cure the ills and the problems of the world that we see today.

Instead, the new Democratic majority, now for 17 months, wants to increase taxes. They want to take away the deductions for tuition; they want to increase taxes on small business; they want to make investment very difficult in this country, doubling, if you listen to some of the candidates that are on the trail, doubling the capital gains rate. And certainly they won't be for increasing research and development. They want to tax that.

Finally, this opportunity today would express the sense of the House of Representatives that the Committee on Ways and Means should report legislation on or before the end of the year to simplify the Federal income tax system.

Madam Speaker, I can think of no more fitting action for Congress during this week between Tax Day and Tax Freedom Day than to provide this kind of certainty to the American taxpayer. That is what we should be about, is good policy that encourages the opportunity to grow our economy and have new jobs.

By voting ''no'' on the previous question, Members will not be voting to kill or delay this debt relief legislation. They will simply be voting to provide tax relief, so that we can grow our economy for Americans at the same time that we provide debt relief to the world's poorest countries. What a wonderful opportunity.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote ''no'' on the previous question.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to ask unanimous consent to have the text of the amendment and extraneous material appear in the RECORD just prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I want to point out a couple of things. Number one, this legislation comes to you with bipartisan support from the Financial Services Committee. There was a recognition on that committee between the members on the majority and the members on the minority that this Congress had an opportunity to do something concrete, something practical, to help the most impoverished countries in this world.

This legislation is practical. It is going to give relief that translates into higher literacy rates, lower infant mortality rates and better access to education, and it is done at very modest expense to the American taxpayer. It also is America working with other countries and with international institutions, the IMF and the World Bank, to have a positive influence in foreign policy. It makes sense. It is bipartisan. It should be done.

I have to say I disagree with the suggestion of my good friend from Texas that we essentially transform this into a debate about extending the Bush tax cuts. That is a refrain we are hearing constantly that is brought up as a way of taking attention off of the things that we can do immediately in the legislation that is before us.

The fact of the matter is that what we have seen in the past few years under the fiscal leadership of the Bush administration is we have gone from a record surplus to a record deficit. We have gone from a point of paying down our national debt to increasing it to close to $7 trillion.

The reality is that this legislation is about one thing and one thing only: It is about helping countries where the daily income of its citizens is on average $3 a day. That is what it is. We can decide that we are going to take concrete action to help those countries move ahead, or use this as an opportunity to engage in a debate about whether to extend tax cuts, as is being requested by the gentleman.

So, Madam Speaker, by passing this proposed rule and this bill for which it provides consideration, Congress can build on this immensely successful debt relief effort we have had on a bipartisan basis and started more than a decade ago to provide relief for the world's poorest countries. It is an essential tool in the fight on the war on poverty.

Incidentally, it is money well spent. Much less of our money and the money of our allies is spent than when we have to engage in military conflict. The legislation represents what I believe should be the face of American leadership around the globe. I believe the sponsors of this legislation believe it will make the world a better place and make the world safer and more stable.

This is a good bill, a bipartisan bill. It enjoys the support not only of Chairman FRANK and Chairwoman WATERS, but of their Republican counterparts on the committee, our colleagues Congressman BACHUS and Congresswoman BIGGERT. That is why I urge a ''yes''

vote on the previous question and on the rule.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1103—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2634—Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2007. I also strongly support the underlying legislation, H.R. 2634, the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation, which I am proud to join over 100 of my colleagues in cosponsoring. I would like to thank my colleague, Congresswoman WATERS, for introducing this bill, as well as the Chairman of the Financial Services Committee, Congressman FRANK, for his leadership on this important issue.

This rule allows for the consideration of four amendments. I am proud to support the Manager's Amendment, introduced by Congressman FRANK, which adds additional conditions to the eligibility criteria for debt relief, including complying with minimum standards for eliminating human trafficking, cooperating with American efforts to stop illegal immigration, and being committed to free and fair elections.

I also support the amendment offered by my colleague Congressman HASTINGS of Florida. This amendment adds a Sense of Congress stating that, due to the current humanitarian and political instability in Haiti, including food shortages and political turmoil, the Secretary of the Treasury should use his influence to expedite the complete and immediate cancellation of Haiti's debts to all international financial institutions, or if such debt cancellation cannot be provided, to urge the institutions to immediately suspend the requirement that Haiti make further debt service payments on debts owed to the institutions. After deadly food riots last week in Port-au-Prince, which resulted in the death of a Nigerian U.N. peacekeeper, I believe that this amendment is both crucial and timely.

I also support the amendment introduced by my colleague Mr. WEINER. This amendment modifies the qualification for ''eligible low-income country'' to include those countries that are eligible for both International Development Association loans and World Bank loans.

Countries throughout the world suffer from the heavy burden of debt. The inability of nations to escape from these financial commitments has profound impacts on any attempts they make at poverty reduction, health care, economic development, and sustainable growth. The Highly Indebted Poor Countries, HIPCs, the majority of which are located in Africa, are particularly crippled by debt. Nearly three years ago, we saw an outpouring of support for debt relief as G8 leaders met in Gleneagles, Scotland, to pursue a policy of poverty reduction. While some positive progress has been made since that meeting, it is absolutely undeniable that this is an issued on which a great deal remains to be done.

Today, we have an opportunity to take a positive and concrete step toward ending global poverty by helping needy and deserving low-income countries. The Jubilee Act expands existing debt relief programs for the world's poorest countries, and it includes measures to ensure that the benefits of debt relief are not eroded by future abusive lending.

Debt relief has, in the past, proved an effective tool to reduce poverty in some of the world's poorest countries. Debt relief initiatives passed in 1999 and 2005 are benefiting more than two dozen countries in Africa and Latin America. Uganda is using the $57.9 million it has saved from debt cancellation on primary education, to ensure a future for its children, as well as much needed improvements in malaria control, health care, and infrastructure. Zambia is using its savings of $23.8 million on agricultural projects, and to eliminate fees for health care in rural areas.

Debt cancellation has enabled programs in Uganda and Zambia to directly help the people of these nations. However, there are many impoverished and deserving countries that do not currently benefit from debt relief. The International Monetary Fund, IMF, and the World Bank continue to place restrictive conditions on debt cancellation, calling for policies requiring the privatization of essential services and the liberalization of trade in sensitive sectors in exchange for debt cancellation. These conditions are currently holding up desperately needed debt relief in several eligible countries, including Haiti, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Liberia.

Madam Speaker, the legislation we are considering today will not only bring the benefits of debt cancellation to more countries than ever before, it will also ensure that these benefits are felt by all strata of society. This bill would direct the Secretary of the Treasury to negotiate an agreement with the IMF and World Bank, as well as other bilateral and multilateral creditors, to make up to 25 additional low-income countries eligible for complete debt cancellation. Governments of these countries will be required to allocate the money saved through debt cancellation to poverty reduction programs, such as initiatives to improve economic infrastructure, basic education, nutrition, health services, and programs to redress environmental degradation.

This legislation does not remove all conditions from debt relief programs. Countries still must demonstrate transparent and effective budget and financial management systems, and they can be excluded from debt relief if they do not. In addition, countries committing massive violations of human rights are not eligible, nor are countries that support international terrorism, have excessive levels of military expenditures, or fail to cooperate on international narcotics control. The Jubilee Act encourages the developing of responsible financing standards, and assures financial transparency and accountability.

Finally, but perhaps most importantly, the Jubilee Act calls for the development of a responsible financing framework for the future. Debt forgiveness is a good short-term solution, but to be truly effective we must find a way to fix the broken system of international lending. Of particular concern to me has been the proliferation of vulture funds, which, like their avian namesake, seek to make a profit off of already weakened prey.

Madam Speaker, vulture funds purchase the debt of countries (or companies) in financial distress. They then hold out for the full value of the debt, plus any interest, which they pursue through litigation, much of which takes place in U.S. courts. The inability of nations to escape from these financial commitments has profound impacts on any attempts they make at poverty reduction, health care, economic development, and sustainable growth. The Highly Indebted Poor Countries, HIPCs, the majority of which are located in Africa, are particularly crippled by debt. Though these countries may not appear to be the most profitable prey for vulture funds, which in theory prefer to purchase debt that a country has, or may in the future develop, the ability to pay, according to reports there are numerous lawsuits currently pending against HIPC countries.

Vulture funds, together with other forms of irresponsible lending, undermine international efforts to provide much needed debt relief to the world's most indebted poor countries. The Jubilee Act directs the Secretary of the Treasury to develop and promote policies to prevent bilateral, multilateral, and private creditors from eroding the gains of debt relief through irresponsible or exploitive lending. I am particularly pleased that this legislation takes this important step toward fixing broken systems of international lending.

Madam Speaker, if we are serious about meeting the Millennium Development Goals, we must take concrete steps toward reducing poverty. Debt cancellation is a proven way to do this. This legislation has the support of numerous organizations doing excellent work around the world, including the AFL–CIO, American Jewish World Service, Church World Service, DATA—Debt AIDS Trade Africa—Jubilee USA Network, the ONE Campaign, Oxfam America, and RESULTS.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this rule, and the underlying legislation.

The material previously referred to by Mr. SESSIONS is as follows:

AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 1103 OFFERED BY MR. SESSIONS OF TEXAS

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 3. That immediately upon the adoption of this resolution the House shall, without intervention of any point of order, consider the bill (H.R. 2734) to make the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 and certain other tax benefits permanent law. All points of order against the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) an amendment in the nature of a substitute if offered by Representative Rangel of New York, which shall be considered as read and shall be separately debatable for 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

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(The information contained herein was provided by the Democratic Minority on multiple occasions throughout the 109th Congress.)

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Democratic majority agenda and a vote to allow the opposition, at least for the moment, to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308–311) describes the vote on the previous question on

the rule as ''a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.'' To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that ''the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition'' in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R–Illinois) said: ''The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.''

Because the vote today may look bad for the Democratic majority they will say ''the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.'' But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the definition of the previous question used in the Floor Procedures Manual published by the Rules Committee in the 109th Congress, (page 56). Here's how the Rules Committee described the rule using information from Congressional Quarterly's ''American Congressional Dictionary'': ''If the previous question is defeated, control of debate shifts to the leading opposition member (usually the minority Floor Manager) who then manages an hour of debate and may offer a germane amendment to the pending business.''

Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled ''Amending Special Rules'' states: ''a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.'' (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: ''Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.''

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Democratic majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on adopting the resolution, if ordered; ordering the previous question on House Resolution 1107; and adopting House Resolution 1107, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 217, nays 196, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 192]

YEAS—217

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
McNulty
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth

NAYS—196

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hill
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—18

Bono Mack
Brady (PA)
Costa
DeLauro
Fattah
Ferguson
Harman
Mack
Markey
Meek (FL)
Nunes
Peterson (PA)
Roskam
Rothman
Rush
Slaughter
Wexler
Wilson (NM)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes are remaining on this vote.

□ 1218

Mr. SAXTON and Mr. BARTON of Texas changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, on roll-call No. 192, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 220, nays 190, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 193]

YEAS—220

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rohrabacher
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wilson (OH)
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth

NAYS—190

Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hill
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—21

Aderholt
Brady (PA)
Costa
Cramer
DeLauro
Fattah
Ferguson
Harman
Mack
Markey
Meek (FL)
Nunes
Peterson (PA)
Reyes
Rogers (AL)
Rothman
Rush
Weldon (FL)
Wexler
Wilson (NM)
Woolsey

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes are remaining in this vote.

□ 1225

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5715, ENSURING CONTINUED ACCESS TO STUDENT LOANS ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on House Resolution 1107, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 218, nays 198, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 194]

YEAS—218

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
McNulty
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NAYS—198

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin

Feeney
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hill
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—15

Bilbray
Boswell
Brady (PA)
DeLauro
Fattah
Ferguson
Mack
Markey
Meek (FL)
Peterson (PA)
Rothman
Rush
Wexler
Wilson (NM)
Wynn

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1232

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 223, nays 192, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 195]

YEAS—223

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castle
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NAYS—192

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hill
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—16

Bilbray
Brady (PA)
DeLauro
Fattah
Ferguson
Foxx
Holt
Mack
Meek (FL)
Peterson (PA)
Rothman
Rush
Schwartz
Wexler
Wilson (NM)
Wynn

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1240

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 195, I was detained and was not able to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Stated against:

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 195, on agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 1107, a resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5715) to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families, had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Wednesday, April 16, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: Rollcall 192—"no"; nay"; rollcall 193—"no"; nay rollcall 194—"no"; nay; rollcall 195—"no". "nay."

## GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2634 and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 891

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 891.

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

There was no objection.

## JUBILEE ACT FOR RESPONSIBLE LENDING AND EXPANDED DEBT CANCELLATION OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1103 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2634.

□ 1242

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2634) to provide for greater responsibility in lending and expanded cancellation of debts owed to the United States and the international financial institutions by low-income countries, and for other purposes, with Mr. PASTOR in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, according to the World Bank, more than 10 million children in developing countries die every year before the age of 5, most from preventable illnesses. More than 1 billion people in developing countries do not have access to save drinking water. And approximately 100 million school-age children do not attend school.

In sub-Saharan Africa, 41 percent of the population lives on less than $1 a day.

It was because of these injustices that I first got involved in the issue of debt relief, and I would like to thank many of my colleagues who have been working with me over the years on debt relief and who have joined with me to present this legislation.

First, I'd like to thank Chairman BARNEY FRANK, who's always been a big supporter and a fighter, and who's worked very hard in the past to ensure that we are on record doing the right thing for poor children and poor families all over the world.

And of course I've been very pleased to work with the ranking member of the Financial Services Committee, Mr. SPENCER BACHUS, who worked with me on Jubilee 2000, and who's been involved in debt relief for many, many years.

I'd like to thank the original cosponsors, Mr. EMANUEL CLEAVER, Mr. LUIS GUTIERREZ, Ms. CAROLYN MALONEY, Mr. DONALD PAYNE, Ms. BARBARA LEE, and others such as Ms. JUDY BIGGERT, who serves on our Financial Services Committee, and Ms. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, who is the Ranking Member on Foreign Affairs, for all of the work and the assistance and the cosponsorship for this legislation.

□ 1245

In 1999, I worked with my colleagues on the Financial Services Committee to pass legislation to provide debt relief to the world's poorest countries. Our legislation provided complete debt cancellation for the bilateral debt that certain poor countries owed to the United States. Several other donor countries followed our example and cancelled the debts that were owed to them as well.

Our legislation also directed the Clinton administration to negotiate with other world leaders to significantly reduce poor countries' multilateral debts. The following year, the House passed my amendment to the fiscal year 2001 Foreign Operations appropriations bill, which increased funding for debt relief from $69 million to $225 million. This amendment proved that Congress supported full funding for the debt relief programs.

Since then, we have continued to work together in a bipartisan way to urge not only the Clinton administration but the Bush administration as well, the IMF, the World Bank, and other multilateral financial institutions to expand debt relief. As a result of our efforts, 23 heavily indebted poor countries have received complete cancellation of their debts.

Debt cancellation has proven to be effective in freeing up resources for poverty reduction. Cameroon is using its savings of $29.8 million from debt cancellation in 2006 for national poverty reduction priorities including infrastructure, social sector, and governance reforms. Uganda is using its savings of $57.9 million to improve energy infrastructure, to ease acute electricity shortages, as well as primary education, malaria control, health care, and water infrastructure. Zambia is using its savings of $23.8 million to increase spending on agricultural projects and to eliminate fees for health care in rural areas.

I'm proud to report that debt relief has made a real difference in the lives of millions of impoverished people. This came to pass because our country showed leadership, and our country showed leadership because this Congress showed leadership.

We are here today to continue our efforts. We are here today to enable additional needy and deserving poor countries to benefit from the cancellation of their debts. The Jubilee Act would make up to an additional 25 low-income countries eligible for debt relief, provided these countries meet strict criteria and use the savings for poverty reduction programs such as improvements to economic infrastructure, basic education, nutrition and health services, and programs to redress environmental degradation.

I would like to share with you a few of the observations and perhaps comments that I have learned about since I have been involved with debt cancellation.

Julius Nyerere, the former President of Tanzania, once asked, ''Must we starve our children to pay our debts?'' For Tanzania, the answer to this question is, ''not anymore.'' That is because Tanzania is one of the lucky ones. It is one of the 23 countries that have already received complete debt cancellation. Tragically, many other countries are still starving their children in order to pay their debts.

Debt forgiveness is a moral imperative, and it is encouraged by many religious traditions. The Bible instructs the people of ancient Israel to cancel debts periodically through the celebration of a sabbath year every 7 years and a jubilee every 50 years.

Leviticus 25:10 says, ''Proclaim liberty throughout the lands and to all the inhabitants thereof. It shall be a jubilee for you.''

Let us once again proclaim a jubilee for millions of people in some of the poorest countries in the world.

I would ask my colleagues to join with me in support of this Jubilee Act.

Before yielding the balance of my time, I would like to thank Speaker NANCY PELOSI for urging us to get this bill up and get it on the floor so that we could go on record in support of debt cancellations for the poor countries of the world.

At this time, I would like to yield the balance of my time to Chairman FRANK, and I ask unanimous consent that he be permitted to control the time.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Massachusetts will be recognized.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Chairman, I ask for such time as I may consume.

I speak in support of the legislation. First of all, let me thank Chairman FRANK and Subcommittee Chairman WATERS for the bipartisan cooperation they've shown in bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Chairman, this legislation is very good legislation. I would urge all Members to support it. What the legislation does, as Congresswoman WATERS said, it allows the administration to negotiate debt relief arrangements with the 25 poorest countries of the world. It does not require them to enter into any specific agreement. It simply gives them that authorization.

Once they have gone to those countries and negotiated debt relief, that

agreement then has to come back to the Senate and the House for our approval. So we're not approving any specific action today. We're simply authorizing them to do what most of us in this body believe is the right thing to do, and that's debt relief for the poorest people of the world.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn said that a disaster is defined by magnitude and distance. We hear about a million and a half citizens of Darfur starving to death, and it is halfway around the world. It somehow does not grip us like seeing someone in our own community starve to death on the streets. But in reality, 1.5 million people have died in Darfur, and they're dying in Sub-Saharan Africa. They're dying in these 25 countries.

And people say, how do they die? You hear of 25,000, but what we're really talking about is one child at a time, one young person at a time, one older lady or grandmother that simply dies because there is nothing to eat or because there is no clean water or because there is no vaccinations.

Now, let me give you three reasons why we should support it. People say let me answer this first, and I'm going to answer it by submitting for the RECORD, and I would ask the Members, if you're trying to decide whether to support this legislation or not, I'm going to introduce the remarks of Ward Brehm, who is the chairman of the U.S. Africa Development Fund. He spoke at this year's prayer breakfast. I wish every Member could have been there.

REMARKS OF WARD BREHM, CHAIRMAN OF U.S. AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BOARD, NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2008

Thank you, Senator Enzi. I am deeply humbled by your introduction and proud to be able to call you my friend.

Most of you were probably surprised when you picked up the program and saw a speaker you've never heard of before. Me too . . . One month ago, I sent in my registration . . . and was just hoping for a good seat!

My thanks also to the members of the Senate group for this opportunity. A good friend emailed me last night and said that if God was going to speak through me I didn't need to be nervous. . . .

God is the one who should be nervous!

My wife read to me from Scripture last night that Jesus said when two or more gather in His name He will be there. That's good enough for me!

My work has given me the high privilege of serving you, Mr. President, the American people, and above all, the poor in Africa.

The best way to help the poor is to help them not be poor anymore. The only way I know how to do that is through job creation, and the very best form of sustainable development is a steady paycheck.

It's been said that if you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime. But that's not the full story. If you want to eat for a lifetime, you need to own the pond.

So a bit of background . . . Despite that eloquent introduction, I am a recovering Type-A controlling businessman. I've been described even by people who like me as someone who is often wrong but seldom in doubt. I was a bit of a problem child growing up. In fact, my pastor since childhood, Arthur Rouner, recently referred to me as a ministerial long shot!

They say that if God wants to get your attention He will toss a pebble into your life. If that doesn't work He'll throw a rock. As a last resort He'll heave a brick!

Africa was my brick.

In 1994, Africa was not on my personal radar screen.

In fact, the only thing on that radar screen was me.

In the Los Angeles Airport I bought a copy of Stephen Covey's book, The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.

I didn't buy it to learn anything, but just wanted to make sure he got them all right!

I was intrigued by Covey's notion of paradigms: identical sets of facts can mean something totally different because of your world view.

Somalia was in the news at the time, and countless numbers of Africans were dying from starvation. I felt no real connection to this humanitarian crisis. My radar screen was full.

Paradigms usually change because of shock or trauma, but I wondered if it might be possible for someone to change their paradigm on purpose. I supposed that if I were to see people starving, it would change that paradigm and perhaps much more. The thought left me nearly as quickly as it came.

But God sent me a reminder . . . One week later, I made one of my occasional stops at church . . . My pastor, out of the blue, took me aside and said, ''Ward, I'm going to Africa in two months, and I would like you to go with me.''

I told him I couldn't believe the coincidence of his invitation given my recent reflections on Somalia. Then I said . . . ''No!''

He looked at me in a strange way, and he said, ''Would you at least pray about it?'' I looked at him and said, ''You're the pastor; you pray about it. I will think about it but suspect my answer will still be no.''

He must have prayed hard . . . because two months later, I found myself in the Minneapolis airport with a ticket to Ethiopia in my hand. I was surrounded (for lack of a better word) by church ladies. And they were hugging me . . . Then someone suggested we pray before we departed, so I found myself outside Gate 8A, holding hands with a group of strangers. And as I stand here before the National Prayer Breakfast I can honestly say I uttered my first heartfelt and sincere prayer . . .

''Lord . . . Don't let any of my clients see me!''

And then we flew. 12,000 miles to Africa, and a million miles from my comfort zone. I had the high privilege of having my heart broken. I saw poverty on an obscene level.

Children with flies on their eyes and for the lack of a 50 cent medicine doomed to blindness, the emaciated faces of famine, families shattered by civil war. And in Masaka, Uganda, I held the hand of a 22-year-old Mother as she died of AIDS and then turned and looked directly into the eyes of four brand new orphans.

I was an eyewitness.

It put a face on the statistics. I always believed that those statistics were true, but now they were real. It got personal. . . .

More recently, I took a long walk with a warrior turned pastor friend deep into an unknown wilderness along the northern Rift Valley that divides Northwest Kenya with Uganda. He took me to where they had never seen a person with white skin. When they first spotted me, they thought I was a ghost . . . a dead man walking. For a while, I thought they'd be right.

I fasted for five days on this walk to experience real hunger, but had brought along protein bars in the case of (as Lodinyo put it) an ''emergency''. At the end of the walk, I collapsed in a borrowed sleeping hut; when I awoke 13 hours later, I saw a little boy peeking through the door. While he was initially terrified, curiosity eventually got the best of him, and I noticed he was concentrating more on my stash of power bars than he was on me. He succeeded in snatching a bar, and immediately ran away. ''Kids are the same everywhere,'' I thought, until I stepped outside the hut, and found a little boy kneeling over his two-year-old sister with a terribly distended stomach, feeding her tiny pieces of protein. . . .

I found out 3 months later that she had died . . . another paradigm shift.

Now after more than 30 trips to Africa, the question I have been asked more than any other by my African friends is ''What do you pray for?''

Most of us among the affluent have too many things. Too much food, multiple cars, great health care, retirement plans, insurance. . . .

It's only when things fall completely apart, and we're totally out of control that we feel totally dependent, and thus closest to God. Death, cancer, business failure, addiction, divorce, crises; these are the things that drop us to our knees.

All across the world including America things are continually falling apart for the truly poor . . . They are always out of control, constantly living in a crisis mode, and thus dependent and faithful to God's own commandment that we love Him with all our hearts. God is often all the poor have.

The leaders that God anoints are their only hope. And despite the often-horrific conditions they live in, the poor are thankful for their very existence.

Scripture asks, ''Hasn't God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and inherit the Kingdom?'' Yes, He has. I've seen it with my own eyes.

The question I'm asked the most by my American friends is, ''Why cross an ocean to help people when you need only cross the street, to help your own?'' It's a great question, and the answer is, of course, that we need to do both.

Solzhenitsyn said that disaster is defined by two things: magnitude and distance. So a small disaster close to home or a huge disaster faraway, results in what he describes as ''bearable disasters of bearable proportions.'' We've become too good at ''bearing.'' Our hearts should be broken by the things that break the heart of God.

Specifically in Africa, there are many faraway disasters of epic proportions. In 1994 . . . In Rwanda, a country the size of Maryland, the political genocide claimed over 800,000 lives. Nine thousand lives per day for 90 days. That's two World Trade Center disasters per day for 3 months.

Today . . . in Darfur, Sudan, 1.5 million homeless. Thousands terrorized, raped and killed. AIDS is killing 4,400 people per day in Africa, and even more are dying from curable malaria. Epic disasters of epic proportions, far from home for most of us. We have hundreds right here in this room from all around the world, our neighbors this morning . . . who experience these epic disasters close to home.

I do want to say this while I have the chance with the President sitting right here. Very few people are aware that due to President Bush's commitment and the resulting partnership with Congress there has been an absolutely historic four-fold increase in American assistance to fight poverty and AIDS in Africa.

In 2003 there were 50,000 Africans on Anti Viral medication and today there are over 1.5 million. I have not met a single person who hasn't agreed with this high calling.

Proverbs, the book of Wisdom says, ''speak up for those who can't speak for themselves and defend the rights of the poor and destitute.'' You have been that voice and on behalf of the ''least of these'' in Africa as well as the collective American conscience, I want to say . . . ''Thank you Mr. President.''

Do you remember when Jesus was talking to His disciples, and asked them when He was hungry, why they didn't give Him any food, and when He was naked, why they didn't give Him any clothes? And the disciples said something like, ''Lord, we never did any of those things to You.'' I always thought (like most folks) that Jesus replied ''Whenever you did this to the least of these, you did this unto Me.''

Except He didn't say that. What He said was, ''Whenever you did this to one of the least of these, you did this unto Me.''

How often do we forget the word ''one.''

It changes the meaning of what Jesus said completely. In our quest to be helpful, we can rob the poor of their dignity. In order to be of any help to the poor, we need to understand them, we need to know them, and we need to Love them. They are not a group. The poor is not a species. They are identical to us in their hopes and dreams. They love their families and long for a better life. The only difference is that they are poor.

And people don't stiffer and die in groups. It's one at a time. And each one of those deaths leaves an identical wake of agony to what you and I and our families would experience.

So what are we supposed to do with all of this? How does this fit with our own world, so different and so faraway? Frankly, I'm not sure, but we do have some clues . . . Jesus said, ''The poor will always be with you.'' What an odd thing to say. . . . especially coming from Him!

Jesus also said, ''To whom much has been given, much will be expected.'' So maybe This is a test of sorts. If so . . . how are we doing?

I have heard stories similar to mine of peoples' lives being changed: from orphanages in Russia to inner-city schools in Minneapolis, from the slums of Calcutta to remote medical clinics in the mountains of Afghanistan, from the streets of Washington, DC, to wretched prisons in East Asia. Indeed, all across the world people are answering Jesus' question, ''Who is my neighbor?''

And these people are finding themselves changed, engaged, and discovering meaning and relevance by being involved in things much bigger than themselves. . . .

I believe that, deep down, most people would love to have God change their lives. Here's the thing: If asked, He will, every time, guaranteed. And while these changes may initially seem scary, they ultimately lay a foundation for a life lived on purpose rather than by default.

I will be forever indebted to Africa. Africa awakened me when I didn't even know I was asleep. I pray that everyone who seeks one will find a similar path.

I pray that each of you will find your own Africa. . . .

A few years ago my good friend, Gary Haugen, asked me the most important question of all. . . .

For those four orphans I was with in Uganda who watched their mother die of AIDS and were suddenly completely on their own . . . For a twelve year old girl kidnapped and sold into slavery in rural India . . . For a single mom evicted and homeless on the streets of DC . . . For each one of them:

What is God's strategy for letting them know that He is good?

The mother in Ethiopia sees her baby die of malnutrition. Why would she think God is good? And what is God's strategy For allowing her to know that He loves her?

The answer is astounding. The answer is . . . us.

Even more astonishing . . . He has no plan B. . . .

God bless you One and all.

And what he said is, and I'm going to quote him: ''The question I have been asked by most of my American friends, 'Why cross an ocean to help people when you need only cross the street to help your own?' '' He said, ''It's a great question.'' And the answer is, of course, that we need to do both.

He goes on to quote many people that we look to for directions, many spiritual leaders of all different religions, including Christ Jesus. And that is the answer. Yes, we have an obligation to our nextdoor neighbor, but I do believe that we should have at least compassion and the desire to help people in other countries. We can do that easily and almost without effort, and when you say ''almost without effort,'' aren't we talking about money?

The first round of debt relief for seven countries cost every American citizen 50 cents. Fifty cents. But what did that 50 cents do? It reduced infant mortality in those countries by 9 percent. Nine percent. What is 9 percent? Well, in some of those countries, it was literally hundreds of children surviving that wouldn't have survived. It also included many little girls, millions, millions of little girls that were able to go to school who were never afforded that opportunity before, all for a cost of 50 cents.

This next round of debt relief is estimated to cost $2 for every American citizen. Now, how often could you reach in your pocket, could you put $2 down, and could you see hundreds of thousands of children being given an opportunity to read and write? How many times could you reach in your pocket and offer $2 and know that thousands of people would survive the night?

There was a Catholic priest, a nun, Sister Trujillo in Nicaragua, and she was asked sometime, how do these people survive? How do they survive in such conditions? And she said, I came to say often they don't. They don't survive.

And whether we pass this legislation or not, all over the world in these poor countries, tens of thousands of people won't make it through the night tonight. They will die. They won't see another day. But if we pass this legislation, we can be assured, because we have a track record of success, we can be assured that hundreds of thousands will survive.

In some of these countries, and these are stories that are phenomenal to me, in many countries for special-needs children, people with Down Syndrome, people with severe physical limitations, there was absolutely no services, no services. They were basically born into total hopelessness. In those countries where we've afforded debt relief and their debt services have dropped, there are actually, today, services for those children, for handicapped children.

Anyone who has children, little boys or girls or grandchildren, don't you take pride when they start learning how to read, when they start learning how to write? If for almost nothing you could ensure that little children all over the world have that same right, would you do something? I think you would, and you would vote for this legislation.

Let me give you three reasons again why this is the right thing to do not from a moral standpoint but from even from a good government economic standpoint.

First, it's yielded results. Wherever we have done this, we have benefited. The United States of America has benefited, these countries have benefited, the citizens of these countries have benefited. As I said, the poverty rate in the Sub-Saharan African countries which we gave debt relief is down 6 percent. Over 1 million children a day are receiving health care that weren't receiving it, all for almost no cost to us.

□ 1300

Second, and I think this is essentially important and I want to try to find this. This is a quote from the 9/11 Commission. And if you don't hear anything else that I say today, you're concerned about our country, you're concerned about our security, then realize that debt relief is, I believe, dollar for dollar the most effective program in assuring our national security because it helps to combat poverty, and it is poverty that leads to instability and hopelessness. It creates terrorism and terrorist factions to breed and thrive.

The 9/11 Commission, in talking just about programs such as this, said, ''Terrorism is not caused by poverty. Indeed, many terrorists come from relatively well-off backgrounds. Yet when people lose hope, when societies break down, when countries fragment, the breeding ground for terrorism is created.'' They go on to say, ''Where there is not basic education, where the children are not afforded an education, those are the very countries that the next terrorist threat will come from.''

It's no accident that the U.N. listed Afghanistan prior to the Taliban taking over as the country with the fewest number of children attending public education, or any education. Now, we have a choice that we can stand aside and let these children go to madrassas where they're taught to hate America, or we can help these countries help their own future generations by allowing them to go into public education systems which will not brainwash their children.

And the beneficiaries will not only be them, it will be us. It will be those of us who have had children in the military. I can tell you, as the father of a young marine, this bill is very important to me. I believe that this bill, as much as anything else, allows, long

term, in our next generations, us to keep more of our children from having to go over and try to combat these terrorist activities.

Third, it's cost efficient. The U.S. share of the expected first round of debt relief under this act, as I said, will cost no more than 50 cents a piece for every man, woman and child in this country.

During the debate on this bill, we Republicans asked for and were readily joined by the Democrats in asking for some changes in this debt modification from the ones that went on in prior years. One, we asked the President not to grant debt relief to countries that are not moving in the direction of democracy, that are not committed to the rules of law which are committed to improving human rights and the constitutional rights and the fundamental rights of their citizens. Second, there are countries that engage in human trafficking. Under this legislation, they are not eligible for debt relief. They will either have to turn from those practices or they will be denied even an opportunity to negotiate. And third, they cannot harbor or promote terrorism.

Let me simply close by urging the Members; we all want a safer country, we want a freer America. And for America to be secure in the present global economy we really cannot ignore the rest of the world. We cannot just simply watch as these countries slip into chaos and discord.

This legislation, as much as anything we will bring forward this year, for almost no money, will, I believe, fundamentally improve lives all over this world, all over the globe, but will also be a very good investment for the United States of America, both economically, militarily and morally.

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds by way of introducing our next speaker.

Last Tuesday, I was very pleased to go to a dinner of an organization called the Bank Information Center. And it was a gathering of representatives all of the groups fighting hard to relieve poverty in much of the rest of the world, especially Africa. And they particularly wanted to celebrate the anniversary of an amendment that was successfully authored by a then very junior Member of the House of Representatives that mandated that in international financial institutions due attention be paid to matters of the environment and human rights and decent standards for individuals. And we have come a long way there. That was then known as the Pelosi amendment, because the author of it is now the Speaker, she has continued that leadership, and I yield her 1 minute.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his kind words of recognition to the Pelosi amendment. And I thank him for his tremendous leadership on debt forgiveness, not only now, but for a number of years.

I remember watching the master at work to see Mr. FRANK work with the then Clinton administration in the year 2000 when we were trying to get the millennium debt forgiveness. He, along with Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, have really made a tremendous difference in all this. And they have talked about some of the differences made in the countries, Congresswoman WATERS did earlier.

God bless us in this House to be able to serve with Congressman BACHUS. He has just been such a wonderful leader in the House; his value-based policies, sensitive to the needs of people in the world, and how that relates to the security of our country, and how this is important from the standpoint of security and compassion, but it makes good, practical economic sense as well. You're a wonderful leader in this regard, and it is an honor to call you colleague, SPENCER BACHUS, distinguished ranking member of the committee.

This has been a bipartisan initiative from the start. I appreciate the letter that was sent out by Chairman WATERS and SPENCER BACHUS, BARNEY FRANK, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, JUDY BIGGERT, a senior member of the Financial Services Committee, as well as CAROLYN MALONEY from that committee, advocating for this Jubilee Act to be passed today and spelling out exactly what it does as Mr. BACHUS did so very clearly just a moment ago. And so with all the recognition to those on the committee and those who have worked on this issue, thank you for bringing us to this moment on this day.

And I was very pleased and accept Congresswoman WATERS' acknowledgment of our insisting that it be brought up today because today is the day we welcomed the Holy Father, Pope Benedict, to Washington, D.C. Many of us have just returned from the White House, where we were very proud of the welcoming ceremony presided over by President Bush and Mrs. Bush to welcome Pope Benedict and to be stirred by both of their words, the words of our President and also of the Holy Father.

In his remarks, the Holy Father talked about truth and justice and freedom. He talked about respecting the dignity and worth of every person, regarding each other as brothers and sisters, all God's children. He made a beautiful and inspiring speech. And really his speech was reflected in the remarks that SPENCER BACHUS made here in that same regard of what our responsibilities are to our brothers and sisters.

Today is the Holy Father's birthday. And as the President said, he is spending his birthday with friends. And in friendship, we bring this Jubilee Act to the floor today.

This is not the first resolution to welcome His Holiness to America. Last week, we all voted in strong support in a bipartisan way for Congressman MCCOTTER's resolution of welcome to the Holy Father. Yesterday, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN had legislation on the floor relating to religious workers' visas and their ability to work in the United States, which is an issue of importance to His Holiness. And now today, this very important resolution.

The former Holy Father, Pope Paul II, said, ''If you want peace, work for justice.'' There has always been a connection here. With this debt forgiveness, it enables countries to do many more things to promote justice in their countries, whether it's the eradication of disease, the alleviation of poverty, eliminating some of the factors that contribute to the fury of despair that leads to violence that makes the world less safe.

Again, this was a high priority, this debt forgiveness, for John Paul II when he was Pope, and he led the Cardinals in America Conference of Bishops to advocate for this. But it has not just been a Catholic initiative, it has been an interfaith initiative in the country, in the world, and certainly in this Congress.

So it's very exciting, on this Holy Father's birthday, as we welcome him to America, we do so in a way, as Mr. BACHUS said, that just gives the authority to negotiate for these improvements in the forgiveness of debt so that we can, again, do what is right for respecting the spark of divinity that exists in every person in the world, that we can try to bring some justice to it, we, who have so much, for those who are also God's children need our help, and give them hope.

People say to me, where is hope? I say, hope; it's right where it's always been. Hope sits right there comfortably between faith and charity. We are people of faith who believe in the goodness of people. And we have faith that the charity that that will evoke or bring forth will help honor the hope that people have in the world.

So this is a great occasion, again, to welcome His Holiness, to stand up for all the people in the world, and to do what he called upon us to do this morning, he called upon us, he said, ''we must have the courage.''

Today, I hope that we have a unanimous bipartisan show of courage to do what is right. Again, I thank Mr. FRANK, Mr. BACHUS and Congresswoman WATERS for their relentlessness on this issue and the opportunity that they give us to give hope today.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Chairman, in a minute, I'm going to yield to the gentleman from California, but at this time I yield myself such additional time as I may use.

In recognizing the bipartisan nature of our efforts here on the floor today and in committee and over the past few years, this has been an issue that I think has brought the Congress together. That's not to say that Members are not concerned about certain parts. Members have expressed, will this work? This may not work, I'm not sure

it will work. Well, it did work, it did work. We now have a proven track record of accomplishment.

Did we have failures? Yes. Did it work better in certain places than others? Yes. Were there places where perhaps it didn't work very well at all? Yes. Were there places that it amazed us as to how well it worked? And the answer again is yes.

Let me tell a story that completely blind-sided me. I was in Namibia with BOB GOODLATTE and STEVE KING, and we were on an agriculture mission. We met with the President. And Namibia, by the way, they were not accorded debt relief. They don't have that much debt, so they were not one of the countries that we extended debt relief to. So I was surprised when the President of that country sat down with us and one of the first things he said is, please express our country's gratitude. And this is one of the largest countries, geographically, and most strategic countries in Africa, right above South Africa. And he said, please express to the Congress and the people of the United States my thanks for debt relief and the blessings it has brought to this country. And I said, well, Mr. President, you didn't receive debt relief. He said no, but Namibia is much better off today because of debt relief because some of our neighbors did, and those neighbors were trying to destabilize our democracy. They were trying to send rebels into our country. And it stabilized our borders. And we've been able to take money from troops that we had positioned on the border, and also money that the United States had supported to help them do that, they no longer spend that money because their neighbors are more stable, and they are not sending rebels across the border.

So here is an ally of ours that we've not had to spend money on to help defend them from anti-democratic movements simply because the countries where those movements came from are more stable. So again, in places where we didn't even extend debt relief, we've seen tremendously beneficial things.

□ 1315

I want to recognize Mrs. BIGGERT, the gentlewoman from Illinois. Mrs. BIGGERT, as ranking member of the subcommittee over the past few years, has really taken a leadership role in debt relief. She's knowledgeable on the issues. She has been a real asset, and I thank her.

Recently, she and I asked two members of the Republican Caucus who had been opposed to debt relief issues in the past to travel on a delegation to Africa. They did. They came back, and both of them immediately within a week called our office, and I think they expressed to Chairman FRANK, now I've seen with my own eyes many things that Members of this body had talked about. I've seen what a little bit of money can do and how far it can go. I see not only the great need, but I see the ability to address that need for what we in America call an almost inconsequential amount.

And I wish every Member, before they took this vote, could travel to Latin America, could travel to Africa, could travel to these countries in the Middle East or Asia, and they could witness for themselves many of the amazing success stories, countries whose people are better off today than they were yesterday. Not because we gave them money because this is not what debt relief is about. Debt relief is not about giving them foreign aid; it's about allowing them to help themselves, taking their money and spending it on their own people so that they won't be coming to us for a handout. This is about a hand up, a totally different approach, an approach that's working.

Mr. Chairman, at this time I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this basic legislation, which would instruct, of course, the Secretary of Treasury to negotiate debt relief for developing countries, especially those new democracies.

And let me note that much of the debt that we have heard about today that has had such a horrible impact on the way of living, on the standard of living of people throughout the developing world, that debt is basically a result of dictatorship. It is not a result of democratic governments making wrong decisions. By and large we're talking about governments that have been run by authoritarians and gangsters who are putting their own people in debt. I would suggest that anyone who lends money to a dictatorship should take notice and they are doing so at their own risk. However, these people who establish democratic government and replace dictatorships should not be forced to bear the burden of having massive debt. This is what keeps these countries down even once they've replaced their dictators.

For example, in the Soviet Union, once the Communist Party was displaced and they had free elections, we insisted that they not renounce their debt. We did not forgive their debt. That threw the Soviet Union into horrible economic chaos, which then democratic Russia that was paying for the sins of the Communist dictatorship that preceded it. We almost lost democracy in Russia because we were insisting on debt repayment and the people didn't have any moral reason to pay that back.

I will have an amendment, and I am very grateful to Barney Frank for backing my ability to propose the amendment, that suggests that it be a democratically elected government and not just someone who's suggesting they will be democratic in the future that gets this debt relief. This gives the right kind of incentive.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman from California has expired.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. I would ask for an additional 1 minute.

Mr. BACHUS. We don't actually have any additional time to yield.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. I would just say that Ethiopia is an example of a country that we should not be providing debt relief to until it has democratic elections.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I now yield 3 minutes to a former member of our committee whose actions we only mildly begrudge, who has been a leader on the issue of trying to provide effective poverty relief throughout the world, particularly in Africa, who has been a cosponsor of this, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Chairman, I have been called away to an agricultural conference. I would ask unanimous consent to yield all time remaining to be managed by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Connecticut will be recognized.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me first just say how happy I am today to be able to speak on behalf and in support of H.R. 2634, and I have to first thank our Speaker for leading this House in doing the right thing on behalf of the poor and those yearning for a better life.

I also must thank my colleague Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS for introducing this important legislation. She is a true leader in the debt relief movement. The world truly owes her a debt of gratitude for her consistent work and for never letting up on finding ways to relieve the suffering of the poor.

Also, let me thank Chairman BARNEY FRANK for his leadership and for bringing this bill to the floor today in a bipartisan and timely manner and for his commitment to help those who need our help, and to SPENCER BACHUS, who has been committed to debt relief since I have been here, because they fundamentally believe that this is the morally right thing to do. And working together, they have shown the world, really, the best in elected leadership in this House.

So thank you, Chairman FRANK.

Mr. Chairman, as an original cosponsor of this bill, I feel very strongly in the power and the benefit of a simple act of forgiveness and what that can bring. In my travels to the developing world, I have witnessed what Mr. BACHUS and what Ms. WATERS so eloquently described today.

As a result of this legislation, an additional 27 countries could potentially be eligible for expanded debt relief.

This speaks volumes to what can be done to alleviate poverty or help address crises in the developing world, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, such as the devastating HIV/AIDS pandemic. These countries would have to meet strict criteria to guarantee transparency in their financial management systems and ensure that the savings are actually spent on alleviating poverty. The bill would also ensure the involvement of civil society organizations, so important, to help set priorities for how this money should be spent.

The action we take today is not only the right thing to do for countries facing a crushing debt burden, but it speaks volumes about our fundamental values as a nation and as a people. This bill does not give people fish but the means to catch their own fish, feed their families, and live their lives in the manner that all God's children deserve.

Is it any wonder that this bill has the support of over 60 groups led by the Jubilee U.S.A. network? Backing this effort, this coalition includes such a broad range of organizations from the faith community, environmentalists, labor, international development groups, and grassroots advocacy organizations.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentlewoman 1 additional minute.

Ms. LEE. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Let me just say these organizations should be saluted today. They deserve our support and thanks for their work in raising their voices and doing the hard work to help build this great bipartisan support for this bill.

Debt forgiveness is the right thing to do. It is consistent with our values as a Nation. And I urge my colleagues to support this bill and proclaim today as a day of jubilee.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, just before yielding, I would like to explain to my colleagues on the other side that we have 8 minutes left. We are going to yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois and then reserve our 3 minutes and you are going to have an opportunity to go through a number of speakers.

With that, I would yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Mrs. BIGGERT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this legislation and applaud Chairman WATERS for her hard work on this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I must admit that I wanted to cosponsor this bill for a very long time, but the bill as introduced had a number of problems for me. But I am pleased to say that they have been resolved, and I want to thank Chairman FRANK for offering in the Financial Services Committee a manager's amendment that addressed many of my concerns and allowed me to become a cosponsor and also for the manager's amendment that will be brought up today. So I am pleased to join him and Ranking Member BACHUS in offering a manager's amendment today that makes it an even better bill, addressing the most important concerns, including economic conditionality that the administration expressed in its statement of administration policy issued on Monday.

Mr. Chairman, over a decade of hard work and determination has produced results for the poorest countries in the world. Poverty has been reduced and living conditions are improving. Today's bill recognizes and builds upon the previous work of this body on debt and development issues, and I hope that this trend will continue.

When I served in 2004 and 2005 on the Domestic and International Monetary Policy Subcommittee as the Vice Chair, I was pleased to work with many members of the Financial Services Committee, the administration, and interested organizations to craft legislative language that eventually authorized funding for the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, or MDRI.

MDRI expanded the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries, HIPC, Initiative of 1999. In short, this historic, U.S.-led initiative called on the international community to provide up to 100 percent of debt relief and performance-based grants to the world's poorest countries. So Congress has since then appropriated about two-thirds of its financial obligation towards MDRI and HIPC. Unfortunately, I think we fall a little bit short on our commitment, but despite this shortfall, the program is working for 41 of the poorest countries in the world: 22 have graduated from the HIPC program, 10 are on their way, and 9 are beginning the process. So I'm pleased that the bill under consideration today, with both the committee and floor managers' amendments, recognizes these facts and seeks to preserve and build upon the impressive progress made under MDRI and HIPC.

So why do we need the Jubilee Act? Well, the fundamental purpose of today's legislation is to establish a plan for ''phase two'' of the U.S. debt relief initiative. And that's what we need. The bill sets out to forgive the debt and issue grants to the next group of the world's poorest countries, 24 in total, which do not currently qualify under HIPC self-sufficiency and sustainable debt initiatives. Importantly, it also seeks to prevent these countries from entering new lending post-relief debt so that they don't squander the economic and social progress achieved through the debt relief.

I would like to note that the statement of administration policy on this bill recognizes that debt relief should be tied to economic conditionality to ensure that it will promote economic growth and provide real benefits to the poor. In addition, the bill including the manager's amendment, would ensure that countries eligible for debt relief don't have excessive levels of military expenditures, don't support acts of international terrorism, are cooperating with the U.S. on international narcotics control matters, and are complying with the U.S. standards to eliminate human trafficking and are working with the U.S. to stop illegal immigration to the U.S.

I worked really closely with constituents from my district, and I really want to thank Sister Sheila Kinsey, Dan Driscoll-Shaw, Ron Durbin, and my other constituents too numerous to mention here for their guidance, their compassion, and encouragement of this bill. It's an honor to work with them.

As I close, I just want to say that the important part of our discussion today is to recognize that the ultimate goal of both ''phase one'' and now ''phase two'' of the U.S. international debt relief and poverty reduction initiatives is to improve the life of the people of impoverished countries around the world, and this is going to happen because of this bill.

□ 1330

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I now yield 3 minutes to another member of the Committee on Financial Services who has been a leader in our relationships with the multinational institutions, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I would certainly like to thank Representative WATERS, Representative BACHUS, Chairman FRANK and Speaker PELOSI for their outstanding stewardship on debt relief and for bringing this important measure to the floor today.

When governments are burdened with overwhelming and unmanageable debt, it prevents them from providing rudimentary quality of life to their citizenry, and that is access to clean water, modest shelter, basic nutrition, education and health care. When citizens are living on less than $1 a day, civility, democratization of institutions and innovation are greatly compromised or made improbable.

Therefore, it is not only our moral obligation to relieve debt, but it is in our national interests to promote a sustainable world with cooperating partners in our efforts to address global problems such as pandemic diseases, climate change and the prevention of genocide and terrorism.

I would urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 2634 and join in this day of jubilee.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I believe the gentleman wants me to finish up, so I will yield to one of the congressional leaders on affairs on Africa from the Foreign Affairs Committee, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), for 3 minutes.

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Chairman, let me begin by commending Chairman FRANK for bringing this very important legislation to the floor, and his ranking member, Mr. BACHUS, who has really been a real champion in these issues over the years. Let me give special congratulations to Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS for her tireless effort to bring H.R. 2634, the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation to the floor for consideration, and her long history of working to help the world's countries to elevate their people out of poverty.

While nonprofit organizations and Members of Congress initially fought for debt relief, many of us never imagined that we would still find ourselves here today. Unfortunately, with the likes of Debt Advisory International, Elliott Associates, the burdensome IMF and World Bank policies, we must redouble our efforts to prevent such policies and companies from pecking away at the hard-won gains that we have made and must continue to make.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, I understand how the redirection of monies towards debt servicing and vulture funds has crippled African countries' attempts to improve upon development indicators. Sub-Saharan Africa receives approximately $13 billion in aid every year, yet spends $15 billion in servicing old and many times odious debts.

This type of deficit spending perpetuates the vicious cycle that prevents African governments from truly creating their own solutions to the challenges that they face.

Three billion people in nations around the world are living on less than $2 per day. For some of these nations, they are beholden to servicing debts instead of focusing their financial and human capital towards creating the necessary infrastructure to educate, feed, employ and care for their people. By eliminating many of the debts that are tying their hands, they will be able to direct the necessary energies to alleviating poverty in their countries.

Debt cancellation works. Zambia is a prime example as to how monies freed from servicing a country's debt can be used to better the lives of its people. It is using its savings of $23.8 million under the multilateral debt relief initiative to increase spending on agricultural projects on smallholder irrigation and livestock disease control, as well as eliminating fees for health care in rural areas.

The Jubilee Act will establish an agreement among the U.S., other countries and international financial institutions to provide debt cancellation for deserving, eligible low-income countries. It will also work to create a binding legal framework to ensure that entities, particularly unscrupulous vulture funds, will not be able to lie in wait in order to seize upon newly awarded debt relief.

I congratulate Congresswoman WATERS on getting this wonderful and timely bill to the floor of the House. I encourage other Members of Congress to support it.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I now yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

Ms. WOOLSEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding me the time.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 2634 and am proud to recognize Chairman FRANK, his Ranking Member BACHUS, Congresswoman WATERS, Representative LEE and Representative PAYNE because they are leaders in this very, very necessary important issue of debt relief. And I want to tell you I admire their absolute stick-to-itiveness on this important issue, because 7 years ago, grass-roots groups asked Congress and the administration to release heavily indebted poor countries from their overwhelming debt. In many cases, the debt was acquired under dictatorships and despotic regimes. These emerging developing nations could not move forward while buried under seemingly crushing debt.

With bipartisan support, and this is bipartisan in the way it has come to the floor, it passed the first time. Now it is improved upon and going forward again. It is stronger than it was before. In so doing, we forgave debt owed by poor countries, countries that were spending vast sums on debt servicing while forgoing investment into education or health care, infrastructure and other social services so desperately needed in their small countries.

With this bill, we are putting a downpayment on the future of the developing world. We are getting more kids into classrooms. We are providing lifesaving health care. We are building the pathways for entrepreneurship.

And I thank you again, Mr. Chairman, for your leadership, and I honor one more time, as we all have, Congresswoman WATERS for her stick-to-itiveness in making these wonderful, important issues come forward and pass positively.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, this is a moving moment to come to the floor of the House. And I was moved by the words of our Speaker, quoting the Pope and saying that we must have courage. Then, of course, the ranking member from Alabama got up and said, Chairman FRANK, that there were those who came back and said, I have seen it with my own eyes.

And this is what this bill is about. It is about people understanding that extending the opportunity to teach individuals the ability to fish, to reduce the debt, gives them a lifelong opportunity of survival.

Let me thank Chairman FRANK, Congresswoman WATERS and the ranking member of the full committee, my subcommittee chair, Mr. PAYNE, and Ms. LEE for their stick-to-itiveness on a very important concept, reduce the debt on the continent of Africa, and you give the opportunity to children and others to survive.

This is not a give-away. It is an effective tool to reduce poverty in some of the world's poorest countries. I've had the privilege and honor of representing this nation in my visits to place like Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Ghana in those early days, Nigeria, Angola and places where you might not imagine the poverty, Lesotho. Debt relief initiatives passed in 1999 and 2005 are benefiting more than two dozen countries in Africa and Latin America, just to the south of us.

Uganda is using the $57.9 million it has saved from debt cancellation on primary education to ensure a future for its children as well as much-needed improvements in malaria control, health care and infrastructure.

Many of us take for granted our public school system. But are you aware that children stay out of school because they don't have the fees, they don't have the money for books, and they don't have the money for clothing? In most African countries, and maybe in Latin American countries, school is not free. There is no concept of ''public school.'' Zambia, one of the poorest nations, is using its savings of $23.8 million on agricultural projects and to eliminate fees for health care in rural areas. Debt cancellations enable programs in Uganda and Zambia to directly help the people.

This is the face of America and the face of our faith, and it is saying that we care for the least of those. We are, in fact, a good Samaritan.

And so today, as we stand here, this is a time of jubilee, for this legislation not only reduces or excuses debt, but it also helps to restructure and finance new opportunities. This Act calls for the development of a responsible financing prime rate for the future. Debt forgiveness is a good short-term solution.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 additional minute.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished gentleman. Debt forgiveness is a good short-term solution, but to be truly effective, we must find a way to fix the broken system of international lending.

I am very grateful that our Financial Services Committee has been one of the most proactive in time of need. They are facing the economic crisis of Americans. They have not forgotten you. They are facing the economic crisis around the world. They are restructuring and looking at how we can unify our financial system here. We are, in fact, the keepers of our brothers and sisters as I started out by saying. We must have the courage that has been dictated to us and said to us today by the Pope who is visiting America. And it is good for our colleagues, who may

doubt this legislation, to go and see it with their own eyes. Once they do so, they will understand that this is absolutely the right direction. And might I just thank the AFL–CIO, the American Jewish World Service, the Church World Service, the DATA organization and others for their support.

I ask my colleagues to support this.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2634, the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation. I am proud to join over 100 of my colleagues in cosponsoring this timely legislation. I would like to thank my colleague, Congresswoman WATERS, for introducing this bill, as well as the Chairman of the Financial Services Committee, Congressman FRANK, for his leadership on this important issue.

Countries throughout the world suffer from the heavy burden of debt. The inability of nations to escape from these financial commitments has profound impacts on any attempts they make at poverty reduction, health care, economic development, and sustainable growth. The Highly Indebted Poor Countries, HIPCs, the majority of which are located in Africa, are particularly crippled by debt. Nearly three years ago, we saw an outpouring of support for debt relief as G8 leaders met in Gleneagles, Scotland, to pursue a policy of poverty reduction. While some positive progress has been made since that meeting, it is absolutely undeniable that this is an issue on which a great deal remains to be done.

Today, we have an opportunity to take a positive and concrete step toward ending global poverty by helping needy and deserving low-income countries. The Jubilee Act expands existing debt relief programs for the world's poorest countries, and it includes measures to ensure that the benefits of debt relief are not eroded by future abusive lending.

Debt relief has, in the past, proved an effective tool to reduce poverty in some of the world's poorest countries. Debt relief initiatives passed in 1999 and 2005 are benefiting more than two dozen countries in Africa and Latin America. Uganda is using the $57.9 million it has saved from debt cancellation on primary education, to ensure a future for its children, as well as much needed improvements in malaria control, healthcare, and infrastructure. Zambia is using its savings of $23.8 million on agricultural projects, and to eliminate fees for healthcare in rural areas.

Debt cancellation has enabled programs in Uganda and Zambia to directly help the people of these nations. However, there are many impoverished and deserving countries that do not currently benefit from debt relief. The International Monetary Fund, IMF, and the World Bank continue to place restrictive conditions on debt cancellation, calling for policies requiring the privatization of essential services and the liberalization of trade in sensitive sectors in exchange for debt cancellation. These conditions are currently holding up desperately needed debt relief in several eligible countries, including Haiti, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Liberia.

Mr. Chairman, the legislation we are considering today will not only bring the benefits of debt cancellation to more countries than ever before, it will also ensure that these benefits are felt by all strata of society. This bill would direct the Secretary of the Treasury to negotiate an agreement with the IMF and World Bank, as well as other bilateral and multilateral creditors, to make up to 25 additional low-income countries eligible for complete debt cancellation. Governments of these countries will be required to allocate the money saved through debt cancellation to poverty reduction programs, such as initiatives to improve economic infrastructure, basic education, nutrition, health services, and programs to redress environmental degradation.

This legislation does not remove all conditions from debt relief programs. Countries still must demonstrate transparent and effective budget and financial management systems, and they can be excluded from debt relief if they do not. In addition, countries committing massive violations of human rights are not eligible, nor are countries that support international terrorism, have excessive levels of military expenditures, or fail to cooperate on international narcotics control. The Jubilee Act encourages the developing of responsible financing standards, and assures financial transparency and accountability.

Finally, but perhaps most importantly, the Jubilee Act calls for the development of a responsible financing framework for the future. Debt forgiveness is a good short-term solution, but to be truly effective we must find a way to fix the broken system of international lending. Of particular concern to me has been the proliferation of vulture funds, which, like their avian namesake, seek to make a profit off of already weakened prey.

Mr. Chairman, vulture funds purchase the debt of countries (or companies) in financial distress. They then hold out for the full value of the debt, plus any interest, which they pursue through litigation, much of which takes place in U.S. courts. The inability of nations to escape from these financial commitments has profound impacts on any attempts they make at poverty reduction, health care, economic development, and sustainable growth. The Highly Indebted Poor Countries, HIPCs, the majority of which are located in Africa, are particularly crippled by debt. Though these countries may not appear to be the most profitable prey for vulture funds, which in theory prefer to purchase debt that a country has, or may in the future develop, the ability to pay, according to reports there are numerous lawsuits currently pending against HIPC countries.

Vulture funds, together with other forms of irresponsible lending, undermine international efforts to provide much needed debt relief to the world's most indebted poor countries. The Jubilee Act directs the Secretary of the Treasury to develop and promote policies to prevent bilateral, multilateral, and private creditors from eroding the gains of debt relief through irresponsible or exploitive lending. I am particularly pleased that this legislation takes this important step toward fixing broken systems of international lending.

I am proud to support the Manager's Amendment to this legislation, introduced by Congressman FRANK, which adds additional conditions to the eligibility criteria for debt relief, including complying with minimum standards for eliminating human trafficking, cooperating with American efforts to stop illegal immigration, and being committed to free and fair elections.

I also support the amendment offered by my colleague Congressman HASTINGS of Florida. This amendment adds a Sense of Congress stating that, due to the current humanitarian and political instability in Haiti, including food shortages and political turmoil, the Secretary of the Treasury should use his influence to expedite the complete and immediate cancellation of Haiti's debts to all international financial institutions, or if such debt cancellation cannot be provided, to urge the institutions to immediately suspend the requirement that Haiti make further debt service payments on debts owed to the institutions. After deadly food riots last week in Port-au-Prince, which resulted in the death of a Nigerian UN peacekeeper, I believe that this amendment is both crucial and timely.

I also support the amendment introduced by my colleague Mr. WEINER. This amendment modifies the qualification for "eligible low-income country" to include those countries that are eligible for both International Development Association loans and World Bank loans.

Mr. Chairman, if we are serious about meeting the Millennium Development Goals, we must take concrete steps toward reducing poverty. Debt cancellation is a proven way to do this. This legislation has the support of numerous organizations doing excellent work around the world, including the AFL–CIO, American Jewish World Service, Church World Service, DATA, Debt AIDS Trade Africa, Jubilee USA Network, the ONE Campaign, Oxfam America, and RESULTS.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

Mr. SHAYS. Let me ask my colleague, does he just have one last speaker?

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Yes.

Mr. SHAYS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I yield myself the remaining time. I appreciate first the work of Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS and Congressman SPENCER BACHUS to bring the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2008 to the floor, and in particular, my chairman, BARNEY FRANK, who continues to be an American first and is an outstanding chairman of the Finance Committee and puts all the partisan stuff second. I appreciate that.

Debt cancellation has proven to reduce poverty and save lives. It sends a strong message that we care about the rest of the world. It is sound economics, and it is humane.

The debt cancellation support by Congress in 1999 and 2005 has reached more than 2,000 countries in Africa and Latin America as has been described already. When Uganda is using $57.9 million freed by debt cancellation to increase spending on primary education, malaria control, health care and infrastructure, that is good for every Ugandan citizen, its neighbors and the world at large.

Today's legislation, adopting an additional nine impoverished countries to the list of countries eligible for debt cancellation and making an additional 15 countries eligible for relief is a very positive step. The bill costs an estimated $197 million if all nine countries enter into the agreement, and $119 million if Vietnam decides not to participate.

This is reasonable expenditure, a wise investment and a significant effort of goodwill by our country towards the world community.

While I support this legislation, debt relief by itself will not lead to reforms that are needed in many of these countries. Investment in foreign policy programs that promote world stability is crucial, and that is why oversight is so important.

Many of us in this Chamber believe responsible debt relief is not only the right thing to do, but it is also in our national security interests, particularly when coupled with reforms that will lead to substantial development. Developing nations that improve economically and help their citizens out of poverty and despair are much less likely to develop in ways that make them a threat to their neighbors and the greater world.

I urge passage of H.R. 2634, the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2008, and I again thank all those involved, the chairman of the full committee Mr. FRANK, Ms. WATERS and my ranking member, SPENCER BACHUS.

I yield back my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I yield myself the remaining time.

I join in thanking all those who participated. It may seem that this is an orgy of self-congratulations but it really is a celebration of an important point, namely that we are capable of disagreeing with each other strongly on very important public policy issues without that injuring our ability to cooperate in other areas where we can agree.

□ 1345

The Committee on Financial Services has some very sharp divisions, for example, in the role of the Federal Government in helping to build affordable housing and the rules that should apply there on the restrictions that should apply. I am very proud that has not in any way hindered us from working together on these things which are both in the national interest and in the interests of humanity.

Talking about the committee, I do want to mention one other person who has played a very important role here, no longer a Member, but the former chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Iowa, Mr. Leach.

The initial effort to put through debt relief was over the objection of the leadership of the House and the administration, the Republican House leadership and the Clinton administration. They weren't opposed to it in principle, they were hesitant. A group of Members pushed it through, and among those was the then chairman of the Committee on Financial Services, Mr. Leach, and we are following in the footsteps of those actions.

There are just a couple of points about this that I want to stress. We have some amendments. I will be agreeing to all the amendments. One or two may need some little work later on. But there is an important principle here.

During the nineties in particular, we had a great deal of turmoil in the world because as the international institutions, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and the others, provided some financial assistance to low-income countries, they also provided some very intrusive prescriptions about public policy and decisions. If you are going to talk about democracy, Mr. Chairman, you have to honor it. You can't be for democracy only when you know you are going to agree with the outcome.

For the international institutions, with the backing of the American government all too often, and other governments, to have used the need of these countries for assistance, financial assistance, as a lever to dictate what should have been left to the democratic process, was harmful theoretically and practically. It led to decisions being imposed which undermined popular support for the governments and even for the concept of democracy.

So what we say in this legislation, and I know the President raised some concerns about it, there is a constitutional issue here, we think we are very clear, when the Congress of the United States authorizes activity that will reduce revenue to the government, not by an enormous amount, as the gentleman from Connecticut mentioned, but we are talking here about revenues, when we say we are willing to forgo some of these revenues because we think much more good will come from forgoing them than we could do with collecting them in this situation because of the need for stability and peace in the world, we have a right to set the terms under which it happens, and we say in here that there shall be no intrusion into the democratic processes.

We also say, and it is perfectly consistent, we do insist that there be democratic processes. This is not a bill that says no conditions. It sets conditions. The conditions are democracy. The conditions are no corruption, transparency and democracy in the sense of votes and democracy in the sense of free speech and democracy in the sense of people knowing what is happening.

We do say we want a framework of honesty and openness, which hasn't always been there. We will talk a little bit later about some of the differences about interpretation of that. Essentially it goes in the right direction.

I do want to note, this is a decision that it is not appropriate in the guise of providing financial assistance for international institutions or other governments to dictate to the recipient government issues that ought in a normal society be the subject of a democracy.

I repeat my gratitude that we have got broad support for this. I think there is an overwhelming consensus that reducing the debt of those countries which are trying to do the right thing for their people is, of course, primarily in the interest of the poor children and the other poor people in those countries, but also in our interest in trying to promote a stable and peaceful world.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Chairman, for over 20 years, creditor nations have been passing bilateral agreements to forgive debt in poor and developing countries.

Since 1991, the United States has waived roughly $23.9 billion in debt.

Now the House of Representatives is considering further debt relief for 23, possibly 24, nations under H.R. 2634. After two decades of making loans with taxpayer dollars to countries that clearly are unable to pay it back, we're asking Americans to do it again.

The U.S. national deficit is $9.4 trillion, and we're asking hardworking, taxpaying Americans, our children and grandchildren, to waive an additional $6.1 billion in loan assistance we've provided to developing countries.

This is simply illogical, which is why I offered my amendment to this bill in Rules on Monday. The amendment would prohibit the waiving of any debt owed to the United States if the United States carries a federal deficit.

Of course, the majority decided to shortchange the debate and to make my amendment not in order.

I feel for these poor, developing countries, and their people. But we have some real crises here in the United States with 223,000 homes in foreclosure in February, the unemployment rate at 4.8 percent, and more than 46.6 million Americans without health care insurance.

I know my constituents can think of a million things to do with $6.1 billion in debt cancellation for foreign nations. With this type of logic, it's no wonder Americans consider to question the mental stability of their Members of Congress.

Until the United States is in the black and no longer has a federal deficit, I urge Members to protect American taxpayer dollars. I urge Members to vote against this restrictive rule and oppose this ill-conceived bill.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of legislation that will save thousands of lives around the world. By allowing poor countries to use scarce resources to provide for the health and well being of their citizens rather than to repay debt to wealthy nations, we are doing what is humane, right, and just.

Many nations struggling to escape the grip of poverty are imprisoned by debt that siphons off large portions of their budgets. In many cases, any type of debt relief is conditioned on adoption of policies that privatize large sections of the economy and primarily benefit international corporations. Such a "Hobbesian choice" undermines sovereignty and exacerbates poverty. There is another way that can lift up nations and allow them to invest in their own citizens rather than sending money to foreign capitols, while maintaining control of their

own economies. The ''Jubilee Act'' before us today provides such an alternative.

This legislation will expand our existing debt relief program to cancel the debts of the world's 24 poorest countries and provide greater relief to many more without imposing harsh economic conditions. Even under the current limited relief program, numerous countries have made great strides:

Mozambique was able to vaccinate 500,000 additional children;

Uganda doubled enrollment in public schools;

Zambia hired 4,500 new teachers and eliminated health care fees.

Imagine the progress that can be made if we pass this bill and bring debt relief within reach of virtually all of the world's most impoverished nations.

Debt cancellation under this legislation is not simply a handout that could be used by corrupt regimes to enrich their cronies or build their militaries. This legislation makes eligibility contingent on using the savings to reduce poverty. Countries are ineligible if their government lacks transparency, violates human rights, or spends excessively on defense.

We have a moral obligation to help alleviate suffering in our own country and around the world. At a time when much of the world has lost faith in America as a beacon of freedom and compassion, it is also in our self-interest to restore this lost faith and lift countries out of poverty. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in voting for this legislation.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to express my support for the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation Act.

This Jubilee Act is a vital piece of legislation that will liberate poor countries from the burden of heavy indebtedness. These countries simply cannot invest in their futures if they are tethered to the illegitimate debts of their past.

Today we have the opportunity to take a major step forward in our effort to combat global poverty and elevate our Nation's moral standing in the world. For that we should all feel a great sense of accomplishment.

By one simple act here in the U.S. House of Representatives, we have the ability to strike a blow against one of the great scourges of the world: poverty. I have spent a lifetime in public service fighting the root causes of poverty—from my time in Colombia as a Peace Corps volunteer, straight through to this vote today as a Member of Congress.

It has long been apparent to me that steady and adequate investments in health care, education, housing, and sanitation are absolute minimums to be able to eliminate poverty and hopelessness. And this bill makes those investments possible for a whole swath of the world where they would not be otherwise.

This bill lifts the burden of past debts off the backs of governments that are behaving responsibly and have a proven record of investing in their own people. This is important to note, because many of these indebted nations incurred their debt, not under their current democratically elected governments, but under past autocratic regimes that pilfered the money and left the people of these countries in utter poverty.

The Jubilee Act is a follow-on extension to a debt relief program with proven results. Since 1996, 30 countries have received nearly $80 billion in some form of debt relief. The money that these countries have saved in debt financing charges have gone directly into fighting poverty. By passing this bill, an additional 24 countries will have the opportunity to throw off the yoke of severe debt and begin anew to confront the conditions that perpetuate poverty with additional resources at their disposal.

I am pleased to join today with so many of my colleagues, from both political parties, to reinvigorate our effort to fight global poverty. I am pleased to join today with so many of my colleagues, from both political parties, to reinvigorate our effort to fight global poverty.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered read.

The text of the committee amendment is as follows:

H.R. 2634

*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 ''Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2008''.*

***SEC. 2. FINDINGS.***

*The Congress finds the following:*

*(1) Many low-income countries have been struggling under the burden of international debts for many years.*

*(2) Since 1996, when the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) was created, more than 30 nations have seen some form of debt relief totaling approximately $80,000,000,000.*

*(3) Congress has demonstrated its support for bilateral and multilateral debt relief through the enactment of comprehensive debt relief initiatives for heavily indebted low-income countries in—*

*(A) title V of H.R. 3425 of the 106th Congress, as enacted into law by section 1000(a)(5) of the Act entitled ''An Act making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes'', approved November 29, 1999 (Public Law 106–113; 113 Stat. 1501–311) and the amendments made by such title;*

*(B) title II of H.R. 5526 of the 106th Congress, as enacted into law by section 101(a) of the Act entitled ''An Act making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes'', approved November 6, 2000 (Public Law 106–429; 114 Stat. 1900A–5); and*

*(C) title V of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–25; 117 Stat. 747) and the amendment made by such title.*

*(4) In 2005, the United States and other G–8 nations reached an agreement to provide cancellation of 100 percent of the debts owed by eligible poor nations to Paris Club members, the IMF, the World Bank, and the African Development Bank. The Inter-American Development Bank reached an agreement in early 2007 to provide similar treatment.*

*(5) The 2005 agreement led to the creation of the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). As of April 2007, 22 nations have seen the majority of their debts to the IMF, World Bank, and African Development Bank cancelled under the terms of the MDRI. In March 2007, the Inter-American Development Bank announced it would provide full debt cancellation to 5 Latin American countries on MDRI terms.*

*(6) Resources released by debt relief efforts to date are reaching the poor. Cameroon is using the $29,800,000 of savings it will gain from the MDRI in 2006 for national poverty reduction priorities, including infrastructure, social sector and governance reforms. Uganda is using its $57,900,000 savings in 2006 on improving energy infrastructure to try to ease acute electricity shortages, as well as primary education, malaria control, healthcare and water infrastructure (specifically targeting the poor and underserved villages). Zambia is using its savings of $23,800,000 under the MDRI in 2006 to increase spending on agricultural projects, such as smallholder irrigation and livestock disease control, as well as to eliminate fees for healthcare in rural areas.*

*(7) While debt cancellation has a record of success, there remains an unfinished agenda on international debt. There are a number of challenges to both the effective reduction of poverty and inequality and the achievement of broader debt cancellation.*

*(8) 2007 is an important year to address the unfinished agenda on international debt as the global Jubilee debt campaign has declared 2007 a ''Sabbath year'', 7 years after the historic Jubilee 2000 campaign.*

*(9) A critical issue which needs to be addressed on debt is the way that non-concessional lenders stand to gain financially from lending to poor countries that have benefited from debt relief without having paid for past debt relief or facing the prospect of paying for the future relief of unsustainable and irresponsible new lending. In these cases, the gains of debt relief for poor debtor countries are at risk of being eroded. This takes the form of new lending to countries that have received debt cancellation from countries including China.*

*(10) It is also essential that all lenders and borrowers accept co-responsibility and learn from past mistakes—as evidenced by the debt crisis itself—by making more productive investment choices and engaging in more responsible lending and borrowing in the future. In October 2006, Norway became the first creditor to accept co-responsibility for past lending mistakes and cancelled the debt of 5 nations on the grounds that the loans reflected poor development policy.*

*(11) A growing number of governments and intergovernmental bodies, including the United Kingdom, the European Commission, and Norway, are raising concerns about the harmful impacts of economic policy conditionality. Many impoverished countries that have received debt cancellation under the HIPC and MDRI initiatives have done so at a high social cost, because they have had to implement economic policy conditions such as privatization of public utilities and other basic services, adhere to budget ceilings imposed by the IMF, and comply with other harmful requirements. Some of these policies have had the effect of limiting fiscal space for productive investment and threatening growth and human development. Several countries currently eligible for debt cancellation under the HIPC or MDRI programs are facing extended delays in receiving cancellation because they are struggling to comply with such requirements from the IMF and World Bank.*

*(12) There is also an urgent need to look beyond the constraints of current debt relief initiatives to address the need for expanded debt cancellation. The current initiatives allow countries to qualify for relief based on economic criteria rather than human needs. A January 2007 report by the United Nations Human Rights Council found that eligibility for debt cancellation should be expanded to cover all low-income countries.*

*(13) The Government of the United Kingdom has proposed that qualification for the MDRI be*

*extended to the 67 nations which qualify for assistance exclusively from the International Development Association. To be eligible for cancellation, countries must meet requirements pertaining to public financial management, anticorruption measures, and budget transparency.*

*(14) Since debt cancellation is an essential component of the United States development assistance strategy and the United States has been able to lead the debt cancellation efforts of the international community by example, the United States should continue to work to improve and expand initiatives in this area.*

*(15) The United States has been a leader in supporting debt relief efforts to date and should continue to work to improve and expand initiatives in this area.*

***SEC. 3. CANCELLATION OF DEBT OWED BY ELIGIBLE LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES.***

*Title XVI of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262p—262p–8) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

***"SEC. 1626. CANCELLATION OF DEBT OWED BY ELIGIBLE LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES.***

*''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall commence immediate efforts, within the Paris Club of Official Creditors, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), and the other international financial institutions (as defined in section 1701(c)(2)), to negotiate an agreement to accomplish the following:*

*''(1) Cancellation by each international financial institution of all debts owed to the institution by eligible low-income countries, and, to the extent possible, financing the debt cancellation from the ongoing operations, procedures, and accounts of the institution.*

*''(2) Cancellation by the United States of all debts owed to it by eligible low-income countries.*

*''(3) Ensuring that any waiting period for the enhanced debt cancellation is not excessive.*

*''(4) Ensuring that the provision of debt cancellation to eligible low-income countries is not followed by a reduction in the provision of any other development assistance to the countries by international financial institutions and bilateral creditors.*

*''(5) Encouraging the government of each eligible low-income country to allocate at least 20 percent of its national budget towards poverty-alleviation programs such as the provision of basic health care services, education services, and clean water services to all individuals in the country.*

*This subsection shall not be interpreted to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to enter into an agreement to accomplish any of the foregoing without express congressional authorization to do so.*

*''(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF FRAMEWORK FOR CREDITOR TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall commence immediate efforts, within the Paris Club of Official Creditors, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the other international financial institutions (as so defined), to ensure that each of the institutions—*

*''(1) continues to make efforts to promote greater transparency regarding the activities of the institution, including credit, grant, guarantee, and technical assistance operations, following a policy of maximum disclosure; and*

*''(2) supports continued efforts to allow informed participation and input by affected communities, including translation of information on proposed projects, provision of information (including draft documents) through information technology application, oral briefings, and outreach to and dialogue with community organizations and institutions in affected areas.*

*''(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF FRAMEWORK FOR RESPONSIBLE LENDING.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall commence immediate efforts to—*

*''(1) develop and promote policies to ensure all creditors, with no distinction, will contribute to preserving the gains of debt relief for low-income debtor countries;*

*''(2) provide that the external financing needs of low-income countries are met primarily through grant financing rather than new lending;*

*''(3) seek the international adoption of a binding legal framework on new lending that—*

*''(A) guarantees that no creditor can take or expect to take financial advantage of acquired or newly awarded debt relief through the terms and rates of such lending to beneficiary countries;*

*''(B) is binding on all creditors, whether multilateral, bilateral or private;*

*''(C) foresees, as a sanction for creditors who violate it, an equitable share in the burden of the losses from any future debt relief needed by the sovereign debtor to whom lending was irresponsibly provided;*

*''(D) provides for decisions on irresponsible lending to be made by an entity independent from the creditors; and*

*''(E) enables fair opportunities for the people of the affected country to be heard; and*

*''(4) support the development of responsible financing standards where creditors and aid/loan recipients alike adhere to standards to assure transparency and accountability to citizens, human rights, and the avoidance of new odious debt, while encouraging the development of renewable energy and helping countries to transition away from dependence on oil.*

*''(d) GAO AUDIT OF DEBT PORTFOLIOS OF COUNTRIES WITH QUESTIONABLE LOANS.—*

*''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall undertake an audit of the debt portfolios of previous governments in countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa, where there is significant evidence that odious, onerous, or illegal loans were made to the government. Each such audit shall—*

*''(A) consider debt owed to the World Bank, the IMF, and the other international financial institutions (as so defined), export credit debts owed to governments, and debts owed to commercial creditors, and assess whether or not past investments produced the intended results;*

*''(B) investigate the process by which the loans were contracted, how the funds were used, and determine whether United States or international laws were violated in the contraction of these loans, and whether any of the loans were odious or onerous; and*

*''(C) be planned and executed in a transparent and consultative manner, engaging congressional bodies and civil society groups in the countries.*

*''(2) REPORT.—Within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this section, the Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit to the Committees on Financial Services and on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report that contains the results of the audits undertaken under paragraph (1).*

*''(e) AVAILABILITY ON TREASURY DEPARTMENT WEBSITE OF REMARKS OF UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS AT MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS' BOARDS OF DIRECTORS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall make available on the website of the Department of the Treasury the full record of the remarks of the United States Executive Director at meetings of the boards of directors of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the other international financial institutions (as so defined), about cancellation or reduction of debts owed to the institution involved, with redaction by the Secretary of the Treasury of material deemed too sensitive for public distribution, but showing the topic, amount of material redacted, and reason for the redaction.*

*''(f) REPORT FROM THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit to the Committees on Financial Services and on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on the availability of the ongoing operations, procedures, and accounts of the IMF, the World Bank, and the other international financial institutions (as so defined) for canceling the debt of eligible low-income countries.*

*''(g) ANNUAL REPORTS FROM THE PRESIDENT.—Not later than December 31 of each year, the President shall submit to the Committees on Financial Services and on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Foreign Relations and on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate a report, which shall be made available to the public, on the activities undertaken under this section, and other progress made in accomplishing the purposes of this section, for the prior fiscal year. The report shall include a list of the countries that have received debt cancellation, a list of the countries whose request for debt cancellation has been denied and the reasons therefor, and a list of the countries whose requests for debt cancellation are under consideration.*

*''(h) ELIGIBLE LOW-INCOME COUNTRY DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'eligible low-income country' means a country—*

*''(1) that is eligible for financing from the International Development Association but not the World Bank, and does not qualify for debt relief under the Enhanced HIPC Initiative (as defined in section 1625(e)(3)) and under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative;*

*''(2) that has transparent and effective budget execution and public financial management systems which ensure that the savings from debt relief are spent on reducing poverty;*

*''(3) the government of which does not have an excessive level of military expenditures;*

*''(4) the government of which has not repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism, as determined by the Secretary of State under section 6(j)(1) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2405(j)(1)), or section 620A(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371(a));*

*''(5) the government of which is cooperating on international narcotics control matters; and*

*''(6) the government of which (including its military or other security forces) does not engage in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.''.*

***SEC. 4. LIMITATION ON CONDITIONALITY OF DEBT RELIEF FOR ELIGIBLE LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES.***

*Title XVI of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262p—262p–8) is further amended by adding at the end the following:*

***"SEC. 1627. LIMITATION ON CONDITIONALITY OF DEBT RELIEF FOR ELIGIBLE LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES.***

*''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall commence immediate efforts within the Paris Club of Official Creditors, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), and the other international financial institutions (as defined in section 1701(c)(2)), to ensure that debt cancellation is provided to eligible low-income countries (as defined in section 1626(h)) without any conditions except requiring the government of such a country to—*

*''(1) take steps so that the financial benefits of debt relief are applied to programs to combat poverty (in particular through concrete measures to improve economic infrastructure, basic services in education, nutrition, and health, particularly treatment and prevention of the leading causes of mortality) and to redress environmental degradation;*

*''(2) make policy decisions through transparent and participatory processes;*

*''(3) adopt an integrated development strategy to support poverty reduction through economic growth, that includes monitorable poverty reduction goals;*

*''(4) implement transparent policy making and budget procedures, good governance, and effective anticorruption measures;*

*''(5) broaden public participation and popular understanding of the principles and goals of poverty reduction, particularly through economic growth, and good governance;*

*''(6) promote the participation of citizens and nongovernmental organizations in the economic policy choices of the government; and*

*''(7) produce an annual report disclosing how the savings from debt cancellation were used, and make the report publicly available and easily accessible to all interested parties, including civil society groups and the media.*

*''(b) ANNUAL REPORTS TO THE CONGRESS.—Not later than December 31 of each year, the President shall submit to the Committees on Financial Services and on International Relations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Foreign Relations and on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate a report, which shall be made available to the public, on the activities undertaken under this section, and other progress made in accomplishing the purposes of this section, for the prior fiscal year.''.*

***SEC. 5. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.***

*It is the sense of the Congress that to further the goals of debt reduction for low-income countries, in addition to the efforts described in this Act, the United States should pay off outstanding arrearages of $595,800,000 to the International Development Association and regional development banks, and become current on all debt reduction efforts, including those carried out by the International Development Association and under the Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative.*

The CHAIRMAN. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in House Report 110–586. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent of the amendment, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1, AS MODIFIED, OFFERED BY MR. FRANK OF MASSACHUSETTS

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 110–586.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I offer that amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 1 offered by Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts:

Page 6, beginning on line 17, strike ''economic policy conditionality'' and insert ''certain economic policy conditionalities''.

Page 6, beginning on line 22, strike ''economic'' and all that follows through ''IMF,'' on line 24 and insert ''certain economic policy conditions, including the privatization of essential basic services such as water,''.

Page 7, line 22, strike ''requirements'' and insert ''economic criteria''.

Page 9, line 5, insert '', without undermining the financial integrity of the institution'' before the period.

Page 9, line 14, insert '', or to other countries eligible for assistance from the International Development Association'' before the period.

Page 15, line 9, insert ''from'' before ''the''.

Page 15, line 20, strike ''repeatedly''.

Page 16, line 1, insert ''with the United States'' after ''cooperating''.

Page 16, line 2, strike ''and''.

Page 16, line 5, strike ''consistent''.

Page 16, line 6, strike ''rights.'' and all that follows through the second period and insert ''rights (as defined in section 116 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (Public Law 87–195));''.

Page 16, after line 6, insert the following:

''(7) the government of which has not been identified in the most recent Trafficking in Persons Report issued by the Department of State as not fully complying with minimum standards for eliminating human trafficking and not making significant efforts to do so;

''(8) the government of which has been determined by the President to be cooperating with United States efforts to stop illegal immigration to the United States; and

''(9) the government of which has been determined by the President to be committed to free and fair elections.''.

Page 16, beginning on line 21, strike ''without any conditions except requiring the government of such a country to—'' and inserting ''only on the condition that the government of such a country—''.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, In consultation with the minority, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be amended.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will report the modification.

The Clerk read as follows:

Modification to amendment No. 1 offered by Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts:

Page 3, in the first undesignated line, strike ''only on the condition that'' and insert ''subject to all and only the following conditions: That''.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the amendment is modified.

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 1103, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) alluded earlier to this amendment. We reject the kind of conditions that try to set tax policy or education policy or resource policy within a country, because if you go with democracy, you allow the countries to make them. But we did have a right, we thought, to set some conditions that affect us. We set forth some conditions involving democracy and openness, in consultation with the minority. We were reminded of some other conditions. So this adds to the conditionality.

If this amendment is adopted, there will be conditions requiring that people assuage terrorism, that they work with us on immigration, and that they avoid any participation in human smuggling.

I believe that these are agreed on, and in fact in some cases were put forward at the request of the minority. In some cases we thought they were clear. But one of the things I learned when you are legislating is never object to redundancy. It is better to say it twice than to have some ambiguity about whether you offered it at all.

So I offer this amendment I believe on behalf of the leadership and the membership of both sides of the committee.

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the gentleman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this bipartisan manager's amendment. I would like to thank Chairman FRANK, Mr. BACHUS and Mrs. BIGGERT for their work on the amendment, which addresses several concerns that Members had with the version of the bill reported by the Committee on Financial Services. With the adoption of this amendment, the Jubilee Act will be a better bill.

The manager's amendment clarifies the conditions for that relief. Specifically, it will ensure that countries receiving debt relief comply with specific outlined conditions. By doing do, these countries will be held accountable, and, as a result, the debt relief accorded them will be effective in alleviating poverty, establishing sustainable development and ensuring good governance.

Beyond clarifying the requirements for eligible countries, this amendment adds three more: Requiring greater cooperation with the U.S. on human trafficking, preventing illegal immigration to the U.S., and promoting Democratic standards within the country benefiting from debt relief. These additional measures will have a positive effect not only on the recipient nations, but on the U.S. as well.

Finally, the manager's amendment makes clear that countries that have engaged in human rights violations and aided terrorism are excluded from receiving debt relief.

This manager's amendment represents progress towards making this a more effective measure. I again commend the sponsors of the amendment, and urge its adoption.

Without objection from the chairman, I would like to yield 1 minute to my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER), who had wanted a minute when we didn't have time. I would like to give him a minute at this time.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Let me congratulate and thank Congressman FRANK. BARNEY has been very fair. He backed my ability to have an amendment on the floor, and I will talk about that amendment next. But let me note when he stated that our goal is debt relief for these countries that are trying

to do right for their people, I think that in the manager's amendment, and the Congressman did reach out to try to find language that was agreeable, but I don't think that we have reached that language.

I think there is still wiggle room in the language of the manager's amendment that would permit countries that are governed by authoritarian people who are claiming that they are going to have democratic elections is still there. Our State Department quite often supports those governments and would like to claim they are heading in that direction, like the government of Ethiopia, which in their last election threw everybody who won the elections in jail. But now they are our greatest ally in Africa. The State Department would love to have debt relief to a country like that. We shouldn't be doing that.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I will finish by saying the gentleman from California was gracious and said I had been fair and he talked about my not being partisan. I want to congratulate him for his lack of partisanship, because having served the majority of his time here under Republican administrations, he retains a deep distrust of the State Department, including the current State Department, and apparently his point is he cannot trust the current State Department to enforce democracy.

I am inclined to appreciate his point. And while we have some differences, I did want to give him credit for his very bipartisan skepticism.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHAYS. I want to emphasize we support this amendment, and I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), as modified.

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts, as modified, will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. ROHRABACHER

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 110–586.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 2 offered by Mr. ROHRABACHER:

In section 1626(h) of the International Financial Institutions Act, as proposed to be added by section 3 of the bill, strike ''and'' at the end of paragraph (5), strike the period at the end of paragraph (6) and insert ''; and'', and add at the end the following:

''(7) the government of which was chosen by and permits free and fair elections.''.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 1103, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, the amendment I am offering is easy to understand. It insists that if we provide debt relief, the recipient country's government must have a democratically elected government. The reason this is important is very clear. The dictators and kooks and gangsters who rule many Third World nations and developing countries will simply steal more if we give them the chance. Those who steal from their people will steal from us. Debt relief to dictators is a license to steal.

I understand there are those who believe that we should not set such a high standard of having a democratically elected government as a prerequisite to debt relief. If dictatorships are overthrown, it is postulated then that democratic reformers will need time to hold a free election. The monetary impact of that short time period in order to have a free election organized is minimal and the number of such cases are very, very few. But that is the worst case scenario. The price of debt relief will in fact prevent foot dragging so there will be free elections at a quicker pace.

On the other hand, a standard of requiring only a commitment to future and free elections opens the door to large scale manipulations and backtracking on democratic commitments by dictators or by those holding power after dictators have been overthrown. Give those in power in the Third World countries a chance to put off elections and they will just do that. Giving them the wrong incentives and opening up the door to false promises for future elections and giving them a benefit for it enables large scale theft.

The chances of this negative impact, of having a lower democratic standard, is great as compared to the number of minimal cases that we will have if we are just asking true democratic reformers to hold elections before we give debt forgiveness.

We have seen it over and over again in the Third World. Third World politicians claim they will hold elections, but never quite seem to get there.

□ 1400

If we don't act to close it, this loophole will have a huge impact and allow debt relief to governments that have not instituted and have no real intent of instituting Democratic reform.

Yes, I have no faith in our State Department or this administration to enforce that rule to see if they are really intent on democracy. If our standard is that words are enough, the tough guys of the world who rule too many countries will lie and get their hands on the loot with our State Department's approval, surprise, surprise.

That's why my amendment is important. We should side with the Democratic reformers, not those who simply use the right words.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, which makes sense, and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I seek recognition.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I know I am taking the time in opposition. I am not so much in opposition, but I am about as close to it as anybody we are going to find here, so I think I qualify.

I agree very much. On a case-by-case basis, I believe the gentleman from California and I would agree at each instance. And so I hope the amendment is adopted.

I would make one point, as I thought about it. It does reinforce the point that we should not be imposing on the recipient government's policy choices that a democratic government ought to make. The flip side of a commitment to democracy is recognizing the validity of those decisions.

I also agree with the gentleman. His wording is better than the wording I put in here for the future, permits free and fair elections, although there is always, when you are talking about the future, some weasel word.

I will work with the gentleman going forward. I am going to suggest to him maybe later that we might empower them to do a moratorium for a short period of time on payments in the following situation. We have had cases where bad governments were overthrown by people who are democratic. East Timor is an example. There is Ghana, where Jerry Rawlings overthrew a government and then had an election. His party is now in the opposition. Uganda. The gentleman is right. Ordinarily it may not take that much time, but things could be so chaotic, like in Liberia, when the new government came in there with some bad people. Maybe a year would be too little.

I will be talking to him later. I hope this amendment is adopted. Perhaps we could provide a temporary moratorium for a government that took over in those circumstances for perhaps 6 months or a year. But that's something we might work out.

The gentleman seems to agree that that is something that, while no commitment is obviously made, that we could work on.

I hope the amendment is adopted.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. I appreciate that thought very much.

Again, I appreciate the fairness that I have been treated with. I will show my bipartisanship a little more. I

think that I have been treated more fairly and a number of my Republican colleagues have been treated more fairly since the Democrats have become the majority than I was treated by my own leadership.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Sure, I would yield.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I know the gentleman joins me in looking forward to continued years of such treatment.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Well, I won't go that far, but I do appreciate the fact that there has been this effort to reach out and treat people fairly on our side of the aisle.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 110–586.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 3 offered by Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

**SEC. _____. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

(a) FINDING.—The Congress finds that Haiti is scheduled to send $48,700,000 in debt payments to multilateral financial institutions in 2008.

(b) SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that, due to the current humanitarian and political instability in Haiti, including food shortages and political turmoil, the Secretary of the Treasury should use his influence to expedite the complete and immediate cancellation of Haiti's debts to all international financial institutions, or if such debt cancellation cannot be provided, to urge the institutions to immediately suspend the requirement that Haiti make further debt service payments on debts owed to the institutions.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 1103, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to the Jubilee Act which urges expedited international debt relief for Haiti. The current situation in Haiti, a nation that has been historically afflicted by violence and natural disasters, is increasingly desperate and volatile.

In recent days, thousands of Haitians have flooded the streets of Port-au-Prince and other cities throughout the country in desperation to decry rapidly escalating food prices in a nation where three-quarters of the population lives on under $2 a day. The cost of staple foods in Haiti has skyrocketed 50 percent within the last year.

Haiti is not only the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, but it also ranks third behind Somalia and Afghanistan as the nation with the highest per capita daily deficit in calorie intake. Recent anger over food prices threatens the stability of this Caribbean nation already haunted by chronic hunger.

The humanitarian crisis in Haiti underscores the importance of quick and deliberate leadership by the United States. Haiti still is scheduled to pay almost $50 million in 2008 to unilateral financial institutions.

This amendment would put Congress on record encouraging the expedited cancellation of Haiti's international debt to help alleviate poverty and increased stability in Haiti. The United States government cannot and should not turn a blind eye again to the struggles of this undeveloped, underdeveloped, impoverished nation.

I applaud President Bush's recent announcement that he would release $200 million in U.S. emergency food aid to help alleviate food shortages in developing countries, including in Haiti, but these funds are not nearly enough to assist with the immediate or long-term humanitarian crisis. They fall far short of putting Haiti on a sustained path to development. I ask the President and all of us to do more.

This amendment is an initial step in the right direction. We could follow it up with giving temporary protective status, as President Preval of Haiti has requested and President Bush could grant. I ask for my colleagues to support this amendment and ask that they join us in supporting our Haitian friends.

Yesterday, 247 Haitians were sent back by the Coast Guard, and the Coast Guard has increased its vigilance in the area in light of this impending crisis. At a time of extreme instability and crisis, Congress must not turn its back on Haiti.

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition, although I am not in opposition.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the gentleman from Connecticut is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I don't want to be silent to the concerns that my colleague from Florida Mr. HASTINGS has expressed.

Haiti is a country that has tremendous poverty, and while his resolution speaks to the HIPIC package of the 43 nations who have already been authorized for debt forgiveness. I hope the folks in the administration are listening to his concern that is shared by so many.

While the legislation before us deals with countries to be added to the list, I think he is right in pointing out a concern that I know many on this side of the aisle share. Haiti is a country in desperate need of help, and it is a very close neighbor and friend and we need to do everything we can to help it.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Florida has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. At this time I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Texas, my colleague and good friend, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE.

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

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the distinguished gentleman and member of the Rules Committee, Mr. HASTINGS. I acknowledge, again, the members of the Financial Services Committee and Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS.

I salute the gentleman for this forthright and vital acknowledgment and sense of Congress in this bill.

Mr. Chairman, people are starving in Haiti. Haitians are starving, they are in the streets. They are crying out for relief. As was said earlier, this is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. President Preval has made a commitment to this Nation, and he has worked hard on political stability.

We have seen incarcerated persons who are held as political prisoners be released. But I think it is crucial that we join in a unified voice today to acknowledge that we stand against the starvation and the financial crisis that is in Haiti.

This is an important statement to cancel the debt to all international financial institutions and also such debt cancellation cannot be provided, to urge the institutions to immediately suspend the requirement.

I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding to me, and I join them also on the request for TPS. I support the Hastings amendment.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of our time.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank Chairman FRANK for the expeditious handling of this matter. In addition, I thank my good friend from Connecticut for his statement and his support of this amendment.

This is an important initial step toward finally freeing Haiti from its onerous debt. Not only our administration, but the institutional community

has some responsibilities in this matter that they can discharge much.

My appeal goes way beyond just the American responsibility. I ask the international community to weigh in and deal with this subject in a meaningful way to give this opportunity the relief that it rightly deserves.

I ask for my colleagues' support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 110–586.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, it's my information that the author did not intend to offer it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 110–586 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1, as modified, by Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. ROHRABACHER of California.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1, AS MODIFIED, OFFERED BY MR. FRANK OF MASSACHUSETTS

The CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), as modified, on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 424, noes 0, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 196]

AYES—424

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Bordallo
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Christensen
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
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
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fortuño
Fossella
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Harman
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 (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
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
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
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
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Norton
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—12

Bachus
Brady (PA)
Brown, Corrine
Faleomavaega
Fattah
Gillibrand
Mack
Meek (FL)
Peterson (PA)
Rush
Wilson (NM)
Wynn

□ 1435

Messrs. KILDEE, WALSH of New York, CLEAVER and WELDON of Florida changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment, as modified, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. ROHRABACHER

The Acting CHAIRMAN (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois). The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 382, noes 41, answered ''present'' 2, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 197]

AYES—382

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Bordallo
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Christensen
Clay
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley

Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
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
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fortuño
Fossella
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Mitchell
Moran (KS)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Norton
Nunes
Oberstar
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Solis
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Watson
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOES—41

Baldwin
Blumenauer
Butterfield
Capuano
Cleaver
Cohen
Gutierrez
Hinchey
Honda
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kilpatrick
Kucinich
Lee
Lewis (GA)
McDermott
McGovern
McNulty
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Nadler
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Payne
Price (NC)
Rahall
Richardson
Scott (GA)
Serrano
Snyder
Towns
Tsongas
Waters
Watt
Woolsey
Wynn

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—2

Clarke
Ellison

NOT VOTING—11

Brady (PA)
Brown, Corrine
Faleomavaega
Fattah
Harman
Mack
Meek (FL)
Moore (KS)
Peterson (PA)
Rush
Wilson (NM)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The Acting CHAIRMAN (during the vote). Members are advised that they have 2 minutes, approximately 2 minutes on this vote.

□ 1444

Messrs. JACKSON of Illinois, CLEAVER and GUTIERREZ changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER) having assumed the chair, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2634) to provide for greater responsibility in lending and expanded cancellation of debts owed to the United States and the international financial institutions by low-income countries, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 1103, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT OFFERED BY MR. MARIO DIAZ-BALART OF FLORIDA

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I offer a motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Yes, in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 2634, to the Committee on Financial Services with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendments:

Page 16, line 2, strike ''and''.

Page 16, line 6, strike the 1st period and all that follows and insert ''; and''.

Page 16, after line 6, insert the following:

''(7) the government of which does not have business interests with Iran.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, this motion to recommit is frankly very simple. All it basically says is that countries that have business relationships with Iran are not eligible to be considered under this debt relief program. Let me repeat that.

This motion to recommit is frankly very, very simple. It just states the following, that countries that have a business relationship with Iran are not eligible to be considered under this debt relief program.

Now, the underlying bill in front of us today has a very noble goal, Madam Speaker. It is to work comprehensively to ensure that poor countries that have heavy international debt are able to relieve these debts through certain responsible actions. But the question is, should we separate these goals, these noble goals, from our broader foreign policy interests?

The Iranian regime, we all know, has a very active program to acquire weapons of mass destruction, and therefore, it makes it one of the most dangerous regimes in the entire world.

In addition, Madam Speaker, as we heard just recently, just last week from General Petraeus, we are increasingly concerned by the Iranian terrorist regime's efforts on behalf of terrorist elements in Iraq and elsewhere. The lives of our troops are at stake, and any country that assists Iran economically should not benefit from the bill in front of us today.

Our country, obviously the United States, does not have diplomatic or financial ties to Iran, and I don't think it's unreasonable to expect that countries that choose to participate in our debt relief program should shatter whatever economic ties they currently have with that terrorist regime. And if they don't have them now, if they don't have those ties now, they clearly should not develop them as long as they want or expect debt relief from us through this program.

Let's send the right message today, Madam Speaker. Americans are very generous and responsible in regard to the treatment of countries that owe us great debt. But we are also extremely concerned with the very dangerous actors abroad, around this world.

So that's why, Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask to pass this motion to recommit today and make sure that our friends abroad appreciate how seriously we take this matter.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise to claim the 5 minutes in opposition; although I'm open to persuasion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. First of all, let me ask, if I could, the gentleman says, the government of which does not have business interest with Iran. Would this wording cover the Government of Iraq?

I would yield if someone would tell me that, that they may not be eligible for debt relief. Although we give them a lot of money, I don't think we lent it to them. But would someone tell me if this would include the Government of Iraq as currently constituted?

I would yield for a response. I yield to anyone who would respond.

I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Iraq is not eligible under this bill.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I understand that. Iraq is not currently there, but here's the deal. This is not just for now. It is conceivable to me that Iraq will end up owing us money. I hope it will, because we've sure given them a lot, and if they don't owe us any money, it's a big gift.

So the question is going forward, if in the future, because there is no current list of countries, we're talking about an eligibility criteria. Would this prevent debt relief from the United States or the International Monetary Fund, to the World Bank, to Iraq going forward?

I would yield to anyone who would answer.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. If the gentleman would yield.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Yes.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Again, your bill, as you know, specifically deals with countries that owe the United States right now. You're talking about a hypothetical, whether one country in the future.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I will take back my time because I'm trying to get an honest answer.

We are setting policy here, not just for this week. We are saying here that if you do business with the government, if your government has business interests with Iraq, you're ineligible. I think it is fair to ask whether Iraq, if it were to become eligible in other ways, would be covered. That's not a trick question. Would this have the effect of excluding Iraq from such a program in the future?

I yield for an answer.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Yes.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. And I will try to see if I can make this answer understood.

In the first place, obviously no country would benefit more from not having a nuclear Iran.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Reclaiming my time, we only get 5 minutes. You know, if the minority had wanted to put this forward as an amendment, we could have debated it. They did it this way. So we can debate all of the other things. It's a very straightforward question.

You limit eligibility under this program. Iraq might very well owe us money. The question isn't nuclear weapons. It is, would this prevent Iraq from being eligible, these criteria. And I would hope someone would answer that.

I will yield again for an answer.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. If the gentleman will yield again, and I will try to answer it again.

Your bill does not deal with Iraq. It does not affect Iraq. If you don't like the answer, that's one thing, but that's what the answer is.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. No. The answer is, of course, one that leads me to suggest that the answer really is ''yes.'' When people dance around and won't give you the answer, Madam Speaker, the answer is ''yes.''

Apparently, under the criteria set forward here, while Iraq is not now on the list for relief, it could not get it in the future. We will be setting policy that would have screwed you up because apparently, as this is defined, I infer that the Government of Iraq is covered because if the Government of Iraq wasn't covered by this, the answer would be ''no.'' When I don't get ''no,'' but when I get a discussion of nuclear weapons and what's currently in the bill and I don't get an answer to the question, then it is clear to me.

So Members, I guess, are free to vote on this.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Would the gentlemen yield?

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. No, I'm sorry.

Here's the response. The minority had the right to offer this in a way in which we could debate it. They didn't choose to do that. They chose to do it in this limited fashion.

So it does look to me like you are having problems here that does the Government of Iraq have business interests with Iran. I know there are close ties between the Governments of Iraq and Iran. There's interchangeability.

I think this is a pretty sketchy way to go forward. I'm not sure that there are any other countries. I think Iraq may be one of the few that doesn't. It's fairly narrowly drawn, but that's of great concern. And I couldn't get a direct answer, and I don't know if anybody really knows it.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Will the gentleman yield for a one-word answer?

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Yes.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. You're asking if it's ''yes'' or ''no.'' The answer is ''no.''

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. So the gentleman is telling me that the Government of Iraq has no business interests in Iraq?

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. What I'm telling the gentleman—

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. No. I'm asking the question, does the government—

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Not as it concerns with this bill.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. No, I'm sorry. The gentleman does not seem to understand the rules. I'm giving you a lot more of my time. Well, I guess free speech that we put in is for other countries.

Look, I understand the thought. The minority thought they came up with a clever idea and they outsmarted themselves. They put language in here that I think would interfere with the ability to have economic relations with Iraq. And apparently what I'm being told is if you believe that the Government of Iraq has no business interests with Iran, then you can vote for this bill and not worry about Iraq.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 291, nays 130, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 198]

YEAS—291

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aderholt | Boyda (KS) | Costa |
| Akin | Brady (TX) | Costello |
| Alexander | Broun (GA) | Courtney |
| Altmire | Brown (SC) | Cramer |
| Arcuri | Brown-Waite, Ginny | Crenshaw |
| Baca | Buchanan | Cubin |
| Bachmann | Burgess | Culberson |
| Bachus | Burton (IN) | Davis (AL) |
| Barrett (SC) | Buyer | Davis (IL) |
| Barrow | Calvert | Davis (KY) |
| Bartlett (MD) | Camp (MI) | Davis, David |
| Barton (TX) | Campbell (CA) | Davis, Lincoln |
| Bean | Cannon | Davis, Tom |
| Berkley | Cantor | Deal (GA) |
| Biggert | Capito | DeFazio |
| Bilbray | Cardoza | DeGette |
| Bilirakis | Carnahan | DeLauro |
| Bishop (UT) | Carney | Dent |
| Blackburn | Carson | Diaz-Balart, L. |
| Blunt | Carter | Diaz-Balart, M. |
| Boehner | Castle | Dicks |
| Bonner | Chabot | Donnelly |
| Bono Mack | Chandler | Doolittle |
| Boozman | Coble | Drake |
| Boren | Cohen | Dreier |
| Boucher | Cole (OK) | Duncan |
| Boustany | Conaway | Edwards |
| Boyd (FL) | | Ehlers |

Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foster
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Hill
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Hooley
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Melancon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mitchell
Moore (KS)
Moran (KS)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Neugebauer
Nunes
Ortiz
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sanchez, Loretta
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Space
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—130

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baird
Baldwin
Becerra
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boswell
Braley (IA)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Castor
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Delahunt
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Ellison
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Filner
Frank (MA)
Gilchrest
Gonzalez
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hastings (FL)
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kilpatrick
Kind
Kucinich
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Loebsack
Markey
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McNulty
Meeks (NY)
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Richardson
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Waters
Watson
Watt
Welch (VT)
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Sherman

NOT VOTING—9

Brady (PA)
Brown, Corrine
Fattah
Harman
Mack
Meek (FL)
Peterson (PA)
Rush
Wilson (NM)

□ 1521

Messrs. CONYERS, KUCINICH, PASTOR, and STARK changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. CARSON of Indiana, DAVIS of Alabama, LAMBORN, COSTELLO, CRAMER, HOLDEN, CARDOZA, COSTA, YARMUTH, MELANCON, KENNEDY, WEXLER, BOUCHER, GORDON of Tennessee, FOSTER, COHEN, HODES, AL GREEN of Texas, HARE, KANJORSKI, DICKS, SALAZAR, KILDEE, ORTIZ, BACA, REYES, MOORE of Kansas, MURPHY of Connecticut, COURTNEY, DAVIS of Illinois, THOMPSON of California and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. HOOLEY, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Ms. DELAURO, and Ms. MATSUI changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to recommit was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the instructions of the House in the motion to recommit, I report H.R. 2634 back to the House with an amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts:

Page 16, line 2, strike ''and''.

Page 16, line 6, strike the 1st period and all that follows and insert ''; and''.

Page 16, after line 6, insert the following:

''(7) the government of which does not have business interests with Iran.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 285, noes 132, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 199]

AYES—285

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bono Mack
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Braley (IA)
Brown (SC)
Butterfield
Camp (MI)
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Castle
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Ferguson
Filner
Fortenberry
Foster
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gonzalez
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hare
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (NY)
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meeks (NY)
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pickering
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space

Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weller
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOES—132

Aderholt
Akin
Altmire
Bachmann
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Boozman
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Carney
Carter
Chabot
Coble
Conaway
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Drake
Duncan
Ellsworth
Everett
Feeney
Flake
Forbes
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Gallegly
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hunter
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
Kingston
Kline (MN)
Lamborn
Lampson
Latta
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McHenry
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Paul
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Price (GA)
Putnam
Radanovich
Regula
Reynolds
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shuster
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Taylor
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Walberg
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (SC)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—15

Brady (PA)
Brown, Corrine
Carson
Fattah
Gordon
Hall (NY)
Harman
Mack
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Peterson (PA)
Rush
Slaughter
Waxman
Wilson (NM)

□ 1529

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 199, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 199, I was already on my way to question witnesses at the Transportation and Infrastructure hearing. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, had I been present for the vote on H.R. 2634, the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation Act, I would have voted "aye."

## AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 2634, JUBILEE ACT FOR RESPONSIBLE LENDING AND EXPANDED DEBT CANCELLATION OF 2008

Mr. WATT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 2634, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, section numbering and cross-referencing, and the insertion of appropriate headings.

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

There was no objection.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008.

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

There was no objection.

## ENSURING CONTINUED ACCESS TO STUDENT LOANS ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1107 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5715.

□ 1532

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5715) to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families, with Mr. JACKSON of Illinois in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the House, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008. It was reported by the Committee on Education and Labor with unanimous bipartisan support, and I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for all of the effort they put into this legislation. It is a very important piece of legislation.

At a time when the turmoil in the Nation's credit markets has made it difficult for some lenders to access the capital they need to finance their student lending activity, this bipartisan bill will ensure that students and parents are able to continue to access the federal loans they need to pay for college.

For quite some time now, the worsening economic downturn has made life more difficult for many of America's families. But this downturn has its root in the housing crisis, which has led to significant tightening in the credit markets. What began as a challenge for home loan borrowers has now become a challenge for other borrowers, like those with credit card debt and automobile loans.

And in recent months, we have now seen questions raised about the availability of student loans for the coming year, especially when those who finance their loans through the auction rate securities, that system has ceased to function.

As a result, some lenders are reducing their lending activity in the federally guaranteed student loan programs, while other lenders are anticipating increasing their market share.

And while the stress in the credit markets is taking a toll on some lenders, students so far have not encountered serious difficulties in getting federal loans they need to pay for college. That's the good news.

But as we have seen too often, the shocks in the financial markets come as a surprise leaving those affected with little time to react. There is emergency authority already built into the current law which would maintain access to federal loans for families in the event of any of these surprises.

It is critical to make sure that this authority is ready to be implemented to ensure America's families can continue to access the federal college loans they are eligible for, regardless of what's happening in the credit markets.

As we work with Secretary Spellings to make sure these safeguards are ready to become operational at a moment's notice, we must also take additional steps on behalf of students and their families.

This legislation provides new protections, in addition to those in current law, to ensure that families can continue to access the loans they need to pay for college.

The bill reduces borrowers' reliance on costlier private loans while encouraging responsible borrowing by increasing the annual student loan limits for federal student loans by $2,000 for all students. It also increases the total amount of Federal loans students can borrow to $31,000 for dependent undergraduates and to $57,500 for independent undergraduates.

H.R. 5715 gives parent borrowers more time to pay off their federal parent PLUS loans by allowing families to delay entering repayment for up to 6 months after a student leaves school. It helps struggling home owners pay

for college by making sure that short-term delinquencies in mortgage payments don't prohibit otherwise eligible parents from being able to pay their PLUS loans.

It clarifies that existing law gives the Secretary of Education the authority to advance federal funds to guaranty agencies in the event that they do not have sufficient capital to originate new loans. It allows guaranty agencies to make lender-of-last-resort loans on a school-wide basis.

And the bill ensures that lenders can continue to access capital to originate new student loans by giving the Secretary of Education the temporary authority to purchase federally guaranteed student loans from lenders, if needed.

Finally, this legislation carries no new costs for taxpayers.

Especially in light of today's economic conditions, the high cost of a college education continues to be one of the primary worries facing American families. A recent poll conducted by the New York Times and CBS News found that 70 percent of the parents surveyed said they were ''very concerned'' about how they would finance their kids' college education.

Over the past year and a half, this Congress has worked vigorously to make college more affordable and accessible for students and families. Last year, we took the historic step towards this goal by providing more than $20 billion in financial assistance to low- and middle-income families over the next 5 years.

In February, the House passed bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, and we will soon be prepared to conclude the conference committee and bring that to the floor.

Now more than ever, families deserve every assurance that we are doing all that we can to make sure that they can continue to be able to finance their children's college education, regardless of what happens in the credit markets.

And I want to again thank Congressman BUCK MCKEON, Congressman RUBÉN HINOJOSA and Congressman RIC KELLER, the Chair and the ranking member of the subcommittee, and all of the staff for all of the work they have put into this legislation. This has been a very fast turnaround. It could not have happened without the bipartisan cooperation of all of those involved.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 5715, a bill that will help ensure college students and their families are able to plan with confidence for the upcoming school year. On its own, this bill will not restore confidence and stability to the student loan programs, but it is an important first step.

For months, Members on both sides of the aisle have been warning the U.S. Departments of Education and the Treasury, the various federal financial institutions, and indeed anyone who will listen, about the potential risks to our student loan program. Many of us recognized early that it was only a matter of time before the turmoil in the broader credit markets would spill into the student loan programs.

Unfortunately, those warnings have become reality. I would like to share just a few of the headlines that have appeared in major papers over the last several weeks. The Wall Street Journal said, Credit Woes Hit Student Loans. The New York Times said, Fewer Options Open to Pay For Costs of College. The Washington Post said, Credit Crisis May Make College Loans More Costly: Some Firms Stop Lending to Students. USA Today said, Credit Woes May Hinder College-Bound.

Mr. Chairman, with this bill, we are acting to prevent a crisis before it develops. As these headlines demonstrate, the anxieties among students and families are very real. This bill is far from a complete solution. But it contains modest, yet meaningful, steps to restore investor confidence, begin to address liquidity shortages, and most importantly, provide assistance to student and parent borrowers.

The challenges in the student loan market are multifaceted. Last year, federal support for the loan program was slashed, forcing loan providers to scale back on benefits and reevaluate their future participation in the program. This year, disruptions in the capital markets have reduced liquidity and shaken investor and consumer confidence.

With enactment of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act last fall, we cut some $18 billion from the program over 5 years. Although we were able to reinvest some of those funds in Pell Grants, which I strongly support, it appears now that we may have done more harm along with that good. That's because we cut so deeply into the student loan program that many lenders have opted to stop offering federal loans altogether.

On the issue of liquidity, what we require is a two-pronged approach to reinstate the flawed capital into the program.

First, this bill authorizes the U.S. Department of Education to act as a secondary market by purchasing or agreeing to purchase student loans so that lenders and holders can make or purchase new loans in the upcoming school year. Although this plan will provide only a modest amount of liquidity, it sends an important signal that policymakers are committed to the program's long-term stability. And it does so with no cost to the taxpayer.

Second, to provide an even greater flow of capital into the program, we are taking steps to ensure other federal financing authorities are viewed as viable sources of liquidity. To that end, this legislation contains a sense of Congress, urging these authorities to exercise their existing authorities to inject liquidity into the marketplace.

We're not alone in recognizing that this market-based problem requires a marked-based solution. Just yesterday, the chairman of the Senate Banking Committee held a hearing on the impact of market disruptions on student loan access, and he called for intervention by the Federal Financing Bank. I welcome these types of creative and complementary approaches, which will work in concert to calm the market.

Taken together, the prospect of federal financial institutions and the U.S. Department of Education stand ready to take the necessary steps to invest in and commit to the future purchase of loans will begin to quell the market uncertainty and restore confidence among investors, as well as among students and families planning for the coming school year.

The troubles facing our financial markets and our economy as a whole are daunting. But we would do a real disservice to students and families if we dismissed the challenges in the student loan program as merely a symptom of a larger problem that is outside our control. The fact is, we can take steps to prevent a collapse in the student loan market. We can do so quickly, and without a cost to taxpayers, by focusing on our commitment to market stability.

I would also offer a word of caution to those who are wary of federal intervention: If we fail to act now, we may be forced to take on a much greater governmental role in the future. And surely we can all agree that it's better to preserve the private sector program now than to replace it with a federal program later.

We made a commitment more than four decades ago that there are national benefits to an affordable, accessible higher education system. What we are doing today is restating that commitment and sending a signal to students and families that we continue to believe in this program that has opened the doors of higher education to so many millions of aspiring young Americans.

Mr. Chairman, this is a good bill that deserves our support. I want to thank the chairman for moving so quickly on this issue.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 3 minutes to the subcommittee Chair, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA).

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5715, the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008.

This is urgent legislation. I would like to thank our Education and Labor chairman, GEORGE MILLER, and our ranking member, HOWARD ''BUCK'' MCKEON, as well as my good friend and ranking member of the subcommittee, RIC KELLER, for working together to expedite consideration of this bill.

□ 1545

Nothing is more important than reassuring students and families that there

will be no disruption in the availability of Federal student loans, regardless of what happens in our financial markets. As of today, no student has been unable to find a lender for a Federal student loan. However, we are not going to wait until students and families are denied loans before putting safeguards in place. That is what we are doing here today.

Ensuring continued access to Federal student loans is of critical importance. In my congressional district, 40 percent of all student aid comes from the Federal Family Education Loan Program, and in my State of Texas 66 percent of all student aid comes through this program. The concerns that we are hearing from our constituents are real, and we need to address them.

Mr. Chairman, I include for the RECORD a letter dated April 7, 2008, from Texas State Senator Judith Zaffirini, Chair of the Higher Education Subcommittee, urging Congress to take action to avert any disruption in the Federal Family Education Loan Program.

SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE,
AUSTIN, TX, APRIL 7, 2008.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
*Chair, Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, & Competitiveness, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIR HINOJOSA: Thank you for your leadership in addressing higher education. I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Senate Higher Education Subcommittee, Chair of the Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee, and Vice Chair of the Senate Finance Committee about issues affecting higher education in Texas and to express my support for a viable Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP). This is in response to the current turmoil in the capital markets, which appears to be affecting all areas of credit, including student loans.

The FFELP participants provide nearly two-thirds of the student financial aid awarded annually to Texas's postsecondary education students and parents (contrasted with 56 percent nationally). Last year alone, for example, the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation (TG) guaranteed more than $3.2 billion in FFELP loans in Texas. The Federal Direct Loan Program (FDLP) accounts for approximately five percent of the state's federal student loan volume.

These FFELP providers also have supplied essential resources to assist students and families obtain information about postsecondary education: how to apply for college, how to choose a college or university to attend, financial aid availability, and how to apply for financial aid. In addition to working with the Texas student financial aid community through regional workshops on various postsecondary education issues, FFELP providers assist the State of Texas with our CLOSING THE GAPS initiative and provide grants and scholarships to organizations to enhance access to college.

In Texas more than 300 lenders, including the four private non-profit higher education authorities organized under Chapter 53B of the Texas Education Code, compete with one another on the basis of providing the best customer service to borrowers. This has produced more than a 90 percent repayment rate through excellent loan servicing and generous borrower benefits in a state that, unfortunately, relies heavily on student debt as the primary financial vehicle to a finance postsecondary education.

The non-profit lenders and secondary markets organized under the state education code have played a key role within the FFELP delivery system by providing a continuous source of liquidity for FFELP loan originations in Texas as well as support for efforts to enroll more students in higher education from underrepresented populations.

Colleges and universities should continue to have a choice of student lenders and student loan programs. The alternatives to a weakened FFELP most often mentioned—the FDLP and Lender of Last-Resort program—are not viable options in Texas. FDLP has been rejected by Texas institutions, and LLR is untested and has been used only sporadically.

I strongly urge you, as Chair of the Subcommittee on Higher Education, and the Texas Congressional delegation to support efforts to provide financial liquidity that will enable non-profit FFELP providers to continue to finance their programs facilitating reliable, efficient, low-cost secondary market programs that meet the needs of Texas lenders and students.

Feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance. May God bless you.

Very truly yours,
JUDITH ZAFFIRINI, PHD.

Mr. Chairman, the challenges facing the student loan marketplace are not the result of lax standards or poor judgment by borrowers or lenders. Student loans are a solid investment. For individuals, a college education means higher earnings, greater career opportunities and a better quality of life. For financial institutions, Federal student loans are a sure bet. They carry a 97 percent guarantee from the Federal Government and default rates remain at historic loans. It is the lack of liquidity in the financial markets that is threatening the ability of lenders in the student loan program to make loans.

H.R. 5715 focuses on two mechanisms to ensure that no student is denied a Federal student loan because of a lack of available lenders. First, the legislation clarifies that the Secretary may advance funding to guaranty agencies in the student loan program so that if called upon, they will be able to fulfill their role as lender of last resort as required under the Higher Education Act.

Secondly, the legislation gives the Secretary temporary authority to purchase student loans, providing an avenue for liquidity so that lenders can make no new loans.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HARE. I yield 30 additional seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. HINOJOSA. The manager's amendment clarifies that loans purchased by the Secretary may continue to be serviced by the original lender so the process remains seamless for students and families. These efforts represent the tools at the disposal of the Education and Labor Committee. However, more can and should be done.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 5715 so that there is no uncertainty for students and families about their ability to finance college education.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2½ minutes to the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Higher Education, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER).

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in support of the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act. As the ranking member of the Higher Education Subcommittee, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important legislation. I want to especially thank Chairman MILLER, Chairman HINOJOSA and Ranking Member MCKEON for their hard work in the drafting of this legislation on a bipartisan basis.

The troubles that began in the subprime mortgage market have had a ripple effect on our economy, including all types of consumer credit. Unfortunately, that also includes student loans. As a result of these disruptions in the financial markets, students and families all across America are worrying about how they will pay for college this fall. Through no fault of their own, students may have a more difficult time getting the financing they need for college.

Well, at least when it comes to Federal loans, there are things we can do now to prevent that from happening. Today we are taking positive steps to make sure that students have access to low-interest student loans, despite the recent turmoil in the financial markets. This bill was developed on a bipartisan basis to take preliminary action to shore up the Federal Family Education Loan Program and to offer new flexibility and protections to students and their families.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution to the troubles facing our student loan program. I appreciate the fact that the Financial Services Committee is also looking at these issues and that we may be exploring additional action in the future that more directly addresses issues of liquidity.

At this time, however, this is a good bill that will have a positive impact, and I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' and support its passage.

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

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act. Many students and families in my congressional district fear that in our struggling economy they will not be able to access the financial assistance they need to go to school. While we have not yet seen this, we know that there exists the potential for a real crisis.

I have often said in this House how frustrated I am that we wait for an emergency to occur before reacting, rather than working to prevent it in the first place. I am proud that today this body is proactively putting measures in place to ensure our students and lenders that they have the assistance that they need.

This legislation reduces borrowers' reliance on costlier private college

loans; encourages responsible borrowing; gives parent borrowers more time to pay off their Federal PLUS loans; it guarantees eligibility for PLUS loans for struggling homeowners who otherwise have good credit; and it provides the Secretary of Education additional tools to safeguard access to student loans.

All these provisions are good steps forward and will keep our student loan industry strong, which is why I am an original cosponsor of the bill and was proud to support it when our committee marked it up just last week. However, more needs to be done. I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue to address our Nation's economic troubles.

I commend Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member MCKEON and their staffs for putting together this legislation so that our students and lenders have a safety net during the time of economic insecurity. I urge all my colleagues to support the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act.

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

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI), a senior member of the committee.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman MILLER and our ranking member, BUCK MCKEON, for working together on this important legislation. As has been pointed out, the bill we are considering today will put in place additional measures to ensure continued access to Federal student loans.

During committee consideration I expressed concern with one provision in the bill that would permit an entire institution rather than the individual the authority to participate in the lender of last resort program. I urged the committee to consider clarifying the trigger mechanism for school eligibility in order to avoid a situation in which a guaranty agency is in essence the lender of first resort. I am pleased that the chairman included language in the manager's amendment that will be offered that requires the Secretary of Education, not the guaranty agency, to determine whether a school qualifies for institution-wide designation.

Furthermore, the manager's amendment requires institutions to demonstrate that a minimum number of students or percentage of students have been rejected by eligible lenders before receiving this designation.

These are two important changes, so I again thank Chairman MILLER for including them in the manager's amendment and appreciate Ranking Member MCKEON's assistance on this issue.

While the focus of the bill we are considering today is making sure contingency plans are in place should turmoil in the credit markets affect the availability of Federal student loans and the Federal Family Education Loan Program, we do have another Federal student loan program that is immune to effects of the credit market, and that is the Direct Loan Program.

Just this year, over 100 schools have applied to participate in the Direct Loan Program. Penn State University stated that it is moving to the Direct Loan Program because it will ''enable students to continue their education without worrying about whether and where their Federal student loans come from.''

Currently, the Direct Loan Program accounts for about 20 percent of the student loan market. However, the Secretary of Education has stated on multiple occasions that the Direct Loan Program could easily double the amount of new loans it makes to students.

It is just commonsense that in times of market turmoil, instead of relying on untested fall-back measures in the FFEL Program, universities should also consider the Direct Loan Program.

I will conclude by emphasizing that to date, no student or college has reported problems accessing Federal student loans. Currently, the disruption is best described as forcing some students to switch lenders. The message from Congress to students and families should be that they should not panic and should continue to pursue Federal student aid in the upcoming school year. There are measures in place, and in this bill we are strengthening those measures, to ensure that students will always have access to Federal student loans.

Mr. HARE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE), a member of the House Education and Labor Committee.

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this legislation which I joined with Chairman MILLER in introducing to ensure that the nationwide credit crisis does not prevent students from attending college. Recent decisions to suspend the issuing of student loans by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency and other lenders demonstrates the need for this legislation.

This bill takes several proactive steps to make certain that students are able to access the financial aid they need to pay for college. It gives the Department of Education the temporary authority to purchase loans from lenders in the Federal Family Education Loan Program. This will provide additional liquidity to the market so that lenders can continue to make student loans. Furthermore, the bill increases Federal loan limits for students by $2,000 a year, which will reduce students' dependence on more expensive private loans.

I thank Chairman MILLER for his leadership on this issue, and urge all of my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to a member of our leadership team, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER).

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Ensuring Student Access to Student Loans Act of 2008. This bill is designed to increase investor confidence in the marketplace by authorizing the Secretary of Education to purchase student loans. This will free up liquidity for new loans and show lenders that student loans are a safe and secure investment.

We are facing uncertain economic times. This bill will help ensure that loans will continue to be available to students. Every student should have the opportunity to attend college. But, unfortunately, the cost of college is increasing, which has become a barrier for students and families. This bill increases the loan limit for Stafford Loans in order to allow students to receive more Federal funding. Making more aid available to students will make college more accessible and affordable to students and families.

But it is not just the cost of college that is a challenge. The free application for Federal student aid form, or FAFSA, as it is known, is complicated and cumbersome for students and families to complete. The FAFSA form is so complicated that it has deterred many students and families from applying for aid.

As we consider this bill and other higher education bills we should work to simplify the FAFSA form to help ensure that students and families have access to the financial aid that they need in order to attend college.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5715.

Mr. HARE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL), the chairman of our caucus.

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Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Chairman, let me just say to the simplification of the student loan form—actually, it happened to be my first bill—which is to take the 106 questions, 8 pages long, down to commonsense English, cut it in half, and the good news is that, in fact, the Higher Ed Reauthorization Act will then, in short order—I have all the confidence in Chairman MILLER—be on the floor this month to pass.

This, like that act, is a second step that we take to make sure that we put a protective wall around the student loan market.

What we see today in the mortgage industry, what we see today happening in other parts of the marketplace, should not happen to those students and those families who are trying to send their kids to college.

We live in an era where you earn what you learn. A college education is a ticket to the middle class life and to greater economic security and greater economic opportunity. What has happened in the subprime market and what has happened in our marketplace in the financial sector should not migrate into the student loan industry.

This legislation ensures that it will not. It has two messages, one to parents and students, that says in this

time of uncertainty, know that your government is there to ensure that you get a student loan coming up this fall.

It's also a message to the executive branch: Do not wait for a crisis. Do not act like you do not have this authority. You have this authority. The Congress, in a bipartisan vote, will make sure you know in no uncertain terms to have the authority to prevent any chaos, any disruption to the student loan marketplace.

This legislation, like the reauthorization of the higher ed bill, will build on the facts that we have extended this year and increase Pell Grants for the first time, pass the largest increase of student loans since the GI Bill in 1944. This Congressman knows that when middle class families look at their kids, look at the cost of college that has gone up by $7,500, knows that kids today, when they graduate, graduate with an average debt burden of $18,000 when they get their diploma.

This Congress makes sure that middle class families don't fall farther behind making sure their kids have a better and more opportunistic future than they had. A college education is the key to that future, and I am proud that we are taking this action speedily before there is any crisis in the student loan industry.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman.

I want to thank all my colleagues who participated in the debate this evening. We will have some time for additional debate tomorrow, but I was also remiss in not thanking Amy Jones of Congressman MCKEON's staff for all of her hard work on this bill, and the individuals on my staff, Denise Forte, Gaby Gomez, Julie Radocchia, Jeff Appel, Stephanie Moore, Brian Kennedy, Joe Novotny, Lamont Ivey, and Margaret Young for all their assistance in bringing this bill to the floor.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 5715, "Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008", introduced by Representative GEORGE MILLER of California. I want to thank the Committee on Education and Labor for its efforts in this important area.

Every generation sets out to improve upon the previous generation. We teach our children that if they focus, are responsible, and work hard they can be anything. Yet we have provided a false truth for the majority of our children. Rising tuitions in higher education even at our community colleges are keeping a lot of our youth from attending college. For those that are able to attend, they are burdened by extensive loans just to buy books, attend class, and maintain housing.

Families are sending their children to school, trying to qualify for parent loans and wondering how they are going to make the payments when they are struggling to pay their mortgage and facing their own issues with possible unemployment.

In my home state of Texas, families are struggling to assist children with their education while they face an unemployment rate of 4.3 percent across the state. As of the end of last year, Texas was ranked as having the 20th highest unemployment rate (out of the 50 states). And we are not alone as states grabble with unemployment and a falling housing market.

H.R. 5715, Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act, provides much needed support to our families in a time when they most need it by specifically addressing the needs of parents, students, and even lenders. The Student loans Act would: Increase unsubsidized loan limits for students—This bill will increase unsubsidized loan limits by $2,000 for each year of undergraduate and graduate school. It also increases the aggregate loan limits to $31,000 for dependent undergraduates and $57,500 for independent undergraduate students.

Delayed repayment of parent PLUS loans—Currently PLUS loan borrowers—parents—go into repayment 60 days after disbursement of the loan. This bill would give families an option of not entering repayment for up to 6-months after a student leaves school.

PLUS loan eligibility for struggling homeowners—Under current law, parents with an adverse credit history are ineligible to receive a parent PLUS loan, except under extenuating circumstances. In light of the current housing market, the bill temporarily qualifies up to 180 day delinquency on home mortgages as an extenuating circumstance, therefore making it more possible for parents struggling with the current housing market to secure loans for their children.

Lender of Last Resort flexibility—The bill makes clear in statute that the Secretary of Education has the mandatory authority to advance Federal funds to Guaranty Agencies in the case that they do not have sufficient capital. Further, the bill allows a Guaranty Agency to designate a school (rather than an individual student) as a "lender of last resort school," in accordance with guidelines set by the Secretary.

Authority for the Secretary of Education to purchase FFEL loan assets—The bill gives the Secretary the temporary authority, upon a determination that there is inadequate availability to meet demand for loans, to purchase loans from FFEL lenders. Such purchases could only be made in the case they are revenue-neutral or beneficial to the Federal Government.

Federal Institutions' participation—The bill includes a Sense of the Congress that the Federal Financial Institutions and entities (including the Federal Financing Bank, the Federal Home Loan Banks, and the Federal Reserve) should consider using, in consultation with the Secretaries of Education and the Treasury, available authorities, if needed, to assist in ensuring continued student loan access.

CONCLUSION

I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 5715, Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act. Let's support education by allowing for greater flexibility, eligibility, and participation for students and their families

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the motion to rise.

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 395, noes 1, not voting 40, as follows:

[Roll No. 200]

AYES—395

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Bordallo
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
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
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
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
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Norton
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pitts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Sires
Skelton
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Speier
Stearns
Stupak
Sutton
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Waxman
Welch (VT)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (AK)

NOES—1

Stark

NOT VOTING—40

Bachus
Berman
Berry
Bishop (UT)
Brady (PA)
Brown, Corrine
Christensen
Conyers
Davis (IL)
Dicks
Faleomavaega
Fattah
Feeney
Fortuño
Franks (AZ)
Harman
Hulshof
Linder
Mack
Markey
McCrery
Meek (FL)
Peterson (PA)
Pickering
Platts
Rahall
Renzi
Rush
Sestak
Simpson
Slaughter
Spratt
Sullivan
Tierney
Watt
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Wilson (NM)
Wynn
Young (FL)

□ 1628

Messrs. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, ROTHMAN, BARTLETT of Maryland and HOLT changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the motion to rise was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. JONES of Ohio) having assumed the chair, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5715) to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families, had come to no resolution thereon.

## BEACH PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1083 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2537.

□ 1631

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2537) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act relating to beach monitoring, and for other purposes, with Mr. JACKSON of Illinois (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, April 10, 2008, amendment No. 8 printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. FOSSELLA

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 4 offered by Mr. FOSSELLA:
Page 2, after line 2 insert the following:

**TITLE I—BEACH PROTECTION ACT OF 2007**

At the end of the bill, add the following new title:

**TITLE II—FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT OF 1978 AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008**

**SEC. 100. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This title may be cited as the ''Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 Amendments Act of 2008'' or the ''FISA Amendments Act of 2008''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this title is as follows:

Sec. 100. Short title; table of contents.

Subtitle A—Foreign Intelligence Surveillance

Sec. 101. Additional procedures regarding certain persons outside the United States.
Sec. 102. Statement of exclusive means by which electronic surveillance and interception of domestic communications may be conducted.
Sec. 103. Submittal to Congress of certain court orders under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978.
Sec. 104. Applications for court orders.
Sec. 105. Issuance of an order.
Sec. 106. Use of information.
Sec. 107. Amendments for physical searches.
Sec. 108. Amendments for emergency pen registers and trap and trace devices.
Sec. 109. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.
Sec. 110. Weapons of mass destruction.
Sec. 111. Technical and conforming amendments.

Subtitle B—Protections for Electronic Communication Service Providers

Sec. 201. Definitions.
Sec. 202. Limitations on civil actions for electronic communication service providers.
Sec. 203. Procedures for implementing statutory defenses under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978.
Sec. 204. Preemption of State investigations.
Sec. 205. Technical amendments.

Subtitle C—Other Provisions

Sec. 301. Severability.
Sec. 302. Effective date; repeal; transition procedures.

**Subtitle A—Foreign Intelligence Surveillance**

**SEC. 101. ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES REGARDING CERTAIN PERSONS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking title VII; and

(2) by adding after title VI the following new title:

**''TITLE VII—ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES REGARDING CERTAIN PERSONS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES**

**''SEC. 701. LIMITATION ON DEFINITION OF ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE.**

''Nothing in the definition of electronic surveillance under section 101(f) shall be construed to encompass surveillance that is targeted in accordance with this title at a person reasonably believed to be located outside the United States.

**''SEC. 702. DEFINITIONS.**

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The terms 'agent of a foreign power', 'Attorney General', 'contents', 'electronic surveillance', 'foreign intelligence information', 'foreign power', 'minimization procedures', 'person', 'United States', and 'United States person' shall have the meanings given such terms in section 101, except as specifically provided in this title.

''(b) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.—

''(1) CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.—The term 'congressional intelligence committees' means—

''(A) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

''(B) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

''(2) FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT; COURT.—The terms 'Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court' and 'Court' mean the court established by section 103(a).

''(3) FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT OF REVIEW; COURT OF REVIEW.—The terms 'Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review' and 'Court of Review' mean the court established by section 103(b).

''(4) ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term 'electronic communication service provider' means—

''(A) a telecommunications carrier, as that term is defined in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153);

''(B) a provider of electronic communication service, as that term is defined in section 2510 of title 18, United States Code;

''(C) a provider of a remote computing service, as that term is defined in section 2711 of title 18, United States Code;

''(D) any other communication service provider who has access to wire or electronic communications either as such communications are transmitted or as such communications are stored; or

''(E) an officer, employee, or agent of an entity described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D).

''(5) ELEMENT OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term 'element of the intelligence community' means an element of the intelligence community specified in or designated under section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401a(4)).

**"SEC. 703. PROCEDURES FOR TARGETING CERTAIN PERSONS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES OTHER THAN UNITED STATES PERSONS.**

''(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding any other law, the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence may authorize jointly, for periods of up to 1 year, the targeting of persons reasonably believed to be located outside the United States to acquire foreign intelligence information.

''(b) LIMITATIONS.—An acquisition authorized under subsection (a)—

''(1) may not intentionally target any person known at the time of acquisition to be located in the United States;

''(2) may not intentionally target a person reasonably believed to be located outside the United States if the purpose of such acquisition is to target a particular, known person reasonably believed to be in the United States, except in accordance with title I or title III;

''(3) may not intentionally target a United States person reasonably believed to be located outside the United States, except in accordance with sections 704, 705, or 706;

''(4) shall not intentionally acquire any communication as to which the sender and all intended recipients are known at the time of the acquisition to be located in the United States; and

''(5) shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the fourth amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

''(c) CONDUCT OF ACQUISITION.—An acquisition authorized under subsection (a) may be conducted only in accordance with—

''(1) a certification made by the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence pursuant to subsection (f); and

''(2) the targeting and minimization procedures required pursuant to subsections (d) and (e).

''(d) TARGETING PROCEDURES.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT TO ADOPT.—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, shall adopt targeting procedures that are reasonably designed to ensure that any acquisition authorized under subsection (a) is limited to targeting persons reasonably believed to be located outside the United States and does not result in the intentional acquisition of any communication as to which the sender and all intended recipients are known at the time of the acquisition to be located in the United States.

''(2) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—The procedures referred to in paragraph (1) shall be subject to judicial review pursuant to subsection (h).

''(e) MINIMIZATION PROCEDURES.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT TO ADOPT.—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, shall adopt minimization procedures that meet the definition of minimization procedures under section 101(h) or section 301(4) for acquisitions authorized under subsection (a).

''(2) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—The minimization procedures required by this subsection shall be subject to judicial review pursuant to subsection (h).

''(f) CERTIFICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) REQUIREMENT.—Subject to subparagraph (B), prior to the initiation of an acquisition authorized under subsection (a), the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence shall provide, under oath, a written certification, as described in this subsection.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—If the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence determine that immediate action by the Government is required and time does not permit the preparation of a certification under this subsection prior to the initiation of an acquisition, the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence shall prepare such certification, including such determination, as soon as possible but in no event more than 7 days after such determination is made.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A certification made under this subsection shall—

''(A) attest that—

''(i) there are reasonable procedures in place for determining that the acquisition authorized under subsection (a) is targeted at persons reasonably believed to be located outside the United States and that such procedures have been approved by, or will be submitted in not more than 5 days for approval by, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court pursuant to subsection (h);

''(ii) there are reasonable procedures in place for determining that the acquisition authorized under subsection (a) does not result in the intentional acquisition of any communication as to which the sender and all intended recipients are known at the time of the acquisition to be located in the United States, and that such procedures have been approved by, or will be submitted in not more than 5 days for approval by, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court pursuant to subsection (h);

''(iii) the procedures referred to in clauses (i) and (ii) are consistent with the requirements of the fourth amendment to the Constitution of the United States and do not permit the intentional targeting of any person who is known at the time of acquisition to be located in the United States or the intentional acquisition of any communication as to which the sender and all intended recipients are known at the time of acquisition to be located in the United States;

''(iv) a significant purpose of the acquisition is to obtain foreign intelligence information;

''(v) the minimization procedures to be used with respect to such acquisition—

''(I) meet the definition of minimization procedures under section 101(h) or section 301(4); and

''(II) have been approved by, or will be submitted in not more than 5 days for approval by, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court pursuant to subsection (h);

''(vi) the acquisition involves obtaining the foreign intelligence information from or with the assistance of an electronic communication service provider; and

''(vii) the acquisition does not constitute electronic surveillance, as limited by section 701; and

''(B) be supported, as appropriate, by the affidavit of any appropriate official in the area of national security who is—

''(i) appointed by the President, by and with the consent of the Senate; or

''(ii) the head of any element of the intelligence community.

''(3) LIMITATION.—A certification made under this subsection is not required to identify the specific facilities, places, premises, or property at which the acquisition authorized under subsection (a) will be directed or conducted.

''(4) SUBMISSION TO THE COURT.—The Attorney General shall transmit a copy of a certification made under this subsection, and any supporting affidavit, under seal to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court as soon as possible, but in no event more than 5 days after such certification is made. Such certification shall be maintained under security measures adopted by the Chief Justice of the United States and the Attorney General, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence.

''(5) REVIEW.—The certification required by this subsection shall be subject to judicial review pursuant to subsection (h).

''(g) DIRECTIVES AND JUDICIAL REVIEW OF DIRECTIVES.—

''(1) AUTHORITY.—With respect to an acquisition authorized under subsection (a), the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence may direct, in writing, an electronic communication service provider to—

''(A) immediately provide the Government with all information, facilities, or assistance necessary to accomplish the acquisition in a manner that will protect the secrecy of the acquisition and produce a minimum of interference with the services that such electronic communication service provider is providing to the target; and

''(B) maintain under security procedures approved by the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence any records concerning the acquisition or the aid furnished that such electronic communication service provider wishes to maintain.

''(2) COMPENSATION.—The Government shall compensate, at the prevailing rate, an electronic communication service provider for providing information, facilities, or assistance pursuant to paragraph (1).

''(3) RELEASE FROM LIABILITY.—Notwithstanding any other law, no cause of action shall lie in any court against any electronic communication service provider for providing any information, facilities, or assistance in accordance with a directive issued pursuant to paragraph (1).

''(4) CHALLENGING OF DIRECTIVES.—

''(A) AUTHORITY TO CHALLENGE.—An electronic communication service provider receiving a directive issued pursuant to paragraph (1) may challenge the directive by filing a petition with the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which shall have jurisdiction to review such a petition.

''(B) ASSIGNMENT.—The presiding judge of the Court shall assign the petition filed under subparagraph (A) to 1 of the judges serving in the pool established by section 103(e)(1) not later than 24 hours after the filing of the petition.

''(C) STANDARDS FOR REVIEW.—A judge considering a petition to modify or set aside a directive may grant such petition only if the judge finds that the directive does not meet the requirements of this section, or is otherwise unlawful.

''(D) PROCEDURES FOR INITIAL REVIEW.—A judge shall conduct an initial review not later than 5 days after being assigned a petition described in subparagraph (C). If the judge determines that the petition consists of claims, defenses, or other legal contentions that are not warranted by existing law or by a nonfrivolous argument for extending, modifying, or reversing existing law or for establishing new law, the judge shall immediately deny the petition and affirm the directive or any part of the directive that is the subject of the petition and order the recipient to comply with the directive or any part of it. Upon making such a determination or promptly thereafter, the judge shall provide a written statement for the record of the reasons for a determination under this subparagraph.

''(E) PROCEDURES FOR PLENARY REVIEW.—If a judge determines that a petition described in subparagraph (C) requires plenary review, the judge shall affirm, modify, or set aside the directive that is the subject of that petition not later than 30 days after being assigned the petition, unless the judge, by order for reasons stated, extends that time as necessary to comport with the due process clause of the fifth amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Unless the judge sets aside the directive, the judge shall immediately affirm or affirm with modifications the directive, and order the recipient to comply with the directive in its entirety

or as modified. The judge shall provide a written statement for the records of the reasons for a determination under this subparagraph.

''(F) CONTINUED EFFECT.—Any directive not explicitly modified or set aside under this paragraph shall remain in full effect.

''(G) CONTEMPT OF COURT.—Failure to obey an order of the Court issued under this paragraph may be punished by the Court as contempt of court.

''(5) ENFORCEMENT OF DIRECTIVES.—

''(A) ORDER TO COMPEL.—In the case of a failure to comply with a directive issued pursuant to paragraph (1), the Attorney General may file a petition for an order to compel compliance with the directive with the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which shall have jurisdiction to review such a petition.

''(B) ASSIGNMENT.—The presiding judge of the Court shall assign a petition filed under subparagraph (A) to 1 of the judges serving in the pool established by section 103(e)(1) not later than 24 hours after the filing of the petition.

''(C) STANDARDS FOR REVIEW.—A judge considering a petition filed under subparagraph (A) shall issue an order requiring the electronic communication service provider to comply with the directive or any part of it, as issued or as modified, if the judge finds that the directive meets the requirements of this section, and is otherwise lawful.

''(D) PROCEDURES FOR REVIEW.—The judge shall render a determination not later than 30 days after being assigned a petition filed under subparagraph (A), unless the judge, by order for reasons stated, extends that time if necessary to comport with the due process clause of the fifth amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The judge shall provide a written statement for the record of the reasons for a determination under this paragraph.

''(E) CONTEMPT OF COURT.—Failure to obey an order of the Court issued under this paragraph may be punished by the Court as contempt of court.

''(F) PROCESS.—Any process under this paragraph may be served in any judicial district in which the electronic communication service provider may be found.

''(6) APPEAL.—

''(A) APPEAL TO THE COURT OF REVIEW.—The Government or an electronic communication service provider receiving a directive issued pursuant to paragraph (1) may file a petition with the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review for review of the decision issued pursuant to paragraph (4) or (5). The Court of Review shall have jurisdiction to consider such a petition and shall provide a written statement for the record of the reasons for a decision under this paragraph.

''(B) CERTIORARI TO THE SUPREME COURT.—The Government or an electronic communication service provider receiving a directive issued pursuant to paragraph (1) may file a petition for a writ of certiorari for review of the decision of the Court of Review issued under subparagraph (A). The record for such review shall be transmitted under seal to the Supreme Court of the United States, which shall have jurisdiction to review such decision.

''(h) JUDICIAL REVIEW OF CERTIFICATIONS AND PROCEDURES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) REVIEW BY THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT.—The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court shall have jurisdiction to review any certification required by subsection (c) and the targeting and minimization procedures adopted pursuant to subsections (d) and (e).

''(B) SUBMISSION TO THE COURT.—The Attorney General shall submit to the Court any such certification or procedure, or amendment thereto, not later than 5 days after making or amending the certification or adopting or amending the procedures.

''(2) CERTIFICATIONS.—The Court shall review a certification provided under subsection (f) to determine whether the certification contains all the required elements.

''(3) TARGETING PROCEDURES.—The Court shall review the targeting procedures required by subsection (d) to assess whether the procedures are reasonably designed to ensure that the acquisition authorized under subsection (a) is limited to the targeting of persons reasonably believed to be located outside the United States and does not result in the intentional acquisition of any communication as to which the sender and all intended recipients are known at the time of the acquisition to be located in the United States.

''(4) MINIMIZATION PROCEDURES.—The Court shall review the minimization procedures required by subsection (e) to assess whether such procedures meet the definition of minimization procedures under section 101(h) or section 301(4).

''(5) ORDERS.—

''(A) APPROVAL.—If the Court finds that a certification required by subsection (f) contains all of the required elements and that the targeting and minimization procedures required by subsections (d) and (e) are consistent with the requirements of those subsections and with the fourth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the Court shall enter an order approving the continued use of the procedures for the acquisition authorized under subsection (a).

''(B) CORRECTION OF DEFICIENCIES.—If the Court finds that a certification required by subsection (f) does not contain all of the required elements, or that the procedures required by subsections (d) and (e) are not consistent with the requirements of those subsections or the fourth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, the Court shall issue an order directing the Government to, at the Government's election and to the extent required by the Court's order—

''(i) correct any deficiency identified by the Court's order not later than 30 days after the date the Court issues the order; or

''(ii) cease the acquisition authorized under subsection (a).

''(C) REQUIREMENT FOR WRITTEN STATEMENT.—In support of its orders under this subsection, the Court shall provide, simultaneously with the orders, for the record a written statement of its reasons.

''(6) APPEAL.—

''(A) APPEAL TO THE COURT OF REVIEW.—The Government may appeal any order under this section to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review, which shall have jurisdiction to review such order. For any decision affirming, reversing, or modifying an order of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, the Court of Review shall provide for the record a written statement of its reasons.

''(B) CONTINUATION OF ACQUISITION PENDING REHEARING OR APPEAL.—Any acquisitions affected by an order under paragraph (5)(B) may continue—

''(i) during the pendency of any rehearing of the order by the Court en banc; and

''(ii) if the Government appeals an order under this section, until the Court of Review enters an order under subparagraph (C).

''(C) IMPLEMENTATION PENDING APPEAL.—Not later than 60 days after the filing of an appeal of an order under paragraph (5)(B) directing the correction of a deficiency, the Court of Review shall determine, and enter a corresponding order regarding, whether all or any part of the correction order, as issued or modified, shall be implemented during the pendency of the appeal.

''(D) CERTIORARI TO THE SUPREME COURT.—The Government may file a petition for a writ of certiorari for review of a decision of the Court of Review issued under subparagraph (A). The record for such review shall be transmitted under seal to the Supreme Court of the United States, which shall have jurisdiction to review such decision.

''(i) EXPEDITED JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.—Judicial proceedings under this section shall be conducted as expeditiously as possible.

''(j) MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY OF RECORDS AND PROCEEDINGS.—

''(1) STANDARDS.—A record of a proceeding under this section, including petitions filed, orders granted, and statements of reasons for decision, shall be maintained under security measures adopted by the Chief Justice of the United States, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence.

''(2) FILING AND REVIEW.—All petitions under this section shall be filed under seal. In any proceedings under this section, the court shall, upon request of the Government, review ex parte and in camera any Government submission, or portions of a submission, which may include classified information.

''(3) RETENTION OF RECORDS.—A directive made or an order granted under this section shall be retained for a period of not less than 10 years from the date on which such directive or such order is made.

''(k) ASSESSMENTS AND REVIEWS.—

''(1) SEMIANNUAL ASSESSMENT.—Not less frequently than once every 6 months, the Attorney General and Director of National Intelligence shall assess compliance with the targeting and minimization procedures required by subsections (e) and (f) and shall submit each such assessment to—

''(A) the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court; and

''(B) the congressional intelligence committees.

''(2) AGENCY ASSESSMENT.—The Inspectors General of the Department of Justice and of any element of the intelligence community authorized to acquire foreign intelligence information under subsection (a) with respect to their department, agency, or element—

''(A) are authorized to review the compliance with the targeting and minimization procedures required by subsections (d) and (e);

''(B) with respect to acquisitions authorized under subsection (a), shall review the number of disseminated intelligence reports containing a reference to a United States person identity and the number of United States person identities subsequently disseminated by the element concerned in response to requests for identities that were not referred to by name or title in the original reporting;

''(C) with respect to acquisitions authorized under subsection (a), shall review the number of targets that were later determined to be located in the United States and, to the extent possible, whether their communications were reviewed; and

''(D) shall provide each such review to—

''(i) the Attorney General;

''(ii) the Director of National Intelligence; and

''(iii) the congressional intelligence committees.

''(3) ANNUAL REVIEW.—

''(A) REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT.—The head of an element of the intelligence community conducting an acquisition authorized under subsection (a) shall direct the element to conduct an annual review to determine whether there is reason to believe that foreign intelligence information has been or

will be obtained from the acquisition. The annual review shall provide, with respect to such acquisitions authorized under subsection (a)—

''(i) an accounting of the number of disseminated intelligence reports containing a reference to a United States person identity;

''(ii) an accounting of the number of United States person identities subsequently disseminated by that element in response to requests for identities that were not referred to by name or title in the original reporting;

''(iii) the number of targets that were later determined to be located in the United States and, to the extent possible, whether their communications were reviewed; and

''(iv) a description of any procedures developed by the head of an element of the intelligence community and approved by the Director of National Intelligence to assess, in a manner consistent with national security, operational requirements and the privacy interests of United States persons, the extent to which the acquisitions authorized under subsection (a) acquire the communications of United States persons, as well as the results of any such assessment.

''(B) USE OF REVIEW.—The head of each element of the intelligence community that conducts an annual review under subparagraph (A) shall use each such review to evaluate the adequacy of the minimization procedures utilized by such element or the application of the minimization procedures to a particular acquisition authorized under subsection (a).

''(C) PROVISION OF REVIEW.—The head of each element of the intelligence community that conducts an annual review under subparagraph (A) shall provide such review to—

''(i) the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court;

''(ii) the Attorney General;

''(iii) the Director of National Intelligence; and

''(iv) the congressional intelligence committees.

**"SEC. 704. CERTAIN ACQUISITIONS INSIDE THE UNITED STATES OF UNITED STATES PERSONS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.**

''(a) JURISDICTION OF THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court shall have jurisdiction to enter an order approving the targeting of a United States person reasonably believed to be located outside the United States to acquire foreign intelligence information, if such acquisition constitutes electronic surveillance (as defined in section 101(f), regardless of the limitation of section 701) or the acquisition of stored electronic communications or stored electronic data that requires an order under this Act, and such acquisition is conducted within the United States.

''(2) LIMITATION.—In the event that a United States person targeted under this subsection is reasonably believed to be located in the United States during the pendency of an order issued pursuant to subsection (c), such acquisition shall cease until authority, other than under this section, is obtained pursuant to this Act or the targeted United States person is again reasonably believed to be located outside the United States during the pendency of an order issued pursuant to subsection (c).

''(b) APPLICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each application for an order under this section shall be made by a Federal officer in writing upon oath or affirmation to a judge having jurisdiction under subsection (a)(1). Each application shall require the approval of the Attorney General based upon the Attorney General's finding that it satisfies the criteria and requirements of such application, as set forth in this section, and shall include—

''(A) the identity of the Federal officer making the application;

''(B) the identity, if known, or a description of the United States person who is the target of the acquisition;

''(C) a statement of the facts and circumstances relied upon to justify the applicant's belief that the United States person who is the target of the acquisition is—

''(i) a person reasonably believed to be located outside the United States; and

''(ii) a foreign power, an agent of a foreign power, or an officer or employee of a foreign power;

''(D) a statement of the proposed minimization procedures that meet the definition of minimization procedures under section 101(h) or section 301(4);

''(E) a description of the nature of the information sought and the type of communications or activities to be subjected to acquisition;

''(F) a certification made by the Attorney General or an official specified in section 104(a)(6) that—

''(i) the certifying official deems the information sought to be foreign intelligence information;

''(ii) a significant purpose of the acquisition is to obtain foreign intelligence information;

''(iii) such information cannot reasonably be obtained by normal investigative techniques;

''(iv) designates the type of foreign intelligence information being sought according to the categories described in section 101(e); and

''(v) includes a statement of the basis for the certification that—

''(I) the information sought is the type of foreign intelligence information designated; and

''(II) such information cannot reasonably be obtained by normal investigative techniques;

''(G) a summary statement of the means by which the acquisition will be conducted and whether physical entry is required to effect the acquisition;

''(H) the identity of any electronic communication service provider necessary to effect the acquisition, provided, however, that the application is not required to identify the specific facilities, places, premises, or property at which the acquisition authorized under this section will be directed or conducted;

''(I) a statement of the facts concerning any previous applications that have been made to any judge of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court involving the United States person specified in the application and the action taken on each previous application; and

''(J) a statement of the period of time for which the acquisition is required to be maintained, provided that such period of time shall not exceed 90 days per application.

''(2) OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General may require any other affidavit or certification from any other officer in connection with the application.

''(3) OTHER REQUIREMENTS OF THE JUDGE.—The judge may require the applicant to furnish such other information as may be necessary to make the findings required by subsection (c)(1).

''(c) ORDER.—

''(1) FINDINGS.—Upon an application made pursuant to subsection (b), the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court shall enter an ex parte order as requested or as modified approving the acquisition if the Court finds that—

''(A) the application has been made by a Federal officer and approved by the Attorney General;

''(B) on the basis of the facts submitted by the applicant, for the United States person who is the target of the acquisition, there is probable cause to believe that the target is—

''(i) a person reasonably believed to be located outside the United States; and

''(ii) a foreign power, an agent of a foreign power, or an officer or employee of a foreign power;

''(C) the proposed minimization procedures meet the definition of minimization procedures under section 101(h) or section 301(4); and

''(D) the application which has been filed contains all statements and certifications required by subsection (b) and the certification or certifications are not clearly erroneous on the basis of the statement made under subsection (b)(1)(F)(v) and any other information furnished under subsection (b)(3).

''(2) PROBABLE CAUSE.—In determining whether or not probable cause exists for purposes of an order under paragraph (1), a judge having jurisdiction under subsection (a)(1) may consider past activities of the target, as well as facts and circumstances relating to current or future activities of the target. However, no United States person may be considered a foreign power, agent of a foreign power, or officer or employee of a foreign power solely upon the basis of activities protected by the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

''(3) REVIEW.—

''(A) LIMITATION ON REVIEW.—Review by a judge having jurisdiction under subsection (a)(1) shall be limited to that required to make the findings described in paragraph (1).

''(B) REVIEW OF PROBABLE CAUSE.—If the judge determines that the facts submitted under subsection (b) are insufficient to establish probable cause to issue an order under paragraph (1), the judge shall enter an order so stating and provide a written statement for the record of the reasons for such determination. The Government may appeal an order under this clause pursuant to subsection (f).

''(C) REVIEW OF MINIMIZATION PROCEDURES.—If the judge determines that the proposed minimization procedures required under paragraph (1)(C) do not meet the definition of minimization procedures under section 101(h) or section 301(4), the judge shall enter an order so stating and provide a written statement for the record of the reasons for such determination. The Government may appeal an order under this clause pursuant to subsection (f).

''(D) REVIEW OF CERTIFICATION.—If the judge determines that an application required by subsection (b) does not contain all of the required elements, or that the certification or certifications are clearly erroneous on the basis of the statement made under subsection (b)(1)(F)(v) and any other information furnished under subsection (b)(3), the judge shall enter an order so stating and provide a written statement for the record of the reasons for such determination. The Government may appeal an order under this clause pursuant to subsection (f).

''(4) SPECIFICATIONS.—An order approving an acquisition under this subsection shall specify—

''(A) the identity, if known, or a description of the United States person who is the target of the acquisition identified or described in the application pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(B);

''(B) if provided in the application pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(H), the nature and location of each of the facilities or places at which the acquisition will be directed;

''(C) the nature of the information sought to be acquired and the type of communications or activities to be subjected to acquisition;

''(D) the means by which the acquisition will be conducted and whether physical entry is required to effect the acquisition; and

''(E) the period of time during which the acquisition is approved.

''(5) DIRECTIONS.—An order approving acquisitions under this subsection shall direct—

''(A) that the minimization procedures be followed;

''(B) an electronic communication service provider to provide to the Government forthwith all information, facilities, or assistance necessary to accomplish the acquisition authorized under this subsection in a manner that will protect the secrecy of the acquisition and produce a minimum of interference with the services that such electronic communication service provider is providing to the target;

''(C) an electronic communication service provider to maintain under security procedures approved by the Attorney General any records concerning the acquisition or the aid furnished that such electronic communication service provider wishes to maintain; and

''(D) that the Government compensate, at the prevailing rate, such electronic communication service provider for providing such information, facilities, or assistance.

''(6) DURATION.—An order approved under this paragraph shall be effective for a period not to exceed 90 days and such order may be renewed for additional 90-day periods upon submission of renewal applications meeting the requirements of subsection (b).

''(7) COMPLIANCE.—At or prior to the end of the period of time for which an acquisition is approved by an order or extension under this section, the judge may assess compliance with the minimization procedures by reviewing the circumstances under which information concerning United States persons was acquired, retained, or disseminated.

''(d) EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION.—

''(1) AUTHORITY FOR EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, if the Attorney General reasonably determines that—

''(A) an emergency situation exists with respect to the acquisition of foreign intelligence information for which an order may be obtained under subsection (c) before an order authorizing such acquisition can with due diligence be obtained, and

''(B) the factual basis for issuance of an order under this subsection to approve such acquisition exists,

the Attorney General may authorize the emergency acquisition if a judge having jurisdiction under subsection (a)(1) is informed by the Attorney General, or a designee of the Attorney General, at the time of such authorization that the decision has been made to conduct such acquisition and if an application in accordance with this subsection is made to a judge of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court as soon as practicable, but not more than 7 days after the Attorney General authorizes such acquisition.

''(2) MINIMIZATION PROCEDURES.—If the Attorney General authorizes such emergency acquisition, the Attorney General shall require that the minimization procedures required by this section for the issuance of a judicial order be followed.

''(3) TERMINATION OF EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION.—In the absence of a judicial order approving such acquisition, the acquisition shall terminate when the information sought is obtained, when the application for the order is denied, or after the expiration of 7 days from the time of authorization by the Attorney General, whichever is earliest.

''(4) USE OF INFORMATION.—In the event that such application for approval is denied, or in any other case where the acquisition is terminated and no order is issued approving the acquisition, no information obtained or evidence derived from such acquisition, except under circumstances in which the target of the acquisition is determined not to be a United States person during the pendency of the 7-day emergency acquisition period, shall be received in evidence or otherwise disclosed in any trial, hearing, or other proceeding in or before any court, grand jury, department, office, agency, regulatory body, legislative committee, or other authority of the United States, a State, or political subdivision thereof, and no information concerning any United States person acquired from such acquisition shall subsequently be used or disclosed in any other manner by Federal officers or employees without the consent of such person, except with the approval of the Attorney General if the information indicates a threat of death or serious bodily harm to any person.

''(e) RELEASE FROM LIABILITY.—Notwithstanding any other law, no cause of action shall lie in any court against any electronic communication service provider for providing any information, facilities, or assistance in accordance with an order or request for emergency assistance issued pursuant to subsections (c) or (d).

''(f) APPEAL.—

''(1) APPEAL TO THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT OF REVIEW.—The Government may file an appeal with the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review for review of an order issued pursuant to subsection (c). The Court of Review shall have jurisdiction to consider such appeal and shall provide a written statement for the record of the reasons for a decision under this paragraph.

''(2) CERTIORARI TO THE SUPREME COURT.—The Government may file a petition for a writ of certiorari for review of the decision of the Court of Review issued under paragraph (1). The record for such review shall be transmitted under seal to the Supreme Court of the United States, which shall have jurisdiction to review such decision.

**''SEC. 705. OTHER ACQUISITIONS TARGETING UNITED STATES PERSONS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.**

''(a) JURISDICTION AND SCOPE.—

''(1) JURISDICTION.—The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court shall have jurisdiction to enter an order pursuant to subsection (c).

''(2) SCOPE.—No element of the intelligence community may intentionally target, for the purpose of acquiring foreign intelligence information, a United States person reasonably believed to be located outside the United States under circumstances in which the targeted United States person has a reasonable expectation of privacy and a warrant would be required if the acquisition were conducted inside the United States for law enforcement purposes, unless a judge of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court has entered an order or the Attorney General has authorized an emergency acquisition pursuant to subsections (c) or (d) or any other provision of this Act.

''(3) LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) MOVING OR MISIDENTIFIED TARGETS.—In the event that the targeted United States person is reasonably believed to be in the United States during the pendency of an order issued pursuant to subsection (c), such acquisition shall cease until authority is obtained pursuant to this Act or the targeted United States person is again reasonably believed to be located outside the United States during the pendency of an order issued pursuant to subsection (c).

''(B) APPLICABILITY.—If the acquisition is to be conducted inside the United States and could be authorized under section 704, the procedures of section 704 shall apply, unless an order or emergency acquisition authority has been obtained under a provision of this Act other than under this section.

''(b) APPLICATION.—Each application for an order under this section shall be made by a Federal officer in writing upon oath or affirmation to a judge having jurisdiction under subsection (a)(1). Each application shall require the approval of the Attorney General based upon the Attorney General's finding that it satisfies the criteria and requirements of such application as set forth in this section and shall include—

''(1) the identity, if known, or a description of the specific United States person who is the target of the acquisition;

''(2) a statement of the facts and circumstances relied upon to justify the applicant's belief that the United States person who is the target of the acquisition is—

''(A) a person reasonably believed to be located outside the United States; and

''(B) a foreign power, an agent of a foreign power, or an officer or employee of a foreign power;

''(3) a statement of the proposed minimization procedures that meet the definition of minimization procedures under section 101(h) or section 301(4);

''(4) a certification made by the Attorney General, an official specified in section 104(a)(6), or the head of an element of the intelligence community that—

''(A) the certifying official deems the information sought to be foreign intelligence information; and

''(B) a significant purpose of the acquisition is to obtain foreign intelligence information;

''(5) a statement of the facts concerning any previous applications that have been made to any judge of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court involving the United States person specified in the application and the action taken on each previous application; and

''(6) a statement of the period of time for which the acquisition is required to be maintained, provided that such period of time shall not exceed 90 days per application.

''(c) ORDER.—

''(1) FINDINGS.—If, upon an application made pursuant to subsection (b), a judge having jurisdiction under subsection (a) finds that—

''(A) on the basis of the facts submitted by the applicant, for the United States person who is the target of the acquisition, there is probable cause to believe that the target is—

''(i) a person reasonably believed to be located outside the United States; and

''(ii) a foreign power, an agent of a foreign power, or an officer or employee of a foreign power;

''(B) the proposed minimization procedures, with respect to their dissemination provisions, meet the definition of minimization procedures under section 101(h) or section 301(4); and

''(C) the application which has been filed contains all statements and certifications required by subsection (b) and the certification provided under subsection (b)(4) is not clearly erroneous on the basis of the information furnished under subsection (b),

the Court shall issue an ex parte order so stating.

''(2) PROBABLE CAUSE.—In determining whether or not probable cause exists for purposes of an order under paragraph (1)(A), a judge having jurisdiction under subsection

(a)(1) may consider past activities of the target, as well as facts and circumstances relating to current or future activities of the target. However, no United States person may be considered a foreign power, agent of a foreign power, or officer or employee of a foreign power solely upon the basis of activities protected by the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

''(3) REVIEW.—

''(A) LIMITATIONS ON REVIEW.—Review by a judge having jurisdiction under subsection (a)(1) shall be limited to that required to make the findings described in paragraph (1). The judge shall not have jurisdiction to review the means by which an acquisition under this section may be conducted.

''(B) REVIEW OF PROBABLE CAUSE.—If the judge determines that the facts submitted under subsection (b) are insufficient to establish probable cause to issue an order under this subsection, the judge shall enter an order so stating and provide a written statement for the record of the reasons for such determination. The Government may appeal an order under this clause pursuant to subsection (e).

''(C) REVIEW OF MINIMIZATION PROCEDURES.—If the judge determines that the minimization procedures applicable to dissemination of information obtained through an acquisition under this subsection do not meet the definition of minimization procedures under section 101(h) or section 301(4), the judge shall enter an order so stating and provide a written statement for the record of the reasons for such determination. The Government may appeal an order under this clause pursuant to subsection (e).

''(D) SCOPE OF REVIEW OF CERTIFICATION.—If the judge determines that the certification provided under subsection (b)(4) is clearly erroneous on the basis of the information furnished under subsection (b), the judge shall enter an order so stating and provide a written statement for the record of the reasons for such determination. The Government may appeal an order under this subparagraph pursuant to subsection (e).

''(4) DURATION.—An order under this paragraph shall be effective for a period not to exceed 90 days and such order may be renewed for additional 90-day periods upon submission of renewal applications meeting the requirements of subsection (b).

''(5) COMPLIANCE.—At or prior to the end of the period of time for which an order or extension is granted under this section, the judge may assess compliance with the minimization procedures by reviewing the circumstances under which information concerning United States persons was disseminated, provided that the judge may not inquire into the circumstances relating to the conduct of the acquisition.

''(d) EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION.—

''(1) AUTHORITY FOR EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision in this subsection, if the Attorney General reasonably determines that—

''(A) an emergency situation exists with respect to the acquisition of foreign intelligence information for which an order may be obtained under subsection (c) before an order under that subsection may, with due diligence, be obtained, and

''(B) the factual basis for issuance of an order under this section exists,

the Attorney General may authorize the emergency acquisition if a judge having jurisdiction under subsection (a)(1) is informed by the Attorney General or a designee of the Attorney General at the time of such authorization that the decision has been made to conduct such acquisition and if an application in accordance with this subsection is made to a judge of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court as soon as practicable, but not more than 7 days after the Attorney General authorizes such acquisition.

''(2) MINIMIZATION PROCEDURES.—If the Attorney General authorizes such emergency acquisition, the Attorney General shall require that the minimization procedures required by this section be followed.

''(3) TERMINATION OF EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION.—In the absence of an order under subsection (c), the acquisition shall terminate when the information sought is obtained, if the application for the order is denied, or after the expiration of 7 days from the time of authorization by the Attorney General, whichever is earliest.

''(4) USE OF INFORMATION.—In the event that such application is denied, or in any other case where the acquisition is terminated and no order is issued approving the acquisition, no information obtained or evidence derived from such acquisition, except under circumstances in which the target of the acquisition is determined not to be a United States person during the pendency of the 7-day emergency acquisition period, shall be received in evidence or otherwise disclosed in any trial, hearing, or other proceeding in or before any court, grand jury, department, office, agency, regulatory body, legislative committee, or other authority of the United States, a State, or political subdivision thereof, and no information concerning any United States person acquired from such acquisition shall subsequently be used or disclosed in any other manner by Federal officers or employees without the consent of such person, except with the approval of the Attorney General if the information indicates a threat of death or serious bodily harm to any person.

''(e) APPEAL.—

''(1) APPEAL TO THE COURT OF REVIEW.—The Government may file an appeal with the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review for review of an order issued pursuant to subsection (c). The Court of Review shall have jurisdiction to consider such appeal and shall provide a written statement for the record of the reasons for a decision under this paragraph.

''(2) CERTIORARI TO THE SUPREME COURT.—The Government may file a petition for a writ of certiorari for review of the decision of the Court of Review issued under paragraph (1). The record for such review shall be transmitted under seal to the Supreme Court of the United States, which shall have jurisdiction to review such decision.

**"SEC. 706. JOINT APPLICATIONS AND CONCURRENT AUTHORIZATIONS.**

''(a) JOINT APPLICATIONS AND ORDERS.—If an acquisition targeting a United States person under section 704 or section 705 is proposed to be conducted both inside and outside the United States, a judge having jurisdiction under section 704(a)(1) or section 705(a)(1) may issue simultaneously, upon the request of the Government in a joint application complying with the requirements of section 704(b) or section 705(b), orders under section 704(c) or section 705(c), as applicable.

''(b) CONCURRENT AUTHORIZATION.—If an order authorizing electronic surveillance or physical search has been obtained under section 105 or section 304 and that order is still in effect, the Attorney General may authorize, without an order under section 704 or section 705, an acquisition of foreign intelligence information targeting that United States person while such person is reasonably believed to be located outside the United States.

**"SEC. 707. USE OF INFORMATION ACQUIRED UNDER TITLE VII.**

''(a) INFORMATION ACQUIRED UNDER SECTION 703.—Information acquired from an acquisition conducted under section 703 shall be deemed to be information acquired from an electronic surveillance pursuant to title I for purposes of section 106, except for the purposes of subsection (j) of such section.

''(b) INFORMATION ACQUIRED UNDER SECTION 704.—Information acquired from an acquisition conducted under section 704 shall be deemed to be information acquired from an electronic surveillance pursuant to title I for purposes of section 106.

**"SEC. 708. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.**

''(a) SEMIANNUAL REPORT.—Not less frequently than once every 6 months, the Attorney General shall fully inform, in a manner consistent with national security, the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, concerning the implementation of this title.

''(b) CONTENT.—Each report made under subparagraph (a) shall include—

''(1) with respect to section 703—

''(A) any certifications made under subsection 703(f) during the reporting period;

''(B) any directives issued under subsection 703(g) during the reporting period;

''(C) a description of the judicial review during the reporting period of any such certifications and targeting and minimization procedures utilized with respect to such acquisition, including a copy of any order or pleading in connection with such review that contains a significant legal interpretation of the provisions of this section;

''(D) any actions taken to challenge or enforce a directive under paragraphs (4) or (5) of section 703(g);

''(E) any compliance reviews conducted by the Department of Justice or the Office of the Director of National Intelligence of acquisitions authorized under subsection 703(a);

''(F) a description of any incidents of noncompliance with a directive issued by the Attorney General and the Director of National Intelligence under subsection 703(g), including—

''(i) incidents of noncompliance by an element of the intelligence community with procedures adopted pursuant to subsections (d) and (e) of section 703; and

''(ii) incidents of noncompliance by a specified person to whom the Attorney General and Director of National Intelligence issued a directive under subsection 703(g); and

''(G) any procedures implementing this section;

''(2) with respect to section 704—

''(A) the total number of applications made for orders under section 704(b);

''(B) the total number of such orders either granted, modified, or denied; and

''(C) the total number of emergency acquisitions authorized by the Attorney General under section 704(d) and the total number of subsequent orders approving or denying such acquisitions; and

''(3) with respect to section 705—

''(A) the total number of applications made for orders under 705(b);

''(B) the total number of such orders either granted, modified, or denied; and

''(C) the total number of emergency acquisitions authorized by the Attorney General under subsection 705(d) and the total number of subsequent orders approving or denying such applications.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in the first section of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801 et. seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to title VII;

(2) by striking the item relating to section 701; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''TITLE VII—ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES REGARDING CERTAIN PERSONS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

''Sec. 701. Limitation on definition of electronic surveillance.
''Sec. 702. Definitions.
''Sec. 703. Procedures for targeting certain persons outside the United States other than United States persons.
''Sec. 704. Certain acquisitions inside the United States of United States persons outside the United States.
''Sec. 705. Other acquisitions targeting United States persons outside the United States.
''Sec. 706. Joint applications and concurrent authorizations.
''Sec. 707. Use of information acquired under title VII.
''Sec. 708. Congressional oversight.''.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE.—

(A) SECTION 2232.—Section 2232(e) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''(as defined in section 101(f) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, regardless of the limitation of section 701 of that Act)'' after ''electronic surveillance''.

(B) SECTION 2511.—Section 2511(2)(a)(ii)(A) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''or a court order pursuant to section 705 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978'' after ''assistance''.

(2) FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT OF 1978.—

(A) SECTION 109.—Section 109 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1809) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) DEFINITION.—For the purpose of this section, the term 'electronic surveillance' means electronic surveillance as defined in section 101(f) of this Act regardless of the limitation of section 701 of this Act.''.

(B) SECTION 110.—Section 110 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1810) is amended by—

(i) adding an ''(a)'' before ''CIVIL ACTION'',

(ii) redesignating subsections (a) through (c) as paragraphs (1) through (3), respectively; and

(iii) adding at the end the following:

''(b) DEFINITION.—For the purpose of this section, the term 'electronic surveillance' means electronic surveillance as defined in section 101(f) of this Act regardless of the limitation of section 701 of this Act.''.

(C) SECTION 601.—Section 601(a)(1) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1871(a)(1)) is amended by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D) and inserting the following:

''(C) pen registers under section 402;

''(D) access to records under section 501;

''(E) acquisitions under section 704; and

''(F) acquisitions under section 705;''.

(d) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by subsections (a)(2), (b), and (c) shall cease to have effect on December 31, 2013.

(2) CONTINUING APPLICABILITY.—Section 703(g)(3) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (as amended by subsection (a)) shall remain in effect with respect to any directive issued pursuant to section 703(g) of that Act (as so amended) for information, facilities, or assistance provided during the period such directive was or is in effect. Section 704(e) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (as amended by subsection (a)) shall remain in effect with respect to an order or request for emergency assistance under that section. The use of information acquired by an acquisition conducted under section 703 of that Act (as so amended) shall continue to be governed by the provisions of section 707 of that Act (as so amended).

**SEC. 102. STATEMENT OF EXCLUSIVE MEANS BY WHICH ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE AND INTERCEPTION OF DOMESTIC COMMUNICATIONS MAY BE CONDUCTED.**

(a) STATEMENT OF EXCLUSIVE MEANS.—Title I of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''STATEMENT OF EXCLUSIVE MEANS BY WHICH ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE AND INTERCEPTION OF DOMESTIC COMMUNICATIONS MAY BE CONDUCTED

''SEC. 112. The procedures of chapters 119, 121, and 206 of title 18, United States Code, and this Act shall be the exclusive means by which electronic surveillance (as defined in section 101(f), regardless of the limitation of section 701) and the interception of domestic wire, oral, or electronic communications may be conducted.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in the first section of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) is amended by adding after the item relating to section 111, the following:

''Sec. 112. Statement of exclusive means by which electronic surveillance and interception of domestic communications may be conducted.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2511(2) of title 18, United States Code, is amended in paragraph (f), by striking '', as defined in section 101 of such Act,'' and inserting ''(as defined in section 101(f) of such Act regardless of the limitation of section 701 of such Act)''.

**SEC. 103. SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS OF CERTAIN COURT ORDERS UNDER THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT OF 1978.**

(a) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDERS IN SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS OF ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Subsection (a)(5) of section 601 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1871) is amended by striking ''(not including orders)'' and inserting '', orders,''.

(b) REPORTS BY ATTORNEY GENERAL ON CERTAIN OTHER ORDERS.—Such section 601 is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) SUBMISSIONS TO CONGRESS.—The Attorney General shall submit to the committees of Congress referred to in subsection (a)—

''(1) a copy of any decision, order, or opinion issued by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court or the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review that includes significant construction or interpretation of any provision of this Act, and any pleadings, applications, or memoranda of law associated with such decision, order, or opinion, not later than 45 days after such decision, order, or opinion is issued; and

''(2) a copy of any such decision, order, or opinion, and any pleadings, applications, or memoranda of law associated with such decision, order, or opinion, that was issued during the 5-year period ending on the date of the enactment of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 and not previously submitted in a report under subsection (a).

''(d) PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY.—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, may authorize redactions of materials described in subsection (c) that are provided to the committees of Congress referred to in subsection (a), if such redactions are necessary to protect the national security of the United States and are limited to sensitive sources and methods information or the identities of targets.''.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—Such section 601, as amended by subsections (a) and (b), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT; COURT.—The term ''Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court'' means the court established by section 103(a).

''(2) FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT OF REVIEW; COURT OF REVIEW.—The term 'Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review' means the court established by section 103(b).''.

**SEC. 104. APPLICATIONS FOR COURT ORDERS.**

Section 104 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1804) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking paragraphs (2) and (11);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (10) as paragraphs (2) through (9), respectively;

(C) in paragraph (5), as redesignated by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, by striking ''detailed'';

(D) in paragraph (6), as redesignated by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''Affairs or'' and inserting ''Affairs,''; and

(ii) by striking ''Senate—'' and inserting ''Senate, or the Deputy Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, if designated by the President as a certifying official—'';

(E) in paragraph (7), as redesignated by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, by striking ''statement of'' and inserting ''summary statement of'';

(F) in paragraph (8), as redesignated by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(G) in paragraph (9), as redesignated by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period;

(2) by striking subsection (b);

(3) by redesignating subsections (c) through (e) as subsections (b) through (d), respectively; and

(4) in paragraph (1)(A) of subsection (d), as redesignated by paragraph (3) of this subsection, by striking ''or the Director of National Intelligence'' and inserting ''the Director of National Intelligence, or the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency''.

**SEC. 105. ISSUANCE OF AN ORDER.**

Section 105 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1805) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (5) as paragraphs (1) through (4), respectively;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''(a)(3)'' and inserting ''(a)(2)'';

(3) in subsection (c)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by adding ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (F);

(4) by striking subsection (d);

(5) by redesignating subsections (e) through (i) as subsections (d) through (h), respectively;

(6) by amending subsection (e), as redesignated by paragraph (5) of this section, to read as follows:

''(e)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the Attorney General may authorize the emergency employment of electronic surveillance if the Attorney General—

''(A) reasonably determines that an emergency situation exists with respect to the employment of electronic surveillance to obtain foreign intelligence information before an order authorizing such surveillance can with due diligence be obtained;

''(B) resonably determines that the factual basis for issuance of an order under this title to approve such electronic surveillance exists;

''(C) informs, either personally or through a designee, a judge having jurisdiction under section 103 at the time of such authorization that the decision has been made to employ emergency electronic surveillance; and

''(D) makes an application in accordance with this title to a judge having jurisdiction under section 103 as soon as practicable, but not later than 7 days after the Attorney General authorizes such surveillance.

''(2) If the Attorney General authorizes the emergency employment of electronic surveillance under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall require that the minimization procedures required by this title for the issuance of a judicial order be followed.

''(3) In the absence of a judicial order approving such electronic surveillance, the surveillance shall terminate when the information sought is obtained, when the application for the order is denied, or after the expiration of 7 days from the time of authorization by the Attorney General, whichever is earliest.

''(4) A denial of the application made under this subsection may be reviewed as provided in section 103.

''(5) In the event that such application for approval is denied, or in any other case where the electronic surveillance is terminated and no order is issued approving the surveillance, no information obtained or evidence derived from such surveillance shall be received in evidence or otherwise disclosed in any trial, hearing, or other proceeding in or before any court, grand jury, department, office, agency, regulatory body, legislative committee, or other authority of the United States, a State, or political subdivision thereof, and no information concerning any United States person acquired from such surveillance shall subsequently be used or disclosed in any other manner by Federal officers or employees without the consent of such person, except with the approval of the Attorney General if the information indicates a threat of death or serious bodily harm to any person.

''(6) The Attorney General shall assess compliance with the requirements of paragraph (5).''; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

''(i) In any case in which the Government makes an application to a judge under this title to conduct electronic surveillance involving communications and the judge grants such application, upon the request of the applicant, the judge shall also authorize the installation and use of pen registers and trap and trace devices, and direct the disclosure of the information set forth in section 402(d)(2).''.

**SEC. 106. USE OF INFORMATION.**

Subsection (i) of section 106 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (8 U.S.C. 1806) is amended by striking ''radio communication'' and inserting ''communication''.

**SEC. 107. AMENDMENTS FOR PHYSICAL SEARCHES.**

(a) APPLICATIONS.—Section 303 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1823) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (9) as paragraphs (2) through (8), respectively;

(C) in paragraph (2), as redesignated by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, by striking ''detailed'';

(D) in paragraph (3)(C), as redesignated by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, by inserting ''or is about to be'' before ''owned''; and

(E) in paragraph (6), as redesignated by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''Affairs or'' and inserting ''Affairs,''; and

(ii) by striking ''Senate—'' and inserting ''Senate, or the Deputy Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, if designated by the President as a certifying official—''; and

(2) in subsection (d)(1)(A), by striking ''or the Director of National Intelligence'' and inserting ''the Director of National Intelligence, or the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency''.

(b) ORDERS.—Section 304 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1824) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (5) as paragraphs (1) through (4), respectively; and

(2) by amending subsection (e) to read as follows:

''(e)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the Attorney General may authorize the emergency employment of a physical search if the Attorney General reasonably—

''(A) determines that an emergency situation exists with respect to the employment of a physical search to obtain foreign intelligence information before an order authorizing such physical search can with due diligence be obtained;

''(B) determines that the factual basis for issuance of an order under this title to approve such physical search exists;

''(C) informs, either personally or through a designee, a judge of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court at the time of such authorization that the decision has been made to employ an emergency physical search; and

''(D) makes an application in accordance with this title to a judge of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court as soon as practicable, but not more than 7 days after the Attorney General authorizes such physical search.

''(2) If the Attorney General authorizes the emergency employment of a physical search under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall require that the minimization procedures required by this title for the issuance of a judicial order be followed.

''(3) In the absence of a judicial order approving such physical search, the physical search shall terminate when the information sought is obtained, when the application for the order is denied, or after the expiration of 7 days from the time of authorization by the Attorney General, whichever is earliest.

''(4) A denial of the application made under this subsection may be reviewed as provided in section 103.

''(5)(A) In the event that such application for approval is denied, or in any other case where the physical search is terminated and no order is issued approving the physical search, no information obtained or evidence derived from such physical search shall be received in evidence or otherwise disclosed in any trial, hearing, or other proceeding in or before any court, grand jury, department, office, agency, regulatory body, legislative committee, or other authority of the United States, a State, or political subdivision thereof, and no information concerning any United States person acquired from such physical search shall subsequently be used or disclosed in any other manner by Federal officers or employees without the consent of such person, except with the approval of the Attorney General if the information indicates a threat of death or serious bodily harm to any person.

''(B) The Attorney General shall assess compliance with the requirements of subparagraph (A).''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 304(a)(4), as redesignated by subsection (b) of this section, by striking ''303(a)(7)(E)'' and inserting ''303(a)(6)(E)''; and

(2) in section 305(k)(2), by striking ''303(a)(7)'' and inserting ''303(a)(6)''.

**SEC. 108. AMENDMENTS FOR EMERGENCY PEN REGISTERS AND TRAP AND TRACE DEVICES.**

Section 403 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1843) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking ''48 hours'' and inserting ''7 days''; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(C), by striking ''48 hours'' and inserting ''7 days''.

**SEC. 109. FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT.**

(a) DESIGNATION OF JUDGES.—Subsection (a) of section 103 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1803) is amended by inserting ''at least'' before ''seven of the United States judicial circuits''.

(b) EN BANC AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 103 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, is further amended—

(A) by inserting ''(1)'' after ''(a)''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2)(A) The court established under this subsection may, on its own initiative, or upon the request of the Government in any proceeding or a party under section 501(f) or paragraph (4) or (5) of section 703(h), hold a hearing or rehearing, en banc, when ordered by a majority of the judges that constitute such court upon a determination that—

''(i) en banc consideration is necessary to secure or maintain uniformity of the court's decisions; or

''(ii) the proceeding involves a question of exceptional importance.

''(B) Any authority granted by this Act to a judge of the court established under this subsection may be exercised by the court en banc. When exercising such authority, the court en banc shall comply with any requirements of this Act on the exercise of such authority.

''(C) For purposes of this paragraph, the court en banc shall consist of all judges who constitute the court established under this subsection.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 is further amended—

(A) in subsection (a) of section 103, as amended by this subsection, by inserting ''(except when sitting en banc under paragraph (2))'' after ''no judge designated under this subsection''; and

(B) in section 302(c) (50 U.S.C. 1822(c)), by inserting ''(except when sitting en banc)'' after ''except that no judge''.

(c) STAY OR MODIFICATION DURING AN APPEAL.—Section 103 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1803) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection:

''(f)(1) A judge of the court established under subsection (a), the court established

under subsection (b) or a judge of that court, or the Supreme Court of the United States or a justice of that court, may, in accordance with the rules of their respective courts, enter a stay of an order or an order modifying an order of the court established under subsection (a) or the court established under subsection (b) entered under any title of this Act, while the court established under subsection (a) conducts a rehearing, while an appeal is pending to the court established under subsection (b), or while a petition of certiorari is pending in the Supreme Court of the United States, or during the pendency of any review by that court.

''(2) The authority described in paragraph (1) shall apply to an order entered under any provision of this Act.''.

(d) AUTHORITY OF FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE COURT.—Section 103 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1803), as amended by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h)(1) Nothing in this Act shall be considered to reduce or contravene the inherent authority of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to determine, or enforce, compliance with an order or a rule of such Court or with a procedure approved by such Court.

''(2) In this subsection, the terms 'Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court' and 'Court' mean the court established by subsection (a).''.

**SEC. 110. WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) FOREIGN POWER.—Subsection (a)(4) of section 101 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801(a)(4)) is amended by inserting '', the international proliferation of weapons of mass destruction,'' after ''international terrorism''.

(2) AGENT OF A FOREIGN POWER.—Subsection (b)(1) of such section 101 is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''or'' at the end

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''or'' at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(D) engages in the international proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, or activities in preparation therefor; or

''(E) engages in the international proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, or activities in preparation therefor, for or on behalf of a foreign power; or''.

(3) FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION.—Subsection (e)(1)(B) of such section 101 is amended by striking ''sabotage or international terrorism'' and inserting ''sabotage, international terrorism, or the international proliferation of weapons of mass destruction''.

(4) WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION.—Such section 101 is amended by inserting after subsection (o) the following:

''(p) 'Weapon of mass destruction' means—

''(1) any destructive device described in section 921(a)(4)(A) of title 18, United States Code, that is intended or has the capability to cause death or serious bodily injury to a significant number of people;

''(2) any weapon that is designed or intended to cause death or serious bodily injury through the release, dissemination, or impact of toxic or poisonous chemicals or their precursors;

''(3) any weapon involving a biological agent, toxin, or vector (as such terms are defined in section 178 of title 18, United States Code); or

''(4) any weapon that is designed to release radiation or radioactivity at a level dangerous to human life.''.

(b) USE OF INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 106(k)(1)(B) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1806(k)(1)(B)) is amended by striking ''sabotage or international terrorism'' and inserting ''sabotage, international terrorism, or the international proliferation of weapons of mass destruction''.

(2) PHYSICAL SEARCHES.—Section 305(k)(1)(B) of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1825(k)(1)(B)) is amended by striking ''sabotage or international terrorism'' and inserting ''sabotage, international terrorism, or the international proliferation of weapons of mass destruction''.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 301(1) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1821(1)) is amended by inserting '' 'weapon of mass destruction','' after '' 'person',''.

**SEC. 111. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

Section 103(e) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1803(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''105B(h) or 501(f)(1)'' and inserting ''501(f)(1) or 703''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''105B(h) or 501(f)(1)'' and inserting ''501(f)(1) or 703''.

## Subtitle B—Protections for Electronic Communication Service Providers

**SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.**

In this title:

(1) ASSISTANCE.—The term ''assistance'' means the provision of, or the provision of access to, information (including communication contents, communications records, or other information relating to a customer or communication), facilities, or another form of assistance.

(2) CONTENTS.—The term ''contents'' has the meaning given that term in section 101(n) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801(n)).

(3) COVERED CIVIL ACTION.—The term ''covered civil action'' means a civil action filed in a Federal or State court that—

(A) alleges that an electronic communication service provider furnished assistance to an element of the intelligence community; and

(B) seeks monetary or other relief from the electronic communication service provider related to the provision of such assistance.

(4) ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term ''electronic communication service provider'' means—

(A) a telecommunications carrier, as that term is defined in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153);

(B) a provider of an electronic communication service, as that term is defined in section 2510 of title 18, United States Code;

(C) a provider of a remote computing service, as that term is defined in section 2711 of title 18, United States Code;

(D) any other communication service provider who has access to wire or electronic communications either as such communications are transmitted or as such communications are stored;

(E) a parent, subsidiary, affiliate, successor, or assignee of an entity described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D); or

(F) an officer, employee, or agent of an entity described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), or (E).

(5) ELEMENT OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term ''element of the intelligence community'' means an element of the intelligence community specified in or designated under section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401a(4)).

**SEC. 202. LIMITATIONS ON CIVIL ACTIONS FOR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDERS.**

(a) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a covered civil action shall not lie or be maintained in a Federal or State court, and shall be promptly dismissed, if the Attorney General certifies to the court that—

(A) the assistance alleged to have been provided by the electronic communication service provider was—

(i) in connection with an intelligence activity involving communications that was—

(I) authorized by the President during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on January 17, 2007; and

(II) designed to detect or prevent a terrorist attack, or activities in preparation for a terrorist attack, against the United States; and

(ii) described in a written request or directive from the Attorney General or the head of an element of the intelligence community (or the deputy of such person) to the electronic communication service provider indicating that the activity was—

(I) authorized by the President; and

(II) determined to be lawful; or

(B) the electronic communication service provider did not provide the alleged assistance.

(2) REVIEW.—A certification made pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be subject to review by a court for abuse of discretion.

(b) REVIEW OF CERTIFICATIONS.—If the Attorney General files a declaration under section 1746 of title 28, United States Code, that disclosure of a certification made pursuant to subsection (a) would harm the national security of the United States, the court shall—

(1) review such certification in camera and ex parte; and

(2) limit any public disclosure concerning such certification, including any public order following such an ex parte review, to a statement that the conditions of subsection (a) have been met, without disclosing the subparagraph of subsection (a)(1) that is the basis for the certification.

(c) NONDELEGATION.—The authority and duties of the Attorney General under this section shall be performed by the Attorney General (or Acting Attorney General) or a designee in a position not lower than the Deputy Attorney General.

(d) CIVIL ACTIONS IN STATE COURT.—A covered civil action that is brought in a State court shall be deemed to arise under the Constitution and laws of the United States and shall be removable under section 1441 of title 28, United States Code.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit any otherwise available immunity, privilege, or defense under any other provision of law.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION.—This section shall apply to any covered civil action that is pending on or filed after the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 203. PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTING STATUTORY DEFENSES UNDER THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT OF 1978.**

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), as amended by section 101, is further amended by adding after title VII the following new title:

## ''TITLE VIII—PROTECTION OF PERSONS ASSISTING THE GOVERNMENT

**''SEC. 801. DEFINITIONS.**

''In this title:

''(1) ASSISTANCE.—The term 'assistance' means the provision of, or the provision of access to, information (including communication contents, communications records, or other information relating to a customer or communication), facilities, or another form of assistance.

''(2) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The term 'Attorney General' has the meaning give that term in section 101(g).

''(3) CONTENTS.—The term 'contents' has the meaning given that term in section 101(n).

''(4) ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term 'electronic communication service provider' means—

''(A) a telecommunications carrier, as that term is defined in section 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153);

''(B) a provider of electronic communication service, as that term is defined in section 2510 of title 18, United States Code;

''(C) a provider of a remote computing service, as that term is defined in section 2711 of title 18, United States Code;

''(D) any other communication service provider who has access to wire or electronic communications either as such communications are transmitted or as such communications are stored;

''(E) a parent, subsidiary, affiliate, successor, or assignee of an entity described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D); or

''(F) an officer, employee, or agent of an entity described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), or (E).

''(5) ELEMENT OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term 'element of the intelligence community' means an element of the intelligence community as specified or designated under section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401a(4)).

''(6) PERSON.—The term 'person' means—

''(A) an electronic communication service provider; or

''(B) a landlord, custodian, or other person who may be authorized or required to furnish assistance pursuant to—

''(i) an order of the court established under section 103(a) directing such assistance;

''(ii) a certification in writing under section 2511(2)(a)(ii)(B) or 2709(b) of title 18, United States Code; or

''(iii) a directive under section 102(a)(4), 105B(e), as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 or 703(h).

''(7) STATE.—The term 'State' means any State, political subdivision of a State, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and any territory or possession of the United States, and includes any officer, public utility commission, or other body authorized to regulate an electronic communication service provider.

**''SEC. 802. PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTING STATUTORY DEFENSES.**

''(a) REQUIREMENT FOR CERTIFICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no civil action may lie or be maintained in a Federal or State court against any person for providing assistance to an element of the intelligence community, and shall be promptly dismissed, if the Attorney General certifies to the court that—

''(A) any assistance by that person was provided pursuant to an order of the court established under section 103(a) directing such assistance;

''(B) any assistance by that person was provided pursuant to a certification in writing under section 2511(2)(a)(ii)(B) or 2709(b) of title 18, United States Code;

''(C) any assistance by that person was provided pursuant to a directive under sections 102(a)(4), 105B(e), as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008, or 703(h) directing such assistance; or

''(D) the person did not provide the alleged assistance.

''(2) REVIEW.—A certification made pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be subject to review by a court for abuse of discretion.

''(b) LIMITATIONS ON DISCLOSURE.—If the Attorney General files a declaration under section 1746 of title 28, United States Code, that disclosure of a certification made pursuant to subsection (a) would harm the national security of the United States, the court shall—

''(1) review such certification in camera and ex parte; and

''(2) limit any public disclosure concerning such certification, including any public order following such an ex parte review, to a statement that the conditions of subsection (a) have been met, without disclosing the subparagraph of subsection (a)(1) that is the basis for the certification.

''(c) REMOVAL.—A civil action against a person for providing assistance to an element of the intelligence community that is brought in a State court shall be deemed to arise under the Constitution and laws of the United States and shall be removable under section 1441 of title 28, United States Code.

''(d) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit any otherwise available immunity, privilege, or defense under any other provision of law.

''(e) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply to a civil action pending on or filed after the date of enactment of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008.''.

**SEC. 204. PREEMPTION OF STATE INVESTIGATIONS.**

Title VIII of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (50 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), as added by section 203 of this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**''SEC. 803. PREEMPTION.**

''(a) IN GENERAL.—No State shall have authority to—

''(1) conduct an investigation into an electronic communication service provider's alleged assistance to an element of the intelligence community;

''(2) require through regulation or any other means the disclosure of information about an electronic communication service provider's alleged assistance to an element of the intelligence community;

''(3) impose any administrative sanction on an electronic communication service provider for assistance to an element of the intelligence community; or

''(4) commence or maintain a civil action or other proceeding to enforce a requirement that an electronic communication service provider disclose information concerning alleged assistance to an element of the intelligence community.

''(b) SUITS BY THE UNITED STATES.—The United States may bring suit to enforce the provisions of this section.

''(c) JURISDICTION.—The district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction over any civil action brought by the United States to enforce the provisions of this section.

''(d) APPLICATION.—This section shall apply to any investigation, action, or proceeding that is pending on or filed after the date of enactment of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008.''.

**SEC. 205. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

The table of contents in the first section of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), as amended by section 101(b), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''TITLE VIII—PROTECTION OF PERSONS ASSISTING THE GOVERNMENT

''Sec. 801. Definitions.

''Sec. 802. Procedures for implementing statutory defenses.

''Sec. 803. Preemption.''.

**Subtitle C—Other Provisions**

**SEC. 301. SEVERABILITY.**

If any provision of this Act, any amendment made by this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of the Act, any such amendments, and of the application of such provisions to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

**SEC. 302. EFFECTIVE DATE; REPEAL; TRANSITION PROCEDURES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (c), the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) REPEAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (c), sections 105A, 105B, and 105C of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1805a, 1805b, and 1805c) are repealed.

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in the first section of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) is amended by striking the items relating to sections 105A, 105B, and 105C.

(c) TRANSITIONS PROCEDURES.—

(1) PROTECTION FROM LIABILITY.—Notwithstanding subsection (b)(1), subsection (l) of section 105B of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 shall remain in effect with respect to any directives issued pursuant to such section 105B for information, facilities, or assistance provided during the period such directive was or is in effect.

(2) ORDERS IN EFFECT.—

(A) ORDERS IN EFFECT ON DATE OF ENACTMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978—

(i) any order in effect on the date of enactment of this Act issued pursuant to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 or section 6(b) of the Protect America Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–55; 121 Stat. 556) shall remain in effect until the date of expiration of such order; and

(ii) at the request of the applicant, the court established under section 103(a) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1803(a)) shall reauthorize such order if the facts and circumstances continue to justify issuance of such order under the provisions of such Act, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Protect America Act of 2007, except as amended by sections 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, and 110 of this Act.

(B) ORDERS IN EFFECT ON DECEMBER 31, 2013.—Any order issued under title VII of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, as amended by section 101 of this Act, in effect on December 31, 2013, shall continue in effect until the date of the expiration of such order. Any such order shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, as so amended.

(3) AUTHORIZATIONS AND DIRECTIVES IN EFFECT.—

(A) AUTHORIZATIONS AND DIRECTIVES IN EFFECT ON DATE OF ENACTMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, any authorization or directive in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act issued pursuant to the Protect America Act of 2007, or any amendment made by that Act, shall remain in effect until the date of expiration of such authorization or directive. Any such authorization or directive shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Protect America Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 552), and the amendment made by that Act, and, except as provided in paragraph (4) of this subsection, any acquisition pursuant to such authorization or directive shall be deemed not to constitute electronic surveillance (as that term is defined in section 101(f) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801(f)), as construed in accordance with section 105A of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1805a)).

(B) AUTHORIZATIONS AND DIRECTIVES IN EFFECT ON DECEMBER 31, 2013.—Any authorization or directive issued under title VII of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, as amended by section 101 of this Act, in effect on December 31, 2013, shall continue in effect until the date of the expiration of such authorization or directive. Any such authorization or directive shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, as so amended, and, except as provided in section 707 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, as so amended, any acquisition pursuant to such authorization or directive shall be deemed not to constitute electronic surveillance (as that term is defined in section 101(f) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to the extent that such section 101(f) is limited by section 701 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, as so amended).

(4) USE OF INFORMATION ACQUIRED UNDER PROTECT AMERICA ACT.—Information acquired from an acquisition conducted under the Protect America Act of 2007, and the amendments made by that Act, shall be deemed to be information acquired from an electronic surveillance pursuant to title I of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) for purposes of section 106 of that Act (50 U.S.C. 1806), except for purposes of subsection (j) of such section.

(5) NEW ORDERS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978—

(A) the government may file an application for an order under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Protect America Act of 2007, except as amended by sections 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, and 110 of this Act; and

(B) the court established under section 103(a) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 shall enter an order granting such an application if the application meets the requirements of such Act, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Protect America Act of 2007, except as amended by sections 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, and 110 of this Act.

(6) EXTANT AUTHORIZATIONS.—At the request of the applicant, the court established under section 103(a) of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 shall extinguish any extant authorization to conduct electronic surveillance or physical search entered pursuant to such Act.

(7) APPLICABLE PROVISIONS.—Any surveillance conducted pursuant to an order entered pursuant to this subsection shall be subject to the provisions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Protect America Act of 2007, except as amended by sections 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, and 110 of this Act.

(8) TRANSITION PROCEDURES CONCERNING THE TARGETING OF UNITED STATES PERSONS OVERSEAS.—Any authorization in effect on the date of enactment of this Act under section 2.5 of Executive Order 12333 to intentionally target a United States person reasonably believed to be located outside the United States shall remain in effect, and shall constitute a sufficient basis for conducting such an acquisition targeting a United States person located outside the United States until the earlier of—

(A) the date that authorization expires; or

(B) the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The point of order is reserved.

The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Chairman, I know the underlying legislation is very noble in the sense of its essence of cleaning and maintaining the wonder of our beaches and our coastal areas. And as someone who grew up and still has family in South Beach and Staten Island, New York, I'm very sensitive to the notion that our beaches are our Nation's jewels.

But I'm also very sensitive to the fact that there are terrorists among us who will use any way possible to destroy innocent life. I know all too full well that on September 11, 2001, when almost 300 of my constituents perished at the World Trade Center because of fanatics who flew two planes by now we know into the World Trade Center. So to me still the most important thing that this country can do is to protect innocent people. While we all enjoy the beaches, we know that the greatest threat we face in this country are those who want to kill us and do us harm.

We know that we've debated this FISA bill many times in this House, and the other body has passed, I think, a very effective bipartisan way that will keep this Nation safe. Here we are, another week going by where we bury our heads in the beach sand and not pass the appropriate legislation that will help to keep this Nation safe.

In the underlying legislation, it talks reasonably about monitoring and finding the source of the pathogens. Well, one of the biggest threats that we have, that any intelligence official will tell you, is bioterrorism that has its roots in the pathogens, whether it's waterborne or not. So I believe that the amendment is very germane to the underlying legislation.

Specifically, section 5, subsection A calls for the usage of rapid testing methods in the monitoring programs included in this legislation, which will create a means of assessing pathogen content in coastal waters and alerting the public to the possible health effects.

Additionally, section 2 provides for source tracking and identification programs to assess where these harmful pathogens originated from.

The legislation is concerned with pollution and monitoring of beach water quality, as well it should be, and to that end I am extremely alarmed that waste water treatment and pollution processing plants are becoming attractive targets for possible terrorist attacks.

The environmental damage to both the beaches and water quality of New York City would be catastrophic if such a threat were realized. Preventing such an attack, of course, is the greatest concern to me, and I would hope, all Members of Congress.

The amendment is clearly in order because it provides our Nation's intelligence community the tools to monitor foreign threats to our treatment facilities and prevent planned attacks on our environment.

The irony should not be lost here that today we are considering a bill that concerns beach monitoring and requires prompt Federal, State and local agency notification regarding water quality sampling, when we've yet to pass the long overdue legislation that updates our Nation's ability to indeed conduct foreign intelligence monitoring and requires prompt judicial notification requirements regarding foreign threats.

To that end, I call on the Chair today to recognize my amendment, which contains the bipartisan Senate-passed FISA language. It's time, as I mentioned before, that we stop burying our heads in the beach sand under the guise of doing what we think is noble.

At the end of the day, what we have to come together for in this body, whether it's this end of Pennsylvania Avenue or the other, is to keep this country safe. And as we know, intelligence officials tell us time and time again we're losing precious information that's intelligence that could ultimately lead to a prevention of a terrorist attack. One of those possible terrorist attacks is waterborne pathogens that would be covered under this legislation.

And with that, Mr. Chairman, I ask that you consider this amendment to the bill.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Chairman, this is an important amendment brought to us by the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA). It essentially would allow us to attach the FISA bill to the underlying bill.

And some would say, what connection could there possibly be?

Well, you have to understand the underlying bill, in at least four places, refers to the concern of pathogens, pathogens in our water.

And what are pathogens? According to greatlakes.net, pathos is Greek for suffering, and gen is a suffix meaning producer, also from the Greek. Thus, a waterborne pathogen is a disease maker that occurs in the water. These germs are living microscopic organisms, microorganisms or microbes that take in food, give off waste, grow, reproduce and die. And the most common types of waterborne pathogens are bacteria, but they're also viruses, protozoa and certain kinds of algae.

So why would the gentleman from New York's amendment be in order, from a germaneness standpoint, and why would it be important for us?

All you have to do is go to the INTERPOL Web site where it discusses the threat and prevention of bioterrorism. And therein, INTERPOL states, ''an effective biological weapon

is potentially devastating and much easier to make and transport than a nuclear weapon. Bio weapons are, however, relatively safe for the terrorists. Pathogens are virtually undetectable and can be brought reasonably easily into a country by an individual and can then be propagated in large quantities.'' INTERPOL says this.

''Recognizing the imminent dangers represented by this lethal form of crime is the first step in countering the threat. Thereafter, it is vital to put in place the tools which will enable society to take appropriate measures.''

If you go to the CDC and you ask, what are the bioterrorism agents, they list 27 of them, waterborne bio agents: Anthrax, Brucellosis, Cholera, Botulism, Glanders, Plague, Q fever, smallpox, and it goes on and on and on.

Now, we have a bill before us which says we have to be concerned about our beaches. By the way, it's not just the coastline. Under this bill this includes the Great Lakes. And it says we should be concerned about pollution, and they define pollution by the number of pathogens per volume. And I see nothing in this bill which says we're only concerned about industrially produced pathogens or accidentally produced pathogens. And if that's the case, we ought to be concerned about terrorist produced and introduced pathogens. And that's why the gentleman's amendment is both germane and appropriate and ought to be supported, because what it says is that we need the intelligence to understand which pathogens that the terrorists are attempting to introduce here, where they might introduce it, and to make sure that our first responders, which are referred to in the underlying bill, understand what it is they're faced with, how they prevent it, and if they can't prevent it, how they deal with it.

So this is a serious amendment. It says that the only way we can protect our coastal waters and the people who live in them, swim in them, work in them, is if we know the information ahead of time. And we don't have that information. That information is held by the bad guys.

The only way we can find out what the bad guys intend to do is, frankly, by listening to them, capturing their communications. That's why this FISA bill is important generally, but it is important specifically to this bill, a bill which tells us we are trying to protect our coastal waterways, the coastline, the Great Lakes and our estuaries. And the only way we can do that is to know who intends to damage it, who intends to introduce these pathogens as a direct threat to us and how we respond to that.

So I would hope that the gentlelady's point of order is rejected, and I hope that we will be able to vote on this bill, support this bill. And if we can't have FISA for anything else, let's at least protect our coast lines, protect the Great Lakes, protect the estuaries and everybody therein.

Sounds like a silly argument that we would limit it to that, but we have, under the rules, not been allowed to bring the FISA bill to the floor. Let us add it to this bill, where it's germane, where it would go to the actual intention of the bill and, in fact, refers to the major parts of the bill, that is, how do we know what pathogens are introduced; how do we respond to them; how do we make sure our American citizens are protected from them; how do we close down those waterways and those beaches when they've been introduced, whether or not they've been introduced accidentally, by industrial pollution or, it seems to me, something we ought to be concerned about, by those who wish to kill you and me, our children, and our grandchildren.

I yield back the balance of my time.

POINT OF ORDER

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I insist upon my point of order regarding this amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentlelady will state her point of order.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Germaneness. It is not germane. H.R. 2537, the Beach Protection Act, speaks only to beaches. It does not address the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA, and is clearly on a subject different from the bill under consideration, the Beach Protection Act of 2007. FISA is an outside issue.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Does any Member wish to be heard on the point of order? Any other Member? If not, the Chair is prepared to rule.

For reasons stated by the gentlewoman from Texas, the amendment is not germane. The point of order is sustained.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Chairman, I appeal the ruling of the Chair.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is, ''Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the Committee of the Whole?''

The question was taken; and the Acting Chairman announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 216, noes 193, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 201]

AYES—216

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bordallo
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Braley (IA)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castor
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Foster
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NOES—193

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Ferguson
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Manzullo
Marchant
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry

McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shimkus
Shuster
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—27

Berry
Brady (PA)
Brown, Corrine
Christensen
Faleomavaega
Fattah
Feeney
Filner
Fortuño
Harman
Mack
McHugh
Meek (FL)
Napolitano
Norton
Peterson (PA)
Pickering
Rangel
Rush
Schwartz
Sestak
Simpson
Slaughter
Tierney
Weiner
Wilson (NM)
Wynn

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The Acting CHAIRMAN (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1703

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS changed her vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the decision of the Chair stands as the judgment of the Committee.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, on rollcall No, 201, I was unavoidably detained with urgeant constiuent business. Had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chairman, on rollcall No. 201, had I been present, I would have voted ''aye.''

Stated against:

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Chairman, on rollcall No. 201, I missed the vote due to a meeting in my office with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no.''

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) having assumed the chair, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2537) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act relating to beach monitoring, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

## EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2008 AS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1097, as amended, 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1097, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 0, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 202]

YEAS—410

Abercrombie
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foster
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hare
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 (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
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
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
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
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
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
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sali
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—21

Ackerman
Berry
Brady (PA)
Brown, Corrine
DeFazio
Fattah
Feeney
Harman
Mack
Marchant
Meek (FL)
Peterson (PA)
Pickering
Rangel
Rush
Schwartz
Sestak
Simpson
Tierney
Weiner
Wilson (NM)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 1½ minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1721

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2537 and include extraneous materials in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SERRANO). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

## BEACH PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1083 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2537.

□ 1723

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2537) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act relating to beach monitoring, and for other purposes, with Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 4 printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON OF TEXAS

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 2 offered by Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

Page 2, line 5, strike ''2007'' and insert ''2008''.

Page 2, line 8, strike ''1346'' and insert ''1346(b)''.

Page 4, line 1, strike ''304(a)(9)'' and insert ''304(a)(9)(A)''.

Page 4, line 2, strike ''1314(a)(9)'' and insert ''1314(a)(9)(A)''.

Page 4, strike lines 4 through 16 and insert the following:

(c) VALIDATION AND USE OF RAPID TESTING METHODS.—

(1) VALIDATION OF RAPID TESTING METHODS.—Not later than October 1, 2010, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall complete an evaluation and validation of a rapid testing method for the water quality criteria and standards for pathogens and pathogen indicators described in section 303(i)(1)(A).

(2) GUIDANCE FOR USE OF RAPID TESTING METHODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after completion of the validation under paragraph (1), and after providing notice and an opportunity for public comment, the Administrator shall publish guidance for the use at coastal recreation waters adjacent to beaches or similar points of access that are used by the public of rapid testing methods that will enhance the protection of public health and safety through rapid public notification of any exceeding of applicable water quality standards for pathogens and pathogen indicators.

(B) PRIORITIZATION.—In developing such guidance, the Administrator shall prioritize the use of rapid testing methods at those beaches or similar points of access that are the most used by the public.

Page 6, strike lines 13 through 19 and insert the following:

''(9) the availability of a geographic information system database that such State or local government program shall use to inform the public about coastal recreation waters and that—

''(A) is publicly accessible and searchable on the Internet;

''(B) is organized by beach or similar point of access;

''(C) identifies applicable water quality standards, monitoring protocols, sampling plans and results, and the number and cause of coastal recreation water closures and advisory days; and

''(D) is updated within 24 hours of the availability of revised information;

Page 7, line 6, strike ''meeting'' and insert ''meeting or are not expected to meet''.

Page 8, line 8, strike ''on'' and insert ''on the Internet on''.

Page 8, strike lines 10 through 24 and insert the following:

''(3) CORRECTIVE ACTION.—If a State or local government that the Administrator notifies under paragraph (2) is not in compliance with any requirement or grant condition described in paragraph (2) fails to take such action as may be necessary to comply with such requirement or condition within one year of the date of notification, any grants made under subsection (b) to the State or local government, after the last day of such one-year period and while the State or local government is not in compliance with all requirements and grant conditions described in paragraph (2), shall have a Federal share of not to exceed 50 percent.''

At the end of the bill, add the following:

**SEC. 11. ADOPTION OF NEW OR REVISED CRITERIA AND STANDARDS.**

Section 303(i)(2)(A) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1313(i)(2)(A)) is amended by striking ''paragraph (1)(A)'' each place it appears and inserting ''paragraph (1)''.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Chairman, my amendment makes a few technical and clarifying changes to H.R. 2537, as reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on December 12, 2007.

First, it makes a technical change to section 5(c)(2) of the bill, substituting the word ''criteria'' for ''guidance'' to remove any potential confusion on the intent of this language.

Second, it makes a technical change to section 8 to address potential constitutional concerns raised by the administration on requiring States and local governments to perform certain actions.

The manager's amendment shifts the focus from requiring States and local governments to take certain compliance actions to conditioning a percentage of their annual BEACH grant should they choose not to take such actions.

And, third, it puts in a statutory deadline of October 1, 2010, for the Environmental Protection Agency to complete its evaluation and validation of ''rapid testing methods'' for the existing coastal recreation water quality criteria. This significant improvement to the bill will ensure that same-day monitoring data will be available before the end of the decade.

Finally, the amendment changes the requirement of section 303(i)(2)(A) of the Clean Water Act to ensure uniformity among States in the implementation of water quality criteria and standards.

This amendment will ensure that should a State choose not to incorporate potentially new or revised coastal recreational water quality criteria into their own programs, the burden falls on the Environmental Protection Agency to propose regulations for such State setting forth the revised or new water quality standards. This was the structure of the original BEACH Act with respect to the first round of water quality criteria that should be carried forward to subsequent revisions to coastal recreational water quality criteria.

The manager's amendment was developed jointly by the majority and minority staffs of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. I am unaware of any opposition to this amendment, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Arkansas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Chairman, I want to thank my colleague from Texas for offering this amendment.

While this amendment makes some technical and clarifying changes to H.R. 2537, the Beach Protection Act of 2007, it also makes some improvements to the bill since the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure favorably reported the legislation in December.

This amendment will require the Environmental Protection Agency to validate and prioritize rapid testing methods by October, 2010; encourage local officials to make publicly available within 24 hours the results of water quality samples; reduces the amount a community may receive if it does not take corrective action when waters are out of compliance with water quality standards; and encourages State and local officials to adopt appropriate coastal and beach water quality standards.

I urge all Members to support the Johnson amendment.

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Chairman, I come to the floor in appreciation of the underlying intent of both the amendment and the underlying bill as well.

But I am mindful of the fact, as I come from the great State of New Jersey and as we think about the issue at hand, and that is our beaches and the shores generally, I was just talking with someone recently that due to the high cost of energy and the high cost of

gasoline, a lot of my constituents, quite honestly, won't be able to even enjoy the Jersey shore this summer, to ''go down below,'' as we call it, down to the Jersey shore to enjoy it and enjoy whatever improvements that this amendment, which I support, and the underlying bill, which I support, would bring to us.

So the point I just want to spend a moment on is the fact that while we debate these tertiary issues, the fundamental issue that folks back in my district are concerned about is how are we going to afford in the first place to get about our State of New Jersey, to get to the shore, to enjoy our vacation, to enjoy the beaches if Congress is not doing anything whatsoever to address the high cost of gasoline and to address the high cost of energy in the State of New Jersey and the rest of the country as well.

□ 1730

Here we are now in the ides of April, the middle of April. This is about, let's see, 12, 13, 14, 15, the 16th month now into this, the 110th Congress under the Democrat leadership. And we have to ask ourselves one seminal question, one basic question: What has the 16th month of Democrat leadership brought us in a whole host of areas? And I will get to the energy issue in a minute.

Well, we see in the area of food prices, my constituents also tell me that the price of food, when they go to the A&P or the grocery stores every day, whatever the store is, are going through the roof. The housing crisis. We will go to any committee here. I serve on the Financial Services Committee. We know we are in a terrible housing crisis right now, a subprime crisis affecting credit markets across the country. Fuel costs I have already mentioned. A recession. You know, for the first time in years, we're talking about an economic recession. For all the time that the Republicans were in control of this House and in control of this government, we saw that they were in booming economic times. Sixteen months now into the 110th Congress in a Democrat leadership, off the map on food costs, housing costs, into recession. If that has happened in 16 months, we wonder what will happen if they have another 16 months.

So I would ask whether this Congress could do what my constituents are asking us to do. Maybe address these issues such as beach issues and where we can go on vacation, but can we do those after we get to the more seminal issues, the more fundamental issues, issues that strike at the heart of where America is living right now, issues that strike at, well, their pocketbook and where their money is really going to right now, and that is energy costs.

The other day I just drove out in my driveway of my house. I went down to the main road. And there at the gas station, the price of a gallon of diesel fuel was $4 a gallon. Amazing. $4 a gallon. That means that truckers—those same truckers who have to get down to the Jersey Shore to bring supplies and what have you for vacationers who want to enjoy the beaches and what have you—truckers, I am told, have to spend upwards of $1,000 to fill up their diesel tanks in their trucks to get about our State.

New Jersey is a commuter State. New Jersey is a hub State, a transportation State. Unless Congress is ready to commit itself to really fundamentally look at the underlying causes of the high cost of energy, of the high cost of gasoline, of the high cost of diesel fuel, unless we are ready to work across both sides of the aisle on these issues, these other issues will come to naught, will be of little importance to my constituents if they are stranded at home, if their husbands or their wives don't have jobs because they can't afford to put gas into the car or diesel into the trucks.

So I just come to the floor to raise these issues now and ask that, as important as these beach issues are, can we not really begin to address what the constituents are addressing?

Later on in the evening, I would like to say that there are some solutions, there are some solutions that the American public would like us to begin to address. There are some answers to the fundamental reasons of why the price of gasoline and diesel fuel is going through the roof. There are some basic changes that Congress, this Congress, could be making right now to the energy supply in this country that would help to drive down the cost of energy in this country so that Americans, families in my district and in yours, will be able to address this problem and not have a problem of high energy cost anymore.

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Chairman, I would like to thank and congratulate the gentlelady from the great State of Texas for this amendment. As she knows, it really reflects a strategy that has worked since 2000 when we did the original bill. And I want to thank her as the original author of this bill.

And with this amendment, it brings in that cooperative effort between the local government and the Federal Government. Both the gentlelady from Texas and my background show that that kind of cooperative effort has been essential for the success of the BEACH bill for these last 7 years, 8 years now.

The bill really does, with the amendment, talk about the fact that the best people to take care of the local environment are the local people, that Washington needs to be here supporting and encouraging local people to take control of their own environment.

I think of the old statement that we used back in the sixties and seventies of ''acting locally.'' It was essential for any success that we're going to have with environmental activities. This bill actually builds on that success that we have had in the past.

A note of personal interest, Madam Chairman, is that you never know when and how your own legislation may affect you. And as the author of this bill from 2000, it was interesting to see that when my children were on the computer, they were not just checking out the water quality and if the beaches were open. They were also looking at real-time cameras to see how the surf was that day. How we would have loved to have had that in the sixties when we were growing up that you could actually look out on the water to see not only how good the surf was, but to also see how clean the water was. And with this bill, that is possible.

And so I appreciate the amendment by the gentlelady from Texas. I strongly support it. And hopefully we will be able to get this bill back to the President and get it signed as soon as possible.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I too want to thank the gentlelady for this commonsense amendment. I think it does put the responsibility, at least partially, back on those local governments to control themselves. But it is for the same reason that the gentleman from New Jersey got up. My constituents also are concerned about the ability to go to the beaches. No matter how clean we can make them, if they can't get there, then they can't enjoy them.

And we had demonstrations the other day, Madam Chairman. We saw truckers driving around the Capitol, at least along the highway here, protesting the price of diesel fuel. And diesel is over $4 a gallon. And it's costing some of these truckers, independent businesspeople, over $1,000 to fill their trucks up.

And we've had some promises. And those seem to be empty promises that we've had. And I wanted to come today because, as you know, the average price of gas today is about $3.44 a gallon. The price of a barrel of oil is $114 a barrel. And I wanted to just kind of remind some people, maybe we have forgotten that we have had some promises made to the American people to really bring about some change in our government.

I want to read a press release that was dated September 21, 2005 by Speaker PELOSI. ''This is of the highest priority to our House Democratic Caucus because it is a high priority for America's working families. Some people have to work 2 more hours a day to cover the cost of gas that takes them to work, if they are making minimum wage.''

Well, we raised the minimum wage, but gas has gone up well over $1 a gallon since the Democrats took control and since Ms. PELOSI became Speaker.

September 28, 2005, another press release by the then-Minority Leader Pelosi, ''Democrats have been working for months to bring down the price of gas at the pump and home heating oil.''

Well, you've been in charge for 16 months, and I don't see what we have done to bring down the price of gas or the price of oil, except we have had some hearings where we question the heads of the oil companies about the profits they are making.

The point is, is that gas has gotten so high that the average person is now having to look at exactly where and what meets the best needs of their family, if they can go to the grocery store or not. That is a consideration that it seems like the Democratic leadership wanted to have for the working family. So why are we doing that? We are spending a lot of time on other issues. But we need to be working on this, something that affects the everyday person.

April 18, 2006, in another press release, Ms. PELOSI said: ''But the Republican bills clearly have done nothing to lower gas prices, as the price of a barrel of oil today has settled above $70 a barrel.'' Man, don't we wish for those days again? At the time it was the highest price in history.

Here is the quote that I think that we really need to get an answer to. ''Democrats have a plan to lower gas prices, taking America in a new direction.''

There is a new direction. And there is a song that goes with that direction. But I don't see a new direction. Or if we were going in a new direction, it's the wrong direction. Where is the Democratic plan for lower gas prices? Is it on the shelf somewhere? Are we saving it for a time when gas gets above $4 a gallon? Five dollars a gallon? What are we saving the plan for?

Let's bring the plan out tomorrow. Let's vote on it tomorrow. You can waive the rules. As we have seen in this Congress, we can change the rules at any time that it's convenient when we need it, and we really don't have to pay attention to the rules we adopted when you became the majority.

So why don't we bring out this plan? Why don't we have a plan that tomorrow we can tell the American people that the Democrats are going to finally unveil the plan?

Now the plan that we have heard so far from the Energy and Commerce chairman, Mr. DINGELL, is to raise the price of the motor fuel tax 50 cents a gallon. That just doesn't sound like a good plan. One of the other plans that we had was to buy 30 bicycles at a cost of $30,000. I don't know that that's the plan that the American hardworking family is looking for. I mean, I live in Grantville, Georgia, and I would love to ride a bicycle to work, but that would take me quite a bit of time. I don't know. It might take 24 hours for me to ride a bicycle to work. But I don't know how families are going to ride bicycles to work to get groceries, or to go to the store, or whatever they have to do. Riding bicycles to me is just not that new plan.

Now if that is the Democrats' plan, then let's go ahead and unveil it and let the American people see it. I think they want to know what it is.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I support the amendment offered by the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

This amendment makes several technical and clarifying changes to the Beach Protection Act, as reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

These changes further improve the underlying bill, and will greatly assist in providing the public with clearer, quicker, and hopefully, more accurate information on the quality of our Nation's coastal recreational waters.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that we were able to reach agreement within the Committee on establishing a hard deadline for the Environmental Protection Agency to complete its evaluation and validation of a rapid testing methodology for testing coastal recreation waters.

As recognized by the sponsors of this legislation, we need to move away from two-to-three day delays in obtaining information on the quality of our waters, and towards real-time, same-day information. It does no one any good to know that the waters were unsafe for swimming yesterday—yesterday is too late.

We want to know what the conditions of waters are today—before we decide to take ourselves and our families to the beach for the day. This amendment will move us in the direction of providing same-day information on the condition of our recreational waters, and give our citizens the option of avoiding contact with waters that could be potentially harmful to their health.

The Manager's amendment was developed jointly by the majority and minority staffs of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

I am unaware of any opposition to this amendment, and urge its adoption.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. BILBRAY

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 13 offered by Mr. BILBRAY: At the end of the bill, add the following:

**SEC. 11. USE OF MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS FOR MONITORING AND ASSESSING COASTAL RECREATION WATERS.**

(a) STUDY.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall conduct a study to assess the benefits of using molecular diagnostics for monitoring and assessing the quality of coastal recreation waters adjacent to beaches and similar points of access that are used by the public.

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study, the Administrator shall—

(1) to the extent practicable, evaluate the full range of available rapid testing methods, as defined by section 502 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1362), and methods that meet prescribed performance standards, including—

(A) the amplified nucleic acid assay method; and

(B) the indicator organisms enterococci and E. coli; and

(2) compare the use of molecular diagnostics to culture testing of same source water, including the time for obtaining results, accuracy of results, and future applicability.

(c) PARTNERSHIPS.—Notwithstanding chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code, the Administrator may award a grant or cooperative agreement to a public or private organization to assist the Administrator in carrying out the study.

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall transmit to Congress a report on the results of the study.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Chairman, this is an amendment that we've worked out with Chairman OBERSTAR and the gentlelady from Texas. It is really an implementation for the new step for the BEACH bill, and that is to go beyond the existing system we used in the last 7 years where public health officials have to wait 3 days to be able to know if a beach has a water quality problem or does not.

Scientists all over the world have been working on what is very close to a real-time response to this concern and be able to empower our local health officials to be able to know, within a few hours, rather than a few days, if it is safe for water contact activity along our beaches.

My amendment just simply allows the administration to do a study within the next 2 years to be able to develop the system that local governments can use to implement the BEACH bill so we don't have to wait 3 days in New Jersey or 3 days in California to know if our beaches are polluted or if they are clean.

With this study, with cooperation between the Federal Government, the local governments and the private sector, we can actually make this system effective so our children and our families know if it is safe to go in that day and not have to wait 3 days to find out if there is a problem.

So, Madam Chairman, my amendment 13 stands. I would ask for support for it. And I think in the spirit of bipartisan cooperation that this bill has carried since the year 2000, I think we can move forward with a system that keeps our families safe and our waters clean.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I support this amendment offered by the gentleman from California.

First let me commend my colleague from California for working with us to address some of our concerns with the initial draft of this amendment.

□ 1745

The amendment calls for the Administrator of EPA to conduct a short-term study to assess the benefits of using molecular testing for monitoring and assessing the quality of coastal recreation waters.

This amendment is consistent with other changes made by this legislation to encourage EPA to quickly move on the adoption of rapid testing methodologies for pathogens and pathogen indicators. These studies and changes are essential for shortening the time period between when a water quality sample is taken and when the results of that testing can be made available to the public. As I have stated before, the goal of these changes is to move as close to the same day realtime information on the condition of the Nation's coastal recreation waters as possible. This amendment helps move us closer to our goal.

Again, I appreciate the willingness of the gentleman to work with us in crafting this amendment, and I urge its adoption.

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Chairman, I appreciate the comments by the sponsor, and I support the commonsense approach to this amendment as well.

Coming from the great State of New Jersey, who has had when it comes to beach issues over the last 20-some odd years, during which time I had the privilege of serving in the State legislature and had to deal with some of the same issues that are being dealt with right here and now, I appreciate what is being done this evening with regard to realtime recovering and realtime information coming in. New Jersey, I think, is literally on the cutting edge of this information right now. New Jersey is on the cutting edge, having addressed these issues over the last decade, and I appreciate what is being attempted to be done for the rest of the country as well.

That being said, I just want to reiterate my point that I made earlier this evening that here we are back in Congress again this week, and a lot of people are asking me back in the district, what are some of the major issues that you will be working on when you return to Washington this week?

At a town hall meeting and discussions back over the weekend, I gave them a breakdown, this being one of them. And they asked me, wait, you are going to be talking about beach issues? You are going to be talking about some of these other suspension bills we had earlier in the week and I anticipate having later on in the week?

But each time, no matter where I was, my constituents asked me the same question: Well, when is Congress going to begin the debate, when is Congress going to begin the discussion, whether it is in committees or on the floor or elsewhere, to try to address the problem that is really hitting us the hardest here back at home in the Fifth Congressional District, that is the top of the State of New Jersey, the issue that is hitting us the most in the pocketbook here in the great State of New Jersey? And, of course, what they were referring to is the price of energy.

We have just gone through a little bit of a cold snap in the State of New Jersey, as other parts of the country have as well, so for that reason we have seen the use of home fuel oil go up, naturally. It is a scary thing now when you see the delivery truck come to your house to deliver oil to fill up your oil tank, because you know as soon as that man is done delivering that 100 gallons or 250 gallons to your tank in your basement or in the ground or what have you, he is going to hand you a bill at the end of that delivery, and that bill can wipe out your savings for the week, wipe out the dollars that you may have planned to set aside to buy food, to buy medicine, to pay other expenses you were looking forward to have to spend that week.

So the people are asking, when are we going to be doing something? Unfortunately, we are still not doing it right now. Here we are, 16 months into a Democrat-controlled Congress, and still nothing has been done about it.

I refer back, just to give a little element of time to all this, to the chart I have right up here in front of us, to the fact that we do not have a Democrat energy policy to try to address these seminal issues, major issues that are affecting us. Take a look at what the prices are and the result of not having an energy policy to address this.

As this chart shows, the price of a barrel of crude oil when the Democrats came to power just 16 months ago was $58.31 cents a barrel. Fifty-eight bucks a barrel. Here we are less than 2 years later, a year-and-a-half later, and the price of a barrel of crude oil today is $113 a barrel. It is because of that huge increase in the price of the barrel that you and I have to pay so much when that man comes to deliver the fuel oil for our house or when we go down to the gas station as well.

Fifty-three cents on the dollar when you buy gas at the gas station or are buying fuel oil for your house is the price of crude oil. So when you wonder why it is that you are paying so much at the pump or you are paying so much for delivery to your house, it is because it has gone from 58 bucks to 113 bucks. Not over the last 10 years. Not over the last 6 years, or something like that. Not over the period of time when the Republicans were in control. No, not over that entire span of time. But just in the last 16 months under Democrat control we have seen the price of fuel oil spike and go through the roof.

The result of that has been what? The result has been, besides the fact that you now have to spend most of your money going to your fuel costs, the price also has translated into a ripple effect on the price of food, so when you go to the food store, those are through the roof. It has a ripple effect with regard to the overall economy, and so that is why Alan Greenspan was on TV just about 2 weeks ago now saying that he too is agreeing with other economists in this country saying we have entered into a recession.

So if you remember back how strong the economy was, how strong Wall Street was just about 18 months ago, now we see under the Pelosi premium of no energy policy, the result is what you see today.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Chairman, I need to continue with some of these quotes, because I think they are pretty interesting as to our energy policy that we have, I guess, or the lack of an energy policy that we have right now.

July 25, 2006, Mr. HOYER, then the Democratic whip, says: ''Republicans' failure to craft a forward-looking strategy to deal with the rising costs of fuel over the last 5 years has helped ensure that my constituents would pay a very high price at the gasoline pump today and for at least the next several years.''

Well, I guess he is trying to make that statement come true, because it is continuing to rise over the next years. But it is not under our watch. So, Mr. Leader, I want to tell you that the ball is in your court. You didn't think that we could do a very good job with it. And I am reading these quotes. Evidently the now-Speaker didn't think we could do a very good job with it. So the ball is in your court, and I don't see the ball going anywhere except in the wrong direction. The price continues to go up, and I just think we need to see that secret plan that the Democrats have for bringing down our gas prices.

August 16, 2005, a press release by Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ: ''The unacceptable rise that we have seen in gasoline prices over the past year can be linked in part to the lack of consumer-oriented energy policy in this country. Gas prices have remained at record levels for about 4 months at $2.25 per gallon nationwide.''

Well, I don't know if I am the one that is going to break the news, but right now gas is at $3.44. And this lack of policy that evidently was in effect when gas was only $2.55 a gallon, where is your policy? I challenge you, where is the policy that you had that was supposed to bring these gas prices down that you continually talk about. If you

could just get a chance to get your hands on the ball, that you could score. You could score for the American people and you could get gas prices down. You have got your opportunity. You have had your opportunity for 16 months.

September 29, 2005, in a letter to the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. TANNER said, ''Gas prices in Tennessee and the rest of the country have literally skyrocketed. Our ever-growing dependence on foreign oil only guarantees that we will have to continue dealing with potentially unfriendly countries.''

News flash, Mr. TANNER and Madam Chairman: I would like to say that there they are still skyrocketing, and we are still more dependent now on foreign oil than ever before, because the majority does not want us having domestic production. They don't want us drilling in our own territory, on our own Outer Shelf or in Alaska, anywhere, really, to get more dependent on our own oil and our own energy. They decided that riding bicycles was the way to go.

September 9, 2005, a press release, MARION BERRY: ''We can barely afford to fill our gas tanks to get to and from work each day, and our farmers are spending everything they have on diesel fuel just to keep their crops alive. These people deserve some answers and a fair price for their gasoline.''

You know, Mr. BERRY, I couldn't agree with you more. You made that statement not quite 3 years ago. Where is your answer? You have been in the majority party for the last 16 months, and I don't see any answers to the questions and the comments and the concerns that you brought up for your constituents or these farmers that were spending way too much money then when gas was $2.50 a gallon.

May 22, 2005, in a press release by Mr. PALLONE: ''Republicans chose to commemorate the 35th anniversary of Earth Day by approving an energy bill yesterday that raises gas prices. The average price of a gallon of regular gas in New Jersey has increased 40 cents, from $1.66 to $2.06.''

I wish we were back to those $2.06 days, don't you? And I don't know what we are going to do to celebrate Earth Day today, but gas, Mr. PALLONE, is at $3.44. So the celebration won't be near as sweet because of the promises that you made to the American people that you were going to bring gas prices down, and they continue to go up.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment offered by the gentleman from California, Mr. BILBRAY.

This amendment builds upon the ongoing work of the Environmental Protection Agency to develop the next generation of testing methodologies for coastal recreation waters. These new standards, already well behind schedule, should represent significant improvement over the existing standards for pathogens and pathogen indicators both in terms of accuracy and delivery time.

The amendment of our colleague, Mr. BILBRAY, calls the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to study the benefits of using a ''molecular diagnostic for monitoring and assessing the quality of coastal recreation waters.'' This shift from culture-based testing to molecular diagnostics should significantly reduce the period of time necessary to produce accurate results on the condition of the nation's swimming beaches.

By some estimates, the amount of time that would be necessary under this new testing methodology could fall from 24–36 hours to 1–2 hours. This would represent a significant breakthrough in providing almost instantaneous information to the public on any potential human health risks that might result from coming into contact with contaminated waters.

I congratulate the gentleman for offering this amendment, today, and express my appreciation for his willingness to work with us to address some concerns raised with his initial amendment.

I urge adoption of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. BILBRAY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. KUCINICH

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 5 offered by Mr. KUCINICH:

Page 3, line 3, strike ''indicators'' and insert ''indicators. If, in carrying out such source identification and tracking program, a source of pathogenic contamination is identified by such State or local government, such State or local government shall make information on the existence of such source available to the public on the Internet within 24 hours of the identification of such source.''.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Chairman, my amendment will allow the public to know if a State or local government receiving funds from this act has been successful in its efforts to identify the source of the pathogenic pollution.

The problems created by contaminated surface waters are real. The health risks of swimming in water contaminated with biological pathogens are now well studied. Several studies on surfers, for example, show that the closer the swimming spot is to a sewer or storm water outfall, the higher the risk for walking away with gastroenteritis, respiratory infection, ear infection, salmonellosis, dysentery, skin rashes and pink eye.

The risks are economic as well. Many coastal communities rely heavily on tourism for their local economies. Swimming, boating and fishing all generate significant revenues. Great Lakes boaters spend more than $2 billion per year. Fishing brought in $4.5 billion in 2002. Lake Erie alone generates $2.5 billion annually in tourism revenue.

With the discharges that cause elevated pathogen levels come more than just pathogens. Raw sewage also contains a host of other chemicals, like lead and unmetabolized prescription drugs.

When sewage makes its way into our waterways, it can affect us directly. Lake Erie provides drinking water for approximately 11 million people. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, the samples taken at Cuyahoga County beaches on Lake Erie in 2006 exceeded standards between 7 percent and 50 percent of the time.

When the Government Accountability Office examined the implementation of the Beach Act of 2000 last year, they identified an important weakness. They found that the causes for the contamination are usually unidentified. The GAO said, ''Local officials at 67 percent of Great Lakes beaches reported that when results of water quality testing indicated contamination, they did not know the source of the contamination. Only 14 percent reported that they had taken actions to address the source of contamination.''

□ 1800

Worse, they also found that State and local governments, as BEACH Act grantees, were not able to use their funds to get to the source of the problem. They weren't able to allow the funds to track down the source of the pathogenic contamination.

The Beach Protection Act under consideration today corrects that omission but stops when the pollution source is found. My amendment would spur action by letting the public know when a State or local government is able to identify the polluter. Since grantees are already required to notify the public when contamination is detected, the relevant infrastructure is already in place.

Communities deserve to know about the health risks that exist in their own backyard. With this information they not only avoid exposure to the hazard, but they can also bring pressure to bear to prevent the pollution from occurring.

Citizens should know where and when the contamination occurs so they can avoid it. They should also know where it is coming from so they can work to prevent it.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the Kucinich amendment.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Chairman, it's great to be down here to talk about healthy beaches again.

I spoke on the rule. The first colleague on the other side talked about oil wells and how they endanger healthy beaches, so it gave me an opportunity to continue to talk about the failed Democratic policies on energy and the continued increase in the cost of energy in this country and the continued future plan for energy increases in the decades to come.

It's a simple economic debate, supply and demand. We need more supply. The failed Democrat policies will not bring more supply to this debate.

How does it relate to healthy beaches? I will tell you how it relates to healthy beaches. What is the most damaging thing to a beach, an oil spill.

How do oil spills occur? They occur when we have these big super tankers traveling all around the world trying to feed the demand. We want to stop oil spills, and the best way to stop oil spills is to develop our own resources, redevelop our own oil wells. In southern Illinois, in Texas, on the Outer Continental Shelf, a lot of the places we have oil, the Democrat majority continues to put them off-limits.

What happens? Prices go up. Here is an example. We have seen this chart before, and I imagine we are going to see it a lot the rest of this year, except there is going to be a change. Every time we see it, the price of a barrel of crude oil is going to continue to go up.

When this majority, Speaker PELOSI, took the oath of office, swore us all in, the price of a barrel of crude oil was $58.31.

What is it today? Actually, this is wrong, they didn't update it. This was from a couple of days ago. I think it raised, got to $114, $114 a barrel. When you do not plan, you plan to fail. The Democrats have no plan. They said they had a plan, Speaker PELOSI is quoted, in a quote on April 24, 2006, ''Democrats have a commonsense plan to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices.''

I have a plan. The only plan was to increase gas prices, not lower them.

Here is a quote from Majority Leader STENY HOYER on October 4, 2005: ''Democrats believe that we can do more for the American people who are struggling to deal with high gas prices.'' You are doing more for the people who are struggling with high gas prices, you are making it more difficult.

We have, as I have used the term before, bitter change. Why are folks bitter in America? Why are folks bitter in rural America? Because we are paying high gas prices because we can't get supply.

You bet we are bitter, because in rural America we drive the long distances to get to work. We are the folks who don't have buses, we don't have light rail. We have got a lot of rural Members here, and we need big vehicles to haul our beef and our pork and our corn to the refineries. We need trucks.

I brought down pictures yesterday of independent truckers going on strike. Why? Diesel oil is up over $4 a gallon.

When you don't have a plan, you plan to fail. What's the solution? Coal-to-liquid technologies. It's not imported. Coal field, U.S. refineries, U.S. jobs, lower price fuel. That's a solution.

What's another solution? These are all the areas Democrats have put off-limits for exploration. Look at it. You know what is even worse, what you all tried to do in the last energy bill, you tried to take a big chunk out of Colorado and say we are not going to explore there either.

Supply and demand, the simple basic economics. We have higher demand, you don't allow a supply, we get higher prices, over $1.02 a gallon for gas since the Democrats went into the majority. You know what?

It's going to continue to go up. You have no plan. How are we going to get these prices lower? ''Oh, let's tax the oil companies.'' That's really going to bring prices down. You know what that's going to do? It's going to raise prices and you are hurting the people you say you support.

You are hurting the middle class, you are hurting the lower middle class. This also translates into electricity, translates here into your great debate on climate change. JOHN DINGELL said let's address climate change by adding an additional 50 cents a gallon for gas.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is reminded that his remarks should be addressed to the Chair.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Chairman, the Speaker of the House, NANCY PELOSI said, ''Democrats have a commonsense plan to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices.'' We are calling it the Pelosi premium.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman from Illinois has expired.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. This amendment offers a significant improvement to the underlying bill by assuring that the public is made aware of identified sources of contamination to our Nation's coastal recreation waters. I support those efforts of the gentleman in offering this amendment, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Chairman, the previous gentleman was most accurate in his portrayal of what the problem is. Let me just dig into it a little bit more.

Again, as I said before, I support the ideas of the amendment that we are discussing right now in the underlying legislation. My heart just goes out for my constituents at home who may not be able to enjoy the benefits of such, the beaches of the great State of New Jersey and others along the eastern seaboard, simply because, a very practical matter with the high price of energy, the high price of gas, they simply may not be able to afford to get there.

I think I saw it in some news report the other day, how it was characterized, the point that I made earlier and the previous gentleman just made, as the chart just shows, the lack of a plan to deal with the energy problem in this country by the Democrat majority has brought us in this 110th Congress, this huge spike, this huge increase in the price of oil.

As the gentleman explained, it went from $58 per barrel of oil now up to $113, almost $114 per barrel of oil. The paper I think I was reading the other day, I heard it someplace, was this can most appropriately be called, not a Democrat problem, a premium that we are paying for the price of oil. Perhaps, appropriately, the paper called it the Pelosi premium because it comes during the time of this Congress headed by the Democrats.

The previous gentleman from Georgia was saying that, and he laid out very eloquently, that the other side of the aisle had campaigned on, and the Speaker said frequently they had a plan. Well, would that it be that they actually had a plan and began to implement that was beneficial, that would be beneficial, but they have had some sort of a plan.

I have to point this out to the gentleman from Georgia. They have had some suggestions as to what we can be doing with the price of gasoline. Let me just run through a couple of them. One of their suggestions to deal with the price of gasoline was a 50-cent increase per gallon Federal gas tax, which was proposed by the Energy and Commerce chairman.

So we are already paying $3.50 or so for a gallon of gasoline at the pump. The Energy and Commerce chairman said how do we deal with that issue? Let's add a 50-cent increase per gallon Federal gas tax on top of that. That's one part of their plan.

The second plan the other side of the aisle, the Democrat majority proposed to deal with the high price of energy, was a $150 million war surtax. That was under a plan proposed by the Appropriations chairman, DAVID OBEY. We are already paying a high price for gasoline, we are already paying a high price for diesel, home heating fuel. Let's add insult to injury and add a $150 billion war surtax on top of that that you and I would have to pay.

Was that the end of their plan? No, they had a couple of other ideas. Defense Appropriations Chairman JOHN MURTHA and Representative JIM MCGOVERN said low- and middle-income taxpayers should have to pay 2 percent added to their tax bill while higher income taxpayers would take an additional 12 to 15 percent added tax as well. There again, how do you deal with this problem, higher taxes.

Finally, a final proposal to deal with this situation from the Democrat majority, a 5-cent increase per gallon gasoline gas tax was proposed by Representative JAMES OBERSTAR to pay for infrastructure. This proposal, as you may recall, would raise the Federal gas tax to 23.4 cents a gallon from the current 18.4 cents. This was made last summer.

So every proposal that they have had suggested, every proposal that we have heard from the Democrat side of the aisle to deal with the energy crisis in this country, to deal with the fact that energy costs for a barrel of oil going $58 up to $114, their solution to the fact that we are paying $3.25, $3.50, $4 for diesel, their solution so far has done nothing to lower the price. It has done everything to raise the price.

To add insult to injury, their proposal is to add even more by adding additional taxes and surtaxes on top of that.

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Chairman, I wanted to continue on to read some of these quotes about the outrage that the majority party had about the prices of gas and oil, and now, as to the outrage of the American people because evidently they felt like there could be a change and that there could be some solution to the price of higher fuel.

On September 9 of 2005 there was a press release sent out by Mr. DOYLE that said, ''Supply and demand can't account for the spike in gas prices we've seen.'' ''Americans want and deserve stable, affordable gas prices.''

I agree, they do. There have been some broken promises given to the American people about who could produce, because at the time this press release was written, gas was about $2.25 a gallon. It's $3.44 a gallon now.

The party of Mr. DOYLE has been in charge for 16 months. Where is that accountability? Where is the stable, affordable gas prices that Mr. DOYLE said the American people deserved?

We haven't seen them. They are in that secret plan that we are waiting to see unveiled.

June 7, 2006, press release by Mr. DEFAZIO, ''Americans deserve an effective, comprehensive solution to the problem of high gas prices and growing dependence on foreign oil. Unfortunately, all they get out of this Republican Congress is a lot of hot air.''

Well, Mr. DEFAZIO, I think there's enough hot air to go around because evidently this press release was a lot of hot air.

Gas prices have done nothing but go up. The majority has changed. There is a new sheriff in town, so to speak, that I have heard when this takeover took place, but what is the sheriff doing?

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The sheriff must have lost his gun or something, because, Madam Chairman, there has been no action. There has been nothing. We have discussed a lot of things on this floor, but I don't think there has been anything about higher gas prices.

July 13, 2006, a press release by ROSA DELAURO: ''The Bush administration and congressional Republicans have failed to bring up comprehensive energy reform, or any piece of legislation, for that matter, that would lower gas prices.''

Well, here it is 2 years later, and I haven't seen anything from the new majority that does anything to lower gas prices or, to quote her, ''or anything else.''

It goes on, ''Addressing these gas prices should be a priority for the congressional Republicans. I urge the Republican leadership to take action to reduce gas prices for consumers.''

I want to do the same thing. I want to encourage the congressional Democrats, Madam Chairman, to do something about gas prices and oil prices. I want to see the magic plan.

April 8, 2005, a press release by Ms. DEGETTE: ''Thanks to the shortsighted policies of the Republican Congress, our economy and the budgets of all Coloradoans are being hurt by skyrocketing gas prices. In Colorado, gas is up to $2.15 a gallon.'' Man, don't we wish we had those days when Republicans were in charge and gas was $2.15. Democrats have been in charge for 16 months, and it is $3.44 a gallon.

May 14, 2004, a press release by Mr. ETHERIDGE: ''Gas prices in North Carolina and throughout the Nation are at record high levels.

''A major reason for these prices is the high price of crude oil, which has reached $40 a barrel.''

Man, don't we wish we had $40 a barrel back.

''We need immediate action to lower gas prices.''

Where is the outrage from these people that I am reading quotes from today demanding lower gas prices? I can't hear them. I haven't heard them. I haven't even seen them.

April 27, 2006, a press release from Ms. HERSETH: ''We have heard strong words this week about rising gas prices, but words are not enough. Families across America are struggling to fill their gas tanks. They deserve answers and concrete actions, not just lip service.''

Lip service, that's what we've got.

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Chairman, I have listened to the debate on the floor, and I am somewhat puzzled. I have listened to the Republicans accuse Democrats of increasing gasoline prices. It reminds me of the fellow who said it would be like Roho the Rooster going to dinner with Colonel Sanders to imply that we are the ones that have caused this situation to occur this way.

I am looking at places like Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in the Middle East, who are being protected by our young men and women, our brave men and women in the Middle East, in the Middle Eastern war that we have with Iraq. And I watched them build these huge mansions and ski slopes, going out in the ocean and building whatever you would like to have, I guess. Are they selling sand?

I wonder if our President when he went over there realized that the most folks he was going to be protecting were the oil tycoons who are over there in the Middle East.

I wonder why Saudi Arabia is not spending more money to held rebuild Iraq. I wonder why United Arab Emirates and Dubai are building these palatial estates for their folks to have ski slopes in the desert. I wonder why they aren't helping Iraq rebuild. We are there protecting them.

And why isn't Kuwait, who is producing all of the oil, is not helping America, at least helping to defuse the situation in the Middle East?

Why is this President not calling on Saudi Arabia to increase their production so at least we can put maybe a glut of oil on the market that will be threatening and intimidating to the stock markets that choose to drive the price of oil the way that it is. There is no reason it should be inflated the way it is.

Why is this administration not doing something about this? Don't blame Democrats who came on this floor 16 months ago. How in the world can you in all honesty try to imply that it is the Democrats' fault that we are paying $3-plus a gallon for gas today. Look at the circumstances and the situations. Have the Democrats, who in the last few months have tried to say let's find some way to resolve the issue in Iraq, are we the ones who said we ought to stay forever over there, and to disrupt the oil markets, to make people throughout the world, including those in places like India and in China, who are using an increased amount of oil that we can't control in this country, but we can at least control our foreign policy that we have established.

So let's think about what we are being told here. The poorest countries in the world are paying $100-some for oil, just like we are in this country, considered to be one of the richest nations of the world.

India and China are paying the same price that we are paying in this country. I guess the Democrats forced the price up also in China and India. Maybe I'm missing something, but let's be honest in this debate and let's be honest with the American public and let's stop blaming folks for what is happening.

The turmoil and instability in the Middle East has brought about most of the situation that we have, and the economic growth, that may recede dramatically, may also drop it down. That might please you if that happens.

But I can tell you this much, the folks that I represent in my district came to the open meetings, and their concern was gasoline prices just like you're saying about your district.

They are also worried about health care costs and whether or not they will be able to survive. Small business folks are literally losing their business because they cannot afford to keep up the cost both of fuel and of health care costs.

We have a lot of problems we need to address, but blaming someone and saying the last 16 months we have brought to this Nation the high gasoline prices, Democrat leaders have, to me stretches the truth a little bit to where that rubber band breaks.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. KUCINICH.

This amendment furthers the overall goals of the BEACH Act in providing the public with greater amounts of information on the quality of their favorite beach locations, including any potential sources of contamination that may make these beaches unsafe for swimming.

The gentleman's amendment would require States and local governments that choose to implement contaminant source identification and tracking programs to ensure that any information gathered on potential sources of contamination be made public. Since, I would surmise, that many potential sources of contamination of coastal recreation waters come from failing wastewater or stormwater infrastructure systems, this increased public awareness on their location and relevance in protecting water quality is important.

I have often heard it said that "out of sight" means "out of mind." This is especially true of the deplorable condition of our Nation's wastewater treatment infrastructure. By providing the public with direct links between the source of the contamination, and the real world implications of potential infrastructure failure, I only hope that we will rekindle interest in reinvesting in our Nation's infrastructure.

This amendment provides yet another avenue for increasing public awareness and pressure on improving our infrastructure, and in turn, improving our overall environment and safeguards for human health.

I urge adoption of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 7, AS MODIFIED, OFFERED BY MR. KIRK

Mr. KIRK. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 7 offered by Mr. KIRK:

Redesignate sections 9 and 10 of the bill as sections 10 and 11, respectively.

After section 8 of the bill, insert the following:

**SEC. 9. TREATMENT OF MERCURY AS PATHOGEN INDICATOR.**

Section 406 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1346) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(j) TREATMENT OF MERCURY AS PATHOGEN INDICATOR.—For purposes of monitoring and notification programs under this section, mercury shall be treated as a pathogen indicator.".

Mr. KIRK. Madam Chairman, in conjunction with the majority and minority, I ask unanimous consent that we consider the modified amendment that I have at the desk.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will report the modification.

The Clerk read as follows:

Modification to amendment No. 7 offered by Mr. KIRK:

Strike the text of the amendment and insert the following:

**SEC. 11. MONITORING PROTOCOL FOR MERCURY.**

(a) REVIEW AND UPDATE OF EXISTING MONITORING PROTOCOLS.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall review and update existing monitoring protocols as necessary for mercury affecting the coastal recreation waters of the Great Lakes.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS ON TESTING.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Administrator shall develop updated recommendations on testing for the presence of mercury affecting the coastal recreation waters of the Great Lakes, including the presence of mercury in Great Lakes sediment and fish tissue.

(c) PUBLICATION OF WATER QUALITY CRITERIA.—Nothing in this section shall delay the schedule for publication of new or revised water quality criteria as required by section 304(a)(9) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1314(a)(9)).

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

Mr. KIRK (during the reading). Madam Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the amendment is modified.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIRK. Madam Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Beach Protection Act because it is critical that we protect millions of Americans who use the public beaches each day, like the ones in my own congressional district. Unfortunately, many beaches go unmonitored or face severe delays and do not receive testing results in time to protect the public health. Without proper monitoring and notification, thousands of citizens risk illness due to growing contamination. This legislation provides authority for funding for rapid testing of recreational waters that can save millions from unnecessary beach closings or even hospital bills.

We must not ignore also far more dangerous toxins which have far-reaching effects on the most vulnerable members of our society—our children. Mercury pollution is a serious problem for my district in Northern Illinois, as well as nationwide.

I would like to present to the House a chart which shows mercury depositions for 2001. What it shows here is a picture of both the West Coast, the Midwest and the East as mercury hot spots where further monitoring should be used to protect the public health.

In my own area, the Chicago region, other data shows we could be one of the hottest mercury hot spots in the country. Today there are more than 700 bodies of water throughout the United States that are impaired by mercury. The Great Lakes are particularly vulnerable to this exposure as 36 percent of mercury emissions are generated in the Great Lakes region. In fact, there are currently no less than 18 separate fish advisories for mercury contamination in our region. And yet the Great Lakes remain a source of food, and especially drinking water, for 30 million Americans. This undoubtedly contributes to the recent estimate by the U.S. Government that more than 300,000 American babies are born each year with a risk of mercury pollution.

I will note in my own State of Illinois, pregnant women test 14 times above the background level for mercury in their blood.

We are just at the beginning of learning what mercury deposited in our waterways are doing from American coal plants and other industrial sources.

Some scientists estimate also that 36 percent of mercury settling into U.S. ground soil and waterways comes from Asia, particularly China. We know that China is home to 20 of the 30 most polluted cities on the planet, and their extensive use of coal affects their water and their air in their mercury pollution.

In light of the newly discovered data on global mercury sources and new atmospheric modeling methods, it is critical that we revise the outdated monitoring and testing procedures for this dangerous toxin.

My amendment would require the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to update existing monitoring protocols and develop updated testing recommendations for the existence of mercury in the Great Lakes coastal waters, sediments and fish. Funds for this effort would not come out of scarce resources set aside for beach monitoring and testing.

To the chairman and the ranking member who have helped me out with this, I want to thank you for your leadership on this and helping support this amendment in protecting the Great Lakes.

As we enter the summer months when mercury deposition is the highest, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment to help safeguard the future of our generations and the Midwest's most precious natural resource.

Mr. Chairman, I would seek to break up the partisan tone of this debate and offer this bipartisan amendment because I think looking at increased testing and protocols to monitor mercury pollution, making sure especially in the Great Lakes, the source of drinking water for 30 million Americans is safe, we should adopt this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN (Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee). The gentlewoman

from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

MS. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the substitute amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK). The substitute amendment directs the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to review existing monitoring protocols for mercury in the recreational waters of the Great Lakes and to make recommendations on their potential revision.

As the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment learned at a hearing early last year, mercury is a significant concern in a majority of the United States. For example, according to EPA, 44 States have fish consumption advisories for mercury. More telling, the entirety of the Great Lakes basin is currently under a fish advisory for toxic chemicals, including the presence of mercury.

I applaud the actions of the gentleman from Illinois to bring greater attention to the threat of mercury contamination. Given what we have known about the health impacts of mercury, a mercury advisory in today's day and age is wrong and it needs to be addressed.

This substitute amendment will require the administrator to review and where necessary revise and monitor protocols for detecting the presence of mercury. The amendment directs the administrator to pay particular attention to the presence of mercury in the sediment of the Great Lakes and the fish tissues.

In addition, this amendment provides an additional authorization of appropriations for this review and update. Funding for this study is not authorized from funds made available under section 406(i) for implementation of monitoring and notification programs by State and local governments, nor from EPA funding to implement the BEACH program.

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Finally, this amendment includes a savings clause that insures that this additional study will not delay EPA's ongoing efforts to publish new or revised water quality criteria as required by Section 304(a)(9) of the Clean Water Act.

I support the substitute amendment, and urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. I thank the Chair. And I appreciate the gentleman from Tennessee having come to the floor a moment ago to address this energy and the like. To be honest, that's the only way that we are going to be able to find solutions to these major issues that we need to address, whether it is the Iraq war situation, or this major issue of energy costs in this country.

Obviously, we have been able to find common ground when it comes to, I would catch it, slightly less significant issues dealing with beach quality and what have you. Now if we can find that same comity when it comes to the Iraq war and energy, then we'll be moving in the right direction.

That being said, the gentleman can't disagree with some of the facts that have been set out here for the last evening, and this will probably be my last comment for the night; and that is that the Democrat majority, prior to becoming the majority, did point out some problems with regard to energy prices prior to coming into the majority.

And the gentleman from Georgia went through a litany of quotes from Democrat leadership citing the problem, and making a promise that the Democrat majority had a solution to those problems. I'm eager to see what those solutions are. I would like to extend a hand across the other side of the aisle to work with them, if those solutions were ever forthcoming.

As I indicated in my last comments, the only proposals that I've seen so far from the other side of the aisle have been restrictive or increasing to the cost of energy. They were the two or three tax increases that I ran through before, the 50 cent increase per gallon gasoline Federal gas hike proposed, the $150 billion war surtax or the 5 cent increase per gallon tax hike, all proposals from the other side of the aisle. None of those things will lower the cost of energy. All of those things will raise the price that you and I and everyone else have to pay at the pump.

What we may want to do is look to see what other countries are doing with regard to energy costs in general. Let me just run down real quickly some of these.

Over in China, three or four things. One, China has expanded its natural gas infrastructure by constructing pipe lines. Unfortunately, the Democrats have opposed natural gas production in this country and natural gas infrastructure improvements in the country in general. And the chart that we had up previously showed that as far as offshore.

Secondly, China is rapidly expanding its refining capacity. Unfortunately, Democrats have repeatedly voted against expanding America's refinery capacity. I don't think we've had any new refineries built in some several decades.

Thirdly, China is ambitiously developing its nuclear power energy which plans to spend $50 billion on 30 additional nuclear reactors within the next 15 years. Again, unfortunately, Democrats consider the notion of increasing nuclear power generation in the U.S. basically as off the table.

And finally, China's planning on constructing many new large scale hydro electric projects over the forecasted period, including an 18.2 gigawatt Three Gorges dam project which is expected to come in in 2009. Again, unfortunately, Democrats have actively opposed new hydro electric power plants here in the United States.

So I will end where I began. The gentleman said that we should be concerned about how much money is going to Saudi Arabia and Dubai and all of the things that they're able to build with that oil. I agree.

I wish all of our American tax dollars and American gasoline dollars that we pay at the pump weren't going overseas. But right now, 63 percent of our energy sources are dependent on foreign sources of energy and growing more every year.

What we need to do is make America more self-reliant when it comes to energy. You do that by what we've talked about all evening. Don't tax it, don't raise the cost of production, don't restrict the production here in the United States, don't restrict the ideas of new efficient energy alternatives and the like, but allow it to grow using ingenuity of Americans insight and entrepreneurs, so that we do not have to be more dependent every day on foreign, unreliable sources that are a threat to this country, are a threat to our national security, and put our young men and women in harm's way on the points with regard to war, as the gentleman from Tennessee was pointing out.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), as modified.

The amendment, as modified, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MS. RICHARDSON

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 11 offered by Ms. RICHARDSON:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

**SEC. 11. NATIONAL LIST OF BEACHES.**

Section 406(g)(3) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1346(g)(3)) is amended by striking ''The Administrator'' and all that follows through the period and inserting ''Within 12 months after the date of the enactment of the Beach Protection Act of 2008, and biennially thereafter, the Administrator shall update the list described in paragraph (1).''

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Chairman, when Congress passed the BEACH Act in 2000, it took an important step towards keeping Americans, of which a large majority are ill-prepared children, away from polluted beaches. As a proud Californian, I understand how critical clean and safe beaches are to

our State's health, identity and economy. As with airplanes or even drinking water, Americans trust our government to alert them in the event of a safety concern.

I thank Chairman OBERSTAR, and also our great subcommittee chairwoman, Ms. JOHNSON from Texas, for shepherding this important public health and safety bill to the House floor.

This is a vital reauthorization that includes an expansion of the BEACH program by increasing the authorization level by $10 million. This program is most effective when properly administered if the program maintains adequate funding levels and a product result that demonstrates that the resources are well utilized.

The Environmental Protection Agency reported that States significantly increased the number of beaches they monitored from approximately 1,000 in 1997 to more than 3,500 in 2004. There are over 6,099 beaches nationwide.

When the EPA became lenient in the beach monitoring back in 2006, the Natural Resources Defense Council filed a lawsuit against the EPA to protect our public health concerns. Ongoing or periodic monitoring is crucial to maintaining a safe environment.

In my area alone, in Los Angeles County, beach closings due to hazardous bacterial contamination dramatically jumped 15 percent in 2005. During the course of that year, beaches nationwide were closed or posted with health advisories 20,000 times.

Providing sufficient funding to the EPA for testing is only one part of this equation, however. To ensure the American public receives this beach quality information, Congress must compel the EPA to publish comprehensive results that are easily accessible on-line.

This amendment will reinstitute the requirement from the original BEACH Act that would enable the EPA to publish a complete list of every public beach, whether or not it is monitored or not. The EPA's 2004 ''National List of Beaches'' was an important resource for beachgoers, and this amendment will ensure that the EPA updates and maintains the list every 2 years for the safety of all Americans and visitors alike.

Families, fishermen and sports enthusiasts deserve to know whether the EPA is fulfilling its obligation to protect our community beaches. The Richardson amendment will make sure that this happens.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this nonpartisan amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Arkansas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I think that the gentlelady from California has a very good amendment. We certainly support it.

I think that requiring the EPA to update the national list of beaches program to alert the public to beaches that had occurrences of pollution is an excellent idea. I think it's a good tool in Congress' toolbox, as we exercise oversight over the EPA's BEACH program.

So I would urge Members to support the amendment.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California, Ms. RICHARDSON.

The Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act (BEACH Act) was signed into law on October 10, 2000, as a means to reduce the risk of illness to users of the Nation's recreational waters.

The BEACH Act requires states, tribes, and territories to identify their coastal recreation waters and to report on monitoring activities at those beaches. EPA compiled into a single list all of the information submitted by states and territories to EPA as of December 31, 2003.

This National List of Beaches provides the only nationwide assessment of the extent of beach monitoring across the country. The requirements for EPA to create and periodically maintain this list were included as part of the BEACH Act to help EPA determine how to better implement the Act, and minimize the potential human health effects from coming into contact with contaminated waters.

The National List of Beaches also provides information to the public about beaches in their state.

Unfortunately, this important list has only once been published by EPA—in March of 2004. Since that time, we have little information on whether progress is being made towards full implementation of the BEACH Act. No additional nationwide assessments have been conducted to determine whether individual states or local governments are making improvements in the number and quality of local beach monitoring and notification programs.

By requiring EPA to revise this list every two years, we will halve a better idea of the progress that is being made to safeguard public health, and ensure that a trip to the beach will not also result in a trip to the emergency room.

I applaud the efforts of our Committee colleague, Ms. RICHARSON, for offering this amendment, and I strongly support its adoption.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. INSLEE

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 12 offered by Mr. INSLEE:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

**SEC. 11. IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON POLLUTION OF COASTAL RECREATION WATERS.**

(a) STUDY.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall conduct a study on the long-term impact of climate change on pollution of coastal recreation waters.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

(2) INFORMATION ON POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT IMPACTS.—The report shall include information on potential contaminant impacts on ground and surface water resources as well as ecosystem and public health in coastal communities.

(3) MONITORING.—The report shall address monitoring required to document and assess changing conditions of coastal water resources, recreational waters, and ecosystems and review the current ability to assess and forecast impacts associated with long-term change.

(4) FEDERAL ACTIONS.—The report shall highlight necessary Federal actions to help advance the availability of information and tools to assess and mitigate these effects in order to protect public and ecosystem health.

(5) CONSULTATION.—In developing the report, the Administrator shall work in consultation with agencies active in the development of the National Water Quality Monitoring Network and the implementation of the Ocean Research Priorities Plan and Implementation Strategy.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of an amendment I'm offering with Mr. VAN HOLLEN. The amendment is quite simple. It will simply direct the EPA to report to Congress on how to mitigate the effects of climate change on recreation at our Nation's beaches.

I'm particularly partial to islands and beaches. I live in one, Bainbridge Island, Washington. It's a great place.

And like others, I'm concerned about the impact of global climate change on rising sea levels that can impact the quality of our beaches. And we need to get to the bottom of what those impacts will be so that we can help local communities respond to rising beaches.

Scientists have agreed that sea level is already rising across our coast. In my neck of the woods, the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group has predicted that sea levels in Puget Sound could rise by as much as 50 inches by 2100. This could have a $1 billion impact on waterfront investment.

Rising sea levels intensify flooding, we know. They intensify storms and the erosion associated with them. And they can impact the water quality of our Nation's beaches as they impact sewage disposal systems.

Already, under BEACH Act programs, the EPA does collaborate with government agencies to predict where and when this pollution can occur. My amendment simply directs the EPA to report to Congress on how climate change may exacerbate those problems.

We know how important recreation is on our beaches. In fact, beaches are the leading tourist destination. I was surprised to learn 85 percent of all U.S. tourism is associated with beaches.

They contribute over $700 billion each year to the GDP, and that's not just the Beach Boys.

In 2006, recreation brought in $948 million, just the Olympic and Kitsap Peninsulas where I live. So knowing about the problems we're going to have with climate change locally is a boost. You don't have to live on an island or near a beach to recognize that.

I want to thank the Chair, Mr. PALLONE, and the Chair for their help in drafting and accepting this amendment. And I hope you'll join me in supporting a very commonsense measure to help respond to these problems we know we're going to have. And I hope we can prevent them. But we're going to have some of them no matter what we do.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HOLT. I move to strike the requisite number of words.

The Acting CHAIRMAN (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas). The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment offered by my colleague from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) to the Beach Protection Act.

For the last 20 years, my colleagues in the scientific community have issued warnings that the release of greenhouse gases is altering the Earth's climate in ways that are both expensive and deadly. And nowhere is this change more evident than in the changing habitat of our world's oceans.

Science has demonstrated that global change is already causing the sea level to rise. It is predicted that in my home State of New Jersey, the sea level rise will cause a loss of 7 inches to 2 feet of our coastline by the end of the decade.

Of course, changes in the acidity of the ocean from increased carbon is another effect. And as the oceans continue to change, factors that are known to affect water quality along our coastline, such as flooding, storms and erosion, will, of course, occur.

The Inslee amendment simply requires the Environmental Protection Agency to study the effects of the global climate change on our Nation's coastlines. The amendment will help States, local communities and Congress better address the challenges, prepare for the changes, and it will call attention to the steps we need to take to prevent further damage. So I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I commend my colleague for preparing and introducing this amendment.

I yield back.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. RICHARDSON. I rise in support of this amendment. Mr. INSLEE's amendment calls for the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study on the long-term impact of climate change on pollution of coastal recreational waters. The study would include information on the potential contaminant impacts on ground and surface water resources, as well as the impacts on ecosystems and public health in coastal communities like mine.

□ 1845

The amendment also requires the report to highlight necessary Federal actions to help advance the availability of information and tools to assess and mitigate effects in order to protect our public and the ecosystem's health.

Our coastal waters are hubs of recreation and commerce for all of our Nation's individuals. It is with this in mind that the original BEACH Act was passed. We can expect many changes to occur in a warming world. Amongst these there will be, and it should be no surprise, that changes to our temperature and chemistry of our beaches in coastal waters have already gone into effect. Especially because so many children recreate in these waters, it is imperative to determine whether the contamination that already exists will become more hazardous to the health of our beach users.

I encourage my fellow Members to join with me in support of Mr. INSLEE's amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Chairman, I'm glad we are talking about healthy beaches. As I said earlier, one of the most damaging aspects about healthy beaches is an oil spill, and one way to limit the risk of oil spills is to become more self-reliant, and I know my colleague would appreciate it because he does a lot of renewal, and it's great work, but renewable alone can't fill the future demand. In fact, it really only nibbles around the edges.

I'm also glad we're opening up the discussion to climate change because the reality is is that climate change will cost the American public, and it's going to cost us big bucks. And those of us on our side who are willing to go into debate just hope that there's some honest discussion on the real costs needed.

I'm not a big cap-and-trade guy. I think it's a game by which we're going to play with the consumers hiding the real cost. Chairman DINGELL, intellectually honest, said, let's add 50 cents a gallon to gasoline to help pay for the climate change cost. He's at least being intellectually honest because he's going to go and help the debate saying there is going to be a cost, we're going to have to pay for it, let's add 50 cents to a gallon of gas. Now, a gallon of gas is $3.50; that would make it $4. We know it's going to get to $4 this summer. That means a gallon of gas will be $4.50. That's the challenge.

The California Public Utility Commission on electricity generation said, let's add a 20 to 30 percent surcharge on our electricity bill. That's the cost we're going to incur to comply with climate change.

So, again, we're asking that there be a great debate on climate change, and as we're going to bring in money to help address this, that the people who are going to have to pay these costs know that there's going to be costs. And again, Chairman DINGELL is being intellectually honest. The Public Utility Commission of California is being intellectually honest. And we are going to address that.

Because here is the problem. When the Democrats took office, the price of a barrel of crude oil was $58 a barrel. Now what is it today? I think this is actually wrong. It's $114 a barrel. $114.

Now, I came down here on a 1-minute this week, got some clips. Here is a clip from my district, Independent Truckers Join Strike. Independent Truckers Join Strike. You want to know why the aviation industry is going bust, all of these low-cost airlines? High fuel costs.

So if we want healthy beaches, and we don't want oil spills, we have to develop the resources that we have. We have a solution. One that the Democrat majority is unwilling to bring to the floor; although if they did, we would pass it. I could guarantee we would pass it. And that's using great natural resources in the only coal basin, the high plains of Montana, Wyoming, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio. We know we have coal under the ground, and we know that we can turn that coal into synthetic fuel. Low-cost fuel, abundant supply, and we know that we can refine this coal using biomass and carbon sequestration cleaner than current crude oil refineries.

And where are our crude oil refineries? They're on the coast. Most of them are in the gulf coast. That's a great place to protect our healthy beaches, by having all of these refineries on the coast. And we saw what Katrina did. Katrina caused a disruption in cost. Katrina caused obviously outages in these refineries. This would give us the opportunity to have refineries located in the heartland with the commodity product of coal right there.

Dig the coal, American jobs; build the refinery, American jobs; refine the oil into fuel, American jobs; put it in a pipeline to the aviation industry, American jobs. What is clearer than that? It's a great success. But we can't get that moved to the floor. So what do we have? No supply, $113 a barrel.

Now I have read the quotes from the Democratic leadership. They had a plan in 2006 to lower gas prices. I have read the quotes. No one has disputed them. And guess what? You have only raised gas prices. And guess what is going to happen this summer? Gas prices are only going to go up higher. When you have no plan, you plan to fail.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the Congressman INSLEE's amendment to H.R. 2537, reauthorization of the

BEACH Act. This amendment calls for a study of the long-term impacts of climate change on the pollution of coastal waters.

At its center, the intent of the BEACH Act is to provide information and notification for the public with regard to the safety of the coastal waters they use for recreation. It is well-known that climate change may cause significant changes to ecosystems, hydrology, and water temperature. What we are unsure of, however, is the extent to which these changes will occur, and also—importantly—the effect this will have on public health.

For example, if coastal water temperatures increase and freshwater inflows decrease, does this result in a more hospitable environment for pathogens in our coastal waters? Because the public—including children—are in direct contact with these waters, it is of the utmost importance that we have a better understanding of what a warming environment means for public health.

The Transportation & Infrastructure Committee included a similar provision in last summer's energy bill. This program called for a National Academy of Science study to be conducted on the impacts of climate change on water quality, and subsequent ramifications of these changes on the Clean Water Act. While this provision did not survive conference, I am pleased that Mr. INSLEE's amendment picks up in a similar vein.

I call on other members to join me in supporting passage of this amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MRS. MCCARTHY OF NEW YORK

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Chairman, I have an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 3 offered by Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

**SEC. 11. PRESENCE OF PHARMACEUTICALS AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS IN COASTAL RECREATION WATERS.**

(a) STUDY.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with appropriate government agencies (including the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences), shall conduct a study of the presence of pharmaceuticals and personal care products (in this section referred to as ''PPCPs'') in coastal recreation waters .

(b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study under subsection (a), the Administrator shall—

(1) identify PPCPs that have been detected in the waters of the United States and the levels at which such PPCPs have been detected; and

(2) identify the sources of PPCPs in the waters of the United States.

(c) EXAMINATION OF WASTEWATER EFFLUENT AND RUN-OFF FROM AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.—In identifying sources of PPCPs under subsection (b)(2), the Administrator shall examine wastewater effluent and run-off from agricultural products.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, in order to provide a better understanding of the effects of PPCPs in the waters of the United States on human health, aquatic animal health, and aquatic wildlife, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the study conducted under this section.

(e) PHARMACEUTICALS AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS DEFINED.—In this section, the terms ''pharmaceuticals and personal care products'' and ''PPCPs'' mean products used by individuals for personal health or cosmetic reasons or used by agribusiness to enhance growth or health of livestock.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Chairman, I would first like to congratulate the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Mr. OBERSTAR; the subcommittee chairwoman, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON; and the sponsor of the bill, Mr. PALLONE, for bringing forth such important legislation. The bill will help ensure that our beaches are safe for swimming as we enter the summer months.

Today, I will be offering an amendment to H.R. 2537, the Beach Protection Act of 2007, in order to raise awareness of Congress about the presence of pharmaceuticals in our Nation's drinking water. We must begin to better understand this important issue.

At the end of the debate, I intend to withdraw this amendment.

A recent Associated Press study brought to life the fact that pharmaceutical products have been found in the drinking water supply of at least 41 million Americans. In my State of New York, health officials found heart medicine, infection fighters, estrogen, mood stabilizers and tranquilizers in Upstate water supply. Six pharmaceuticals were found in the drinking water right here in Washington, D.C.

We don't know how the pharmaceutical enters into the water supply. But it's likely that some medications that are not fully absorbed by the body may have passed into the water through human waste. In some other cases, unused pills may have simply been flushed down the toilet.

Additionally, some agricultural products and medications may have run off into the groundwater supply.

In addition to antibiotics and steroids, EPA has identified over 100 individual pharmaceuticals and personal care products in environmental samples and drinking water. Wastewater treatment plants appear to be unable to completely remove pharmaceuticals from the water. The presence of the pharmaceuticals in the water raises serious questions about the effects on human health and wildlife.

My amendment would require EPA to conduct a study on the presence and source of pharmaceuticals and personal care products in coastal recreation waters.

Pharmaceuticals and personal care products include prescription and over-the-counter therapeutical drugs, veterinary drugs, fragrances, lotions, and cosmetics, as well as products used to enhance growth or health of livestock. The report will be used as part of the government efforts to better understand the effects pharmaceuticals in our waters have on human health and aquatic wildlife.

Unfortunately, I recognize that this bill is not in the proper venue to adequately address safe drinking water. Therefore, I will withdraw the amendment shortly.

Instead, I am drafting a stand-alone legislation on this issue and will call for congressional hearings so that we can better understand the problems associated with pharmaceuticals in our Nation's drinking water supply.

We need to know how the pharmaceuticals are entering the water supply, how much is in the water, what are the effects of human health and adequate plant life, what is the best way to dispose of pharmaceuticals, and how should we treat water that has been contaminated with pharmaceuticals and personal care products.

It is vital that Congress take up and champion the cause of keeping our coastal recreation and drinking water safe. This is a public health issue. And we must act before the presence of pharmaceuticals reaches crisis levels.

Congresswoman RICHARDSON, will the committee work with me on legislation to address the presence of pharmaceuticals and other care products in our Nation's water supply and help further our understanding of the effects on the human health and wildlife?

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Chairman, I understand that the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) will be withdrawing this amendment, but I commend her consideration of this very pressing matter. And it is one that I look forward to working with her on in the future.

Since at least 2002, we've known that a wide variety of chemicals, including pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and others such as fire retardants, are ending up in our Nation's water as you just expressed. More recently, the Associated Press found that the drinking water supplies of 24 of 28 municipalities tested had pharmaceuticals present. While the levels of these largely unregulated chemicals are low, their presence raises a number of troubling issues such as the long-term human health impacts on adults and any different impacts on children.

It is fair to ask how do these pollutants get into our streams and drinking water supplies in the first place. I understand that the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment may further this issue over the upcoming months and examine it in great detail with you.

I look forward to working with the gentlewoman from New York and other

Members who have raised concerns about these reports on pharmaceuticals and other chemicals in our Nation's water.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. I thank Congresswoman RICHARDSON for her assistance and again congratulate her on her leadership.

At this time, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the amendment is withdrawn.

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ELLSWORTH) having assumed the chair, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2537) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act relating to beach monitoring, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 1083, she reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 2537, BEACH PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in engrossment of H.R. 2537, the Clerk be authorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, cross-references and to make other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to accurately reflect the actions of this House.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1900

## JUDGMENT DAY

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, today, the Supreme Court declared that lethal injection is a constitutional form of execution under the eighth amendment. The unofficial moratorium on the death penalty across this Nation is now over.

Two death row killers argued that lethal injection was cruel and unusual punishment. I was present at the Supreme Court today when in a 7–2 opinion the Court rejected the challenges of these two outlaws. They are both from Kentucky. One is Ralph Baze. He murdered a sheriff and a deputy sheriff 16 years ago when they were trying to serve him a warrant. Sixteen years later, Baze is still living while the two officers' families wait for justice.

The other killer, Thomas Bowling, murdered Tina and Edward Early outside their dry cleaning business 17 years ago. Bowling also shot the Early's 2-year-old son, but he survived, although he is an orphan today.

Baze and Bowling argued that there were risks of pain from lethal injection. Of course neither one considered the pain that they inflicted on their victims or their victims' families.

The Supreme Court rightfully decided that lethal injection is constitutional. Baze and Bowling earned the punishment that the juries imposed. Justice can be delayed no longer. It's time for both of these killers to have their judgment day.

And that's just the way it is.

## TURNING OUR BACKS ON COLOMBIA

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

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my concern over an action taken by the majority in this House this past week when this House, the majority of the House, the Democratic majority, voted to turn its back on the Republic of Colombia.

You know, when you ask the question of all of Latin America, who is our Nation's best friend, America's best friend in Latin America, everyone says the democratically elected government of Colombia. And when people ask who is America's most reliable ally when it comes to counternarcotics and counterterrorism in Latin America, everyone says it is the democratically elected government of the Republic of Colombia.

Ladies and gentlemen, the damage that was done to the image of the United States is going to take us a long time to recover as a result of this House voting to turn its back on America's best friend in Latin America, the democratically elected Government of the Republic of Colombia.

## HONORING DR. BERTRAM W. COFFER

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

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize a pillar in the medical community, as well as a friend, Dr. Bertram W. Coffer, who recently passed away.

Coffer's medical career began in 1975 when he joined Raleigh Anesthesia Associates. He was 34 years old and married to the former Jeanne Gardner, a registered nurse he had met in a Duke University Medical Center operating room while working as a scrub nurse to pay his way through NC State University.

He later served in the U.S. Navy as a Lieutenant Commander, had 2 years of surgery residency at Duke, and completed his residency in anesthesiology at UNC-Chapel Hill. Coffer went on to become not only a certified anesthesiologist, but someone who brought added value to the care of all patients.

Bert instituted many positive changes in the way his practice operated in the community hospital. Today, the American Society of Critical Care Anesthesiologists touts the Raleigh Practice Center/Critical Health Systems model, whose essence reflects one of Bert Coffer's philosophies, which was, ''Act like a physician first, and always make yourself indispensable and worthwhile.'' Certainly, the redefinition of anesthesiology by Coffer and RPC/Critical Health Systems helped change the future of the specialty.

What a dear friend and wonderful human being. Our thoughts, prayers and sympathy go out to Jeanne, his wife, children Bert, Natalie and Holly, and all their families. We will miss you, Bert.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize a pillar in the medical community as well as a friend, Dr. Bertram W. Coffer, 66, who passed away on Thursday, April 10, 2008, at Rex Hospital. He was a native of Sanford, and predeceased by his parents, Dalton and Virginia Coffer, and a sister, Carol Thompson.

Bert was a dedicated and caring physician for 43 years serving at Rex Hospital for the last 33 years. He was a graduate of NCSU in 1964, UNC Medical School in 1969. He completed a surgical residency at Duke from 1969 until 1971 as well as an anesthesia residency at UNC in 1975. He began practicing in 1975 when he joined Dr. Lewis Gaskins and Raleigh Anesthesia Associates, which he eventually incorporated and developed into Critical Health Systems. One of his guiding philosophies was ''Act like a physician first and always make yourself indispensable and worthwhile''. He had a vision for the advancement of anesthesiology into new areas such as intensive care, critical care, pain management, and total patient care. He served as CEO from 1975–1996. He was a member of numerous boards, including the Rex Hospital Executive Committee and the Ravenscroft Board of Directors. He was also president of the Royster Medical Society in 1983 and the president of the Wake County Medical Society in 1986. In addition, he was an active member of the American Society of Anesthesiologists for over

30 years, serving on many committees and receiving the North Carolina Society of Anesthesiology's Distinguished Service Award. In 1974 he worked with Project Hope at the University of West Indies in Jamaica. During the Vietnam war era he was commissioned as a Lt. Commander and stationed at Jacksonville Naval Air Station in Florida as an anesthesiologist. As an NCSU alumni he was still active and established the Caldwell-Coffer scholarship.

His strong commitment to his country led him to a very active role in politics and public policy.

## RECOGNIZING THE SISTERS OF MERCY ON THEIR 150TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today asking you to join me in recognizing the 150th anniversary of the Sisters of Mercy of Buffalo, New York.

The Sisters of Mercy were founded in Dublin, Ireland, in 1831 by Catherine McAuley. The first order was formed in the United States in 1843 in the city of Pittsburgh.

The Sisters of Mercy came to Buffalo, New York in 1858. And since that time, from a small teaching order of Mercy nuns, they established a Catholic school system in Buffalo, New York, hospitals where they ministered to our sick, schools where they taught our children and provided an extraordinary example of compassion and love throughout the western New York community.

The Sisters of Mercy are also doing extraordinary humanitarian work throughout the entire world in very volatile places like Africa and the Middle East. And the Sisters of Mercy were represented here today in our Nation's Capital at the first papal visit of Pope Benedict to the United States.

Sister Margaret Ann Coughlin, a long-time friend and 50-year member of the Sisters of Mercy, was here today to join in the celebration that this Nation held in welcoming the new Pope to the United States.

The Sisters of Mercy have cared, not only in the United States, but throughout the world, for the despised and the dispossessed. And those who have been forsaken have never been forsaken by the Sisters of Mercy.

A lot of the institutions that they started, schools, hospitals, are now run by lay people and also administered by lay people, but what remains, Mr. Speaker, is the constant love and compassion, that principle that was established first and foremost and continues today by the Sisters of Mercy.

## NATIONAL HEALTH CARE DECISIONS DAY

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise on National Health Care Decisions Day in support of health organizations all over the country who are educating the public about what it means to have an advance directive, or a living will.

Mr. Speaker, advance directives allow individuals to maintain control of their health care decisions even at the end of their lives, regardless of the circumstances that they may face at that time. It is crucial for individuals to understand the options that presently exist so that they may convey their end-of-life medical wishes accurately and effectively. Accordingly, I have introduced a resolution, H. Con. Res 323, supporting the goals of the National Health Care Decisions Day, which has garnered broad bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, this bill does not express what those end-of-life medical decisions should be, rather, it simply encourages Americans to educate themselves about these very difficult issues and to talk about them with their loved ones.

I want to thank the more than 100 Members of Congress who have already joined me in cosponsoring this resolution. And of course I look forward to it being considered on the floor very soon. And I encourage all Americans to set aside time to have what may very well be one of the most important conversations a family can have.

## REMOVAL OF NAMES OF MEMBERS AS COSPONSORS OF H.R. 2833

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove MADELEINE BORDALLO, RON KLEIN and JOHN BARROW from H.R. 2833, the Preexisting Condition Exclusion Patient Protection Act of 2007.

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

There was no objection.

## 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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

## VETERANS CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, occasionally things happen when you're in Congress that make you so angry that you can't hardly stand it.

I got a call this past week, Mr. Speaker, from a friend of mine from my childhood. And her brother is a veteran who was in the veterans hospital, and he was assigned to a community residential care program. That's where they put one of these veterans into a home in a neighborhood with other veterans, and they're supposed to be cared for.

She told me that the place where he was being kept was not clean and that the room he was in had a window that was sealed shut. He took oxygen, and there were no signs or anything that dealt with the oxygen that he was taking. A dog in the house came into his room and chewed through his oxygen tube. He had to keep his door shut, so it virtually made him a prisoner in this house.

There were four veterans in this house. And the attitude of the person who ran this home was not anything that you would call conducive to good care. The two sisters of his were very, very upset and they thought that he shouldn't be kept in this place, and they asked me if I would check into it. So I called the caseworker, a lady named Pat Erp, and she told me that everything out there was fine. I said I wanted to see for myself. So I went out to the house. By the time I had arrived, they had contacted the woman who owned the house, and she was very hostile and said she wouldn't allow me, even though I was a Member of Congress, to take a look at the circumstances under which Mr. English was living, that's my buddy from childhood, Paul English. I didn't want to press the case, so I called the director of the Roudebush Hospital in Indianapolis. He wasn't in, but I did get his assistant director, who was very nice, and he agreed to have somebody come out there and take a look at the situation.

He came out with two ladies who were nurses there. And my childhood friend's sister went into the house with him to try to get his clothes and everything out of there so they could take him to her house until they found another place for him to be kept.

They were hostile, the two nurses from the Roudebush Hospital were hostile. They evidently changed the cord on his oxygen equipment, and they said that nothing like that happened, and yet his sister saw that it happened and they were very upset.

The room in the house was not clean. He had two towels in his room, both of which had holes in them, obviously older. And on the weekends, the caseworker said that the woman who took care of these veterans who were in her care would leave for the weekend and left a pot of food on the stove.

This isn't the way that our veterans ought to be taken care of when they're in a community residential care program, so I decided to pursue it further.

And I got a call today and I returned the call of a lady named Phyllis Beamon, who is the head of the Extended Care Unit at the Indianapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Roudebush Hospital today. And she indicated that everything was fine and that they've used this house and this caregiver since 1983. And I could only imagine what other veterans had to live with who lived in this house since 1983 and were given this kind of ''care.''

I can't tell you how this affected me. I served on the Veterans Affairs Committee for 10 years. And I had heard stories like this before, but I always felt that the veterans were getting the quality of care that we were paying for as taxpayers, and they were being taken care of. And yet my friend from my childhood was being mistreated, in my opinion.

His sister finally got him out of there and took him to her house. And the day after she took him to her house, because of the stress he was under, he had a heart attack. He went to the hospital and they put two stints in him and he did survive.

Don't misunderstand, Mr. Speaker, I think the people that serve in our veterans hospitals for the most part do an outstanding job. The nurses and the doctors who serve our veterans do a good job, but there are occasions when the care is not just less than adequate, it's almost criminally inadequate.

□ 1915

And this is one of the cases that really bothers me. And I'm going to call for a complete investigation of the Community Residential Care program and the people who provide it at the Indianapolis Roudebush Hospital, not because I don't think that most of the people who work at the hospital do a good job, because I think they do, but I think there's a dereliction of responsibility in this Community Residential Care program that needs to be corrected and it needs to be corrected very, very quickly.

We shouldn't have a veteran in a room in a house with the windows sealed so he can't get out in the event of an emergency. We shouldn't have him taking oxygen with a dog that's going to come in the room and chew on his oxygen tube. We shouldn't have people that are leaving the premises unattended with four veterans in there on a weekend and telling their relatives, well, you ought to take him someplace else because there won't be anybody here, and if they are here, they leave the food on the stove so they can get their own food. And these people, many of them, are mentally challenged, like my friend is. He's had some psychological problems.

Let me just say in closing, Mr. Speaker, this is something that needs to be addressed. There needs to be an investigation of the Community Residential Care program in Indianapolis, and if it's like this in other parts of the country, we need to have a national investigation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

## JOSIAH AND KATHLEEN PIERCE, 2007 NATIONAL TREE FARMERS OF THE YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to congratulate two of my constituents, Josiah and Kathleen Pierce of Baldwin, Maine, for being selected as the 2007 National Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year.

Jo and Kathy were selected by the American Tree Farm System for their sustainable management of approximately 2,000 acres of woodland in Southern Maine. Part of the property has been in Jo Pierce's family for six generations.

Jo describes his management philosophy as 100-year thinking about preserving the land's ability to pay for itself by periodic logging and yet maintaining the diversity of plant and animal life that can only be found in and around old forests.

Jo and Kathy's grandchildren represent one measure of long-term management. Jo wants them to marvel at rare and unusual plants and animals that are otherwise frequently lost to short-sighted harvesting. Jo and Kathy keep their property open to the public for hiking, hunting, and other traditional uses. They want other people to experience their own attachment to the land.

The award recognizes Jo and Kathy's civic contributions. In particular, Jo's service as president of the Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine, an influential State advocacy group, demonstrated his interest in sharing his knowledge of sustainable forest management with other owners.

The award is also a tribute to Rene Noel, the forester who advises Jo and Kathy about best practices with respect to management of their land.

Maine is a small State. I am particularly pleased to recognize Jo and Kathy's achievement because Jo and I have known each other for many years. Our fathers were friends. We share a similar perspective about our forest property, and we share the same forester.

In Maine and across the country, much of our forest land is in private hands and often in relatively small lots owned by individuals. The future quality of our forests, and the diversity of life they sustain, depends in large part on the knowledge and commitment of their owners, especially to their ''100-year thinking'' about sustainable management.

Jo and Kathy Pierce, National Outstanding Tree Farmers of 2007, are models for how other forest landowners can use, protect, and preserve for future generations the woodland habitat they own today.

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.)

## SUNSET MEMORIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I stand once again before this body with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is April 16, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that were lost on September 11th, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,868 days since the travesty called Roe v. Wade was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of our own children.

Some of them, Mr. Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over their vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. Each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, ''The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government.''

The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: ''No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law.'' Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is that clarion Declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet Mr. Speaker, another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection that we should have given them.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude, in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard this sunset memorial tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies, that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express, and that 12,868 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust, is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of the innocent unborn. May that be the day we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is April 16, 2008—12,868 days since Roe v. Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children—this, in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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## FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I rise to condemn the fact that former President Jimmy Carter on Friday is going to Damascus to meet with the senior Hamas leader. This is really a disgrace, and, frankly, I think that Jimmy Carter embarrasses himself by doing so.

Hamas is a terrorist organization. It is designated a terrorist organization by both the United States and the European Union. Hamas has been responsible for the murders of 26 Americans, and I would like to read the names and I would like to submit into the RECORD this list of the 26 Americans that have been murdered by Hamas:

Yitzhak Weinstock of California, Nachshon Wachsman of New York, Sara Duker of New Jersey, Matthew Eisenfeld of Connecticut, Ira Weinstein of New York, David Boim of New York, Yael Botwin of California, Leah Stern of New Jersey, Malka Roth of New York, Judith Greenbaum of New Jersey, Marla Bennett of California, Benjamin Blutstein of Pennsylvania, Dina Carter of North Carolina, Janice Ruth Coulter of Massachusetts, David Gritz of Massachusetts, Rabbi Eli Horowitz of Illinois, Dina Horowitz of Florida, Alan Beer of Ohio, Tzvi Goldstein of New York, Goldie Taubenfeld of New York, Shmuel Taubenfeld of New York, Tehilla Nathanson of New York, Yitzhak Reinitz of New York, Mordechai Reinitz of New York, David Applebaum of Ohio, and Nava Applebaum of Ohio.

Twenty-six American citizens killed by Hamas, and yet Jimmy Carter would shake the hand of the leading Hamas terrorist with blood on his hands. Shame on Jimmy Carter.

Today Jimmy Carter was in the West Bank and met with another Hamas leader and laid a wreath at the grave of Yasser Arafat. Isn't that really something?

Hamas does not recognize Israel's right to exist, does not renounce violence and terrorism, and refuses to abide by all previous agreements signed by previous Palestinian Governments. And yet Jimmy Carter would shake the hands of murderers and terrorists with blood dripping from their hands. It's no wonder that the Daily Star in Lebanon has an article today saying ''Jimmy Carter, a Fool on a Fool's Errand.'' It's surely disgraceful. This is a new low.

Jimmy Carter wrote a book, ''Palestine: Peace not Apartheid,'' and fabricated portions in that book. I spoke with the former leader of the Carter Center, who said he was with Jimmy Carter on a number of these meetings and the accounts that Jimmy Carter wrote in his book were absolutely incorrect and falsified because he was in the meetings with Jimmy Carter and took notes.

So I just want to say that I think all freedom-loving people ought to condemn any kind of meetings with terrorists. To meet with terrorists only encourages them to do more terrorism so that they can be players. It's truly a sad day when a former President of the United States will shake hands and greet the leading terrorist, the leader of the leading terrorist organization, Hamas, a man who was responsible for the deaths of 26 Americans, countless more, with blood dripping from his hands. It is truly a shame. I believe that we should all condemn it.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ENGEL. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman for the courage and the leadership that he is providing on the very important issue of standing up for Israel and the right of Israel to survive and how much I have enjoyed working with the gentleman from New York on this issue and for him to come to the floor and make these comments and voice my total agreement with the sentiments that he is stating here tonight.

This is a very, very important issue. Israel is a key ally of the United States in the war on terror. And now is the time for us to stand together with the people of Israel, and I want to commend the gentleman.

Mr. ENGEL. I thank my friend from Florida, and I want to return the compliment. It has been a pleasure working with him in doing everything we can to strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship, two democracies with shared values and shared beliefs, and it's been a pleasure working with my friend from Florida.

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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.)

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SALI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SALI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WELLER of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TANCREDO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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## BUDGET SCHOOL: THE RIGHT TO KNOW HOW WASHINGTON SPENDS YOUR MONEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that our majority has set up this Special Order hour and those of us in the minority have the opportunity to come to claim this time and to talk about issues that are of tremendous importance to us.

Over the past few weeks, some of my colleagues and I have come to the floor on a weekly basis, and we have talked about the Federal budget and what you find in the Federal budget. And, Mr. Speaker, we think that this is a very important thing to do because the budget that the majority has brought to us this year is a rather large budget and it contains the single largest tax increase in history.

So we have spent some time talking with our colleagues and with our constituents about what you actually find in this document. Now, we have called this ''Budget School: The Right to Know How Washington Spends Your Money.'' And, of course, as each week we have talked about this, you can go to the whitehouse.gov Web site and go to OMB and pull down a copy of that budget. Then you can get the Republican response from budget.house.gov/republicans and see what we would do, how we would go about reducing the taxes that you pay and making certain that you, the taxpayer, are keeping more money in your budget.

Now, if you want to watch some of the sessions that we have had on Budget School, you can go to house.gov/blackburn, and there are some Budget School resources there. One of the resources that we have used is the Basics of the Budget Process briefing paper. You can go to the Budget Committee Web site, budget.house.gov/republicans, and be able to get a little bit of information about how we actually go through this, how you look at the different functions of the budget, where you find those, looking at the size of the budget, being able to follow it through, looking at the timeline of the budget and how it goes through the process of the President's presenting his budget, then its going to the committee, how the committee works through the process, brings it to the floor, and then this summer as we start through appropriations and through the earmarking process. And we're going to be back to talk about that part of the budget, the earmarks, as we get into the summer.

Tonight as we talk about process and what has actually happened, I want to welcome to the floor and to this session of Budget School the ranking member, and the ranking member of the Budget Committee is our number one Republican on the Budget Committee, and this is the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RYAN), who is known for being one of the top fiscal conservatives in the U.S. Congress. And I am delighted that he has joined us for Budget School. He is a leader in the Republican Study Committee and a leader on the Budget Committee.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. And I want to just thank you for all the leadership you've shown not only on this issue but that you've shown throughout your career. You fought the income tax in Tennessee. You're here fighting for lower taxes here in the U.S. Capital, and I want to thank you for all the leadership you have shown. And it's a pleasure for me to join you with this.

I thought, given the comments recently by our majority leader about this year's budget, it would be fitting to go through the budget that we're talking about.

The majority leader just said, in one of the publications printed here, that we don't need a budget conference report. Now, that's happened in the past. Under Republican leadership, when the Republicans ran the majority, there were a few times when the Republicans were unable to pass a budget. And you know what happens? No priorities are set. What happens when a budget is not passed, when a budget is not agreed to between the House and the Senate, is that only spending occurs or tax increases. And so there's no chance of fiscal discipline. There's no chance of putting us on a path to balancing the budget, to making sure we get rid of the deficit and pay down the debt. There's just spending. And 1 year into the majority, 1 year into the majority, they're now showing us that just 1 year in the majority they can't pass a budget.

□ 1930

They don't have a plan to get us to a balanced budget. They don't have a map for the fiscal future of our country. But they can come to the floor with spending bills. They can come to the floor to spend more money. And in fact, they do have a plan. And this budget is not necessary to raise taxes.

So I would like to talk about exactly what it is that they have been proposing, what it is our partners on the other side of the aisle have proposed. And if you take a look at what they proposed this year, it is the largest tax increase in American history. The biggest tax increase before this was back in 1993. That was a $241 billion tax increase.

This tax increase that they're proposing now is a $683 billion tax increase. Now that is a big number. People probably want to know what does that number mean? It sounds big. It is going to do a lot.

Well, here is exactly what they mean when they are talking about a $683 billion tax increase. They want ordinary income taxes to go up across the board. So for people who got an income tax rate cut, that is every income taxpayer in 2003, they are going to go up across the board. We are now going to make small businesses who file their taxes as ordinary income taxpayers at about a 40 percent tax rate.

What is interesting is the people in the top tax bracket. We hear a lot of people running for President saying, we want the rich people to pay taxes. Guess what? Seventy-five percent of those who file in the top tax bracket are small businesses. They are not Warren Buffett and Bill Gates. They are small businesses who pay their taxes as individuals because that's the way small business taxation occurs in America.

What's more to the point is the fact that 70 percent of our jobs in America come from small businesses. So they're saying, not only do we propose to raise income taxes across the board for all income taxpayers, also on the engine of economic growth and job creation in America is small businesses. They're also saying, we want to raise taxes on capital gains and dividends. Those are the taxes that affect the value of our 401(k) plans, our IRAs and our pensions.

They also want to bring the death tax back into full force so that you pay taxes not once, not twice, not three times while you are living, but after you die as well. They also want to bring the marriage penalty back. We actually repealed the marriage penalty in 2003. They are proposing that it comes back in so they can spend that money on more government spending programs here in Washington. That hits taxpayers an average of $1,400 per married couple.

They are also proposing to cut the child tax credit in half from $1,000 down to $500. That means a tax increase of $500 per child. And they are also proposing to get rid of the lower income tax bracket, which is a 10 percent bracket, to a 15 percent bracket.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. If the gentleman would yield, I would like to go back to this poster for just one moment.

So what I am hearing you say is you all worked through this process in Budget Committee. And as the budget document came to you from the President, and then you worked it through committee, this is the resolution that the Democrat-led majority came to in that committee, that they didn't want to have a budget that stressed priorities. They didn't want to have a budget that was going to lessen the burden on the taxpayer. What they wanted to do was have a budget that was just going to keep the focus on spending and taking more out of the taxpayers' pocket.

And in order to get to their number, their desired number, the $683 billion tax increase that's going to take place over the next 5 years, what they are willing to do is to have those income tax rates go back up, the marginal rates go to 39.6 percent, which will affect so many of our small businesses.

And as you so rightly stated, 70 percent of all the jobs in the country come out of the small business sector. Capital gains, which are very important to our senior citizens, those that are living on retirement income, who have worked hard, who have built a nest egg, who have saved, we are going to

see that go up to 20 percent. The death tax is one of those taxes that I think is so egregious because you acquire something, you pay tax. You earn the income and you pay tax. You make an acquisition and you pay tax. You maintain it and you are paying tax. Then if you have a capital gain, you pay tax. If you put that aside so that you're leaving something for your family, the government reaches in, the IRS reaches in one more time after you're gone and takes it again. And that is going to go to 55 percent.

For staying married, you are going to end up paying $1,400. You will go from zero back up to $1,400. Your child tax credit, in the meantime, is going to be cut in half. And then that 10 percent bracket, that lowest bracket for those that are working and need to have a break, the government needs to give them a break, they are going to raise that back up to 15 percent. And that is the resolution that the majority chose to move out of the Budget Committee.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. That's right. And what the majority is basically proposing is they are going to deem this budget resolution. They are going to simply say that this is the resolution that we deem to be the case, and this is how we are going to manage the fiscal affairs of this Congress in this session. So we're planning on a big tax increase, and we're expecting it to happen because this is our plan, and now we're going to start spending the money.

And I want to be fair to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. They did bring a budget to the floor that does balance the budget. It does reach a balanced budget by 2012. The way and the method that it reaches a balanced budget by 2012 is this $683 billion tax increase. They only increased spending by $280 billion. But they increased taxes by $683 billion. So by raising taxes even more than all their spending increases, they are actually hitting a balanced budget.

But take a look at who gets affected by this. I mentioned the actual tax policy that they're proposing with their big tax increase to fund some of their spending increases and to actually hit a balanced budget. But let me just say who is going to actually be affected in America by this. One hundred sixty million taxpayers will see an average increase of more than $1,800 per year, $3,000 per taxpayer in Wisconsin, more than 6 million low-income individuals and couples who currently pay no income taxes will no longer be exempt. A family of four earning $50,000 will see their taxes increase by $2,100. Approximately 48 million married couples will face this average tax increase of $3,000 per year. Low-income families with one or two children will no longer be eligible for the refundable tax credit. Roughly 12 million single women with children will see their taxes increase by $1,100 per year. About 18 million seniors will be subjected to tax increases of more than $2,100 per year. And the tax bill for an estimated 27 million small business owners will increase by more than $4,000 each. These are real people, real Americans, really hardworking people struggling to make ends meet.

And these are real tax increases at a time when people are having a hard time just to make ends meet right now because of all these high prices, you see the price of food going up, groceries, gasoline, health care premiums, across the board.

I just did a telephone townhall meeting the other night. So many constituents said, Congressman, my paycheck is not stretching as far. People's paychecks aren't going as far as they used to go. Inflation is before us. The consumer price index just reached a 4.3 percent increase. And so what we see happening right now is with all these price increases in gas, groceries and health care, people's paychecks are not going as far as they used to go. It is eroding the standard of living of people.

We are possibly going into a recession. And the last thing we ought to be doing right now is raising all these taxes on all these hardworking Americans. We shouldn't be raising taxes on seniors. We shouldn't be raising taxes on people who get married. We shouldn't be raising taxes on parents with children. We shouldn't be raising taxes on small businesses.

What we should be doing in Washington is controlling our spending appetite. And that's the problem. That's the problem with this budget that has passed the House. That's the problem with the budget that the other side of the aisle is planning. They don't want to control spending. They don't want to cut spending or even control it. They want to increase spending.

In order to hit their commitment of a balanced budget, they will increase taxes even more than that. My fear is that this will take this possible recession we are going into and make it even worse, because people are having a hard time making their paychecks stretch as it is today.

Take a look at what Republicans believe and at the budget we passed. This is just a simple graph. The red line is the line of revenues that the Democrats chose to pick on their way to a balanced budget. The green line is the path that we brought with our budget, the Republicans. What does that line do? It says that we are not going to raise taxes. We are not going to raise taxes on income, on families, on people with children, on seniors or on small businesses. And we're going to repeal this alternative minimum tax. And we're going to balance the budget faster and better by cutting and controlling spending. Because if you take a look at the real problem in our fiscal situation, it's really spending that drives our problems.

And if I could just mention this one thing before I yield back to the gentlelady because I think we ought to have a conversation here, take a look at where we are today. And this chart is fairly confusing, but if you take a look at it, the blue line is the line that we want to be on, which is not raising taxes. The red line is the line that the Democrats are trying to propose, which is all these tax increases, the $683 billion we just articulated. The green is the future trajectory of spending.

So even if you take all these Democrat tax increases, that will only give you a temporary balanced budget. Because if you don't address spending in Washington, if you don't address our entitlement programs, the spending path that we are on will swamp any level of taxes. We're going to go into permanent deficits and massive debt.

So this notion that we can have a lasting balanced budget by just raising taxes is wrong. This notion that we should just raise taxes and increase spending is dangerous. And the reason that notion is dangerous is because spending is already out of control. And it is on a path that is really dangerous.

If I could just briefly mention this, the budget resolution that the Democrats brought to the floor on just two programs increases the debt by $14 trillion on just two programs. By saying we are not interested in controlling spending, by saying we are not interested in controlling and reforming government or fixing our entitlement programs, just the debt to Social Security and Medicare goes up by $14 trillion under the Democrat's budget. That's just two programs.

Every year we don't do anything to fix, save and make solvent Social Security and Medicare, we go another $2 trillion in debt just in those two programs. Our friends on the other side of the aisle are saying, instead of taking care of this $39 trillion debt we have with these two programs, we're going to raise it to $53 trillion. And that's wrong.

We believe that the way to fix our fiscal problems is to let Americans keep more money in their paychecks. It's to protect their paychecks, stop the pork barrel spending, control spending, reform government and reform our entitlement programs. Because we owe it to the next generation to leave them better off than we were left off. That's what my mom and dad told me growing up, that the whole point of America, the legacy of this country, is that you leave the next generation safer and more prosperous with a better chance at a better standard of living.

But for the first time in the history of our country, we have a real serious chance of severing that legacy, of discontinuing that tradition. Because if we give our kids and our grandkids the kind of debt that they are right now slated to get, and if we say for the next 5 years, as our friends on the other side of the aisle are now saying, we're not going to do anything to help that, we're not going to do anything to fix that, we are, in fact, going to add to

the problem. We are going to raise taxes, increase spending and make it even worse for our children and grandchildren. We are going to sever that legacy. And our kids and our grandkids will not have a higher standard of living. They will not have a better government. They will not have more freedom in their lives. And they will not have more money in their paychecks.

And if you want to just bring this point finally home, this is the chart that the General Accountability Office has given us. This shows us that what is unique about our budget and our fiscal history is that for the last 40 years, our government has been remarkably same in size. The Federal Government has had to take 18.3 cents out of every dollar earned in America. That is 18.3 percent of gross domestic product. So 18.3 cents on the dollar earned in America for the last 40 years is what Washington had to tax to pay for the Federal Government, to pay for everything, Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, national defense, the Department of Education and the Department of Commerce.

But what is happening is the baby boom generation is retiring. And the first baby boomer retired just a few months ago. She was a retired school teacher in Maryland who started collecting her Social Security benefits. And behind her are 77 million more retirees. And so the problem for our country is with what we call a pay-as-you-go system, where current workers pay their current taxes to support current beneficiaries, that works out fine if you have an equal number of beneficiaries, retirees and workers. But we are doubling our retirees. We are going from 40 million retirees to actually 78 million retirees. But we are only increasing our workers in this country by 17 percent. So there is about 100 percent increase in the retirees in this country in one generation, but only a 17 percent increase in taxpayers.

So what does that do for our children? Well, I can tell you what it does for my children. My son, Sam, is 3 years old. My son, Charlie is 4. And my daughter, Liza, is 6. And by the time my three kids are exactly my age, exactly my age, they will have to pay 40 cents on the dollar just to keep today's Federal Government going for them at that time.

□ 1945

That is exactly right. By the year 2040, today's Federal Government, which costs about 20 percent of GDP, 20 cents on the dollar, we are in deficit and raising about 18.8 percent, it is going to cost 40 percent. And that is if we do nothing.

That is what it is all about. If we do nothing and we let government go on as it is, add no new programs, take none away, our government will double in size within one generation. So my children, instead of sending, like we are, about 18.3 cents on the dollar to Washington to pay the bills, will have to send 40 cents on the dollar to Washington to pay the bills, the bills we are giving them, the debt we are giving them.

That is unsustainable. You can't win globalization. You can't compete with the likes of China and India. We are having a hard time doing that right now. You can't compete with the likes of China and India and Europe and Japan when you are taking 40 cents out of every dollar just for Washington, before you get to local government, State government, gas, groceries, healthcare. This is the future we are consigning our children and grandchildren to. And the budget that is before us today, the budget that the Democrats passed on the floor just this last moment, says, you know what? Here is our answer. Do more spending, more taxes. Make the problem worse. Increase the debt to two programs by just $14 trillion. It is irresponsible. It is wrong. It is going to sever this legacy to our children and grandchildren.

We need to leave them with a better country, a safer country, a more prosperous country, one where they can compete and thrive and survive. I don't want to just have my children survive globalization. I want America to win globalization, to shape globalization, to make sure that our kids can have careers that they like, that they love, that they enjoy, so they have a higher standard of living.

But in fact that is not what is going to happen if we don't get our fiscal house in order right now. If we sign on to these tax increases and these spending increases, what we will do in the short run is we will make the recession worse. We will take more money out of the paychecks of working Americans at a time when they are having a hard time staying afloat right now. We will put more debt on to the backs of our children by building up all the spending in the baseline around here.

We need to say no to spending sometimes around here. There is one little easy piece of spending that I think we could say no to, and that is earmarks. Earmarks are what we call pork-barrel spending. Our budget, the Republican budget, not only balanced the budget by controlling spending and kept taxes low, but our budget said for one year, let's just have Congress say no earmarks for a year. No more pork for one year. A pork-free diet in Congress for just one year.

Do you know what we can accomplish in our budget by saying no earmarks for one year and keep banking that money, carrying out those savings? We can make the per-child tax credit permanent, make it stay at $1,000. We can permanently repeal the marriage tax penalty and prevent that $1,400 average tax increase on married couples from happening, by just saying no pork for one year and saving that money. That is what our budget does.

So the question on just the earmarks is, is it pork for Members of Congress, or is it paychecks for working Americans? We chose paychecks. Our friends on the other side of the aisle are choosing pork. That is wrong. So when you take a look at the short run, more pork, less money for people's paychecks. Higher taxes, less economic growth, more job loss, higher taxes on small businesses, on seniors, on families, on married people, on children, on people with children.

What you are seeing is they are going to increase the debt. They are going to increase the already unsustainable path that we are on and this unsustainable debt we have today. This is why we take this seriously. This is why we come to the well of the House to say we need to get our fiscal house in order, and the other side is recklessly spending with abandon.

Now, I want to say this as a Republican: Our party did not do a good job on this either as well in many instances. There are ways in which we should have done better. And that is why it is important for those of us who see what is going wrong to fix it. That is why it is important for us to have proposals to fix these things.

So nobody is perfect in Washington. Republicans did too much spending, but Republicans look like fiscal scrooges compared to the Democrats today. They look like they are the austerity Congress compared to the Democrat Congress today, because the Democrat Congress today is putting no limits on anything. They are saying bring a budget to the floor and just bring up more spending, bring up the taxes, and let's just let our children and grandchildren pay the bill. That is wrong.

So I want to thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee for her courageous leadership on this. It is not easy to say no to all of the people that come looking for spending. Most people who come to visit their Congressmen and their Congresswomen say we need more money for this, we need more money for that. Every time you say yes to that, it is more money out of the paychecks of working men and women in America. This Congress chose less money for paychecks, more money for Washington.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee for being strong and being a leader on this and for fighting those kinds of instincts, and being a voice in the wilderness for fiscal discipline. I appreciate that.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank the gentleman for his leadership at the Budget Committee and for being there in the fight on this, to make certain that we bring forward these issues, to point out that we are focused not on immediate gratification when it comes to this, not on saying yes to pork-barrel projects. We are focused on the long-term, what is the legacy going to be.

As you pointed out in your charts, by the time we get to 2030, it is going to take every dollar of our existing tax base to cover Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. That is it. I mean, it will just be the entitlements that get covered.

And for our children and grandchildren, if you were to take a dollar and extract 40 cents out of that, and there again, that is just the Federal Government portion, it is not your State, it is not your local communities, it is not your county, it is just the Federal Government. They have that right of first refusal on your paycheck. And now when you earn a dollar, before they give you any of it, then by the time we get to 2040, they are taking 40 cents out of that dollar and then giving you 60 cents for yourself, for your family, for your State, your county and your community.

That is a frightening, frightening thought for this next generation. That is not the legacy that we want to leave them. We should be about securing the blessings of this great Nation for our children and our grandchildren and future generations. It is truly indeed regrettable and even shameful that the focus would be only on the here and now and not on what is to come for generations to come.

I want to yield now to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY), who is a CPA. When we talk about fiscal responsibility, many times this is someone that we turn to and say, tell us what you know and give us your best insights. For that wisdom, I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CONAWAY. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee for yielding me time. I always enjoy hearing the young whippersnapper from Wisconsin, who has been here for a long time, his thoughts, the ranking member of the Budget Committee and also serves on Ways and Means.

A couple of points that I would like to add on or pile on with what my good colleague from Wisconsin talked about. You will hear in these chambers over the next several weeks, months and years that the Democrats do not intend to raise taxes on everybody, as the charts have shown is going to happen if we do nothing. Their intentions are good. They don't intend to raise the lowest tax rate from 10 percent to 15 percent, or a 50 percent increase in tax rates. They don't intend to do that.

But by these budget proposals they brought in in the last 2 years, they commit all of the money that those increased taxes raise. So in order for them to make good on their promise of not raising, as example, the 10 percent rate to 15 percent, they have got to raise taxes somewhere else in the system to make up for those revenues.

So your chart says we have a right to know how Washington spends its money. We also have a right to know how Washington raises its money as well, and that is one of the categories that this one falls into.

I have seven grandkids, about the same age as Paul's young children, and when I look at what we are doing in this Federal Government, I try to translate that into what impact it has on their lives, on their opportunities when they are in our positions.

We have built a world around the concept that let's take care of today's problems with tomorrow or the next day's money. As we look at the problems that face us, and they are daunting, no doubt about it, if they are worthy of being fixed, then they are worthy of taking our money to fix those problems and not taking money away from our kids and our grandchildren to do that fix.

When folks come to Washington from Texas to ask me what can we do, how can we help you do your job better, every single time I go through this speech about $53 trillion in unfunded promises that we made to each other, a process that we have to begin the renegotiation of those promises, and that they as community leaders have to begin self-assessing whether or not what they are asking Washington to do has a constitutional link to the Federal Government.

In other words, if they want money for a particular project in San Angelo, Texas, or Midland, Texas, is it right to take tax dollars away from somebody in El Paso to pay for that project, or is that a project that ought to be handled by the local folks? Because as Paul said, every time you ask the Federal Government for help in something, that means spending goes up, and we have a very terrible time of saying no.

So if we can get our community leaders, our mayors and county judges and others to do a better job of analyzing what they are asking us for so that it really does have a constitutional Federal nexus to what they are trying to get done, then that is a step in the right direction to make this happen.

I want to talk a little bit about the budget process, because that is really where the spending piece of this wreck occurs. I serve on the Budget Committee with Mr. RYAN, and that top line number is incredibly important, because whatever it is set at, whether it is on a vote between the two Houses or a vote in the House or then some sort of gentleman's agreement with the Senate, that amount of money is going to get spent, come hell or high water.

There is no way to stop it, because as the appropriations bills come to this floor, they have already allocated that top line number among each of the subcommittees. And if we on the floor are able to work to win an amendment to the appropriations bill that strips spending out in some fashion—now, we never win those, but we come down here and try every time—should lightning strike and we actually strip a program out of an appropriations bill, that money does not get saved. That money simply goes back to the committee to spend on something else. Our budgetary processes don't allow us to come down here and effectively drop that top line number.

So I have a bill in the hopper that says if we are successful in reducing the spending in a particular appropriations bill, that that money goes to offset the deficit, or that money does not get spent, which is how most folks in West Texas thought our system would work up here. If we won a fight on the floor on a vote of more than half the Members that the Appropriations Committee got it wrong and that they sent a priority that that money should not have gotten spent on, that is money we could save in the budget and not get spent. So working to try to correct that is awfully difficult.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. If the gentleman would yield, the bill that he just referenced I think is so important, because what it does is to redirect the funds as the budget works its way through the process. You mentioned the top line number, and that is the number that gets set in the Budget Committee, and then as we move through this process with the appropriations, and we are going to be back on this floor during that season talking about earmarks, but those are hard-fought battles.

But let's say that we eliminate a program and that program saves $50 million, eliminates $50 million in spending. Then that money is not used as a savings. It is not realized as a savings for the taxpayer. It goes back to the committee and the committee can choose to spend it another way. And your legislation, and they can go to your website and get more information on that legislation, would require that the Federal Government use that money to lower the deficit.

Mr. CONAWAY. Thank you. That is exactly right. It is the Savings in Appropriations bill. What it says is the Appropriations Committee, in all of the hard and worthy work they do, they get one bite at the apple of setting priorities. We give them the top line number. They get a bite at it. And if they bring that bite to the floor and more than half of us disagree with what they did, then that money should be saved to the taxpayer, go against the deficit or increase a surplus, should we ever get into it. That is not the way the mechanics of our system work today.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I appreciate that explanation from the gentleman from Texas, and I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin for a comment.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I have explained this to constituents at home in Wisconsin and they are just dumbfounded. They think that if you come to the floor and bring an amendment to eliminate wasteful spending, let's just say we did an amendment to get rid of the $50 million Rain Forest Museum that is being built in Iowa City, Iowa. You could come to the floor and say, you know what? We probably shouldn't be spending our taxpayer dollars on this $50 million Rain Forest Museum, this rainforest in a bubble in Iowa. Let's not do that. We could pass that amendment and that $50 million couldn't go to that Rain Forest Museum. But by the way the rulings of our Congress work today, that $50 million won't be saved. It will be spent somewhere else in the government.

□ 2000

Most people think, if you actually go and eliminate wasteful spending, you actually save the money, but that's not the system. It gets spent somewhere else by the rules, somewhere else in the Federal Government.

Mr. CONAWAY. If the gentleman would yield.

If they think that more than half of us vote to say that's a bad priority set, I mean, that's just a bad piece of deal, that the majority would win in that circumstance. But under our rules, and they have been in place for a long, long time, it goes back to the Appropriations Committee. They get a second bite at the apple in setting priorities, it's just not the way most folks run their project.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. If the gentleman would yield, because we can pass amendments eliminating programs or cutting back wasteful spending. By the practice and the rules of this Congress, that money just gets spent somewhere else.

I simply want to applaud the gentleman, I want to applaud him for coming up with a creative, innovative, idea to get these rules back to the world of common sense. Then we could actually go after wasteful spending, we actually save the money, and give it back to the taxpayer by lowering our deficit, than just finding other places to spend it, which is what happens today. I just want to thank him for taking on this very important fight.

Mr. CONAWAY. I thank the gentleman. I want to make one more point, and I will yield back and visit with the gentlelady from Tennessee, and that a third of the budget that we work on every year is annual discretionary spending. In other words, it's money that we should be deciding, can we afford this this year or can't we, a legitimate setting of priorities.

The other two-thirds of the $3.1 trillion that we spend is going to happen on autopilot. It will happen whether we do anything or not. We have to act aggressively and make hard decisions to go after that two-thirds.

This year's budget proposal took a pass on the hard work of addressing the two-thirds of the budget that we referred to as entitlements or mandatory spending or automatic spending—I won't offend some of my colleagues by using the word ''entitlement''—but it takes courage in this body to go after those spending programs.

They are the ones that are on the charts, are driving us to bankruptcy under our current system of government if we don't have courage to begin to say we have to renegotiate those promises. We have made promises that we just can't pay for.

But a third of the budget that we can do something about, we ought to have rules on this floor that allow the majority's will to be reflected in whether that money gets spent. I yield back.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank the gentleman.

I want to welcome another member of the Budget Committee to our discussion this evening. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) was a freshman with me in 2002, and we all worked together starting the Washington Waste Watchers. Waste, fraud and abuse, fighting waste, fraud, and abuse was our freshman class project.

We certainly have stayed at the forefront. The gentleman from Florida has stayed at the forefront of fighting wasteful spending and then seeking ways to reduce that, seeking ways to approach the budget process, changes, and also looking for ways to reduce the burden of taxation.

I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee for your steadfast leadership on this issue, your leadership is really common sense to a system, a city that is, frankly, broken. Washington is broken.

You know, there are so many, many examples that we can show that Washington is, frankly, broken. It's stuck in this sort of like a perverse dance, frankly, of taking one step forward to help the taxpayer and 3 or 4 steps backwards in hurting the taxpayer.

I would like to give you an example, just one of those examples that when the American people see what is going on here, of course, they say Washington is broken. Of course, they say that there is no common sense in Washington.

Look, what are the good moments? One of the fine moments is when the economy starts slowing down, this Congress, on a bipartisan level, got together, and in a bipartisan level made the determination that the way to get the economy moving again was how, was how? It was to lower taxes.

That debate took place, and it was very clear, on a bipartisan level, Congress decided, House and the other party, the other body, both parties to lower taxes in order to incentivize the economy. It was actually a good moment for this Congress.

But then what happened just days after that? Just days after this Congress lowers taxes on the American people by $107 billion, because we understand that lowering taxes helps the economy, helps the American people, small businesses and families. Just days after that, the majority party comes to this floor with a budget that raises taxes, increases taxes by $683 billion over 5 years.

You don't have to be a rocket scientist or a mathematician to understand if everybody agrees, both parties, that lowering taxes by $103 billion is something that would help the economy, and that's what we did, doesn't it seem logical that days later coming back and passing a budget that increases taxes, not to the level of that, making up for that $103 billion, no, no, no, increases it by $683 billion over 5 years.

Of course people look at Washington and say what are you guys thinking? Don't tell me that you are helping the economy by lowering taxes by $100 billion and then, days later, think that we are going to be surprised, we are not going to understand that you then propose raising almost $700 billion on the same taxpayer, that you are lowering taxes because it helps the economy.

If there is an agreement, a bipartisan agreement, that lowering taxes by $100 billion helps the economy, which there is, is it that hard to understand that the flip side of that is that if you raise taxes by $700 billion it hurts the economy? Yet that's what this Congress did over the objections of those of us that are speaking here, and many others, but that's what the majority party did.

So, again, why is it that Congress has the lowest number, frankly, approval rating since probably these things have been counted? Because they must think we are nuts, because they must think we are totally, absolutely, insane and crazy and have absolutely no idea what we are doing.

Again, I may not be the smartest guy in the whole world, but it doesn't take the smartest guy in the whole world, as you know, to understand that if there is a bipartisan consensus that lowering taxes in a year, $100 billion helps the economy. There should be a consensus that raising taxes by $700 billion for 5 years would do just the opposite. Oh, no, because our desire, the majority's desire to just tax and spend and tax and spend, just, frankly, goes above and beyond any common sense, any logic, any sense of reality.

I just want to thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee for your leadership, because you have not stopped fighting for the taxpayer, for the small family, for families, for small businesses, for farmers, for the people, real life, not D.C. D.C. is broken. Again, thank you for your common sense. Thank you for your fight for the taxpayer.

I also need to add to that. One of the people that I frankly most admire in this process is Congressman RYAN of Wisconsin, who is the ranking member of the Budget Committee, who understands the budget better than, frankly, anybody else, and who has taught me so, so much. Mr. CONAWAY brings to this process something that is so greatly needed, which is common sense.

I thank the three of you. Look again, yes, frankly the American people have reason to be skeptical, when they see that we lower taxes on one side because we say it's in a healthy economy, and then, days later, the majority raises

taxes way above that and pretends that it's not going to have an effect, hoping that people will not learn the truth. But the problem is that that truth is out there, and people's pocketbooks are going to be hit really, really hard.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Will the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Yes, absolutely.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Does the gentleman remember when we had a markup where the budget was written in the Budget Committee, and we had 36 amendments? Remember the different kinds of amendments we had, and the votes, we had votes on whether or not it's right to cut the child tax credit in half, whether it's right to bring back the marriage penalty, whether we should or should not raise income tax rates across the board for all income taxpayers. Vote after vote after vote, on all these taxes, and our friends on the other side of the aisle, the Democrats voted time over again to raise those taxes on individual tax rates.

They voted specifically to cut the child tax credit in half. They voted specifically to bring back the marriage tax penalty. They voted specifically to raise income tax rates across the board, to bring back death taxes, to raise capital gains and dividends taxes. They did this so they could pass a budget that increased spending.

I want to thank the gentleman from Florida, who has the most passion and who so well articulates the problems we have in America today. I want to thank you for your knowledge, your passion, and your understanding. I also want to just ask you if you recall all those votes and all those differences that we have seen here in just this Congress in this last short year.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I thank the gentleman. If I may?

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Frankly, that was one of the saddest days that I have experienced in this process, because, you know, there is so much rhetoric that's thrown around here. We hear the rhetoric, that, oh, no, these are tax cuts on the wealthy.

Then you and others came up with a specific amendment to say, no, no, let's just talk about the issue. Let's take rhetoric off the table for a second. Let's not be partisan. Let's just look at the issue. Let's see if there is something that we can agree on.

Those amendments were brought to the committee. Those amendments were, as you just mentioned, the per child tax credit, and then we kept hearing, but those are tax cuts on the wealthy. I remember the argument and the discussion, again, not only the wealthy get married.

Tax cuts, remember the 10 percent bracket.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Yes.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Individuals that are the working poor that now earn so little that they don't pay Federal income tax, and they should not, are now going to be required to start paying Federal income taxes. But they say those are tax cuts on the wealthy.

It's not the wealthy. When you cut to the chase, you get the most smoke and mirrors, and we were able to bring these individual amendments to the committee. The sad part, the reason I say that was really sad, is because those amendments are defeated on a partisan vote, on a partisan vote, amendments to keep the taxes low.

If you have children, amendments to make sure that people who are working poor, that have a hard time paying for gasoline and paying for groceries and don't pay Federal income tax, because they are so poor right now, still don't have to pay them. They voted against those amendments.

There is a reason why people are skeptical and people don't believe what comes out of Washington. Frankly, they have a very good reason to have that attitude.

Mr. CONAWAY. Will the gentleman yield?

Some of those amendments were cosponsored in regular legislation by Democrats. Yet when it came to the Budget Committee they voted against them. In their own bills on the floor over here, they voted against them, just partisan, partisan politics. It helped to add to that cynical attitude that you are referring to.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I agree, and I will conclude.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. If the gentleman will yield, I think that there was also an amendment presented that day in those 36 amendments that would have allowed your State of Florida and your State of Texas and my State of Tennessee to continue to deduct the sales tax deductibility that some of us worked very hard in 2003 to have that deduction restored for our States, where we did not have a State income tax. We have a sales tax. That is an issue of tax fairness, and it was a party-line vote to take that deduction away.

In my State of Tennessee, that is about a $1,600 deduction per family. That ends up being real money in the pockets of our families. This new $683 billion tax increase that the majority has brought forward and laid on the table here in this House and said we are for it, that is what they want, that is what they think should be the priority. That bill, their budget, will take another $2,668 per tax filer out of the pockets of my constituents and send it here.

I yield back to the gentleman from Florida.

□ 2015

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. This is just not that complicated. The question is: Is government here to help serve the people? Or are the people here on this planet and in this country to help fund government exclusively? And that is the battle. We hear that time and time again when we try to reduce taxes on working people, working families, they say you are going to hurt government if you don't allow us to increase taxes. Hurt government? Excuse me, since when is the role of the government just to milk people as much as it possibly can.

Again, there is a reason why the rankings of this Congress are the lowest they have ever been. I guess some think nobody is watching; and, therefore, we can say we support tax cuts and even sometimes file legislation, and then vote against amendments on the budget to lower taxes, the per child tax credit, the death penalty and the marriage penalty so you don't have to pay more just because you are married. Even the death tax.

Quoting the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY), as partisan as this process is, can we not at least agree that there should be no taxation without respiration? No, not in this process. In this process with the people in control now, they are going to milk the taxpayer and spend every penny, and when that is spent, they are going to look in the cushions of people's homes to see if there are loose quarters and take those as well because government knows best because there is no money we can't spent. And, frankly, the American people know better. They are wise.

I thank all of you, particularly the gentlewoman from Tennessee for your leadership and bringing commonsense to this process.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I hope the people of Tennessee realize a big reason they don't have an income tax imposed upon them is because of MARSHA BLACKBURN. You led that antitax fight in Tennessee to prevent a new income tax from being imposed on the people of Tennessee. And now in Congress you have led the fight up here to see that they can have the same kind of deductibility of their sales taxes as those of us who come from States that have income taxes have that deductibility.

So I want to thank the gentlelady from Tennessee for being a champion of the Tennessee taxpayer. I am a Badger. I am a Wisconsin fan. I am a Packer fan. I am not a big Titan fan or a Volunteer fan, but I am a MARSHA BLACKBURN fan because you fight for taxpayers. We need more people in Congress fighting for taxpayers, just like we have champions like the gentleman from Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. CONAWAY from Texas. Texas has a lot of people who fight high taxes, but MIKE CONAWAY is one of the guys leading here.

I am glad we got together to set the record straight on the budget and on the fiscal path that we are on in this country, and set the record straight for what future lies before our children and grandchildren if we don't take our responsibilities here seriously and change our course.

I want to thank the gentlelady for hosting this hour.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin, and I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CONAWAY. On policies we debate in this Chamber, we always have choices. And it seems as though recently with respect to spending, the choice is to spend more. With respect to taxes, the choice is to tax more. With energy, the choice is to raise energy costs. All of those things are not good for the American taxpayer. All of those things are not good for the health of this country. And in particular, the seven grandkids that I love the most, it is clearly not good for their financial health or well-being, and we clearly need to do something about it.

I thank the gentlelady for letting me participate tonight.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. The gentleman from Texas talks about his seven grandchildren and the gentleman from Wisconsin talks about his three children. I have two adult children, and I am going to have a grandbaby in just a few days, and it is so disappointing when you see what that child is going to be responsible for when they come on the face of this Earth.

This year alone, Washington is going to spend over $25,000 per household and that is going to be a heavy burden for every man, woman and child to bear.

Just as a reminder, our budget school, the right to know how you spend your money, if you want to see how the Republicans would have approached this budget this year and not raised taxes, how the Republicans fought a $683 billion tax increase, $683 billion, this is where you go: Budget.house.gov/Republicans, and you can pull that response down. To get more information on our Republican Study Committee, budget and school resources, go to House.gov/Blackburn. That is a great way to figure out how we think is the best way to approach fiscal responsibility, how to be a good steward, a wise steward of the taxpayer dollar.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for having yielded the time tonight.

## IRAQ AND THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TSONGAS). 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. Madam Speaker, good evening. It is a pleasure to be here tonight on behalf of the freshman class. It certainly has been an honor to serve here this last year, and to be joined by Mr. HALL of New York, and a number of other Members who are going to join us tonight.

What we are going to talk about tonight is something that I think is weighing very heavily on the minds of Americans right now, and that is the economy. We understand because the United States is the most resilient, optimistic, innovative country in the world, that we will persevere and we will work out the issues that have caused some of the problems in our economy right now.

But that being said, as we speak today, there are people all over the United States who are hurting. They are hurting because their jobs may be threatened or they have lost their jobs or lost confidence that their job may be here in the next weeks and months. They are hurting because their home may be threatened from foreclosure or difficult terms. They may be hurting because gas prices have shot up. If we think about what the cost of oil was not that long ago, literally back in 2002, it was $28 per barrel. And we know as of today, it hit $114 per barrel. Shame on all of us for allowing that to be the case today and for having this dependence on oil. We have leadership in this House that is working on that.

Americans may be hurting because their health care is a threat, preexisting conditions, things that are not covered by their policies, and the cost of insurance is just beyond their means.

There are a lot of things that people are thinking about that are weighing them down. At the same time, we have a war in Iraq and in Afghanistan. And a fight that we, as Americans, obviously understand that when America is challenged, we will fight back. But I think there is also a broad recognition that the war we are in, at least in Iraq right now, we may have gotten into for some of the wrong reasons, and without justification.

With that being said, I want to thank the men and women who serve this country and put their lives on the line every single day in Iraq and Afghanistan and around the world. And their families that are back home, persevering and doing the necessary things to carry on while their loved ones are gone. I know this Congress has taken upon itself to be certain and put all of the dollars on the table that have been promised in the past but not delivered, to make sure that every man and woman when they come home from service in the armed services, that they are given all the medical services, mental health services, physical health services, and a lifetime of care if necessary. We are committed to doing that as Congress.

But the question today is what should we be doing about Iraq, and how does this interplay with the economy. That is the subject of what we are going to talk about tonight. Are there things that we should be doing to help us as Americans, help us in our daily lives in the United States, help us make sure that we have the future, a better future, as our parents wished for us, that my children who are in college right now, that they will have a better opportunity than I did. That is something that is the American dream, and it has been around for generations. And yet people today are questioning if that is where we are going.

We have to say what do we have to do to make sure that Americans come first and also protect our national security and evaluate this foreign policy, this fight in Iraq and other places, yes, is it in fact making us safer at home and on our streets. Or is it a disastrous situation that has cost us $600 billion up to this point, over 4,000 lives of our brave men and women, and 30,000 to 40,000 brave men and women who have come back with severe injuries and will require lifetime care.

We are going to talk about those issues, engage each other on the floor, and we are going to continue to invite the American people to work with us and come up with some good solutions.

I am joined by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HALL) who has been a strong leader and very focused on the fact that our security is important, but our economy is equally important, and I turn the floor over to Mr. HALL.

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, it is good to be here with Mr. KLEIN and Congressman BRALEY.

Before I talk about Iraq, I have to respond to a couple of things that were said a few minutes ago by our friends from the other side of the aisle who used the word ''truth'' frequently and talked about their children and grandchildren. And I am sure they are sincere, but to those of you Americans out there listening, I am sure you can remember that when President Bush took over with Republicans controlling both Houses of Congress in the year 2001, he had a surplus delivered to him by the Clinton administration.

In the years since then, these folks you just heard talking, who profess to know what is best for our economy, have delivered to the United States, from a surplus when we were paying down the national debt, now the biggest deficit in the history of our country, the biggest balance of trade deficit, the biggest individual debt by Americans that is held, whether it is credit card debt or home second mortgage debt, and now we have the housing crisis, the subprime crisis, and various big box stores I was reading today are getting ready to file for or have already filed for bankruptcy, including some that we have seen proliferating around the country and have assumed that they were on solid ground.

So I would take all the proclamations you just heard and the fancy charts that you just saw from the Republican hour before us with a grain of salt.

The tax increase that they claim we are voting for is actually something that they, when they installed their tax cuts early in the Bush years, they installed it by putting in a sunset provision that is their creation, not ours. So I stand here and say that we have not in fact voted for anything like this biggest tax increase in history. It is a theatrical and dramatic presentation,

well acted, and possibly even believed by them, but it is not the truth.

As far as Iraq goes, we are spending $12 billion a week in Iraq, and I have started to look at the needs of our country and my district in particular in terms of how that money could be used here because we are basically running on fumes financially. I just visited 13 bridges that are on the dangerous faulty bridge list that came out after the I–35 bridge collapse in Minnesota, and the estimate of the New York State Department of Transportation is that it will cost about $60 billion to fix all of the deficient bridges in the State of New York. That is 5 months in Iraq.

I just came back 2 weeks ago from visiting a Nogales, Arizona, checkpoint on the Mexican border. Congressman BRALEY was on that trip, along with Congressman ARCURI. And we asked at every step of the way the Customs and Border protection officials what they need from Congress and what would their wish list be.

They said basically if it was Christmas and they could have everything that they wanted in terms of infrastructure, primarily what they need is more loading docks to unload the bales of marijuana that are stacked in front of an 18-wheeler behind a load of watermelons, or more bandwidth for more computers so they can get 10 fingerprints processed faster to establish somebody's identity. All of it, northern border, southern border, all ports on both coasts, $500 million a year for 10 years. That is $5 billion.

□ 2030

That's a little bit less than 2 weeks in Iraq to secure both of our borders and all of our ports. That sounds to me like it would actually make our country more secure; not that we want to shut the borders down, but we'd like to know who's coming and who's going, what's coming in and what's going out in terms of drugs, in terms of agricultural products that might be infested, in terms of currency smuggling. So anyway, there's a real cost to all these things.

And I would just say, after hearing General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker for the second time, it's clear that the goals in Iraq that we're spending this $12 billion a month on have been changing, that the goal posts have been moving, that 5 years after the initiation of this war and the death of 4,017 of our mothers, fathers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, I have a figure of 29,676 wounded, the estimate before the VA, Veterans Affairs Committee, last summer was that if the war stopped at that point we'd be looking at $1 trillion for the lifetime care of grievously wounded soldiers returning from Iraq. That's four injuries primarily, traumatic brain injury, PTSD, spinal cord injuries that cause paralysis, and amputations.

And these are, fortunately, men and women who we're able to save today in the battlefield because our battlefield medicine is so much better than it was in Vietnam, for instance. The ratio is about 16:1 wounded to killed where in Vietnam it was about 2½:1. That's the good news is that we're saving more of these mostly young lives of brave Americans who've gone over there and fought and carried out their mission.

But the bad news is that the American public has not been told yet that, on top of the figures you mentioned, there's at least $1 trillion lifetime care for the wounded from this war that we're already looking at being responsible for. And we have to take care of these wounded warriors. You can't pay for the war and forget about the warriors.

So I would just say that we need to look at this in terms of a broad view of national security and a realistic, clear-eyed view of where we are financially and whether we can afford it.

And with that, I yield back to Mr. KLEIN.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Thank you, Mr. HALL. And again, exceptionally well-stated. I think we all understand the costs of war. I think we all understand, as Americans, there are going to be times, historically, when we have to be prepared to fight and to make the necessary commitments.

There are also times when we recognize that, you know, we have to look and say, is this the right thing? Is it really achieving our national security interests?

I think we've heard over and over again, and I'm on the Foreign Affairs Committee. I know many of you are on the Armed Services Committee, we've heard about the fact that we have, the real problem, the terrorist threat is in Afghanistan or Pakistan or Iran. And unfortunately, the strategy that continues in Iraq is one that puts all of our resources and assets and our men and women in one location where al Qaeda was not a problem initially. There may be some al Qaeda there, but we don't have to deal with them necessarily with a 160,000 troop contingent.

I'd like to now just bring into our conversation another esteemed member of our freshman class, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BRALEY).

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. I'd like to thank my friend from Florida and also my friend from New York. We did have a very enlightening trip to Nogales, Arizona, and the Border Patrol and Customs agents that we spoke to were all, I think, doing a fantastic job of trying to deal with a very difficult situation.

But one of the things that trip emphasized to me is we often talk in this body about the cost of providing border security, the cost of providing national and international security.

And what we know is that the Pentagon traditionally publishes reports that provide this body that we serve in their estimate of the cost of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. And we've seen those figures. We've viewed some of those figures with skepticism. And we've talked about what the published costs of this war are.

But what we don't talk enough about is what we talked about in repeated hearings in the wake of the Walter Reed fiasco. And I was fortunate enough to be serving on the Government Oversight and Reform Committee, when we had that first hearing out at Walter Reed. We talked to the highest ranking Army and Department of Defense medical officers. We had a follow-up hearing after the independent review group chaired by General Togo West presented its recommendations for the wounded warriors project. And I repeatedly pressed the top ranking Army medical officers on that very question; what are the hidden costs of the war that the American people aren't hearing about?

And I'm glad my friend from New York brought this up, because there is so much going on beneath the surface that the American public doesn't hear about.

If you take the average life expectancy of a 19-year-old male, which is representative of who we're sending to Iraq right now, you will find that under the published U.S. life tables, those young men have a life expectancy of approximately 55 years.

Now, when they come back in unprecedented percentages with life-threatening injuries that we will be responsible for caring for the rest of their lives, there is an enormous economic cost that we aren't hearing about. And so I look forward to the opportunity to discuss with my colleagues tonight what some of those hidden costs are, and what the American people need to be thinking about as we look at the overall economic impact, not just throughout our economy, but on the long-term burden we're placing on our children and our grandchildren to provide these deserving veterans with the best possible medical care that we can.

Before I get to that though, I want to talk a little bit about what we're giving up right now, through the amount of funding that we are committing every year to the conflict in Iraq because, just for Fiscal Year 2007, we know that this war is costing, under the most conservative estimate, $137.6 billion. So the American people may wonder, well, what would that actually provide if it wasn't going to Iraq?

Well, for 40 million people in this country, that would provide comprehensive health care. Now, think about that. We know that right now there are nearly 47 million Americans without health insurance. So that cost alone would almost completely eliminate that gap.

We know that that cost that we're spending this year in Iraq would hire 2.2 million elementary school teachers, provide affordable housing for over a million different housing units, and provide 142 million homes in this country with renewable electricity.

And to break that down into a smaller level, I represent the First District of Iowa. The taxpayers I represent in the First District have paid, to date,

$770 million in one congressional district alone, as their share of the cost of this war. What would that mean back in the First District of Iowa?

Well, it would hire almost 19,000 public safety officers. It would hire almost 17,000 music and art teachers. It would provide 126,000 full tuition university scholarships at public universities, and build 86 brand new elementary schools. So when we talk about the actual financial burden that we are facing every day because of the rising cost of this war, it is enormous.

And Congressman KLEIN, maybe you could talk a little bit about what you've heard from the people you represent in a different part of the country, where there are different needs, but also very similar problems that taxpayers you represent are facing.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. I thank the gentleman from Iowa for explaining, not only the aggregate cost, but certainly what's happening in Iowa. I know one of our colleagues in our freshman class, Mr. SPACE from Ohio, he has explained to us the impact in his district in rural parts of Ohio and how important it is for him to help the local people get beyond this.

I'm going to explain it a slightly different way, because, again, I think it's the tangible side of this thing that people need to understand. The cost per day that we are currently spending, and this is independent information; there's no question that this is accurate. It comes from the Library of Congress Research Service.

The cost per day that the war is costing us, if you will, $339 million per day. That is a staggering amount of money.

Now, again, I'm not here to say that we don't have to fight wars, or don't have to do the necessary things to protect Americans. But when we come to the conclusion, as most Americans have, that the strategy of keeping the men and women in place the way they are is not advancing our national security, we should question whether that money is being well-spent.

But I've introduced something today in the House, which I'm going to begin to talk about more actively, and I'm sure the gentlemen here tonight will chime in on this as well, and that is, whether people support the war or not, and I know there's differences of opinion on this, I think every American understands that at $339 million per day, it's about time that the Iraqi government step up and pay its fair share.

And whether we're talking about the cost of fuel for our operations over there, whether we're talking about the cost of rebuilding, whether we're talking about the training of their military, after five full years and $600 billion, now coming out to $339 million more every single day, for all the reasons that Mr. BRALEY has already mentioned about the savings and what could be applied in the United States, or maybe dealing with reducing the deficit or dealing with taxes, any number of different strategies to make life better for Americans, it's about time the Iraqi people step up, and if they want us there, the government, pay their fair share.

And I'll just throw out a few facts as to why I believe this is so important. First of all, our President, Mr. Rumsfeld and others, when the war was presented to us in the first place, they told us that this was a war and a rebuilding effort that was going to be paid for by Iraqi oil money.

Iraq sits on the second largest quantity, second largest quantity of oil reserves in the world. They've got tens of billions of dollars in bank accounts, as we speak, that are not being applied toward the rebuilding effort. That is unacceptable.

As an American, as a taxpayer, I hope every American understands this and joins us. This is not a Democrat issue. This is not a Republican issue. This is an American taxpayer issue that we need to all band together and say, you know, whether or not you're for the war or not, absolutely, every American should say, enough is enough. We've paid our fair share. We've put our men and women on the line, and it's time for the Iraqis to pay for the cost of this continuing effort to the extent it continues into the future.

So I've offered House Resolution 1111, which was filed today, and I'm looking forward to discussing this with many of the Members. I've already spoken to a number of Members, and they're very interested. It's being offered in a bipartisan way in the Senate, and I think this has the opportunity of finding some common ground in changing the dynamics of who's paying for this, the American people or the Iraqi government, who wants us, for whatever reason, to continue this effort in this way.

And I would suggest to you, and rightfully so, that 1 day of the war could provide for 48,000 homeless vets to have a roof over their head, men and women who served in Vietnam and other wars.

2,000 new Border Patrol guards. And Mr. HALL just told us, and Mr. BRALEY, about how they were down on the border and saw what's going on. We have border patrol needs. And just again, just 1 day, 2000 more Border Patrol guards for a year.

We talked about health care. We can go on and on and on. But the bottom line is, it's time for a change. It's time for a change with the policy, it's time to re-look at this whole effort. But certainly, at a minimum, it's time for the Iraqi government to pay for the cost of this operation.

Mr. HALL, I know that you've got some thoughts on this as well, so please join us in this conversation.

Mr. HALL of New York. Well, in fact I do. And I thank the gentleman. You know, I saw 60 Minutes, I think this last Sunday, and they had an interview about the topic you just mentioned, the Iraqi windfall due to the price of oil, and how those tens of billions dollars are sitting in accounts. And the Iraqi officials interviewed on the TV show said they can't get at them to pay for their own reconstruction; and the American taxpayer has to keep paying the way we are because they don't yet have the systems in place or the infrastructure or the banking technology to be able to transfer the money.

Now, either that's a really lame excuse, or we've been missing the boat by not helping them set that up. Or both.

But you know, I have to just, not to be, not to carp on an old topic, but to hearken back to the previous hour and the other side of the aisle, our friends' presentation about budgetary truth. I would point out that the President's budget that he sent down to us this year shows no money for Iraq after the first of the year. So that's obviously not an honest document.

It also assumes the AMT, the Alternative Minimum Tax which was supposed to be a tax on the richest of the rich and has become instead a tax that's been digging deeper and deeper into the middle class, and we've been working to change that. Our budget does change that and pushes it back up to the wealthiest 4 percent or so of Americans.

But the President's budget assumes all the money that will be scooped out of the middle class, if nothing is done, will be available. So I just had to say those couple of things about that.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Would the gentleman yield for a question?

Mr. HALL of New York. Yes, please.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. One of the things that we face every year is something called an emergency supplemental, which is a request from the President for billions of dollars of additional funding to fund the ongoing war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Now, I would just ask my colleagues, and I'll pose this first to you, Mr. HALL. Where I come from in Iowa, an emergency is something that is unexpected and unanticipated that you can't plan for. But I am at a loss to understand why, after being in Iraq longer than we were engaged in the Civil War, after being in Iraq longer than we were engaged in World War II, we continue to face emergency supplemental funding requests for these wars, when the Department of Defense and the Pentagon and the President have to know how much they anticipate when they send their budget down for us to consider.

□ 2045

Mr. HALL of New York. Not only do they know, but the President, as we speak, is negotiating, or his representatives are negotiating a status of forces agreement to keep our troops in Iraq for some unknown time. So they obviously are planning on it. They're just not putting it in the budget.

And I agree with you that the first year you could call it an emergency, but after that, this should be on budget. We're building up enough debt that we're passing on to our children and

grandchildren with interest anyway, and in order for the public to know what is really being done in their name, this should not be a supplemental; this should be in the budget.

I would also like to comment about my trip to Iraq last October. When I slept in the Green Zone in one of Saddam's pool houses next to one of his mansions, which, by the way, I think we should give back to the Iraqi people at this point. He was a tyrant, but he was their tyrant, and he built the mansion with their money and it might help us lose that image that some of them have of us as occupiers if we gave them back their property.

But at any rate, when I slept in the Green Zone, we were told, use the bottled water, don't drink the water out of the tap; if you hear a siren, there's a concrete bunker over there; go jump in it because we've had a few mortar rounds coming in. But that was basically all the warning we got.

Last week when the fighting was going at a higher level of intensity when the battle of Basra was on and the Green Zone took so many mortar and rocket rounds that we lost two soldiers dead and 17 wounded in the Green Zone, they were telling people then and since then to sleep in your body armor and your helmet. So October, we were not told that. Last week and the week before, they were telling our diplomats and our traveling Members of Congress that. That's not progress; that's backsliding.

And Albert Einstein, I think, was the guy who once defined insanity as trying the same thing over and over again expecting a different result. That's where we're at now.

There's a friend of mine who's a sheriff in one of the Upstate counties of New York who is a West Point graduate and a classmate of my brother-in-law, 1969 West Point grad, who told me a couple years back that one of the first things they learned at West Point in officer training class is never send a military force to do a job that is not militarily achievable.

And this is to say nothing critical or to overshadow the accomplishments of our forces. Our men and women in uniform have done an extraordinary job and we should all be extremely proud of them. They have been creative. They have been extremely loyal not just to our country but loyal to each other. They have been energetic and committed. They will do anything we ask of them and anything their commanders ask of them.

But our responsibility as a civilian government, the kind of government that our Constitution sets up where the civilian government and the President, ultimately, is Commander in Chief, but Congress as well has the right to not only declare war but also to fund Armies. And we need to be careful that we use them responsibly. These are not chattel. Our men and women in uniform are human beings that are stressed out with record rates right now of suicide, divorce, and bankruptcy among veterans that have returned from this war, as well as among veterans of previous conflicts.

And I think that it's time for us to reevaluate whether this is really making our Nation more secure and whether it is worth the $12 billion for nation building that we might better use for rebuilding the Nation of the United States.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. And these are certainly the questions that our country is wrestling with right now, and as I turn it back over to Mr. BRALEY, I will just mention again that on the economy side of this thing, and I think about the people back home and what they're thinking about as they're looking towards the next election and just thinking about the next week's expenses. And one statistic jumped out at me when I was hearing about gas prices. Gas prices in the United States are about $3.39 per gallon, extraordinary, at a time when the oil companies are still going to be making historic profits.

The United States military is paying $3.23 a gallon in Iraq. That's $153 million per month. At the same time, Iraqis, when they can get gas, are paying $1.30 per gallon of gas. What is wrong with this picture? Our military is paying $3.23 to buy gas in Iraq on our dime, and Iraqis are getting it at $1.30.

So again, it's this question of as Americans, and being the great people that we are and trying to do what we can to help here and there, what can we do differently to help protect Americans deal with their daily lives and, at the same time, protect our country?

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Well, as our good friend and colleague from Arkansas MARION BERRY would say, That dog don't hunt. This is a classic example of what we've seen over and over and over again from procurement decisions that are being made that have an adverse effect on American taxpayers. And I think if you go back to the beginning when they set up the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, that it was set up with the intent of using Iraqi assets to rebuild the country and to shift the dependency from the government or from the United States back to the Iraqi people through the oil revenues that we're talking about.

And we've seen in committee hearings here photographs of Ford trucks full of pallets that had $250 million in cash per pallet that were part of a $2.1 billion one-day transfer of cash to the Iraqi government, the largest single transfer of cash in U.S. history. And that was part of a transfer of cash that led to $9 billion of missing money that was supposed to be part of the initial reconstruction of Iraq.

Then the idea was to use those Iraqi oil revenues to pick up the responsibility and complete the work of rebuilding Iraq. And instead, we know that one of the big challenges the Iraqi government has faced is coming to some agreement on the division of oil revenues, and that's been a major obstacle to rebuilding the country and bringing about national reconciliation. And who is paying the tab for that? U.S. taxpayers.

That is why the issue we're talking about is so important. Because when U.S. taxpayers are bearing the burden of this war, it has an enormous ripple effect throughout our economy because one of the things we know is that when we have these ever-growing trade deficits with countries like China, which is our principal creditor, it makes it very difficult to keep the economy in this country rolling along providing the types of goods and services at a reasonable rate; and that has an enormous impact throughout the economy. And I'm sure as we get further into this, we will have some real examples of the enormous impact on various sectors of the U.S. economy from the burden that we are all responsible for.

But I have to tell you, the idea that you mentioned about shifting the burden in H. Res. 111, I can tell you this is an enormously popular bipartisan idea. In fact, last weekend in my home State of Iowa, the Des Moines Register interviewed every member of the Iowa congressional delegation, Republicans, Democrats, Senators, Representatives, and everyone was unanimous in their sentiment that is exactly the one you expressed in your resolution.

It is time for the Iraqis to pick up the tab for their own well-being and let the American taxpayers focus on the enormous economic problems we're dealing with at home: The bailout of Bear Stearns, the subprime mortgage crisis, all of the things that you work on every day in the Financial Services Committee. And because of that unique role that you play here in Congress, I think you have some special insights that probably would be very enlightening to the people watching tonight and the people of this country about what you're dealing with on a daily basis that's being impacted by this ongoing financial commitment.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. I thank the gentleman, and being from Iowa, and obviously one of our farm States, you have a direct understanding of what the cost of food production is and for farmers, the cost of fuel and the cost that is just driving the inflation numbers in the United States. And most Americans aren't even aware of the fact that when you hear this inflation discussion that energy prices, that's gas prices at the pump, and food prices, are not even part of that discussion. That's not factored into these inflation numbers. It's everything else.

And the story we're given is, well, those fluctuate too much. That's not a reliable factor. Well, you know something? That's the bottom line. When people go to the grocery store every week, I know back in my town, and they see a dozen eggs cost this and all of a sudden they're up 80 cents for a dozen eggs or a gallon of milk or bread or vegetables, no matter what it is,

there is a huge inflationary factor tied into the cost of food at a time when wages are not keeping up. So people are feeling stretched and pushed and stressed.

So it is important for us to focus on this, and again, I appreciate the gentleman's comments on our House resolution because I think it is going to be something that all of us, and everybody has been talking about this; this is certainly not my idea. I think we can all work together in changing the direction of how this is going to play out.

And yes, it will probably be a new President before there may be some major changes in the military strategy, and I would hope and I know I have heard a lot of good generals talk about some of the different ideas that they have on changing that. But at a minimum, I think most Americans would say that wow, I thought they were already paying for it, and if they're not, they should be. And that's something that I hope that we can find common ground. That's what Americans elected us for, not to be Democrats or Republicans, but to come together as Americans and say how do we solve this problem, just like we started the discussion tonight.

Mr. HALL maybe can share with us some of the economy and the economic issues that you're hearing from your neighbors and friends and how we can try to address some of these.

Mr. HALL of New York. Well, yes. I would just tell you that we are way behind on our infrastructure in this country in terms of keeping it maintained to a level of safety or efficiency just to keep traffic moving.

I had a construction worker tell me yesterday that he was working with some of his compatriots on the Tappan Zee Bridge which, as you know, crosses the Hudson River just north of New York and carries the New York State thruway and millions of cars a day commuting to and from the New York metro area.

Twelve years ago they were replacing and welding plates to repair potholes and damage that has been done by the salt and acid rain, and pigeon droppings, if you can believe it, are a major cause of corrosion on bridges. And at that time 12 years ago, he and his men that were working on the bridge said if they did not have to drive across it to go to work to feed their families, they would not drive across it because they felt it wasn't safe then. And they told their kids if they could help it, please don't drive across that bridge. 12 years ago.

Now we're finally getting down to the point where the thruway authority and the State of New York are looking at building a new Tappan Zee Bridge because the support pilings of the bridge are either being undercut by the tide or eaten by aquatic worms, if you can believe that, or both. There are so many kinds of damage that has happened in a bridge that only had a 30-year life span, and it was built more than 30 years ago, and nothing's been done to get ready to build its successor.

As I'm sure you both do, I'm approached in the district every week by town supervisors or mayors or what have you asking for help with a sewage treatment plant, for instance, in the town of New Windsor, New York, that's 60 years old. It's well beyond its design life, and when it breaks down, if there's a heavy storm rain event and it becomes overtaxed with capacity from the storm run-off, you get raw sewage running into the Hudson River, which we've been trying and pretty much succeeding in trying to clean up in terms of sewage. The river is much better. It's actually swimmable, and to some extent, some people eat fish out of it, but I think that disregards the PCBs, which is another issue.

But every one of these water treatments for drinking water, sewage treatment for disposing of wastewater, bridges, tunnels, roads, rail, which we are so far behind the rest of the world in, Japan, the European Nations in the EU have a so much more advanced rail system that it actually substitutes for a short hop air travel in this country, what we would consider to be flying from New York to Washington or New York to Boston. They do that by train on a high-speed train that takes virtually the same time or less because it delivers them from inner city to inner city. It eliminates the taxi ride out to the airport and back in from the airport at the other end.

□ 2100

It eliminates the taxi ride out to the airport and back in from the airport at the other end. These are all things that cost money.

And you know what else? They hire people. They hire construction workers, they hire sheet metal workers, they hire engineers, they hire electrical workers, they hire plumbers. And just as FDR did back when we had the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl, and the incredible unemployment and deprivation when schools were closed across the country for lack of money to pay teachers, we saw really desperate times in this country which I hope we don't see again. And I hope we move fast enough to try to take the steps, not just to build assets here at home, but at the same time, to put money back into the economy by hiring people to build this infrastructure. That's the first place that I would start.

And I think that there's a lot of agreement, when I talk to Members on both sides of the aisle, and certainly when I talk to my constituents, that that's a good use of the money that we're—whether we're borrowing the money or not, and hopefully we will be able to pay as we go, as in this Congress, this House of Representatives, under PAYGO, we've been trying to do it, but wherever we come up with the money, putting it into our own infrastructure here at home is a really good place to jump-start the economy.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. BRALEY, obviously a lot of things happening in Iowa and in the Midwest, and the economy and its impact on the communities that you represent. Why don't you share with us some of the experiences you're having and some of the things we're doing in Congress to address them.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Sure. And I'm just going to pick up where Mr. HALL left off. We both have the pleasure of serving on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee here in Congress. And one of the things that we hear about every day is not just the benefits of having, oh, $137 billion to invest in infrastructure—let's just pull that number out of the air—but what happens if you don't address your critical infrastructure needs. Because we hear, for example, that for every 1 minute delay that UPS drivers have in congested urban areas in New York, in Florida, maybe lesser in Iowa, but unique, different types of delays, it imposes enormous economic costs in shipping those goods, which is then passed on to consumers all over this country.

So when I fly into the airport in Moline and I have to cross the I–74 bridge, which is one of the functionally obsolete, structurally deficient bridges in my district, and they've got a lane closed down either for repair work or because an accident is there, it may take you half an hour to drive from one side of the Mississippi River to the other side. And all that does is slow down commerce, it slows down people. And at a time of rising fuel costs, it adds enormously to the prices that we pay to get where we need to go.

And each of us has unique transportation delay issues. Mr. KLEIN comes from an urban area in Florida where traffic congestion in many ways is a way of life. And you're sitting there waiting to move, your engine is running, and you don't get very high fuel efficiency from that expensive fuel you've got. A lot of my constituents live in rural parts of Iowa, and for them to get basic goods and services they have to drive to a county seat town or to a larger urban area to get what they need. And they have larger fuel costs simply to get what they need to buy to take care of their basic needs. And when we ignore these infrastructure needs that we've been talking about, all it does is have very large ripple effects.

But one of the other things that we talked about here is our whole energy policy. I am very proud of the fact that my State is, I believe, pretty much in the epicenter of the renewable energy explosion. Whether it's ethanol, biodiesel, wind energy, one of the things we're trying to do is create an environment where we can reduce our dependency on foreign oil and not have to worry so much about the impact of what's going on with the Iraqi oil fields on our domestic fuel availability.

And so it's very exciting to see the potential, but one of the things that's disturbing is when we miss opportunities to do more. So if you look at wind energy capacity, most people would be shocked, I think, to realize that the State of North Dakota has the highest wind energy capacity of any State in the country. So they are a prime location for us to sell these wind turbines we're producing in Iowa and start to reduce that dependency on foreign oil.

But they've got a problem. It's the exact same problem Mr. HALL and I saw with the border patrol down in Arizona, and that is, it's one thing to say we need to secure our borders, but if you don't have infrastructure in place to access the border, you can't do your job. They've got a problem in North Dakota because they don't have a grid right now that can handle the energy capacity they would generate and put onto the grid and send out to people in Florida and New York, who have high demand and don't have the ability to meet their energy needs.

So when we're talking about how this war and the funding for the war is impacting Americans, I think that the ripple effect is enormous. And we're really only scratching the surface.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Well, I would certainly pick up on that because one of the first things that this Congress did, with our freshman class encouraging the way, was to say that we were going to change the way Congress paid for and spent the American taxpayers' money, and we adopted something called ''PAYGO,'' pay-as-you-go budgeting. In other words, we can't pass a bill without it having been paid for in the budget. You've got to find the money somewhere in the budget; you can't say, well, maybe we'll have more money next year. That's just the way everybody runs their business back home, that's just the way everybody runs their personal checkbook. I know that my wife and I operate that way, and I'm sure everybody else on the floor here does the same thing. You just can't keep spending without having the money to pay it back.

And the reality is that, if you think about that, if you think about that responsible budgeting and the fact that we're spending—the number I keep throwing out—$339 million per day, think about the opportunity of investing in new energy alternatives. And you hear, well, maybe with some of the types of energy alternatives, the renewable energies, they're not ready for prime time yet; there are pollution problems with this type or some type of hazard. I'm from Florida; we should be leading the world in solar power, but there is a battery storage capacity issue. Is there an answer? You bet there's an answer. It requires our scientists, our business entrepreneurs to sit down and figure it out. And with the kind of money that would be available to challenge our scientists, our business entrepreneurs to develop solar, wind, wave, any number of various alternatives, to make us energy independent and then get rid of this oil import of 60 percent of our oil from the Middle East and Venezuela every day, which I think every American understands is a national security problem and all the other things that go along with that, we would be in great shape.

And that is what we, as Americans, are all about. We think forward, we're visionary, and we need to recognize that these opportunities that are being presented to us on becoming energy independent over the next number of years, as many of us refer to it, the Apollo Project—Mr. HALL is a leader in our class on these issues—that this is where we need to be moving forward for our future on national security, for our jobs, and opportunities that will help us engage in a stronger future economy, and for an environment. It all ties together very nicely.

Mr. HALL, I know you are very interested in this as well, so please join us.

Mr. HALL of New York. I thank the gentleman from Florida.

And I am happy to tell you that there is a solution to the problem of what to do with that power while the battery is being developed, it's called ''net metering.'' And most States, New York being one of them, I believe have net metering which enables you to, if you're a homeowner or a business and you put solar panels on your property or on your roof and you don't use all that power, it winds the meter backwards and puts the power back into the grid and uses the grid as a battery. So that's what most people are doing today who have solar panels.

In fact, I helped the Action Club at the Arlington High School in Dutchess County, New York recently acquire a grant from the Dyson Foundation of New York, who were very generous and came up with funding for them to put solar panels on the roof of the high school. This is leadership by high school students who went first. And NYSERDA, the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority, I got part of the funding from them, developed a design to produce a certain number of kilowatts from, I think it's 123 kilowatts or so, anyway, it's a substantial amount of power toward what their school uses.

And then they came to us. And knowing how the appropriation process here in Congress can take so long and it's not a sure thing—last year our appropriations were finally signed into law by the President in December—I didn't want them to have to wait that long, so I was able to find a private source of funding for them.

But the point is that, it not only works, but the school kids know about it and they want their school to be solar. And I told them after they get that installed, they should go get the school bus fleet to use 20 percent biodiesel.

I'm burning heating oil in my home in the northeast, where heating oil is a major expense, especially this last winter, the cost rising the way it has has been very harmful to many people, especially those on fixed incomes. And I just called up the local dealer for heating oil and said, do you have a biodiesel blend? And the guy on the other end of the phone said, sure, it's a 20 percent soy/biodiesel blend, and I own the company, I burn it at home myself. It burns cleaner than regular oil. And so I said, send it on over. And for the last two winters now my wife and I have been heating our home with a biodiesel blend. And that's 20 percent less that has to come from Saudi Arabia or some other unstable part of the world where we're funding governments that don't like us, that use that money to buy weapons or to fund madrassas that teach young people who don't have much opportunity in their country, by the way, to advance economically or educationally, they teach them to hate Americans or hate Israelis and to do harm to us. And then, as Tom Friedman likes to write in the New York Times, we have to pay for the other side of the war on terror by sending our troops over there to stabilize these unstable parts of the world.

So that's a lose-lose policy, the old policy that we've been stuck on of oil dependency. The win-win-win policy is the one that we're talking about, where we use wind, we use biofuels. I mean, Brazil did this 20 years ago. They decided that they were going to use sugar cane ethanol. And they converted their vehicle fleet in the entire country over so that now when they drill offshore for oil in Brazil, they sell it on the world market and make money off of it, but they don't use it in their own vehicles. I think they're a few steps ahead of us. But we can get there. We're the nation that put a man on the moon. We're the nation that has been able to lead the way in many areas of medicine and technology, and certainly computer and software and Internet technology. This is something we can do. And we, in government, can incentivize it and try to encourage private industry and encourage individuals to do it. And make it patriotic, make people know that it's patriotic to drive the most efficient vehicle you can in the most efficient way that you can. It's patriotic to carpool, it's patriotic to use mass transit when you can, and it's certainly patriotic to let your elected officials know at every level of government, whether it's snowplows in the winter, school buses or UPS fleets or the thruway trucks that drive up and down all the time from Albany to New York, governmental fleets of vehicles, if we can buy hybrids, as West Chester County has done with their bus fleet, they're running not just hybrids, but biodiesel hybrids, they're already pyramiding in West Chester County on the B line, as they call it, the county bus route, they're pyramiding one new technology on top of another. And the next step would be plug-in biodiesel hybrids.

But we can do this. The technologies are here and available. And the sooner

we start getting on the program and using them, the sooner we will be able to tell some of the countries that we've, unfortunately, been beholden to, whether it's the Saudis to get the oil or whether it's the Chinese to borrow the money to pay for the oil, we will soon be able to tell them, we don't need you quite so badly, and by the way, we'd like to talk to you about human rights and some other things that right now we can't be honest about because, in effect, we've lost our sovereignty because of this dependency.

But at any rate, it's a lose-lose-lose policy on one hand and a win-win-win policy on the other, and I want to see us go for the win-win.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Well, as we begin to wind down, we started this discussion about the impact of Iraq and the economy, and the economy and Iraq. And I think we started it from the beginning saying this country, we Americans have spent $600 billion on this effort in Iraq. And at a minimum, as we've discussed tonight, what could we do, certainly in the future, in terms of Iraq, from the right standpoint, taking responsibility and making it stand up and step up for itself and paying for its reconstruction, its fuel needs that Americans are having to pay for right now, and the training of its military.

And those resources, those American dollars can certainly be applied in a way to make us safer in dealing with, as you express, national security interests by taking us away from the addiction to oil and coming up with wonderful new renewable energy sources. The technology is there, it's being developed, it's being refined. We can take the question of the jobs and our economy right now, and of course the environment.

And so, as we begin to wrap up, if you can give some final thoughts as to how the Iraq and the economy are tied together and how we can get beyond this point and do good things for this country.

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Well, I thank my friend for the opportunity, and also the opportunity to spend time with two of my good friends tonight talking about very, very important issues.

We've focused primarily on the impact of the war in Iraq and the cost of the war on the domestic economy here in the United States. But when I look at my friend from New York and I look at my friend from Florida, two States that really symbolize a growing connection between our domestic economy and the global economy, one of the things we know is a lot of the issues we've talked about tonight all come back to something we all are charged to do when we swore to represent this country, and that is to provide security.

□ 2115

Now that may be security from harm, from foreign interests. It may be economic security. But it all comes together. And we know that many developing countries, the addiction to energy needs is what keeps them suppressed in reaching greater levels of economic stability, and that's why oil and the pursuit of oil has played such an important role in the last 100 years in the world economy.

By exporting our knowledge about renewable energy, about new emerging economies that can be shared and applied in the global economy, I think we can give a great gift to the American people in the return of a safer world, a more secure world, and a world where we have the ability to be able to predict with greater certainty what the current economic trends are going to be and set economic policies, with the assistance of the administration and the Federal Reserve, to address these crises before they become the full-blown crises that we have been talking about on the floor tonight.

So I look forward to working with my friends and my other colleagues here on both sides of the aisle in trying to provide some guidance and direction as we get our hands on this very important subject.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. I thank the gentleman from Iowa for participating tonight on behalf of our freshmen class.

And if you would like to, Mr. HALL, take a minute to give a close.

Mr. HALL of New York. Quickly I would just add about Iraq two quotes, one from Ambassador Ryan Crocker. When I was over there with our Republican colleagues TOM COLE, RIC KELLER, DAVE LOEBSACK of Iowa, the four Members of Congress sat with the Ambassador, and he was asked by one of us, ''What's the state of reconciliation and peace and resolving the conflicts between the tribes and the different religious sects?''

And I was sitting right next to him; so I wrote down his response to be sure I had it right. His response was, ''The Maliki Government is somewhere between challenged and dysfunctional.'' Now, that was October.

In March General Petraeus stated on March 13, ''No one feels that there has been sufficient progress by any means in the area of national reconciliation.''

So it's my contention that not only do the Iraqis need to start paying for their own reconstruction, I think they need to take responsibility for their own security as well because as long as we are putting our men and women in a police role to try to police their civil war and their ethnic and tribal and religious differences, it's just going to let them continue to be dysfunctional. And when we phase out or pull out or whatever you want to call it and get back to the real business that this country faces, the real dangers that we face, which, as you said before, I believe, are Afghanistan and Pakistan certainly more in terms of terrorism, that they will be forced to come to terms with whether they want to be a country or whether they want to be three separate groups of Kurds and Sunnis and Shia or whatever it is. But that's one thing.

And the other thing is I am a firm believer that after 5 years and a least $600 billion spent and over $1 trillion in veterans' benefits that we have incurred that we will have to pay out of responsibility and the debt that we owe to the men and women who fought in this conflict that it's time for us to start looking at what those dollars could do at home for the things that we really need to take care of, not just for national security but for economic security, education security, health security, and all the other meanings of the word.

So I thank my friends both, and I thank the gentleman from Florida for chairing this session.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. I thank the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from Iowa. It's been an honor and privilege to serve with you and all the rest of the Members of our freshmen class, both Democrats and Republicans.

I know the future of our country, the future of our families, our children, and I have got two kids in college right now and I know all of you have kids in high school and college, we think about that every day as we try to make decisions which will be the best for our country both from a national security and economic security point of view. And I know that we're going to work together in a collegial way to accomplish those.

So I thank you, wish you a good night, and look forward to seeing you next week at this time.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MEEK of Florida (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today after 2 p.m.

## SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. COURTNEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ALLEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BURTON of Indiana) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, April 23.

Mr. TANCREDO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, April 23.

(The following Member (at his request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. ENGEL, for 5 minutes, today.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 17, 2008, at 8:30 a.m.

## EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:–

6119. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pyroxsulam; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0785; FRL-8349-9] received February 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6120. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Dibasic Esters (DBE); Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0182; FRL-8341-4] received February 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6121. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Cyfluthrin; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0857; FRL-8350-3] received February 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6122. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Source Categories: Gasoline Distribution Bulk Terminals, Bulk Plants, and Pipeline Facilities and Gasoline Dispensing Facilities; Correction [EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0406, FRL-8540-2] (RIN: 2060-AM74) received March 4, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6123. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — In-Use Testing for Heavy-Duty Diesel Engines and Vehicles; Emission Measurement Accuracy Margins for Portable Emission Measurement Systems and Program Revisions [EPA-HQ-OAR-2004-0072; FRL-8539-3] (RIN: 2060-A069) received March 4, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6124. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Determination of Nonattainment and Reclassification of the Atlanta, Georgia 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area [EPA-R04-OAR-2007-0958-200802; FRL-8539-2] received March 4, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6125. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wisconsin; Approval of Construction Permit Waiver [EPA-R05-OAR-2007-0717; FRL-8533-1] received March 4, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6126. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference; Correction [MD201-3117; FRL-8536-3] received March 4, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6127. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maine; Open Burning Rule [EPA-R01-OAR-2005-ME-0008; A-1-FRL-8526-5] received February 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6128. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Amendments to Existing Regulation Provisions Concerning Reasonably Available Control Technology [EPA-R03-OAR-2007-1169; FRL-8532-6] received February 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6129. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Montana; Revisions to Administrative Rules of Montana, and Interstate Transport of Pollution [EPA-R08-OAR-2007-0646; FRL-8527-1] received February 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6130. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Revisions to Control Volatile Organic Compound Emissions; Volatile Organic Compound Control for El Paso, Gregg, Nueces, and Victoria Counties and the Ozone Standard Nonattainment Areas of Beaumont/Port Arthur, Dallas/Fort Worth, and Houston/Galveston [EPA-R06-OAR-2005-TX-0015; FRL-8532-1] received February 21, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6131. A letter from the Federal Register Certifying Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standards for the Administrative Collection of Claims [A.G. Order No. 2918-2007] (Treasury RIN: 1510-AA91) received March 4, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6132. A letter from the Deputy Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2009-2013 Future Years Homeland Security Program, pursuant to 6 U.S.C. 454 Public Law 107-296, section 874(c); to the Committee on Homeland Security.

6133. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2007 Defense Environmental Programs Annual Report, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2706; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Energy and Commerce.

6134. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Medicare Beneficiary Ombudsman Annual Report for Calendar Years 2005-2006, pursuant to Public Law 108-173, section 923(a) (117 Stat. 2394); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

6135. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting a legislative proposal to address the declining balance in the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF); jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Ways and Means.

6136. A letter from the Chairman, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting a copy of the Commission's ''March 2008 Report to the Congress: Medicare Payment Policy''; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

6137. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting a legislative proposal entitled, ''Federal Employees Short-term Disability Security Act of 2008''; jointly to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, House Administration, and the Judiciary.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota:

H.R. 5813. A bill to amend Public Law 110-196 to provide for a temporary extension of programs authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 beyond April 18, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 5814. A bill to create a Federal cause of action to determine whether defamation exists under United States law in cases in which defamation actions have been brought in foreign courts against United States persons on the basis of publications or speech in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 5815. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a comprehensive national system for skilled construction workers to assist first responders in disasters; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KNOLLENBERG (for himself and Mr. BOEHNER):

H.R. 5816. A bill to prohibit assistance for the Carter Center located in Atlanta, Georgia; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA:

H.R. 5817. A bill to establish a new nonimmigrant category for Korean aliens seeking to enter the United States temporarily to perform services in a specialty occupation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. WATT, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CARSON, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. CLAY):

H.R. 5818. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make

loans to States to acquire foreclosed housing and to make grants to States for related costs; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Mr. GRAVES, and Mr. SESTAK):

H.R. 5819. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to improve the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committee on Science and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ALLEN (for himself and Mr. MICHAUD):

H.R. 5820. A bill to authorize the Forest Service to provide financial assistance to States for the acquisition of land to preserve and maintain such land for traditional use by the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROUN of Georgia (for himself, Mr. AKIN, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GOODE, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. SALI, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 5821. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to close loopholes in the prohibition on the sale or rental of sexually explicit material on military installations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CARDOZA:

H.R. 5822. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to waive the 10 percent penalty on withdrawals from qualified retirement plans upon receipt of notice of foreclosure on a principal residence; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. BISHOP of New York, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

H.R. 5823. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to designate a portion of their income tax payment to provide assistance to homeless veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KAGEN:

H.R. 5824. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to establish a mortgage foreclosure counseling program for members of the Armed Forces returning from service abroad; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. NUNES (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. AKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. BACA, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. BARROW, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Ms. BEAN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BERRY, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. BONNER, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BOREN, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BUYER, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mr. CANNON, Mr. CANTOR, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. COBLE, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. DENT, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. DOYLE, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. DREIER, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. EVERETT, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. FOSSELLA, Ms. FOXX, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GOODE, Mr. GORDON, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. HARE, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. HAYES, Mr. HELLER, Mr. HERGER, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. ISSA, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. KELLER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. KIRK, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. LINDER, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. MCKEON, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. MICA, Mr. MICHAUD, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mrs. MYRICK, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. PENCE, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. PITTS, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. PORTER, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. REYES, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. ROSKAM, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ROSS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SALI, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SHULER, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. SPACE, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TANNER, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. TERRY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. TURNER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UPTON, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. WAMP, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WELLER, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia, Mr. WOLF, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. MCNULTY):

H.R. 5825. A bill to amend titles 5, 10, 37, and 38, United States Code, to ensure the fair treatment of a member of the Armed Forces who is discharged from the Armed Forces, at the request of the member, pursuant to the Department of Defense policy permitting the early discharge of a member who is the only surviving child in a family in which the father or mother, or one or more siblings, served in the Armed Forces and, because of hazards incident to such service, was killed, died as a result of wounds, accident, or disease, is in a captured or missing in action status, or is permanently disabled, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RODRIGUEZ (for himself, Mr. FILNER, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. HALL of New York):

H.R. 5826. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2008, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROSKAM (for himself and Mr. KIRK):

H.R. 5827. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve food safety; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota:

H.J. Res. 80. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States prohibiting the penalty of death; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SHUSTER:

H. Con. Res. 329. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that former Presidents and high-ranking political figures should refrain from freelance diplomacy against the wishes of the current Government and stated United States foreign policy; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. WEINER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. PORTER, Mr. RAMSTAD, and Mr. POE):

H. Res. 1110. A resolution condemning Hamas as a foreign terrorist organization responsible for the murders of 26 United States citizens; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KLEIN of Florida:

H. Res. 1111. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that any funding provided by the United States to the Government of Iraq for reconstruction, training for Iraqi security forces, and fuel for United States operations in Iraq should be provided in the form of loans; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BAIRD (for himself, Mr. KIRK, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, and Mr. SAXTON):

H. Res. 1112. A resolution recognizing 2008 as the International Year of the Reef; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H. Res. 1113. A resolution celebrating the role of mothers in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of Mother's Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H. Res. 1114. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Arbor Day Foundation and National Arbor Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. KLEIN of Florida (for himself, Mr. MICA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. TANNER, Mr. FARR, Mr. PORTER, Mr. SIRES, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. COBLE, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. WALSH of New York):

H. Res. 1115. A resolution expressing support for designation of April 16, 2008, as ''National Golf Day''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. MACK, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. MICA, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. KELLER, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, and Mr. FEENEY):

H. Res. 1116. A resolution honoring the life of Claude Denson Pepper, distinguished former Senator and Representative from Florida; to the Committee on House Administration.

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 19: Mr. KINGSTON.

H.R. 333: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 406: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. KELLER, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. CARTER, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. GOODE, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. LATTA, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. SALI, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. YOUNG of Florida.

H.R. 579: Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky and Mr. GALLEGLY.

H.R. 615: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

H.R. 616: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 618: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 620: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 642: Mr. TOWNS.

H.R. 643: Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. HOYER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.

H.R. 1078: Mr. PUTNAM and Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 1085: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. SIRES, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. FARR, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 1110: Mr. HARE.

H.R. 1174: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

H.R. 1246: Ms. RICHARDSON.

H.R. 1277: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.

H.R. 1343: Mr. SALI.

H.R. 1518: Mr. OLVER.

H.R. 1524: Mr. ALTMIRE.

H.R. 1532: Mr. STARK and Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H.R. 1542: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 1553: Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 1643: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 1655: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 1774: Mr. WU.

H.R. 1866: Mr. BOREN.

H.R. 1967: Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, and Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.

H.R. 2054: Mr. MATHESON.

H.R. 2158: Mr. CULBERSON.

H.R. 2188: Ms. SUTTON.

H.R. 2676: Ms. HOOLEY.

H.R. 2686: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H.R. 2703: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 2712: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 2734: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

H.R. 2851: Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. ARCURI, and Ms. HOOLEY.

H.R. 2964: Mr. SHAYS, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. BERMAN.

H.R. 2991: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 3016: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 3036: Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 3041: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 3089: Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee.

H.R. 3098: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 3202: Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 3257: Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 3282: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3334: Ms. CLARKE.

H.R. 3368: Mr. GOODE.

H.R. 3522: Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 3622: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 3658: Mr. ACKERMAN.

H.R. 3660: Mr. GONZALEZ and Mr. SESTAK.

H.R. 3689: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

H.R. 3769: Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. REYES, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 3819: Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 3870: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 3934: Mr. LATOURETTE.

H.R. 4053: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 4054: Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 4061: Mr. ROSKAM.

H.R. 4091: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 4221: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 4318: Mrs. SCHMIDT.

H.R. 4335: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 4344: Mr. BROUN of Georgia.

H.R. 4651: Mr. PAUL and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 4652: Ms. CLARKE, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. TOWNS.

H.R. 4926: Mr. SHAYS and Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 4927: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 4930: Mr. ROSS and Ms. SCHWARTZ.

H.R. 5131: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5176: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 5236: Mr. HERGER.

H.R. 5244: Mr. ORTIZ, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. JEFFERSON, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 5266: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 5425: Mr. BONNER.

H.R. 5426: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 5440: Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GERLACH, and Mr. SHAYS.

H.R. 5443: Mr. MANZULLO and Mr. FLAKE.

H.R. 5446: Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 5534: Mr. COHEN, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. ROYCE, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 5536: Mr. FARR, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 5540: Mr. CASTLE.

H.R. 5541: Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 5590: Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 5596: Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. WAMP, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KINGSTON, and Mr. LEWIS of California.

H.R. 5603: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. COBLE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SHAYS, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5606: Mr. REGULA and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 5613: Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. RENZI, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. MACK, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. COSTA, Mr. ORTIZ, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 5627: Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 5633: Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 5635: Mr. FLAKE.

H.R. 5636: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5637: Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA.

H.R. 5656: Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky, Mr. CANNON, Mr. ISSA, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. SALI.

H.R. 5674: Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. HERSETH Sandlin, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. HOLDEN, and Mr. BERRY.

H.R. 5684: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, and Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 5695: Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 5709: Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 5731: Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. ROHRABACHER.

H.R. 5737: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania and Mr. HOEKSTRA.

H.R. 5740: Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SIMPSON, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MACK, and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 5752: Mrs. MYRICK.

H.R. 5757: Mr. KINGSTON.

H.R. 5769: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia.

H.R. 5780: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 5782: Mr. HERGER and Ms. GRANGER.

H.R. 5793: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. KELLER.

H.R. 5794: Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. MANZULLO, and Mr. MCHENRY.

H. Con. Res. 163: Mrs. MYRICK.

H. Con. Res. 253: Mr. WEXLER.

H. Con. Res. 314: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H. Con. Res. 315: Mr. REHBERG and Mr. HOBSON.

H. Con. Res. 317: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts and Mr. WOLF.

H. Con. Res. 318: Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. SNYDER, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H. Con. Res. 320: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. CLAY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. BACA, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of

Florida, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. MCNULTY.

H. Con. Res. 322: Mr. SHUSTER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KIND, Mr. SPACE, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. BOREN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. HAYES, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. CARSON, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. REYES, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. Lincoln Davis of Tennessee, Mrs. Gillibrand, and Mrs. JONES of Ohio.

H. Con. Res. 323: Mr. HALL of Texas, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. HAYES, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. COBLE, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. BACHUS, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. TERRY, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. BOYD of Florida, Mr. TANNER, Mr. WAMP, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. WU, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. GORDON, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. BARROW, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. RADANOVICH, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. NUNES, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. PORTER, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. PENCE, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. MELANCON, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BACA, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BUYER, Mr. MCKEON, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. NADLER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. LINDER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, and Mr. ISSA.

H. Res. 106: Ms. SPEIER.

H. Res. 565: Ms. FALLIN.

H. Res. 821: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H. Res. 896: Mr. CARSON.

H. Res. 925: Mrs. MYRICK and Mr. LIPINSKI.

H. Res. 952: Mr. FORBES.

H. Res. 987: Mr. WILSON of Ohio.

H. Res. 1003: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H. Res. 1011: Mr. COSTA and Ms. WATSON.

H. Res. 1022: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H. Res. 1026: Mr. HARE.

H. Res. 1048: Mr. FILNER.

H. Res. 1055: Mr. COHEN and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 1062: Mr. SPRATT and Mr. PAYNE.

H. Res. 1069: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. SHUSTER, and Mr. WEXLER.

H. Res. 1079: Mr. WATT, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. Carson, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. MEEK of Florida, and Ms. WATERS.

H. Res. 1080: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H. Res. 1093: Mr. WALSH of New York, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mr. PAYNE.

H. Res. 1097: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. BARROW, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, and Ms. MATSUI.

H. Res. 1109: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. Linda T. Sánchez of California, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. COSTA, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. SPACE, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BACA, Mr. ROSS, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Ms. CASTOR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. HOYER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. Lincoln Davis of Tennessee, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. REYES, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. HODES, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. BARROW, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. COHEN, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.

## DELETION OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 891: Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 2833: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, and Mr. BARROW.