

supporting this nonpartisan sensible resolution and join with me in choosing to access our pay stubs electronically, and I ask my colleagues to vote for the bill.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. I would also like to thank the gentlelady from North Carolina for a very sensible bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further comments on the bill, but I do have further comments to make.

In particular, all of us have spent 5 weeks or thereabouts home with our constituents and were impressed at how seriously our constituents and the Nation is taking the energy crisis that we face. There is a huge concern about this, particularly with the cost of gasoline.

In one example, a young woman in my district lives on a farm. It's hard today to make a living on a farm, and so she has a job off the farm as well. Their only vehicle is a pickup with, of course, very poor gas mileage. And she's faced with a position where the cost of driving to work is almost greater than the pay that she receives. This is one small example, and I believe that it is absolutely urgent for the House of Representatives to address this issue.

There are several bills out there regarding the energy crisis. There's been a lot of discussion about it. I think the only way I can summarize it after looking at the various bills is to say, what we really need is all of the above. Some members are focused totally on drilling, some are totally focused on alternative forms of energy, some on conservation. But what we really need is a comprehensive bill which addresses all of the above, because we are in a situation where we cannot depend on oil for very many more years.

Back in 1954 scientists predicted that by 1970, American oil production would peak, and they were right on the mark. In 1970, American oil production peaked. It's been going down ever since.

That same research projected that in about 2005, or 2010, world oil production would peak, and it looks like we've entered that period, and that's one reason why prices are going up.

We clearly have to develop the resources we have in this country. We clearly have to develop alternative forms of energy, particularly related to solar. An incredible amount of solar energy hits the Earth every day from the sun, to the point that in one year we get more energy from the sunlight hitting our planet than is contained in all of the resources of energy and the fossil fuels that are in the Earth.

So clearly there are ways to address this. We must address this. I just want to speak out and say it's absolutely essential for us to develop new approaches to energy. We certainly ought to put the money into developing alternative forms of energy. We have to put the money into developing drilling techniques that are safe, environ-

mentally safe, and are not going to pollute the waters if they are offshore. We really have to take this seriously.

And I think it's reached the point where we can't just throw spitballs or snowballs at each other, but must simply say that we have to do all of the above approaches to energy production, and develop legislation that does that. I am concerned that the legislation being proposed by the leadership of the House will not do all of the above. It will only do part of it.

So I urge all of the Members to work together to really solve this problem and show the people of this country that we can deal with an important problem like this. And it's my pleasure to raise this issue, and we will continue discussions on that in the House.

As we know, the minority party discussed it every day in the House during the recent recess, out of a sense of disappointment that we had taken the August recess without first dealing with the energy bills that were available for us to consider. We should carry that on and make sure that we do address this issue, especially before we adjourn for the next recess.

I thank the group here for listening, and I hope this will result in some action on the part of the House of Representatives.

I don't believe I have any further speakers, and if the gentleman from Pennsylvania doesn't, I will, at this point, yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, again, I thank the gentlelady for her very responsive bill, and I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his remarks even though it had nothing at all to do with this bill whatsoever.

And, Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this resolution.

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. BRADY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1207, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

HOUSE RESERVISTS PAY ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6608) to provide

for the replacement of lost income for employees of the House of Representatives who are members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces who are on active duty for a period of more than 30 days, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6608

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 "House Reservists Pay Adjustment Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. REPLACEMENT OF LOST INCOME FOR HOUSE EMPLOYEES ON ACTIVE DUTY UNDER INVOLUNTARY MOBILIZATION ORDER.

(a) PAYMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For each active duty month of an eligible employee of the House of Representatives who is also a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives shall pay to the employee the amount by which—

(A) the amount of regular compensation the employee would have received from the House of Representatives if the month had not been an active duty month, exceeds (if at all)

(B) the total monthly military compensation paid to the employee for the month by the Secretary of Defense.

(2) ELIGIBILITY.—An employee of the House of Representatives is eligible for purposes of paragraph (1) with respect to an active duty month if the employee was an employee of the House of Representatives during each day of the 90-day period which ends on the day on which the employee reports for active duty under an involuntary mobilization order.

(b) DETERMINATION OF COMPENSATION EMPLOYEE WOULD HAVE RECEIVED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection (a)(1), the amount of regular compensation an employee would have received from the House of Representatives for a month shall be equal to the amount of compensation the employee received from the House of Representatives for the base month (excluding any bonus or incentive payment made during the month), increased (in a compound manner) by any cost-of-living adjustments applicable to the compensation of employees of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer for months occurring after the base month.

(2) BASE MONTH DEFINED.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term "base month" means, with respect to an employee, the most recent month for which the employee received compensation from the House of Representatives which precedes the active duty month.

(c) SPECIAL RULES REGARDING AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—

(1) REDUCTION FOR AMOUNTS PAID FROM OTHER SOURCES AS REPLACEMENT OF LOST INCOME.—The Chief Administrative Officer shall reduce the amount of any payment made to any individual under subsection (a) with respect to an active duty month by the amount of any payment received by the individual under section 910 of title 37, United States Code, or any other source that is provided to replace income lost by the individual during the month.

(2) MINIMUM AMOUNT REQUIRED FOR PAYMENT.—The Chief Administrative Officer shall not make a payment otherwise required under this section if the amount of the payment (as determined under subsection (a)), taking into account the reduction made under paragraph (1) is not greater than \$50.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “active duty month” means, with respect to an employee of the House of Representatives who is also a member of a Reserve component of the Armed Forces, any month during which the employee is not able to perform duties for the office of the employee’s employing authority because the employee is on active duty under an involuntary mobilization order for a period of more than 30 days;

(2) the terms “Armed Forces”, “active duty for a period of more than 30 days”, and “Reserve component” have the meaning given such terms in section 101 of title 37, United States Code; and

(3) the term “total monthly military compensation” has the meaning given such term in section 910(e)(2) of title 37, United States Code.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated from the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives such sums as may be necessary for payments under this section.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to active duty months beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. ENSURING CONSISTENCY WITH CODE OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT.

Clause 8 of rule XXIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph: “(d) Nothing in this clause may be construed to prohibit the disbursement or receipt of any payment authorized under section 2 of the House Reservists Pay Adjustment Act of 2008.”

SEC. 4. CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF SURVIVORS FOR HOUSE GRATUITY.

The last undesignated paragraph under the center heading “House of Representatives” and the center subheading “Contingent Expenses of the House” in the first section of the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1955 (2 U.S.C. 125), is amended by adding at the end the following: “Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to prohibit the Chief Administrative Officer from paying a gratuity to the widow, widower, or heirs-at-law of an employee of the House who dies during an active duty month (as defined in section 2(d) of the House Reservists Pay Adjustment Act of 2008).”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks in the RECORD on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6608 provides supplemental income to House employees who are Armed Forces reservists and who are involuntarily called to active duty. The House will supplement the active military duty pay by making up the difference between the employee’s military salary and the employee’s

House salary prior to their call to active service.

To be eligible for the supplemental income, employees must be employed by the House for at least 90 days prior to military activation. The cost of the pay supplements will come from appropriate House accounts and not charged to the employing office. In addition, the employee’s salary will be subject to the cost of living adjustments in the same as other House employees.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced this bill to address family hardships caused by some reservists and National Guard members being deployed for the second or third time. These servicemen and women earn military wages while on active duty and must leave their families and jobs, often for an undetermined and unpredictable amount of time.

The private sector is supporting our soldiers and sailors by continuing to pay the difference between their usual salary and their active duty pay. This bill will offer the same for House employees.

This is a good bill with strong bipartisan support that honors the devoted public service of our House employees. Our active duty reservists should not endure undue financial hardship for heeding our Nation’s call to service.

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

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 6608, the House Reservists Pay Adjustment Act. I thank Chairman BRADY for his leadership on this issue, and I’m proud to join with him as a cosponsor on this important bill.

The men and women of the United States Armed Forces make many sacrifices to protect our freedom. They are asked to spend time away from their families, to put themselves in harm’s way, and, in the case of some House staff, to accept a salary that is less than what they would normally earn in civilian life during the period that they are on active duty. The gap in pay experienced by these servicemen and women often causes undue hardship on themselves and their families and increases the already heavy burden placed upon them as they leave for battle.

I am pleased to be able to find any reasonable method of assisting House staff, who are also members of the military, with the personal sacrifices they are asked to make to defend their country. This bill would compensate active servicemen and women for the difference in their combat pay and their official House salaries. These individuals have found not one but two careers that serve the public, and they should not experience a financial penalty for doing so.

I congratulate Chairman BRADY for introducing this bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6608.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I will inquire of the gentleman if he has any other speakers.

Mr. EHLERS. I have another speaker. Myself.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

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

Continuing with the discussion of energy, Mr. Speaker, let me just say I have a deep interest in the topic and have had for many years. Most of my colleagues here remember and recognize that I am a physicist, and physicists deal with energy all the time.

One of the biggest problems that we address is that energy is intangible. The public simply doesn’t recognize what it is, how its obtained, what the limitations are, and so forth; and I think we should do a better job of educating them about these problems.

Another aspect is that energy is critical to every aspect of life.

As an example, we talk about the agricultural revolution. But very few people recognize that the agricultural revolution, even though attempted a number of times many, many years ago, did not actually succeed until people learned to domesticate their animals so they could do the plowing and thresh the wheat and so forth.

The second major revolution in history is the industrial revolution, once again directly tied to the use of energy. It’s the first use of nonhuman and non-animal energy with hydropower to drive the mills, later coal to drive the steam engines and so forth. And so the major revolutions in history took place in connection with the use of energy and the development of new forms of energy.

We are now at a critical point in our life as a Nation and as a planet. If we do not recognize the changes required in our energy use, we are going to regress. Instead of advancing, we will lose the advantages we have from our copious amounts of energy and end up in a state where we have less energy than we had before. This will have disastrous economic effects, unless we change our direction.

If you look back over history, virtually every recession has been tied to a dramatic increase in the cost of energy, which is something that we also have occurring now.

So this is a serious problem, something that should be addressed immediately, and should not wait for next year. There are a number of excellent proposals out there from both parties. I would hope that we would winnow these out and come up with proposals that truly accomplish what we have to do, and that is to preserve our standard of living by developing new sources of energy, certainly developing those that we already have and know about which we are not really using properly.

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It’s essential that we do this, but this isn’t going to happen by itself. We need help from the Congress to lay down the guidelines for the people in the energy industry, to researchers in the national

labs and other labs to really tackle this problem and come up with new ideas.

I don't care if it's wind energy, which happens to be a part of solar energy; whether it's wave energy, which is also derived from solar energy; or whether it's photovoltaic cells. Naturally it helps that very soon photovoltaic cell research will be so good that we will have photovoltaic shingles on every house because we can make them at a cost that eventually will be less than that of the asphalt shingles. If we do that, every house becomes a power-generating system, and much of the electrical needs of each homeowner can be met just by the use of solar shingles on the roof of their home.

This would be a tremendous boon to our country. Relatively free energy; you just buy the shingles which you have to buy anyway, and you get essentially free energy out of it.

So there are many options that we should be pursuing, and we should be encouraging and helping as a Congress, so that we can help the public that is becoming desperate about what to do about the cost of energy and the price of energy.

So I sincerely hope our Congress will tackle this issue and deal with it, and meet the needs of the public and of the planet at the same time.

With that, if you have no further speakers, I'm pleased to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. Thank you, Congressman EHLERS. I just want to add my comments to the ones that you've made.

I think that while I'm very much in support of this bill and we want to do whatever we can to help our employees bridge the gap between their military pay and the pay that they would receive here, I think one of the best things we can do for all the citizens of this country is to bring down the high price of gasoline, and that would serve everybody very well.

We can do that. We know we can do that. All we have to do is announce that we are going to expand the supply of American-made energy, and we will immediately bring down the price. That will help all of our citizens, which is what every Member of this Congress should be doing.

We will get to the alternatives. We can be completely energy independent in this country, but we can't do it overnight. In order to get to energy independence with alternatives, which Republicans support, we must supply more gas and oil in the short term, and I support those efforts.

I ask the Speaker, again, to bring forth the American Energy Act so that we can have an up-or-down vote on it and let the American people know are you a pro-American energy person or an anti-American energy person. That's the issue that we're facing.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I find myself a little miffed that they would have to politicize this

soldier bill, but I understand we have two soldiers on that side of that bill.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. EHLERS. 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. BRADY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6608.

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. BRADY of Pennsylvania. 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.

DANIEL WEBSTER CONGRESSIONAL CLERKSHIP ACT OF 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6475) to establish the Daniel Webster Congressional Clerkship Program.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6475

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 "Daniel Webster Congressional Clerkship Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Each year, many of the most talented law school graduates in the country begin their legal careers as judicial law clerks.

(2) The judicial clerkship program has given the judiciary access to a pool of exceptional young lawyers at a relatively low cost.

(3) These same lawyers then go on to become leaders of their profession, where they serve a critical role in helping to educate the public about the judiciary and the judicial process.

(4) The White House, the administrative agencies of the Executive Branch, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, the Federal Judicial Center, and the United States Sentencing Commission, all operate analogous programs for talented young professionals at the outset of their careers.

(5) The Congress is without a similar program.

(6) At a time when our Nation faces considerable challenges, the Congress and the public would benefit immeasurably from a program, modeled after the judicial clerkship program, that engages the brightest young lawyers in the Nation in the legislative process.

(7) Accordingly, the Congress herein creates the Daniel Webster Congressional Clerkship Program, named after one of the most admired and distinguished lawyer-legislators ever to serve in the Congress, to improve the business of the Congress and increase the understanding of its work by the public.

SEC. 3. DANIEL WEBSTER CONGRESSIONAL CLERKSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) SELECTION COMMITTEES.—As used in this Act, the term "Selection Committees" means—

(1) the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—There is hereby established the Daniel Webster Congressional Clerkship Program for the appointment of individuals who are graduates of accredited law schools to serve as Congressional Clerks in the Senate or House of Representatives.

(c) SELECTION OF CLERKS.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Selection Committees shall select Congressional Clerks in the following manner:

(1) The Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate shall select not less than 6 Congressional Clerks each year to serve as employees of the Senate for a 1-year period.

(2) The Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives shall select not less than 6 Congressional Clerks each year to serve as employees of the House of Representatives for a 1-year period.

(d) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In carrying out subsection (c), the Selection Committees shall select Congressional Clerks consistent with the following criteria:

(1) Each Congressional Clerk selected shall be a graduate of an accredited law school as of the starting date of his or her clerkship.

(2) Each Congressional Clerk selected shall possess—

(A) an excellent academic record;

(B) a strong record of achievement in extracurricular activities;

(C) a demonstrated commitment to public service; and

(D) outstanding analytic, writing, and oral communication skills.

(e) PROCESS.—After a Congressional Clerk is selected under this section, such Congressional Clerk shall then interview for a position in an office as follows:

(1) For a Congressional Clerk selected under subsection (c)(1), the Congressional Clerk shall interview for a position with any office of any Committee of the Senate, including any Joint Committee or Select and Special Committee, or any office of any individual Member of the Senate.

(2) For a Congressional Clerk selected under subsection (c)(2), the Congressional Clerk shall interview for a position with any office of any Committee of the House of Representatives, including any Joint Committee or Select and Special Committee, or any office of any individual Member of the House of Representatives.

(f) PLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS.—The Selection Committees shall ensure that Congressional Clerks selected under this section are apportioned equally between majority party and minority party offices.

(g) COMPENSATION OF CONGRESSIONAL CLERKS.—Each Congressional Clerk selected under this section shall receive the same compensation as would, and comparable benefits to, an individual who holds the position of a judicial clerkship for the United States District Court for the District of Columbia within 3 months of graduating from law school.

(h) REQUIRED ADHERENCE TO RULES.—Each Congressional Clerk selected under this section shall be subject to all laws, regulations, and rules in the same manner and to the same extent as any other employee of the Senate or House of Representatives.

(i) EXCLUSION FROM LIMIT ON NUMBER OF POSITIONS.—A Congressional Clerk shall be