

## NOES—7

Campbell	Petri	Shadegg
Flake	Royce	
King (IA)	Sensenbrenner	

## NOT VOTING—7

Himes	Obey	Stark
Johnson, E. B.	Sánchez, Linda	Tanner
Lewis (CA)	T.	

□ 1524

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Mr. WU. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PAS-TOR of Arizona) having assumed the chair, Mr. WELCH, Acting Chair 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. 2187) to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

#### 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 incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

#### PROVIDING FOR PASSAGE OF H.R. 2101, WEAPONS ACQUISITION SYS- TEM REFORM THROUGH EN- HANCING TECHNICAL KNOWL- EDGE AND OVERSIGHT ACT OF 2009

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 432) providing for passage of the bill (H.R. 2101) to promote reform and independence in the oversight of weapons system acquisition by the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 432

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall be considered to have (1) passed the bill (H.R. 2101) to promote reform and independence in the oversight of weapons system acquisition by the Department of Defense, as amended by the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Armed Services now printed in the bill; (2) taken from the Speaker's table S. 454; (3) adopted an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of H.R. 2101 as passed by the House pursuant to this resolution; (4) passed such bill, as amended; and

(5) insisted on its amendment and requested a conference with the Senate thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in strong support of this measure, the Weapons Acquisition System Reform Through Enhancing Technical Knowledge and Oversight Act of 2009 and, of course, H. Res. 432, under which we will consider the bill today.

By voting for H. Res. 432, we will be adopting the bill reported out of the House Armed Services Committee 59-0, and initiating a conference with the Senate and their related bill, S. 454, which passed the Senate on a vote of 93-0. This legislation is in keeping with the best bipartisan traditions of the Congress, and the bipartisan leadership of both the House and Senate have committed to passing this legislation as quickly as possible.

The need for this legislation is urgent. It's indisputable. GAO tells us that the Department of Defense currently estimates it will exceed its original cost estimates on 96 major weapons systems by \$296 billion. That's more than 2 years of pay and health care for all of our troops. Much of this cost growth is already baked into the pie because of decisions made that will be difficult or impossible to reverse. At the same time, however, a lot of this is money that we have not yet actually spent, meaning we will feel the effects of this waste for years. We cannot wait to take corrective measures.

On April 27 Ranking Member MCHUGH from New York and I, along with our partners, ROB ANDREWS and MIKE CONAWAY, the leaders of our panel on Defense Acquisition Reform, introduced the WASTE TKO Act. After introducing the bill, the committee held two hearings on the bill and held a markup. On the basis of the testimony we received and on the basis of the committee's long experience on acquisition reform issues, I can say with confidence that this legislation will substantially improve the oversight of major weapons system acquisition.

Let me briefly summarize the bill's provisions. It requires the Secretary of Defense to assign responsibility to independent officials within his office for oversight of cost estimation, systems engineering, and performance assessment. It also assigns additional responsibility to the Director of Defense

Research and Engineering for assessing technological maturity and to the unified combatant commanders for helping to set requirements.

□ 1530

It promotes competition in our acquisition strategies, and it promotes the consideration of tradeoffs between cost, schedule, and performance. It limits organizational conflicts of interest and tightens the Nunn-McCurdy process.

Perhaps most importantly, it requires an increased focus on programs in the early stages of acquisition when most costs are determined, and it focuses oversight on programs which have demonstrated poor performance.

Lastly, the bill authorizes the Secretary of Defense to award excellence in acquisition.

Let me clarify an important issue about this bill that has arisen. Mr. MCHUGH and I have worked to make clear that this bill is tailored to match the scope of S. 454 in the Senate. We did this to speed its enactment into law.

As a result, like S. 454, it deals almost exclusively with major weapons systems acquisition, which is only 20 percent of the total that the Department of Defense spends on acquisition on an annual basis. There are also serious problems with the other 80 percent of the acquisitions systems. As a result, we established the Panel on Defense Acquisition Reform in our committee, led by ROB ANDREWS and MIKE CONAWAY.

They did excellent work on this bill, and we will get a lot more good work out of them before the day is done. We are fully committed to continuing the work on these issues in the upcoming National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 and in subsequent legislation.

I ask all Members of the House to support H. Res. 432 and the underlying bill and vote to move it forward to a conference with the Senate on this very, very vital matter.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I too rise in support of this very important piece of legislation, H.R. 2101, the Weapons Acquisition System Reform through Enhancing Technical Knowledge and Oversight Act of 2009.

I want to begin where thanks are truly due, and that is with my good friend, my distinguished chairman, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), who provided the inertia and the great leadership in putting together the team that has worked so hard to bring this bill to the floor, and a particular tip of the hat to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS) and my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY), for