

country clearly demonstrate the need for this legislation.

This bill is a model for bipartisan cooperation. Problems in the credit market began affecting the student loan market only 2 months ago, and since that time Congress has quickly moved to identify the problem, craft a responsible solution to that problem, and quickly move that solution through the legislative process. And, today, we are sending this bill to the President for his signature.

Congress can be proud of taking this proactive step to prevent a crisis and I am proud of what we did today, and encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP), a member of the committee.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding, and I thank the chairman and the ranking member of the full committee and also of the subcommittee for working together so quickly and so cooperatively to bring this legislation to the floor. It is very badly needed, and the passage of it will allow us to expand upon the gains that this Congress has made in the dual goals of access and affordability. And let me just quickly reflect on those.

We have significantly reduced student loan interest rates. We have significantly increased the Pell Grant maximum. We have overridden the administration's recommendation to eliminate the SCOG program. We have overridden the administration's recommendation to eliminate the Perkins Loan program. We have done all of this on a bipartisan basis, and we have done all of this with a focus on keeping student need and student interests uppermost in our mind.

There are several very positive features of this bill. Let me talk just about three of them. The first is seeing to it that we maintain liquidity in the student loan market, a situation that is forced upon us by factors that have nothing to do with the Student Loan program. The second is the increase in loan limits on an annual basis. The most important element of this is that it will reduce student reliance on private lending, and that certainly is a goal of ours, to see to it that students have access to government regulated loans as opposed to private loans. And, lastly, the easing of the repayment requirements for the parent loan will be enormously helpful to needy families and the students of those families.

So I again want to commend leadership on both sides of the aisle and both sides of the Capitol for working so quickly on this. I want to commend the Education Department and the administration for their willingness to be supportive, and I urge speedy passage.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

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

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. MILLER and Mr. MCKEON for skillfully navigating this legislation to the floor, and I strongly support it.

Our country's economy has been severely affected by a lack of liquidity crisis. In plain language, people who need to borrow money to do good things who are creditworthy are having a very difficult time borrowing that money.

The early tremors are present in the education field that young men and women who need money to go to school are beginning to have trouble borrowing that money; and we are, frankly, concerned that an earthquake may follow those tremors.

Rather than wait for that disaster to occur, Chairman MILLER and Mr. MCKEON are taking preventive, action along with the Secretary of Education, to try to prevent such a calamity from occurring.

This legislation is commendable on any number of grounds. First, it strengthens the lender of last resort program so that guarantee agencies around the country will be equipped to quickly move capital to students and schools who find it difficult or impossible to get that capital from the banking institutions. Second, it increases the limits that students can borrow money that is guaranteed under the Federal guaranteed loan programs.

This is especially important, because so many of our students need what are called gap loans. This is the person who has an aid package of \$28,000, but who needs 31,000 to go to school. In the past, the way families and students have dealt with this problem is to find a private lender to make a loan to fill that gap. There is increasing evidence that achieving that loan is increasingly difficult. By raising the loan limits in a fiscally responsible way, this bill alleviates that problem.

And, finally, by encouraging the growth of technological progress in the education sector, this bill ramps up the infrastructure that will be necessary to move loans to more students around the country as the time has come.

There is a lot of cynicism, Mr. Speaker, in this country about government, and some of it is quite justified. But I would hope that the cynics would watch the process that has occurred here where two leaders, one Democrat, one Republican, have come together, listened to the Secretary of Education, carefully analyzed the problem, and worked together to produce a piece of legislation that I believe will solve that problem. I commend them for their leadership.

I am proud to support this legislation, and I would urge Republicans and Democrats to vote "yes."

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to echo the words of others that have spoken here today, and thank Chairman MILLER, thank Mr. HINOJOSA again, Mr. KELLER, and especially Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. RENZI on the other side for working very closely and deciding to take up our bill, because this could have been delayed. They moved expeditiously, and now we will be able to get this to the President's desk. And, hopefully, the concerns that I have felt for several months now will never come to bear; that we will go through this year, and students will be able to get their loans and we will do this without any hiccups. But, if not, this will be a big help as we move forward.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 5715, and voted for it when it was first considered on the House floor. Although I have some reservations, I believe it is a reasonable compromise that will provide the student loan market added flexibility and stability going forward. Had I been present, however, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 5715. The question was taken.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

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

S. 2954. An act 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 May 2, 2008.

TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF FARM PROGRAMS

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2954) 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 May 2, 2008.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2954

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 April 25, 2008, section 1 of Public Law 110-196 (122 Stat. 653) (as amended by Public Law 110-200 (122 Stat. 695) and Public Law 110-205 (122 Stat. 713)) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “May 2, 2008” and inserting “May 16, 2008”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “May 2, 2008” and inserting “May 16, 2008”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this 2-week extension of the current farm bill. The conferees have been working hard, particularly Chairman PETERSON and Ranking Member GOODLATTE, and the chairman and ranking member in the other body. And we can see the light at the end of the tunnel, but we still need some additional time to dot all the I's and cross all the T's, as we try to prepare the American people for a sound farm policy over the next several years. I think that we are going to present a farm bill to this body and to the American people that will do just that. I think this will gain overwhelming support in both bodies and will be signed by the President of the United States.

In the commodity title, we will not only sustain our safety net, but we will see significant reform. In the conservation title, where I have the privilege of chairing the subcommittee, along with Mr. LUCAS who is the ranking member, we will see significantly more investment of about \$4 billion into our conservation programs. And, in nutrition, which has been so important to our leadership, we will see an additional \$10 billion in investment in nutrition programs.

And, finally on the energy title; we hear so much talk about our need to be less dependent upon foreign energy, we need to step up to the plate and do something. We should have done it years ago. But we cannot let this farm bill go without having a significant investment in energy. And we are proud of the work that we have been able to do on the energy title, particularly in the area of cellulosic ethanol. We think that we are going to have a program that is going to allow us to begin to wean ourselves off the dependency upon foreign energy.

So, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the conferees are working hard, they are making significant progress, but we need a little bit more time to accomplish our product.

I urge support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

I rise in support of the temporary farm bill extension that will extend some of the provisions of the 2002 farm bill so that the conferees can attempt to finalize this bill. I share my colleague's perspective over there. I think progress has been made, and we need to bring this to a conclusion.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support this farm bill extension so that that work can be accomplished.

□ 1345

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOLDEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2954.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 2954.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motion to instruct on H.R. 2419, by the yeas and nays; motion to suspend the rules relating to H.R. 5715, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2419, FOOD AND ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to instruct on H.R. 2419 offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 157, nays 259, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 238]

YEAS—157

Allen	Franks (AZ)	Pascrell
Bachus	Frelinghuysen	Paul
Baird	Gallely	Pence
Barrett (SC)	Garrett (NJ)	Peterson (PA)
Bartlett (MD)	Gerlach	Petri
Barton (TX)	Giffords	Pickering
Bean	Gilchrest	Pitts
Berkley	Gingrey	Platts
Berman	Goode	Price (GA)
Biggart	Hall (TX)	Pryce (OH)
Bilbray	Harman	Radanovich
Bishop (NY)	Heller	Ramstad
Bishop (UT)	Hensarling	Reichert
Blumenauer	Hobson	Rogers (KY)
Boehner	Hodes	Rohrabacher
Bono Mack	Hoekstra	Roskam
Boucher	Holt	Royce
Broun (GA)	Hunter	Ryan (WI)
Brown (SC)	Inglis (SC)	Sánchez, Linda
Brown-Waite,	Issa	T.
Ginny	Johnson, Sam	Saxton
Burgess	Jordan	Schiff
Calvert	Keller	Schmidt
Campbell (CA)	Kind	Schwartz
Cannon	Kirk	Sensenbrenner
Cantor	Kline (MN)	Sessions
Capito	Knollenberg	Sestak
Castle	Lamborn	Shadegg
Castor	Lampson	Shays
Chabot	Langevin	Shea-Porter
Chandler	Latta	Sherman
Conyers	Lewis (CA)	Smith (NE)
Cooper	Linder	Smith (NJ)
Crenshaw	Lipinski	Smith (WA)
Cubin	LoBiondo	Speier
Culberson	Lofgren, Zoe	Stark
Davis (CA)	Lungren, Daniel	Stearns
Davis, David	E.	Tancredo
Davis, Tom	Mack	Terry
DeFazio	Markey	Tiberi
Dent	Matheson	Tierney
Dreier	McDermott	Van Hollen
Duncan	McGovern	Wamp
Ehlers	McKeon	Waters
Ellison	Mica	Welch (VT)
English (PA)	Michaud	Westmoreland
Eshoo	Miller (FL)	Wilson (SC)
Feeney	Miller, Gary	Wittman (VA)
Ferguson	Mitchell	Wolf
Filner	Moore (WI)	Woolsey
Flake	Moran (VA)	Young (AK)
Fortenberry	Murphy (CT)	Young (FL)
Fox	Murphy, Patrick	
Frank (MA)	Pallone	

NAYS—259

Abercrombie	Clarke	Foster
Ackerman	Clay	Gillibrand
Aderholt	Cleaver	Gohmert
Akin	Clyburn	Gonzalez
Alexander	Coble	Goodlatte
Altire	Cohen	Gordon
Andrews	Cole (OK)	Granger
Arcuri	Conaway	Graves
Baca	Costa	Green, Al
Bachmann	Costello	Green, Gene
Baldwin	Courtney	Grijalva
Barrow	Cramer	Gutierrez
Becerra	Crowley	Hall (NY)
Berry	Cuellar	Hare
Bilirakis	Cummings	Hastings (FL)
Bishop (GA)	Davis (AL)	Hastings (WA)
Blunt	Davis (IL)	Hayes
Bonner	Davis (KY)	Herger
Boozman	Davis, Lincoln	Herseth Sandlin
Boren	DeGette	Higgins
Boswell	Delahunt	Hill
Boustany	DeLauro	Hinchee
Boyd (FL)	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hinojosa
Boyd (KS)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hirono
Brady (PA)	Dicks	Holden
Brady (TX)	Dingell	Hooley
Braley (IA)	Donnelly	Hoyer
Brown, Corrine	Doolittle	Hulshof
Buchanan	Doyle	Inslee
Burton (IN)	Drake	Jackson (IL)
Butterfield	Edwards	Jackson-Lee
Buyer	Ellsworth	(TX)
Camp (MI)	Emanuel	Jefferson
Capps	Emerson	Johnson (GA)
Capuano	Engel	Johnson (IL)
Cardoza	Etheridge	Johnson, E. B.
Carnahan	Everett	Jones (NC)
Carney	Fallin	Jones (OH)
Carson	Farr	Kagen
Carter	Fattah	Kanjorski