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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 8, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DONNA F. EDWARDS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DRIEHAUS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin offered the following prayer:

Lord God, You are eternal, knowing all our days. Teach us how to discover the best use of our time.

Being here in Congress is a great opportunity to make a difference in the complexity of today's world. Help Members of the House of Representatives to make the very best decisions to strengthen our country and foster lasting stability at the fault-lines among nations.

May all who serve this noble institution by assisting this body of lawmakers seize the tasks at hand and accomplish their work with dedication and Your blessing.

This Nation relies on Your wisdom and love to guide us now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. OLSON 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.

CAP-AND-TRADE TAXES AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat leadership continues to push forward with their national energy tax.

Despite the financial pain this would place on American families, despite the fact that this cap-and-trade scheme would have little or no impact on the global environment, despite the fact that we can achieve a cleaner energy future without taking more money from hardworking American families, our Democrat colleagues are intent on raising gas prices and home utility costs by more than \$3,000 on each family each year.

There is a better way to a clean energy future, and it begins with supporting an all-of-the-above strategy. I am grateful to be part of a bipartisan effort that would allow for the production of American oil and natural gas, invest in alternative sources, and promote conservation. The American Conservation and Clean Energy Independence Act is a plan for a stronger energy future, and it would not raise energy prices, taxes, or cost jobs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

IRAN ACCELERATES NUCLEAR PROGRAM

(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, on Friday, the International Atomic Energy Agency submitted a report on the Iranian nuclear program. After producing low-enriched uranium at a rate of 40 kilograms per month over a 21-month period, Iran has now increased its stockpile by 60 percent in just the last 6 months, doubling its rate to over 80 kilograms per month.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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With 5,000 centrifuges now active, Iran is producing enough enriched uranium to produce two nuclear weapons per year, one for them, one for Hezbollah.

The IAEA now reports that Iran has denied inspectors access to the Arak heavy water reactor since August of 2008, where we suspect they will try to produce plutonium.

Mr. Moussavi, the leading candidate for President in Iran, told Der Spiegel, I will not suspend uranium enrichment. On April 13 he said to the Financial Times, No one will stop suspension.

No matter who wins the Iranian elections on Friday, we know that the production of fissile material useful in this oil-producing country only for nuclear weapons is accelerating.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS LIBRARIAN TONY STANKUS

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

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, Special Libraries Association members are celebrating the organization's centennial celebration. For 100 years, SLA has made it its mission to organize and connect information professionals and their strategic partners. Today I take great pride in recognizing the University of Arkansas' libraries and the resources that they have provided students, professors and researchers year after year. Behind these libraries are the very knowledgeable information professionals.

In particular, I would like to recognize Tony Stankus, a science librarian at the Mullins Library on the University of Arkansas campus. SLA named Tony and five others as a Fellow of the Special Libraries Association. Due to his reputation as a published librarian, Tony and his team were also chosen for the task of naming the top 100 biology and medical journals that were established in the 100 years of the SLA's existence.

Please join me in congratulating Tony Stankus and his colleagues for this great honor.

HONORING MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT GEORGE E. WAHLEN

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, America lost one of its quiet, humble heroes on Friday, Major George E. Wahlen, Utah's sole surviving World War II Medal of Honor recipient.

Wahlen earned the Medal of Honor as a Navy corpsman at the Battle of Iwo Jima. Despite being injured three times during the battle, he refused to leave the battlefield. He was an angel of mercy, and saved countless lives through his heroic efforts, despite his

own injuries. This selfless act typifies the men and women of "The Greatest Generation." Unfortunately, we are losing these heroes.

Wahlen received the Medal of Honor from President Harry Truman in 1945 in recognition of his heroism during the tide-turning battle. He then re-enlisted and served in Korea and Vietnam, after which he served other veterans as a 14-year employee of the VA.

In 2004, Congress named the VA medical facility in Utah in his honor. The VA had this to say upon his passing: "This modest hero truly exemplified the meaning of patriotism, commitment to service, and love of country. The people of Utah, this hospital and the veterans he tirelessly served have lost a remarkable man." Indeed, they have. We all have.

HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, Congress is currently operating under some of the lowest approval ratings in history, and clearly, the public has lost confidence in its Federal Government. Perhaps that's because the Federal Government is rapidly moving down a path that shows that the government is losing confidence in the American people.

When it comes to health care, should the government help Americans, or should the government actually control everything when it comes to health care?

Our constituents, my constituents certainly, are not asking for more government control, particularly in the arena of health care. Perhaps Congress should listen and have confidence in the American people.

The government should continue to play a role for performance standards and ensuring everyone is treated fairly, but then it should get out of the way and let American hard work and ingenuity do what it does best.

Now, I have spoken to several health care industry experts, from former administration officials, current administration officials to private citizens with innovative ideas that have worked. In a short interview with former Secretary of Health and Human Services Mike Leavitt, he hits the nail on the head when he says, We don't have to turn the health care system over to the Federal Government. We can empower consumers and use the government to organize a system and not to own it.

I encourage people to visit this site and learn more about health care reform as it stands before us today.

NATIONAL ENERGY TAX LEGISLATION

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, before leaving for the Memorial Day recess, Democrats in Congress continued to advance national energy tax legislation that will devastate American families and small businesses.

For weeks, nervous Democrats pleaded with Energy and Commerce Chairman HENRY WAXMAN and Representative ED MARKEY, two lead sponsors of this national energy tax, for changes to their climate change bill. The changes were intended to soften the blow families in their home States would suffer as a result of this new national energy tax. Unfortunately, the bill passed the Energy and Commerce Committee, is moving its way through Congress, and is still just a great big energy tax. The American people deserve better.

Republicans have held energy summits across the country to talk directly to the American people about the Democrats' costly energy plan and to develop real energy solutions that ensure American energy independence.

Congress must reject the Democrats' national energy tax and deliver energy solutions that create a stronger economy and a cleaner environment.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. RICHARDSON). 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 after 6:30 p.m. today.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION ACT OF 2009

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1736, to provide for the establishment of a committee to identify and coordinate international science and technology cooperation that can strengthen the domestic science and technology enterprise and support United States foreign policy goals, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1736

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 "International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish a committee under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility to identify and coordinate international science

and technology cooperation that can strengthen the United States science and technology enterprise, improve economic and national security, and support United States foreign policy goals.

(b) **COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP.**—The committee established under subsection (a) shall be co-chaired by senior level officials from the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Department of State.

(c) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The committee established under subsection (a) shall—

(1) plan and coordinate interagency international science and technology cooperative research and training activities and partnerships supported or managed by Federal agencies and work with other National Science and Technology Council committees to help plan and coordinate the international component of national science and technology priorities;

(2) establish Federal priorities and policies for aligning, as appropriate, international science and technology cooperative research and training activities and partnerships supported or managed by Federal agencies with the foreign policy goals of the United States;

(3) identify opportunities for new international science and technology cooperative research and training partnerships that advance both the science and technology and the foreign policy priorities of the United States;

(4) in carrying out paragraph (3), solicit input and recommendations from non-Federal science and technology stakeholders, including universities, scientific and professional societies, industry, and relevant organizations and institutions, through workshops and other appropriate venues;

(5) work with international science and technology counterparts, both non-governmental and governmental (in coordination with the Department of State), to establish and maintain international science and technology cooperative research and training partnerships, as identified under paragraph (3); and

(6) address broad issues that influence the ability of United States scientists and engineers to collaborate with foreign counterparts, including barriers to collaboration and access to scientific information.

(d) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall transmit a report annually to Congress at the time of the President's budget request containing a description of the priorities and policies established under subsection (c)(2), the ongoing and new partnerships established in the previous fiscal year, and how stakeholder input, as required under subsection (c)(4), was received.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1736, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

It is fitting that H.R. 1736 is coming to the floor of the House in the same week as the Foreign Relations Authorization Act because science and technology can play a truly unique role in improving our foreign relations.

□ 1415

Science is a universal language built on a foundation of prior discoveries and advancements that have originated from all corners of the globe.

Science diplomacy presents a unique and essential opportunity to develop its sustained friendships and collaborations into the future. International surveys consistently show that the people in other nations admire our scientific and technological achievements and opportunities more than almost any other feature of the United States. What is more, in countless nations, many of the political, economic, and social leaders have at one time or another studied in our Nation or have worked for an American business.

From a diplomatic perspective, the benefit of these connections is valuable beyond measure. The scientists, their students and, of course, the science, itself, all benefit from this scholarly exchange, but so do our national security and economic prosperity. The intellectual input of the foreign scientists helps build that discovery that leads to new technologies and to new intellectual property in the United States, and the exchange of scientists and their students helps to build mutual trust and understanding between people who may otherwise be inclined to avoid or even fear each other.

The science side of scientific diplomacy receives comparable benefits from international collaborations. While the U.S. continues to lead the world overall in scientific and technological achievements, by no means do we have a monopoly on knowledge or talent. Our scientists, students, industry, and academic institutions are all dramatically enhanced by interactions with international peers.

Science diplomacy is also central to meeting shared global challenges and opportunities. Climate change, ocean acidification, drug resistant diseases, economic crises, energy shortages, poverty, food and nutrition, Internet and telecommunications, space exploration, and conflict resolution are all being addressed and advanced thanks to international scientific collaboration.

In an Internet-connected world, everyone is impacted by these challenges. Everyone has a stake in the solutions, and we can only succeed if the brightest minds from around the world work together effectively. Ideally, science diplomacy is not just about U.S. scientists working collaboratively with others; it is about all scientists working together with all scientists regardless of physical location or of national boundaries.

H.R. 1736 would reconstitute a Committee on International Science, Engineering and Technology, CISET, under the National Science and Technology Council, which is the interagency coordinating council managed by the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

A renewed and reinvigorated CISET would strengthen interagency coordi-

nation among the technical agencies and between the technical agencies and the Department of State. Its purpose would be to ensure that the richness of S&T resources within our technical agencies are brought to bear on our foreign policy wherever appropriate and that our own domestic agencies are working closely with the State Department to leverage scientific and technical expertise and resources around the world in pursuit of solutions to global challenges and opportunities. I would urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. I rise in support of H.R. 1736, the International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009, and I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleague today in supporting H.R. 1736, the International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009.

Our Nation has a long history of engaging with international partners on a variety of scientific issues, and this is an area of great importance to our Nation. H.R. 1736 incorporates many recommendations made by the National Science Board in its report "International Science and Engineering Partnerships: A Priority for U.S. Foreign Policy and our Nation's Innovation Agenda."

The primary purpose of this legislation is simply to build a stronger coordination link between the scientific activities of our Federal agencies and the Department of State in order to strengthen the U.S. science and technology enterprise, to improve U.S. economic and national security, and to support U.S. foreign policy goals as appropriate. This will be achieved through the creation of a committee under the National Science and Technology Council. The Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Department of State will cochair the committee.

International S&T cooperation takes several forms. It provides a researcher's access to other researchers and to research sites around the globe. It enables partnerships to share the burden of the cost of expensive world-class facilities in the U.S. and abroad. It provides the ability to address global issues of importance to the United States, such as nonproliferation and infectious diseases, and it helps foster positive relationships with other nations.

H.R. 1736 will promote these important scientific activities by making sure that the Department of State is working in tandem with OSTP and with other Federal agencies. We will help ensure that our foreign policy goals are not compromised. In fact, more often than not, they may be enhanced by S&T cooperation. For these reasons, I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 1736.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BAIRD. I thank the gentleman for his support and for his comments.

Madam Speaker, this is a bill that has had a number of hearings and on which we have focused a great deal of attention in our committee. Having had the privilege recently to travel internationally and to meet with science leaders around the world, I know personally of the importance.

I also want to acknowledge that President Obama mentioned the importance of scientific exchanges and collaboration in his recent speech in Cairo and in other recent speeches as has his head of OSTP, John Holdren.

Finally, I want to thank Chairman BERMAN, Chairman GORDON, Dr. EHLERS from Michigan, and Mr. CARNAHAN for their work.

I want to, at this point, insert an exchange of letters between Chairman BERMAN and Chairman GORDON into the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2009.

Hon. BART GORDON,
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 1736, the International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009.

This bill contains provisions within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. In the interest of permitting your Committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive this Committee's right to mark up this bill. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee on Foreign Affairs does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction.

Further, I request your support for the appointment of Foreign Affairs Committee conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation. I would ask that you place this letter into the Committee Report on H.R. 1736.

I look forward to working with you as we move this important measure through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

HOWARD L. BERMAN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECH-
NOLOGY,

Washington, DC, May 21, 2009.

Hon. HOWARD L. BERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BERMAN: Thank you for your May 21, 2009 letter regarding H.R. 1736, the International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009. Your support for this legislation and your assistance in ensuring its timely consideration are greatly appreciated.

I agree that provisions in the bill are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. I acknowledge that by forgoing a sequential referral, your Committee is not relinquishing its jurisdiction and I will fully support your request to be represented in a House-Senate conference on those provisions over which the Committee on Foreign Affairs has jurisdiction in H.R. 1736. A copy of our letters will be placed in the legislative report on H.R. 1736 and the Congressional

Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

I value your cooperation and look forward to working with you as we move ahead with this important legislation.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

I would also be remiss if I did not acknowledge the hardworking staff who contributed to this legislation, namely Dahlia Sokolov on the majority staff, Mele Williams on the minority staff, and also my personal staff as well. They have done an outstanding job on this piece of legislation.

H.R. 1736 is a good bill. It doesn't cost anything. It just makes sure we apply our existing activities and resources as wisely as possible to the benefit of our security and prosperity. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1736.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, looking around, I have no further requests for time on my side of the aisle.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BAIRD. Having no further requests, again, I thank the gentleman, and urge passage of the bill.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1736, the International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009. This bill would, formally establish a committee on the President's National Science and Technology Council to identify and support opportunities to strengthen U.S. foreign policy through cooperation in the fields of science and technology. The President recently announced new initiatives to promote science and technology partnerships between the United States and Muslim-majority countries. I applaud these efforts, and I would note that an across-the-board commitment to integrating science into our diplomatic portfolio would reap enormous benefits.

We should marshal the scientific and technical capacity and expertise in our federal agencies to contribute more directly to our foreign policy goals. In conversations with experts like Dr. Norm Neureiter of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, I have found strong support for a NSTC committee dedicated to planning and coordinating these kinds of interagency efforts. Such a committee would be a critical component in effectively implementing a broader vision of U.S. engagement in international science and science diplomacy. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress and the administration to more fully develop robust and lasting capacity in these areas.

Mr. BAIRD. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1736, 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. BROUN of Georgia. 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 and the

Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

STEM EDUCATION COORDINATION ACT OF 2009

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1709) to establish a committee under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility to coordinate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education activities and programs of all Federal agencies, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1709

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 "STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term "STEM" means science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

SEC. 3. COORDINATION OF FEDERAL STEM EDUCATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall establish a committee under the National Science and Technology Council with the responsibility to coordinate Federal programs and activities in support of STEM education, including at the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of Education, and all other Federal agencies that have programs and activities in support of STEM education.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE.—The committee established under subsection (a) shall—

(1) coordinate the STEM education activities and programs of the Federal agencies;

(2) develop, implement through the participating agencies, and update once every 5 years a 5-year STEM education strategic plan, which shall—

(A) specify and prioritize annual and long-term objectives;

(B) specify the common metrics that will be used to assess progress toward achieving the objectives;

(C) describe the approaches that will be taken by each participating agency to assess the effectiveness of its STEM education programs and activities; and

(D) with respect to subparagraph (A), describe the role of each agency in supporting programs and activities designed to achieve the objectives; and

(3) establish, periodically update, and maintain an inventory of federally sponsored STEM education programs and activities, including documentation of assessments of the effectiveness of such programs and activities and rates of participation by underrepresented minorities in such programs and activities.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF OSTP.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall encourage and monitor the efforts of the participating agencies to ensure that the strategic plan under subsection (b)(2) is developed and executed effectively and that the objectives of the strategic plan are met.

(d) REPORT.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall transmit a report annually to Congress at the time of the President's budget request describing the plan required under subsection (b)(2). The annual report shall include—

(1) a description of the STEM education programs and activities for the previous and current fiscal years, and the proposed programs and activities under the President's budget request, of each participating Federal agency;

(2) the levels of funding for each participating Federal agency for the programs and activities described under paragraph (1) for the previous fiscal year and under the President's budget request;

(3) except for the initial annual report, a description of the progress made in carrying out the implementation plan, including a description of the outcome of any program assessments completed in the previous year, and any changes made to that plan since the previous annual report; and

(4) a description of how the participating Federal agencies will disseminate information about federally supported resources for STEM education practitioners, including teacher professional development programs, to States and to STEM education practitioners, including to teachers and administrators in schools that meet the criteria described in subsection (c)(1) (A) and (B) of section 3175 of the Department of Energy Science Education Enhancement Act (42 U.S.C. 7381j(c)(1) (A) and (B)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1709, as amended, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BAIRD. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, over the past decade, report after report has come out highlighting the importance of science, technology, engineering, and math, so-called STEM education, to our Nation's competitiveness in the rapidly changing 21st century economy.

The National Academy's report "Rising above the Gathering Storm" sent up a red flag that our Nation's standing as a global leader is at risk if we do not improve STEM education in the country. The first and highest priority recommendation of the Gathering Storm report was to "increase America's talent pool by vastly improving K-12 science and mathematics education."

My colleagues and I on the Science and Technology Committee are passionate about this issue. Over the course of the last 2 years, under the leadership of Chairman GORDON, the committee held several hearings with STEM educators and agency representatives to explore what role the Federal

Government can play in improving STEM education. A key recommendation that came up time and time again was the need for the interagency coordination of Federal STEM education activities and to improve the dissemination of these activities to practitioners. It will undoubtedly require strong commitment and leadership at the local and State levels to address the shortcomings of our Nation's science and math education system.

The Federal Government also has a role to play because of the richness of the S&T resources in our Federal agencies. There are already many valuable programs being funded through the Federal agencies that could play an important role in sharing knowledge and passion for STEM with students, teachers, and with the general public. Unfortunately, many of the agencies have had difficulty in evaluating their programs and in building an awareness of those programs among teachers.

In order to make the most effective use of our Federal investment in STEM education, it is crucial that the agencies have a forum where they can come together to discuss tools for improved dissemination, to share research findings, and to create common metrics for evaluation.

H.R. 1709 would establish a committee on STEM education under the National Science and Technology Council at the Office of Science and Technology Policy. This committee would be charged with coordinating the STEM education programs and activities being funded through the Federal R&D mission agencies. This bill also requires that the committee establish and maintain a comprehensive inventory of federally sponsored STEM education activities. This will be a valuable database that will help STEM educators across the country learn of the resources the Federal Government has to offer.

This is a strong, bipartisan bill. I want to commend Chairman GORDON, Mr. HALL, Dr. LIPINSKI, and Dr. EHLERS for introducing it and for their continued leadership on this issue. I would also like to thank Chairman MILLER of the Education and Labor Committee for working with us to bring this bill to the floor.

I would like to insert an exchange of letters between Chairman GORDON and Chairman MILLER at this time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR,

Washington, DC, June 1, 2009.

HON. BART GORDON,
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GORDON: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 1709, the STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009. This legislation contains subject matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and Labor. However, in order to expedite floor consideration of this important legislation, the Committee waives consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Education and Labor takes this action only with the under-

standing that the committee's jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered.

The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference on this legislation and would appreciate your support if such a request is made. Finally, I ask that you please include this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 1709 on the House Floor. Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Sincerely,

GEORGE MILLER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, June 1, 2009.

HON. GEORGE MILLER,
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MILLER: Thank you for your June 1, 2009 letter regarding H.R. 1709, the STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009. Your support for this legislation and your assistance in ensuring its timely consideration are greatly appreciated.

I agree that provisions in the bill are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and Labor. I acknowledge that by waiving rights to further consideration of H.R. 1709, your Committee is not relinquishing its jurisdiction and I will fully support your request to be represented in a House-Senate conference on those provisions over which the Committee on Education and Labor has jurisdiction in H.R. 1709. A copy of our letters will be placed in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

I value your cooperation and look forward to working with you as we move ahead with this important legislation.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

It is also important to acknowledge the hard work of staff on this bill. I would like to thank Dahlia Sokolov and Bess Caughran on the majority staff and Mele Williams on the minority staff. I would also like to thank the former staff director of the Research and Science Education Subcommittee, Jim Wilson, for his important work on this topic before he retired last year.

H.R. 1709 has the support of many scientific societies, businesses, and education organizations, including the National Science Teachers Association, the Business-Higher Education Forum, the American Chemical Society, and the Triangle Coalition.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. I rise in support of H.R. 1709, the STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague in supporting H.R. 1709, the Federal STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009. With this bill, Congress is basically elevating a subcommittee within the National Science and Technology Council to a full committee to ensure that STEM education activities within the Federal Government are getting the attention they need.

In addition to coordinating all Federal STEM education programs, this committee will be responsible for developing a strategic plan and for maintaining an inventory of all Federal STEM education programs. I believe this is appropriate and important. It is just as imperative that we will be able to identify those STEM programs in the Federal Government that are effective and that could serve as models for other agencies as it is for us to eliminate those programs that are duplicative and wasteful.

Ranking Member HALL and Dr. EHLERS, the ranking member of the Research and Science Education Subcommittee, are original sponsors of this measure and have worked closely with Chairman GORDON and Mr. LIPINSKI on this legislation. I join them in support of H.R. 1709, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), a valuable member of the committee who has been particularly concerned about STEM education.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 1709, the STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009. I would like to thank Chairman GORDON as well as my colleagues on the Committee on Science and Technology for bringing this legislation to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to join me for its passage.

There is no doubt that being a leader in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM education, is essential for our Nation to be an economic leader in the 21st century. Our Nation already has the world's premier institutions of higher education, and my district in Colorado is home to some of the most prestigious leaders in research. The climate change research done at NCAR and at NOAA and the renewable energy research done at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory have been great sources of pride for our community, as well as economic drivers for our State and our Nation.

In order to build upon these achievements, we must ensure that young Americans choose to and are given the tools to build careers in science. It is vital that our young people are exposed to STEM education early on. Early exposure, particularly for underrepresented groups, including women and minorities, will help spark a life-long interest in education in these fields. STEM education, just like the arts and athletics, is critical to a broad-based education that gives students the analytical skills that will ensure that the American labor force, whether one becomes a climatologist, an architect, or even a Member of Congress, is the smartest and most productive in the world.

□ 1430

STEM education makes communities across the Nation more self-reliant in

rural and urban America alike. By removing barriers to STEM education, it will help all communities have a reliable, highly skilled workforce. We have the technology and the educators to bring knowledge to every corner of our Nation.

Madam Speaker, what we have lacked is the will. Today, we have the opportunity to vote on a bill that will help every community prepare the next generation of leaders in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The long-term economic benefits of this action are clear. But so, too, is the sense of pride when communities raise and graduate their own engineers who will design their own roadways and scientists who ensure that their next crop is healthy.

I would like to once again thank Chairman GORDON and the committee and his staff for bringing this terrific bill to the floor.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent and yield as much time as he can consume to my colleague from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I'm a scientist, a medical doctor; and I believe wholeheartedly in science education. Whether this bill is a good idea or not remains to be seen. Whether it will pass or not, I think that it probably will.

The thing that concerns me is the education of the American public about not only the money they spent on this—which we don't have—but the money that is going to be spent and taken out of their pockets for what is called cap-and-trade here in this House of Representatives and in the Congress of the United States.

This administration, the leadership in the House and the Senate, are forcing upon the American people a policy that is going to increase taxes on every single household in America over \$3,100 per family—that's rich, poor, and between. The people on limited incomes, the retirees, are going to be hit the hardest because experts agree that they spend more of their income on energy-related sources than any other thing.

It's also going to run up the cost of food, medicine, things that everybody buys. In fact, every good and service in this country is going to go up because of this tax-and-cap, as I call it—or cap-and-tax, cap-and-trade legislation that is being brought to this floor, and it's going to be forced down the throats of the American people.

The President himself said that it was going to increase electricity costs for all Americans. The President also said that it's about revenue. It's not about the environment. He said if this is not passed, then he won't have the money to force the socialized medicine program that he's trying to introduce in this Congress and wants to pass by the August break. The American people need to be educated about how bad this policy is. We've got to stop it.

Republicans have offered many alternatives to a non-stimulus bill. Our alternatives were not heard. To a housing crisis, our alternatives were not heard; to a banking crisis, our alternatives were not heard. Over and over again, Republicans have offered alternatives that the leadership in this House have been obstructionists and not allowed those things to be heard.

The American people need to understand that. We're headed down a road of socialism, of communism, of greater control of people's lives and the loss of the control of your money and your freedom. And the American people need to stand up and say "no." I do believe in science and education, but the American people need to educate themselves to the bad policy that the leadership in this Congress are forcing upon them, shoving down their throats as a steamroller of socialism that's being forced down the throats of the American people that's going to slay the American economy.

It's going to kill jobs. This cap-and-tax legislation is estimated to cost somewhere between 1.7 to 8 million jobs. The President says it's going to create green jobs. Well, in Spain, their cap-and-tax has, for every job created, they've lost 2.2 jobs.

It's wrong for America; it's wrong for the working people; it's wrong for the poor people; it's wrong for the retirees. It's absolutely the wrong thing, and the American people need to be educated about that. Stand up and say "no" to cap-and-trade legislation.

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I would just recognize myself for just a brief comment.

The gentleman from Georgia has repeatedly in the Science Committee and on the floor of the House demonstrated the urgent need to improve STEM education in this country, and I thank him for that.

I would reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I see no one on my side of the aisle requesting time. So I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1709—the STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009. As a former Member of the Science Committee, I commend my colleague from Tennessee—Chairman BART GORDON—for his leadership in crafting this thoughtful legislation that was reported to the House on a broad bipartisan basis.

As a graduate of Georgia Tech with a degree in Chemistry, I know how important it will be that there is a continued focus on STEM—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—education in order for our future workforce to be competitive in a global, technology-based, economy. Unfortunately, we are simply not graduating enough students in these critical fields of science and engineering compared to the rest of the world. According to a recent study, 50% of students in China receive their undergraduate degrees in natural science or engineering; in Singapore, that number is 67%, and 38% of South Korea's graduates fall

into these fields. Unfortunately, the United States is lagging behind with a mere 15% of graduates in natural science or engineering.

During the 110th Congress, I was proud to work with my colleagues on the Science Committee to pass the America COMPETES Act, which was signed into law by President Bush on August 9, 2007. This legislation took a good first step in addressing our shortcomings in STEM education, but we still have a large gap to close in this area.

H.R. 1709 would establish a committee at the National Science and Technology Council through the Office of Science and Technology Policy that would coordinate the federal programs that support STEM education across the country. I believe that this legislation will help further the progress and efforts that have been made by the America COMPETES Act. Furthermore, I commend all of my colleagues on the Science Committee for working in a bipartisan manner to move this important legislation forward.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 1709.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my support of H.R. 1709—the STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009.

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics are critical subjects that are related to our national competitiveness.

As a cosponsor of this legislation, I support the work of the Committee on Science and Technology as it developed and refined the bill.

During committee consideration of the bill, I offered several amendments that passed unanimously. One such amendment was designed to strengthen the role of the Office of Science and Technology Policy in monitoring quantifiable progress of federal STEM education programs across the agencies. The amendment specified that the committee within the National Science & Technology Council shall determine common metrics to assess progress toward achieving the objectives in its STEM education strategic plan.

In addition, the committee accepted an amendment added a responsibility of OSTP: to encourage and monitor the agency efforts to ensure that the strategic plan is executed effectively. Finally, I offered an amendment that required that the annual report submitted by OSTP should include a description of the outcome of any program assessments completed in the previous year.

Better coordination of our federally-funded education programs for STEM is needed. H.R. 1709 aims to achieve that goal, so that good programs can be supported and refined. It is my belief that a more competitive America will come as a result of stronger, better-coordinated STEM education programs. I support this legislation and urge its passage.

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I am honored and pleased by the action we are taking today on H.R. 1709, the “STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009,” to ensure coordination of federal science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education activities by elevating an existing committee under the National Science and Technology (NSTC).

H.R. 1709 focuses on the coordination of the federal government’s STEM education activities. Providing this coordinating mechanism for the federal STEM education programs is critical to ensuring America remains innovative

and competitive in the 21st century global economy.

According to the Academic Competitiveness Council’s (ACC) report, in 2006 the U.S. sponsored 105 STEM education programs at more than a dozen different Federal Agencies. These programs devote approximately \$3.12 billion to STEM education activities spanning pre-kindergarten through postgraduate education and outreach. The report notes that many of these Agencies do not share information or work collaboratively on similar programs. The ACC found that “coordination among agencies could be improved to avoid, for example, grants to numerous projects that support the same sorts of interventions... there appears to be a lack of communication among the agencies about the work they are funding and the results that are being generated . . . agencies are often uninformed by the results of earlier projects.”

H.R. 1709 is similar to the one of the sections of the “Enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education (E-STEM) Act of 2009”, H.R. 2710 which I recently reintroduced. The E-STEM Act establishes a comprehensive approach to improving coordination and coherence of STEM education activities and stimulates collaboration at both the federal and state levels throughout the nation. My legislation provides federal agencies and states with the infrastructure required to work collaboratively, establish national STEM education goals, coordinate STEM education initiatives, and to avoid unnecessary duplication among these efforts. In addition the E-STEM Act would require the NSTC committee to create a coordinated inter-agency STEM education budget and a five year projection of the STEM workforce.

Strengthening STEM education is important for our nation to remain innovative and ensure our future prosperity. During a time of rapid technological and scientific advance, scientific literacy is increasingly important for full participation in our Democracy. I want to thank Chairman GORDON, Representative BAIRD, and Ranking Member EHLERS for bringing this legislation to the floor and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation. I would also invite my colleagues to cosponsor the E-STEM Act to encourage similar coordination among States and improve the dissemination of promising practices and STEM education resources.

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, with no other speakers, I urge passage of this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1709, 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. BROUN of Georgia. 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 and the Chair’s prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING HIGH-PERFORMANCE BUILDING WEEK

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 492) supporting the goals and ideals of High-Performance Building Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 492

Whereas the High-Performance Buildings Congressional Caucus Coalition has declared the week of June 15 through June 19, 2009, as “High-Performance Building Week”;

Whereas the House of Representatives has recognized the importance of high-performance buildings through the inclusion of a definition of high-performance buildings in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007;

Whereas our homes, offices, schools, and other buildings consume 40 percent of the primary energy and 70 percent of the electricity in the United States annually;

Whereas buildings consume about 12 percent of the potable water in this country;

Whereas the construction of buildings and their related infrastructure consume approximately 60 percent of all raw materials used in the United States economy;

Whereas buildings account for 39 percent of United States carbon dioxide emissions a year approximately equaling the combined carbon emissions of Japan, France, and the United Kingdom;

Whereas Americans spend about 90 percent of their time indoors;

Whereas poor indoor environmental quality is detrimental to the health of all Americans, especially our children and elderly;

Whereas high-performance buildings promote higher student achievement by providing better lighting, a more comfortable indoor environment, and improved ventilation and indoor air quality;

Whereas high-performance residential and commercial building design and construction should effectively guard against natural and human caused events and disasters, including fire, water, wind, noise, crime, and terrorism;

Whereas high-performance buildings, which address human, environmental, economic, and total societal impact, result from the application of the highest level of design, construction, operation, and maintenance principles—a paradigm change for the built environment; and

Whereas the United States should continue to improve the features of new buildings, and adapt and maintain existing buildings, to changing balances in our needs and responsibilities for health, safety, energy efficiency, and usability by all segments of society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of High-Performance Building Week;

(2) recognizes and reaffirms our Nation’s commitment to High-Performance Buildings by promoting awareness about their benefits and by promoting new education programs, supporting research, and expanding access to information;

(3) recognizes the unique role that the Department of Energy plays through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy’s Building Technologies Program, which works closely with the building industry and manufacturers to conduct research and development on technologies and practices for building energy efficiency;

(4) recognizes the important role that the National Institute of Standards and Technology plays in developing the measurement science needed to develop, test, integrate, and demonstrate the new building technologies; and

(5) encourages further research and development of high-performance building standards, research, and development.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 492, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I'm pleased the House is considering H. Res. 492, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of High-Performance Building Week, which is next week, June 15 through June 19. I would like to thank my good friend from Missouri, Congressman RUSS CARNAHAN, and our colleague JUDY BIGGERT from Illinois for their leadership on this important issue and for their outstanding work as the cochairs of the High-Performance Buildings Caucus.

Buildings consume 40 percent of the energy in the United States. This is more energy than any other sector of the economy. Deployment of high-performance buildings can reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment of the Science and Technology Committee, I recognize the importance of energy efficiency and sustainability in the building sector.

On April 28 of this year, we held a hearing entitled Pushing the Efficiency Envelope: R&D for High-Performance Buildings. I am happy to report that we are working on legislation to address several important issues identified at this hearing.

H. Res. 492 creates a greater public awareness about high-performance buildings and recognizes the need to continue research and development for innovative energy-efficient technologies.

I urge all Members to support H. Res. 492.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 492, supporting the goals and ideals of High-Performance Building Week, and I yield myself as much time as I will consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 492, supporting the goals and ideals of High-Performance Build-

ing Week. I would first like to thank the Congressional High-Performance Building Caucus cochairs, RUSS CARNAHAN and JUDY BIGGERT for their work on this important issue and for bringing awareness to the Congress and the public on the importance and benefits of high-performance buildings.

This resolution declares the week of June 15 through June 19, 2009, as High-Performance Building Week. According to the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, a high-performance building is defined as a building that integrates and optimizes on a life-cycle basis all major high-performance attributes including energy conservation, environment, safety, security, durability, accessibility, cost-benefit productivity, sustainability, functionality, and operational considerations.

It is important to focus on making our buildings high-performance buildings for many reasons, some of which are that our homes, offices, schools, and other buildings consume 40 percent of the primary energy and 70 percent of the electricity used in the United States annually; that buildings consume about 12 percent of the potable water in this country; and that construction of buildings and the related infrastructure consume approximately 60 percent of all raw materials used in the United States economy. Madam Speaker, I could go on, but I think you get the point.

There are a lot of efficiencies to be gained by focusing on high-performance buildings, and the benefits to our society are great. Again, I commend cochairs CARNAHAN and BIGGERT for their leadership and hope that my colleagues will see the value that awareness of the benefits of the high-performance buildings will bring and support this resolution.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BAIRD. I have no speakers at this time. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT).

Mrs. BIGGERT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 492 and urge my colleagues to support its passage.

As a member of the Science and Technology Committee and as cochair of the High-Performance Buildings Caucus, I'm delighted to join my colleague and caucus cochair, Congressman RUSS CARNAHAN, to recognize June 15 through June 19 as High-Performance Building Week.

By definition, a high-performance building is one that utilizes the highest design, construction, operation, and maintenance principles to address human, economic, environmental, and societal needs. Based on section 914 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, that definition is a result of significant industry and standards collaboration. Build-

ing on that coordinated effort, Representative CARNAHAN and I formed the High-Performance Buildings Caucus last year. We wanted to heighten awareness and inform policymakers about the major impact buildings have on our health, safety, and environment. Through monthly briefings, we explore the opportunities to design, construct, and operate high-performance buildings that reflect our concern for these impacts.

As the resolution states, the built environment in our country has a tremendous impact on our lives. Buildings consume 40 percent of the energy in the United States while emitting 39 percent of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions. Perhaps a more surprising statistic is that Americans average 90 percent of their time indoors. With that in mind, new building construction and sustainability of our current building inventory is more important now than ever. As we seek to use energy more efficiently and reduce global emissions, we also have to consider worker productivity in business, enhanced learning environments in schools, and even secure designs to prevent loss of life from catastrophic natural disasters. Research, design, and construction of high-performance buildings include these factors and more. Accessibility, aesthetics, historic integrity and cost-effectiveness must also be considered.

Madam Speaker, we could not honor the goals and ideas of High-Performance Building Week without thanking those groups that have helped us get here today. Dozens of building and standards organizations make up the High-Performance Buildings Congressional Caucus Coalition. I know that I speak for myself and my fellow caucus cochair when I say "thank you" for their help educating, researching, and advancing the goals of high-performance buildings.

And with that, Madam Speaker, I would submit a list of those organizations to be included in the RECORD.

HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDING CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS COALITION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ASHRAE, The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (www.ashrae.org).

ACCA, Air Conditioning Contractors of America (www.acca.org).

AHRI, Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (www.ahrinet.org).

AIA, The American Institute of Architects (www.aia.org).

ANSI, American National Standards Institute (www.ansi.org).

BOMA, Building Owners & Managers Association International (www.boma.org).

GBI, The Green Building Initiative (www.thegbi.org).

ICC, International Code Council (www.iccsafe.org).

NEMA, National Electrical Mfrs Association (www.nema.org).

NFPA, National Fire Protection Association (www.nfpa.org).

NIBS, National Institute of Building Sciences (www.nibs.org).

SPFA, Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance (www.sprayfoam.org).

USGBC, U.S. Green Building Council (www.usgbc.org).

COALITION MEMBERS

ACC, American Chemistry Council (www.americanchemistry.com).

AF&PA, American Forest & Paper Association (www.afandpa.org).

AGC, The Associated General Contractors of America (www.constructionenvironment.org).

ACEC, American Council of Engineering Companies (www.acec.org).

APWA, American Public Works Association (www.apwa.net).

Arch 2030, Architecture 2030 (www.architecture2030.org).

ARMA, Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association (www.asphaltroofing.org).

ASA, American Supply Association (www.asa.net).

ASCE, American Society of Civil Engineers (www.asce.org).

ASE, Alliance to Save Energy (www.ase.org).

ASERTTI, Association of State Energy Research & Technology Transfer Institutions (www.asertti.org).

ASID, American Society of Interior Designers (www.asid.org).

ASLA, American Society of Landscape Architects (www.asla.org).

ASME, American Society of Mechanical Engineers (www.asme.org).

ASTM International (www.astm.org).

BHMA, Builders Hardware Manufacturers Association (www.buildershardware.com).

CEIR, Center for Environmental Innovation in Roofing (www.roofingcenter.org).

CLMA, Composite Lumber Manufacturers Association (www.compositelumber.org).

CRI, Carpet and Rug Institute (www.carpet-rug.org).

Ecobuild, EcoBuild America, LLC (www.ecobuildamerica.com).

EESI, Environmental & Energy Study Institute (www.eesi.org).

FAS, Federation of American Scientists (www.fas.org).

GANA, Glass Association of North America (www.glasswebsite.com).

GMC, The Green Mechanical Council (www.greenmech.org).

Green Builder Media (www.greenbuildermedia.com).

Green Standard Green Building in Canada (www.GreenStandard.ca).

HARDI, Heating, Air-conditioning & Refrigeration Distributors International (www.hardinet.org).

IAPMO, International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (www.iapmo.org).

IALD, International Association of Lighting Designers (www.iald.org).

ICSC, International Council of Shopping Centers (www.icsc.org).

IFMA, International Facility Management Association (www.ifma.org).

InfoComm, InfoComm International (www.infocomm.org).

MCAA, Mechanical Contractors Association of America (www.mcaa.org).

MVMA, Masonry Veneer Manufacturers Association (www.masonryveneer.org).

NAED, National Academy of Environmental Design (www.naedonline.org).

NECA, National Electrical Contractors Association (www.necanet.org).

NFRC, National Fenestration Rating Council (www.nfrc.org).

NRCA, National Roofing Contractors Association (www.nrca.net).

NTHP, National Trust for Historic Preservation (www.nthp.org).

PCA, Portland Cement Association (www.cement.org).

PERSI, Practice, Education and Research for Sustainable Infrastructure (www.persi.us).

PMI, Plumbing Manufacturers Institute (www.pmihome.org).

PHCC, Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association (www.phccweb.org).

RCMA, Roof Coatings Manufacturers Association (www.roofcoatings.org).

RER, The Real Estate Roundtable (www.rer.org).

SBIC, Sustainable Buildings Industry Council (www.sbicouncil.org).

SMACNA, Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors' National Association (www.smacna.org).

The Vinyl Institute (www.vinylinfo.org).

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I just want to commend Mrs. BIGGERT and Mr. CARNAHAN. It is particularly impressive to me when Members of Congress pick issues that might be under the radar for most people but have tremendous importance. And as the gentlelady's comments and my colleague from Texas observe, the percentage of energy consumed by buildings is phenomenal. It is the largest single energy consumer in this country, and their leadership on recognizing this and moving forward with positive solutions is particularly noteworthy and merits commendation. We argue sometimes here about whether it should be one form of power or another, but we can all agree that saving energy is in the best interest of this country and that buildings, and high-performance buildings, are one of the best possible and most economically responsible ways to do so. And I would commend the gentlelady and her colleague, Mr. CARNAHAN.

With that, I reserve my time.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I want to identify myself with the comments from my colleague over there with the extremely good work that Congressman CARNAHAN and Congresswoman BIGGERT have done on this issue.

I see no further speakers on my side so I urge support of House Resolution 492.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1445

Mr. BAIRD. Having no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time and urge passage of this valuable legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 492.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA DAY

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 356) expressing support for the designation of February 8, 2010, as "Boy Scouts of America Day",

in celebration of the Nation's largest youth scouting organization's 100th anniversary.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 356

Whereas Boy Scouts of America was incorporated by Chicago publisher, William Boyce, on February 8, 1910, after learning of the Scouting movement during a visit to London;

Whereas, on June 21, 1910, a group of 34 national representatives met, developed organization plans, and opened a temporary national headquarters in New York;

Whereas the purpose of Boy Scouts of America is to teach America's youth patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred values;

Whereas by 1912, Scouts were enrolled in every State;

Whereas in 1916, Congress granted Boy Scouts of America a Federal charter;

Whereas each council will commit each Boy Scout to perform 12 hours of community service yearly, totaling 30,000,000 community service hours each year;

Whereas membership since 1910 totals more than 111,000,000 scouts and is found in 185 countries around the world;

Whereas the organization will present the 2 millionth Eagle Scout award in 2009;

Whereas more than 1,000,000 adult volunteer leaders selflessly serve young people in their communities through organizations chartered by the Boy Scouts of America;

Whereas these men and women often neither receive nor seek the thanks of the public;

Whereas February 8, 2010, would be an appropriate day to designate as "Boy Scouts of America Day" in celebration of the Boy Scouts of America's 100th anniversary; and

Whereas Boy Scouts of America endeavors to develop American citizens who are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit, have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness, have personal values based on religious concepts, have the desire and skills to help others, understand the principles of the American social, economic, and governmental systems, take pride in their American heritage and understand our Nation's role in the world, have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people, and are prepared to participate in and give leadership to American society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the designation of "Boy Scouts of America Day" in celebration of its 100th anniversary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to present House Resolution 356 for consideration. This legislation expresses our support for the designation of February 8, 2010, as "Boy Scouts of America Day" in recognition of the youth organization's upcoming 100th anniversary.

House Resolution 356 was introduced by my colleague Representative RALPH HALL of Texas, on April 23, 2009, and favorably reported out of the Oversight Committee by unanimous consent on May 6, 2009. Additionally, House Resolution 356 enjoys the support of over 70 Members of Congress.

Madam Speaker, the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated by Chicago publisher William Dixon Boyce on February 8, 1910, with President William Howard Taft named to serve as the organization's first honorary president. Pursuant to its stated purpose, the newly founded Boy Scouts of America sought to educate America's youth in "patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred values" through a variety of educational, civic, and recreational programs and activities. By the year 1912, every State in America could claim a troop of Scouts. And in 1916, the organization received a Federal charter from the 62nd Congress.

Since its incorporation in 1910, the Boy Scouts of America has now witnessed the enrollment of over 111 million Scouts, with Scouting currently found in 185 countries around the world. Former Scouts and Scout volunteers include a number of prominent Americans, including Presidents John F. Kennedy, George W. Bush, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, and Gerald Ford. President Ford often described the impact of Scouting on his career, stating that, "Without hesitation, because of Scouting principles, I know I was a better athlete, I was a better naval officer, I was a better Congressman, and I was a better-prepared President."

In 2008 alone, the Boy Scouts of America provided educational community service and recreational programs to over 2.8 million young people, with the support of over 1.1 million volunteers and nearly 130,000 community-based organizations. As noted by the Boy Scouts of America's most recent Annual Report to the Nation, two events in 2008 exemplified the promise and the value of Scouting.

Firstly, throughout the course of 5 weeks in the summer of 2008, approximately 3,600 Scouts and volunteers, in coordination with the U.S. Forest Service, participated in Arrow Corps Five, a project designated to benefit our national forests. The program resulted in the completion of more than \$5.6 million worth of national forest improvements.

Additionally, June 11 of 2008 witnessed the destruction of Iowa's Little Sioux Scout Ranch by a devastating tornado which, sadly, resulted in the deaths of four Scouts and injuries to 48

other Scouts and staff. In response, groups of Scouts and volunteers promptly set up a triage system, provided first aid to the injured, and began digging victims from the rubble of the collapsed campsite. Just one day earlier, these brave Scouts, who were attending a weeklong leadership training session at the camp, had taken part in a mock emergency drill.

Notably, February 8 of next year will mark the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America, and fittingly, House Resolution 356 expresses our support for the designation of that date as "Boy Scouts of America Day."

Madam Speaker, let us commemorate the 100 years of civic and educational service provided by the Boy Scouts of America through the adoption of House Resolution 356 and by expressing our support for the designation of February 8, 2010, as "Boy Scouts of America Day."

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of this resolution designating February 8, 2010, as "Boy Scouts of America Day."

On February 8, 1910, a Chicago publisher, William Boyce, founded the Boy Scouts of America as an organization dedicated to instructing and infusing patriotic values and ethics in America's youth. Within a few years, the organization had spread to every State and in 1916 was granted a Federal charter by the United States Congress.

Since its inception, the Boy Scouts of America has grown to a membership exceeding 111 million Scouts, with over 1 million adult volunteers, and has corresponding organizations in over 85 nations around the globe. Its national and global presence has made it a compelling organization in the growth of our Nation and other countries over the past century.

The Boy Scouts of America has hosted events, such as the National Jamboree in Washington, D.C., since 1935, which attracts thousands of Boy Scouts to the D.C. area.

The youth who participate in Boy Scouts acquire fond memories of leadership training, adventure, camaraderie, and the joys of outdoor activities. Through the varied activities of the Boy Scouts, these young men are provided with a safe, constructive, and educational experience where they can acquire essential life and interpersonal skills.

The impact of the Boy Scouts of America can be seen every day on Capitol Hill. Nearly 60 percent of the current congressional membership have participated in Scouting in one form or another, including roughly 145 Members in the House of Representatives. Between the House and Senate, about 25 individuals have actually achieved Boy Scouting's highest honor, the Eagle Scout.

The Boy Scouts of America have become a mainstay of American tradition. With its powerful influence on America's youth for the past century and the presentation of its 2 millionth Eagle Scout Award this year, it is appropriate that we honor the 100th anniversary of this outstanding American organization.

Madam Speaker, on a personal note, I have to tell you, as a parent, my son Max, who was awarded the Eagle Scout not too long ago, for me and my wife, Julie, to watch the presentation where he got that Eagle pin, where he pinned on his mother the mother's pin, that's a great moment. And so many parents have been so grateful for the great work the Boy Scouts have done. I am personally in debt and gratitude to this organization for the great leadership that it brings upon the youth of America.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, we have no further speakers, but I will continue to reserve.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as the gentleman may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Texas (Mr. HALL).

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I, of course, rise today in support of H.R. 356, expressing support for the designation of February 8, 2010, as "Boy Scouts of America Day" to honor the Nation's largest Scouting organization's 100th anniversary.

Congressman CHAFFETZ has done a very good job of pointing out the history of the Scouts in America. It dates way back to 1910, when it was first incorporated for the purpose of providing educational programs for boys and young adults to build their character, train them in the responsibilities of being a participating citizen, and developing personal fitness.

By the end of 1912, Scouts were enrolled in every State of the Union, which helped the Scouts obtain their Federal charter from Congress in 1916.

Boy Scouts of America endeavors to develop young men who are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit and who have a high degree of self-reliance. Boy Scouts provides instructions on America's social, economic, and governmental systems and inspires young men to take pride in their American heritage and to understand the Nation's role in the world. Boy Scouts respect the basic rights of all people and are encouraged to participate in and provide leadership for their communities.

I want to recognize John Jarvis from Texarkana, Texas, who is a Scout leader with the Caddo Area Council and a member of Troop 16. John originally brought this resolution to my attention and has worked with me to bring this to the House floor today.

I also recognize Tim Hetchs for his assistance on this bill. And I want to

thank my colleagues for cosponsoring the resolution, many of whom were Boy Scouts. Several of our colleagues in Congress have participated in Scouting, including President Ford, as was pointed out by Congressman LYNCH.

I ask my colleagues in the House to join us in support of H. Res. 356, in recognition of the many contributions of the Boy Scouts of America to our Nation.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with Mr. HALL of Texas in bringing forth this important resolution, and I ask all Members to support unanimously the resolution at hand.

I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as an original cosponsor, I would like to convey my support for H. Res. 356, a resolution expressing support for the designation of February 8, 2010 as "Boy Scouts of America Day" and for this organization that has given so much to the well-being and development of young men for generations. I am humbled to be selected as the Honorary Chairman for the hundredth anniversary of Scouting for the Indian Waters Council of South Carolina.

As the grateful father of four Eagle Scouts, I know firsthand the tremendous opportunities and benefits that come with participation in the Boy Scouts. This is an organization that has been a positive influence in our communities for nearly a century—teaching millions the importance of a strong character and a commitment to citizenship.

I am particularly grateful that the Boy Scouts have always focused on a greater appreciation and understanding of the outdoors. In 1999 and 2003, I served as an adult volunteer with my younger sons Julian and Hunter for backpacking treks at the Philmont Scout Ranch at Cimarron, New Mexico. The 100 and 75 mile hikes were an awesome introduction to me of the beauty of the American West.

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, earlier this year, my good friend from Texas, Congressman RALPH HALL, asked me to cosponsor H. Res. 356, legislation that supports designating February 8, 2010, as Boy Scouts of America Day in the United States. This recognition would honor the Boy Scouts on its 100th anniversary.

It is appropriate for the Congress and for our country to recognize the Boy Scouts. Since 1910, this organization has helped young men foster lasting friendships, develop leadership skills, and contribute to American society. As an Eagle Scout who has supported scouting into adulthood and throughout my time in Congress, I know firsthand how valuable scouting can be.

I urge the House to approve this resolution.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 356.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CELEBRATING ASIAN/PACIFIC-AMERICAN HERITAGE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 435) celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 435

Whereas this year marks first time the United States is led by a President with close Asian ties, including President Obama's childhood in Indonesia and Hawai'i, and the President has made unprecedented outreach efforts to the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community;

Whereas the selection of May as the month for Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month was significant due to two historical events that occurred in May: first, May 7, 1843, when the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States, and second, May 10, 1869, when, with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants, the first trans-continental railroad was completed;

Whereas section 102 of title 36, United States Code, officially designates May as Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month, and requests the President to issue each year a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities;

Whereas according to the Bureau of the Census, an estimated 14,900,000 United States residents identify themselves as Asian alone or in combination with one or more other races, and an estimated 1,000,000 United States residents identify themselves as Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone or in combination with one or more other races;

Whereas even though Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders faced the injustices of racial prejudice as exemplified by the Chinese Exclusion Act, the internment of Japanese Americans and Japanese/Latin-Americans, the Vincent Chin case, and other events, the community has made considerable contributions to the vast cultural, economic, educational, military, and technological advancements of the United States;

Whereas Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders such as civil rights activist, Yuri Kochiyama, Medal of Honor recipient, Herbert Pihlalaau, the first Asian-American Congressman, Dalip Singh Saund, the first Asian-American Congresswoman, Patsy Mink, and others have made significant strides in the political and military realms;

Whereas the Presidential Cabinet includes a record three Asian-Americans: Energy Secretary Steven Chu, Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, and Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki; and

Whereas celebrating Asian/Pacific-American Heritage provides the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, history, and influence concerns of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that the incredible diversity of different racial and ethnic groups, including Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders, is a source of strength for the United States; and

(2) celebrates the contributions of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders to the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, today I rise in strong support of House Resolution 435, which expresses support for the recognition and celebration of Asian Pacific American heritage. The measure before us was introduced on May 13, 2009, by Congressman MIKE HONDA of California, along with other Members and associate Members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. Currently, the measure is supported by over 55 Members of Congress and has been appropriately reviewed and approved by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform as of June 4, 2009.

Madam Speaker, the Asian American and Pacific Islander community is composed of over 15 million people who, on a daily basis, are making significant contributions to the betterment of our country. For example, in addition to being one of our country's fastest growing minority groups, the Asian American and Pacific Islander community is also responsible for generating an estimated \$326 billion annually for our economy as entrepreneurs and business owners of over 1.1 million businesses.

While Asian Pacific American heritage is certainly worth recognizing and celebrating year-round, the country and the Asian Pacific American community have traditionally come together in the month of May to celebrate and commemorate Asian and Pacific American heritage. That all began back in 1977 when Representatives Frank Horton and Norman Mineta and Senators DANIEL INOUE and Spark Matsunaga introduced resolutions asking the President to declare the first 10 days of May as Asian Pacific Heritage Week.

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The selection of the month of May stems from the fact that May marks the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants in the U.S. in 1843. In 1978, President Carter made Asian Pacific Heritage Week an annual event, and in 1990, President George H. W. Bush proclaimed the entire month of May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Madam Speaker, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have also made great strides in the area of civil rights and public policy, led by such notable Americans as Patsy Mink, the first Asian American Congresswoman, not to mention the current members of the President's Cabinet, which includes three Asian Americans: Energy Secretary Steven Chu, Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, and Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki.

In closing, let us, as a body, take a moment to recognize the valued contributions of the Asian and Pacific American community and celebrate such a rich cultural heritage by supporting House Resolution 435.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this important resolution recognizing Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have been an integral part of the fabric of American life since the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843. Asian Americans worked as coal miners, on farms and orchards, and as laborers. It is estimated that 14 million Americans, if not more, can trace their ethnic heritage to Asia or the Pacific Islands.

Establishing May as Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month affords educators throughout the country the opportunity to create learning experiences that teach the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders during the school year. Observing Asian American and Pacific Islander contributions highlights their importance in the building of our country, in our fabric.

For example, Chinese immigrants played a significant role in the construction of the first transcontinental railroad, which was completed on May 10, 1869. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have significantly contributed to this country through the arts, sciences, math, sports, commerce, and every other aspect of American culture since they first arrived in the 19th century. Whether it is in the arts or government or science or the many other fields of endeavor, they have played a fundamental role in our Nation's technological and economic expansion as well as every other fabric of life that we can think of. Their accomplishments are too numerous to count. Their influence is felt throughout our country.

The month of May once again gives us the opportunity to thank and honor Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and recognize them for their many contributions now, in the past, and certainly in the future.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express strong support for H. Res. 435—Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. I applaud the

leadership and continued efforts of Chairman MIKE HONDA, as well as my colleagues in the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus for bringing this Resolution before us today.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month was established in 1977 by the efforts of Representatives Norman Mineta and Frank Horton, and Senators DANIEL INOUE and Spark Matsunaga who introduced resolutions asking for a Presidential declaration that the first ten days of May honor the rich history and contributions of our nation's Asian Pacific Americans. In 1992 Congress expanded the commemoration to a month, in order to fully recognize the impact that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) have on our great nation.

From the early 1800s to today, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have played a critical role in the development of this country. This year's theme: "Lighting the Past, Present and Future," is fitting as the world's attention turned to the United States to see the historic inauguration of President Barack Hussein Obama. President Obama's diversity reflects the richness and strength of our nation.

We must reaffirm our commitment to the promise of a future for all Americans by eradicating racial and ethnic health disparities, enacting comprehensive immigration reform, providing educational opportunities for the underserved and creating jobs. I am proud that we ensured full equity for the Filipino veterans who proudly served under the American flag during World War II when we passed H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. I also applaud my colleagues for the recent passage of the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which enables the Department of Justice to assist the efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes based on race, ethnic background, and religion, and extends protections to more Americans.

From the construction of the transcontinental railroads to the heroic contributions in World War II and beyond, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made lasting contributions in every facet of American society. We must continue to acknowledge the great achievements this vast and diverse community has provided this nation and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. FALCOMA. Madam Speaker, in 1992, Congress passed a joint Congressional Resolution to designate the month of May to give special recognition of the contributions of our Asian-Pacific American community to our nation. Originally, Congress in 1978 designated the first week of May to commemorate the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants and the completion of the transcontinental railroad that was built by the Chinese laborers. Every year since then, the President would issue an Executive proclamation from the White House to honor this month and direct all federal agencies and military installations throughout the country to conduct special events and ceremonies to honor our Asian-Pacific American communities throughout our country.

This year's theme is, "Leadership To Meet The Challenges Of A Changing World," and I will try and elaborate on the achievements and success of Asian-Pacific Americans in both the public and private sector but, more importantly, to demonstrate to the world that the

greatness of our nation lies in its diversity and ability of our country to accept peoples from all over world, as they pledge themselves to become as fellow citizens of this great nation.

Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent, nearly 16 million strong, are among the fastest growing demographic groups in the United States today, even though they make up only 5 percent of our nation's population. In recent years, the Asian-Pacific Americans have more than doubled and this rapid growth is expected to continue in the years to come.

Time will not permit me to share with you the names and contributions of many of our prominent Asian-Pacific American leaders in the fields of law, business, finance, and too many to mention. One only needs to read today's newspaper or a magazine to document the fact that Asian-Pacific American students—both in secondary schools and universities—are among the brightest minds our nation offers to the world. I fully expect that these students, now and in the future, will contribute their talents and expertise to solve major issues and problems now confronting our nation and the world today.

Many of our prominent business leaders and entrepreneurs are of Asian-Pacific American descent. In fact, many of the popular brands and icons that we know today were created by the brilliant minds of people in our Asian-Pacific American community. For example, the Bose Corporation specializing in audio equipment, can be found or is used by historical venues and facilities, such as the Sistine Chapel, the Space Shuttle, and the Olympic stadiums, is currently headed by its founder, Amar Bose—an Indian American. Steve Chen, a Chinese American, and Jawed Karim, a Bangladeshi American, were the co-creators of the popular video sharing website, "YouTube." Vera Wang, a Chinese American fashion designer and mogul, established herself as an icon by dressing celebrities and creating one of the most fashionable clothing lines for women in the world.

In the world of sports, Asian-Pacific Americans have come to the forefront. In the recent 2008 Beijing Olympics, Kevin Tan, a Chinese American, was selected as captain of the U.S. men's gymnastics team and earned a bronze medal in team competition. Natasha Kai, an American of Hawaiian, Cambodian, and Chinese descent, won a gold medal with the U.S. women's soccer team. Natasha happens to be alumni of Kahuku High School in Hawaii, where I also graduated from many years ago.

Asian-Pacific Americans are more prevalent in American sports now more than ever before. We have Yao Ming, a Chinese basketball player, playing for the Houston Rockets; Daisuke Matsuzaka, a Japanese baseball player, playing for the Boston Red Sox; Yutaka Fukufuji, the first Japanese to play for the National Hockey League, played for the Los Angeles Kings. And everyone has heard of the Professional Boxer Manny Pacquiao from the Philippines, a world champion in numerous boxing divisions who handily beat Oscar De La Hoya in December and Ricky Hatton two weeks ago in Las Vegas.

I have to mention the accomplishments of our young Asian-Pacific Americans in the NFL. In the 2009 NFL draft, nine young men, five Tongans and four Samoans, were selected by six different teams across the nation. These young men are ambassadors of goodwill and

represent the Asian-Pacific American members who were once and still apart of the National Football League. From pioneers such as Al Lolotai who played for the Washington Redskins in 1945, Charles Ane and Rockne Freitas of Detroit Lions, to the likes of Junior Seau of the New England Patriots and Troy Polamalu of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

In the field of martial arts, the late Chinese-American kung-fu martial arts expert Bruce Lee captivated the movie audiences all over the world by destroying the common stereotype of the passive, quiet Asian-Pacific American male, and the tradition continues today with Jackie Chan and Jet Li. Now, another sports and movie icon is moving his way through the movie industry—believed to be the heir apparent to Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger—none other than the former World Wrestling Entertainment champion wrestler, Dwayne Johnson, or commonly known as the Rock. The Rock was featured in movies such as the Scorpion King, Rundown, Get Smart, Grid Iron Gang and recently Race to Witch Mountain.

The thing unique about Dwayne Johnson is that while his father is of African and Native American descent, his mother is Samoan. Now, just about every Samoan alive claims to be related to the Rock, including myself.

Last summer I had the privilege of presenting the Congressional Horizon Award to Chief Seiuli Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson for his contributions and volunteer work in educating, empowering, and enriching the lives of children worldwide. Dwayne Johnson has made numerous contributions not only through The Rock Foundation but also directly to our Asian-Pacific American youth.

Michelle Kwan, a Chinese American figure skater, is another example of a prominent Asian-Pacific American who has transformed her skills in one area to contribute further to our nation. Kwan has won nine U.S. championships, five world championships and two Olympic medals, earning her the title of the most decorated figure skater in U.S. history. Her accomplishments don't end there. In 2006, Secretary Condoleezza Rice named Kwan the first U.S. public diplomacy ambassador, where she has worked at improving America's image abroad. As ambassador, Michelle has been promoting cross-cultural dialogue with international youth.

As Americans, and especially our youth, become more engaged in politics and government, I must bring your attention to the growing role and impact that Asian-Pacific Americans are playing in civic engagement. Our fellow colleague and good friend, Congressman ANH “JOSEPH” CAO became the first American of Vietnamese descent to be elected to the House of Representatives. A former Congressman, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, became the first Indian American ever elected as governor in U.S. history, and is currently the youngest amongst all governors in the U.S.

In the recent 2008 national and state elections, the Asian-Pacific American communities played a vital role. An estimated whopping 62% of the voting Asian-Pacific Americans cast their ballot for then Senator Barack Obama, helping him secure his presidential win.

And with the President's appointments in the administration, there are an unprecedented number of Asian-Pacific Americans in

top government positions, and these leaders were not appointed to their positions because of their race and heritage but because they bring vast knowledge, experience and different viewpoints that their Asian-Pacific American backgrounds have contributed to.

For example, President Obama appointed Steven Chu, a Chinese American, to be the Secretary of Energy. Secretary Chu's extensive work in physics and molecular biology has earned him accolades and achievements throughout the world—most notably he won a Nobel Prize for his physics works in “development of methods to cool and trap atoms with laser light.” Chu's dedication to physics led him to the academic side of research, as a teacher of physics and molecular and cellular biology at Stanford and UC Berkley. Concerning global warming, Secretary Chu has been a leading advocate for the research of finding alternative sources of energy, and steering away our dependence on fossil fuels. Secretary Chu is the first person ever appointed to the Cabinet after receiving a Nobel Prize.

Our newest Secretary of Veteran Affairs, my good friend General Eric Shinseki is a Japanese American born in Hawaii and is a decorated veteran who fought in two combat tours in Vietnam. Secretary Shinseki, wounded from his last tour in Vietnam, understands from personal experience the plight of veterans and the support those veterans and their families need. General Shinseki is also the only Japanese American and Asian American to be promoted to the Army's top position, and was the first four-star general of Asian descent in the history of our U.S. military.

The most recently confirmed cabinet member into Obama's Administration has exemplified that with hard work the American Dream can come true. Former Governor of the State of Washington, Gary Locke, a Chinese American, grew up in public housing and put himself through Yale University with loans, scholarships and the money he earned working part-time jobs. After earning his law degree from Boston University, Secretary Locke broke many glass ceilings afflicting our Asian-Pacific community. In 1993, Locke became the first Chinese American to be elected as his county's County Executive, and in 1996, Locke became the first Chinese American to be governor of a state in U.S. history, serving the maximum of two terms.

Secretary Locke's family history is an important one to emphasize, as it is one of many hardships that our Asian-Pacific American communities have faced. In an interview, Locke mentioned that his grandfather might have claimed he was born in the U.S. and the documents were destroyed. Some of you may know this, and others may not, but in 1882 our government institutionalized racial discrimination against Chinese immigrants where they were banned from entering the United States. The Chinese people living in the U.S. at the time were excluded from becoming American citizens. And because of the restrictions of this law, it was nearly impossible for Chinese families to reunite. This Exclusion Act was repealed only 66 years ago. Locke's grandfather could have been one of the few Chinese immigrants who managed to get into the United States through ruses of lost documentation, while the immigration of people from all over Europe were unlimited.

As a Vietnam veteran, it would be absurd of me not to say something to honor and respect

the hundreds of thousands of Asian-Pacific Americans who served then and now in all branches of the armed services of our nation.

As a former member of the U.S. Army's Reserve unit, known today as the 100th Battalion and 442nd Infantry Combat group, I would be remiss if I did not share with you the contributions of the tens of thousands of Japanese-American soldiers who volunteered to fight our nation's enemies in Europe during World War II.

So you probably know, after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, by the Imperial Armed Services of Japan—there was such an outrage and cry for an all out war against Japan and days afterwards our President and the Congress formally declared war. Out of this retaliation against Japan, hundreds of thousands of Americans were caught in the crossfire. These Americans just happened to be of Japanese ancestry.

Our national government immediately implemented a policy whereby over 100,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were forced to live in what were called relocation camps, but were actually more like prison or concentration camps. Their lands, homes and properties were confiscated by the military without due process of law.

My former colleague and former U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Norman Mineta, and the late Congressman Bob Matsui from Sacramento spent the early years of their lives in these prison camps. Secretary Mineta shared one of the interesting features of these prison camps where there were many machine gun nests posted all around the camps. Everyone in the camps was told that these machine guns were necessary to protect them against rioters or others who wanted to harm them.

But then Secretary Mineta observed, “if these machine guns are posted to guard and protect us, why is it that they are all directed and aimed inside the prison camp compound and not outside?”

It was a time in our nation's history when there was so much hatred, bigotry and racism placed against our Japanese-American community. Despite all this, the White House, at the time, accepted the request of tens of thousands of the Japanese Americans to volunteer to join the Army, thus leaving their wives, parents, brothers and sisters behind barbed wire fences. As a result of such volunteerism, two combat units were organized. The 100th Battalion and the 442nd Infantry Combat Group were created and immediately were sent to fight in Europe.

In my humble opinion, history speaks for itself in documenting that none have shed their blood more valiantly for our nation than the Japanese American soldiers who served in these two combat units while fighting enemy forces in Europe during World War II. The military records of the 100th Battalion and 442nd Infantry are without equal suffering. These Japanese American units suffered an unprecedented casualty rate of 314%, and received over 18,000 individual decorations, many awarded posthumously, for bravery and courage in the field of battle.

For your information, 53 Distinguished Service Crosses, (the second highest HELV. medal given for heroism in combat), 560 Silver Stars (third highest medal), and 9,486 Purple Hearts, and 7 Presidential Unit Citations, the nation's top award for combat units, were awarded to the Japanese American soldiers of

the 100th Battalion and 442nd Infantry Group. I find it unusual, however, that only one Medal of Honor was awarded at the time. Nonetheless, the 442nd Combat Group emerged as the most decorated combat unit of its size in the history of the United States Army.

President Truman was so moved by their bravery in the field of battle, as well as that of African American soldiers during World War II, that he issued an Executive Order to finally desegregate all branches of the Armed Services.

I am proud to say that we must recognize Senator DANIEL K. INOUE and the late, highly-respected Senator Spark Matsunaga of Hawaii, who distinguished themselves in battle as soldiers with the 100th Battalion and 442nd Infantry.

It was while fighting in Europe that Senator INOUE lost his arm while engaged in his personal battle against two German machine gun posts. For his heroism, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. As a result of a Congressional mandate that was passed in 1999 to review the military records of these two combat units, President Clinton presented 19 Congressional Medals of Honor to the Japanese Americans who were members of these two combat groups. Senator INOUE was one of those recipients of the Medal of Honor and I was privileged to witness this historical moment at a White House ceremony.

On May 14, 2009, the House unanimously passed H.R. 347 thus granting the Congressional gold medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

The wholesale and arbitrary abolishment of the constitutional rights of these loyal Japanese Americans should forever serve as a reminder and testament that this must never be allowed to occur again. When this miscarriage of justice unfolded during World War II, Americans of German and Italian ancestry were not similarly jailed en masse. Some declare the incident as an example of outright racism and bigotry in its ugliest form. I sincerely hope that these forms of legal racial discrimination never again darken the history of our great nation.

To those that say, well, that occurred decades ago, I say we must continue to be vigilant in guarding against such evil today. President Obama's recent election is a consequence of such vigilance in electing him as the first ever President of color. I know that history speaks that he is the first black President, but personally, he represents all races, genders, and ethnicities in becoming the Commander-in-Chief and leader of this great country. Now and more than ever, am I so proud to be called an American. We have elected a person who is literally an African-American, in the sense, where his father is a Kenyan and mother is a girl from Kansas. I jokingly say that this is the first President to know where the Pacific Ocean is on the map. President Obama was born in Hawaii so he's a "local boy" and for your information, he can still throw a good "shaka" sign. We in the Congress look forward to the next four years, and maybe 8, in working together with President Obama in restoring American leadership in the world. As Americans, we emphasize the importance of our ideals and values that guarantee and protect ones freedoms and is reinforced and supported by the greatest volunteer military force in the world.

We should never become complacent with the hand that is dealt to you, with the discrimination that you may see or experience. When I envision America, I don't see a melting pot designed to reduce and remove racial differences. The America I see is a brilliant rainbow, a rainbow of ethnicities, cultures, religions and languages with each person proudly contributing in their own distinctive and unique way for a better America.

Asian-Pacific Americans wish to find a just and equitable place in our society that will allow them—like all Americans—to grow, to succeed, to achieve and to contribute to the advancement of this great nation.

I would like to close my remarks by asking my colleagues—what is America all about? I can say that through our leadership and sense of volunteerism we can meet the challenges of a fast changing world. Either through personal service, education, civics, or charity, we have a responsibility to each other and must continue to exploit the freedoms that we proudly have today. Everyday the world is shrinking and it is important, as our forefathers have done so, to continue our leadership and become an example of how we admit to our faults and correct them immediately.

I think it could not have been said better than on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in the summer of 1963 when an African American minister by the name of Martin Luther King, Jr., poured out his heart and soul to every American who could hear his voice, when he uttered these words:

"I have a dream. My dream is that one day my children will be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

We have reaped what he has sowed by celebrating the contributions of Asian-Pacific Americans this month and having the first ever President of color in our great history.

That is what I believe America is all about. Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 435 to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and pay tribute to the many achievements of Asian Pacific Americans across our Nation.

The month of May marks several historical events in Asian Pacific American history. On May 7, 1843, the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States, paving the way for a great movement of Asian and Pacific peoples to immigrate to the United States. Only 26 years later, on May 10, 1869, the transcontinental railroad was finished, the completion of which is largely credited to Asian Pacific Americans. Due to these events, it is appropriate to celebrate the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and honor the sacrifices and contributions of this great community.

Through the years, the Asian Pacific American Communities have made significant contributions to Texas's diverse culture. In Dallas, I am privileged to represent the largest Asian American Chamber in the United States with more than 1,200 members. I believe that we all learn from those who come from different backgrounds, and I can truly say that I have learned a great deal from my Asian Pacific friends and constituents.

I would also like to recognize the one-year anniversary of the devastating earthquake that shook Sichuan Province in China in May of 2008 and send my condolences to the friends and families of the victims.

Today, there are over 14 million Asian Pacific Americans living in the United States, representing 5 percent of the population. The rich history associated with the Asian Pacific American community has left a lasting and important imprint on our country. Madam Speaker, I am proud to support this resolution and the Asian Pacific American communities in North Texas and across the United States.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 435, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: "A resolution celebrating Asian/Pacific-American Heritage."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CELEBRATING FLAG DAY

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 420) celebrating the symbol of the United States flag and supporting the goals and ideals of Flag Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 420

Whereas Flag Day is celebrated annually on June 14, the anniversary of the official adoption of the American flag by the Continental Congress in 1777;

Whereas on June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new Nation, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act, which stated, "Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation";

Whereas the second Flag Act, signed January 13, 1794, provided for 15 stripes and 15 stars after May 1795;

Whereas the Act of April 4, 1818, which provided for 13 stripes and one star for each State, to be added to the flag on July 4 following the admission of each new State, was signed by President James Monroe;

Whereas in an Executive order dated June 24, 1912, President William Howard Taft established the proportions of the flag and provided for arrangement of the stars in 6 horizontal rows of 8 each, a single point of each star to be upward;

Whereas in an Executive order dated January 3, 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower provided for the arrangement of the stars in 9 rows staggered horizontally and 11 rows of stars staggered vertically;

Whereas the first celebration of the American flag is believed to have been introduced by Bernard Cigrand, a Wisconsin school teacher, who arranged for his pupils at Stony Hill School in Waubeka to celebrate June 14 as "Flag Birthday" in 1885;

Whereas on June 14, 1894, the Governor of New York ordered that the American flag be

displayed at all public buildings in the State, prompting many State and local governments to begin observing Flag Day;

Whereas President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first nationwide Flag Day in 1916;

Whereas in 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed legislation requesting National Flag Day be observed annually;

Whereas the United States flag is a symbol of our great Nation and its ideals;

Whereas in times of national crisis, Americans look to the United States flag as a symbol of hope, courage, and freedom;

Whereas the United States flag is universally honored;

Whereas the United States flag honors the men and women of the Armed Forces who have given their life in the defense of the United States;

Whereas the United States flag serves as a treasured symbol of the loss of loved ones to the countless families of those who died in defense of our Nation; and

Whereas June 14, 2009, is recognized as Flag Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives celebrates the United States flag and supports the goals and ideals of Flag Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 420 celebrates our Nation's most enduring symbol: the American flag. With this resolution, this Chamber expresses its support for the annual recognition of Flag Day.

The gentleman from Ohio, Representative ROBERT LATTA, introduced House Resolution 420 on May 17, 2009, and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform reported it out on June 4, 2009, by unanimous consent. With 64 cosponsors, it is a clear demonstration of Congress' appreciation and respect for our Nation's flag.

We celebrate Flag Day on June 14, the anniversary of the Continental Congress' passage of the first Flag Act in 1777. Since then, Americans have looked to the flag as a symbol of their country and its dearest values. The flag represents us and all of our fellow citizens, and I am always heartened to see the parades and events that occur around the country each year in commemoration of Flag Day, especially in one of my favorite towns, the town of Dedham, Massachusetts, which has a wonderful parade each year on Flag Day. And in the town of Dedham around Flag Day, it is hard to find a home without the American flag hanging on the front door.

The flag honors the countless men and women who have died during the defense of the United States in the Armed Forces. In short, the American flag is a lasting symbol of their sacrifice. As public servants, we rightly pledge our allegiance to the flag each day, as do the millions of Americans for whom we represent and serve here in this Chamber. While each day of the year the American flag stands before the entire world as a symbol of our shared values, hopes, aspirations, and ideals, I am glad to see that we set aside the time each June to celebrate the American flag and all that it represents.

With that, Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of this legislation, supporting the goals and ideals of Flag Day.

The American flag has been our national symbol for 232 years, and it remains a symbol of freedom wherever it is flown. In 1777, when the Second Continental Congress adopted the stars and stripes and its beautiful red, white, and blue design, our flag has stood for liberty and justice. Flag Day was first celebrated throughout the country in 1885, as one early supporter, Bernard Cigrand, a Wisconsin schoolteacher, wanted June 14 to be known as "Flag Birthday." The idea quickly caught on and many people wanted to participate. In 1894, the Governor of New York asked that all public buildings fly the flag on June 14 to begin observing Flag Day. And in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Flag Day as a national celebration. However, the holiday was not officially recognized until 1949 when President Harry Truman signed the national Flag Day bill.

Since the beginning of our Republic, Americans have flown the flag to show their appreciation and pride for this great Nation. Every day Americans pledge their allegiance to the flag, and our troops carry the flag as they defend the liberties for which it stands and which represent this country, the United States of America.

On Flag Day, we remember the importance of our oldest national symbols and reflect the loss of loved ones who have died in defense of this great Nation.

Let us pledge allegiance to this flag to declare our patriotism and raise its colors high to express our pride and respect for the American way of life. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Ohio (Mr. LATTA).

Mr. LATTA. I appreciate the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to stand before you today in support of the resolution I introduced, House Resolution 420. This resolution celebrates the symbol of the United States and supports the goals and ideals of Flag Day.

Flag Day is celebrated on June 14, which is the anniversary of the official adoption of the American flag by the Continental Congress in 1777. This was done by the first Flag Act, which stated, "Resolved, that the flag of the United States be made of 13 stripes, alternating red and white, that the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

Since 1777, our flag's design has been altered three times under executive orders, rearranging the designs of the stars and stripes each time a State was added.

As the gentleman from Utah has stated, the history of Flag Day traces its roots to the first celebration of the American flag, which is believed to have been introduced by Bernard Cigrand, a Wisconsin schoolteacher who arranged for his students at Stony Hill School to celebrate June 14 as "Flag Birthday" in 1885. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first nationwide Flag Day in 1916, and in 1947, President Harry Truman signed legislation requesting that national Flag Day be observed annually.

Flag Day is an important day of celebration as our flag is the official symbol of our great Nation and its ideals. Our flag serves as a beacon of hope, courage, and freedom during times of crisis and triumph alike. The flag honors the men and women of the Armed Forces who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in defending the United States and serves as a symbol for those families who have lost loved ones while defending our Nation.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I ask for unanimous consent on House Resolution 420 as we celebrate our Nation's flag.

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I again urge our colleagues to join Mr. LATTA, the lead sponsor of this resolution, in affirming our allegiance to our flag and our support for the annual celebration of Flag Day by supporting this measure.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 420.

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. LYNCH. Madam 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.

IMPROVED FINANCIAL AND COMMODITY MARKETS OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 885) to elevate the Inspector General of certain Federal entities to an Inspector General appointed pursuant to section 3 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 885

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Improved Financial and Commodity Markets Oversight and Accountability Act”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Elevation of certain Inspectors General to appointment pursuant to section 3 of the Inspector General Act of 1978.

Sec. 3. Continuation of provisions relating to personnel.

Sec. 4. Subpoena authority of certain Inspectors General.

Sec. 5. Corrective responses by heads of certain establishments to deficiencies identified by Inspectors General.

Sec. 6. Effective date; transition rule.

SEC. 2. ELEVATION OF CERTAIN INSPECTORS GENERAL TO APPOINTMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 3 OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 1978.

(a) **INCLUSION IN CERTAIN DEFINITIONS.**—Section 12 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “or the Federal Cochairpersons of the Commissions established under section 15301 of title 40, United States Code;” and inserting “the Federal Cochairpersons of the Commissions established under section 15301 of title 40, United States Code; the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission; the Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration; the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation; or the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission;”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “or the Commissions established under section 15301 of title 40, United States Code,” and inserting “the Commissions established under section 15301 of title 40, United States Code, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the National Credit Union Administration, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, or the Securities and Exchange Commission.”.

(b) **EXCLUSION FROM DEFINITION OF DESIGNATED FEDERAL ENTITY.**—Section 8G(a)(2) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) by striking “the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System;”;

(2) by striking “the Commodity Futures Trading Commission;”;

(3) by striking “the National Credit Union Administration;”; and

(4) by striking “the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, the Securities and Exchange Commission;”.

SEC. 3. CONTINUATION OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO PERSONNEL.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by inserting after section 8L the following:

“SEC. 8M. SPECIAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING CERTAIN ESTABLISHMENTS.

“(a) **DEFINITION.**—For purposes of this section, the term ‘covered establishment’ means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the National Credit Union Administration, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

“(b) **PROVISIONS RELATING TO ALL COVERED ESTABLISHMENTS.**—

“(1) **PROVISIONS RELATING TO INSPECTORS GENERAL.**—In the case of the Inspector General of a covered establishment, subsections (b) and (c) of section 4 of the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-409) shall apply in the same manner as if such covered establishment were a designated Federal entity under section 8G. An Inspector General who is subject to the preceding sentence shall not be subject to section 3(e).

“(2) **PROVISIONS RELATING TO OTHER PERSONNEL.**—Notwithstanding paragraphs (7) and (8) of section 6(a), the Inspector General of a covered establishment may select, appoint, and employ such officers and employees as may be necessary for carrying out the functions, powers, and duties of the Office of Inspector General of such establishment and to obtain the temporary or intermittent services of experts or consultants or an organization of experts or consultants, subject to the applicable laws and regulations that govern such selections, appointments, and employment, and the obtaining of such services, within such establishment.

“(c) **PROVISION RELATING TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.**—The provisions of subsection (a) of section 8D (other than the provisions of subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (E) of paragraph (1) of such subsection (a)) shall apply to the Inspector General of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in the same manner as such provisions apply to the Inspector General of the Department of the Treasury and the Secretary of the Treasury, respectively.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Paragraph (3) of section 8G(g) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is repealed.

SEC. 4. SUBPOENA AUTHORITY OF CERTAIN INSPECTORS GENERAL.

The Inspector General of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the National Credit Union Administration, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, or the Securities and Exchange Commission, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), is authorized to require by subpoena, from any officer or employee of a contractor or grantee of the establishment, any officer or employee of a subcontractor or subgrantee of such a contractor or grantee, or any person or entity regulated by the establishment, any records and testimony necessary in the performance of functions assigned to the Inspector General under such Act. Any such subpoena, in the case of contumacy or refusal to obey, shall be enforceable by order of any appropriate United States district court.

SEC. 5. CORRECTIVE RESPONSES BY HEADS OF CERTAIN ESTABLISHMENTS TO DEFICIENCIES IDENTIFIED BY INSPECTORS GENERAL.

The Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration, the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, and the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission shall each—

(1) take action to address deficiencies identified by a report or investigation of the Inspector General of the establishment concerned; or

(2) certify to both Houses of Congress that no action is necessary or appropriate in connection with a deficiency described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE; TRANSITION RULE.

(a) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **TRANSITION RULE.**—An individual serving as Inspector General of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the National Credit Union Administration, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, or the Securities and Exchange Commission on the effective date of this Act pursuant to an appointment made under section 8G of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)—

(1) may continue so serving until the President makes an appointment under section 3(a) of such Act with respect to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the National Credit Union Administration, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, or the Securities and Exchange Commission, as the case may be, consistent with the amendments made by section 2; and

(2) shall, while serving under paragraph (1), remain subject to the provisions of section 8G of such Act which, immediately before the effective date of this Act, applied with respect to the Inspector General of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the National Credit Union Administration, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, or the Securities and Exchange Commission, as the case may be, and suffer no reduction in pay.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I ask that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 885, the Improved Financial and Commodity Markets Oversight and Accountability Act. This bill, introduced by my friend Representative JOHN LARSON of Connecticut, would enhance the independence of Inspectors General at key financial regulatory agencies.

Right now we have an inconsistent system where some financial agencies like the FDIC have an Inspector General appointed by the President and

confirmed by the Senate, while other large and important agencies like the SEC have an Inspector General who is appointed by and reports to the head of the agency they are supposed to be investigating.

This bill would create a more consistent and independent structure by elevating the Inspectors General at five financial regulatory agencies to be Presidentially appointed and Senate confirmed. This will enhance their independence from the agencies they are overseeing.

This committee has worked on Inspector General reform for the past several years now, and one of our key findings is that the Inspectors General have to be independent from the agency they are supervising if they are going to be effective. The situation at some agencies, where the head of the agency hires and fires the Inspector General and sets the office budget for that Inspector General, does not give these IGs, the Inspectors General, the independence they need.

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Making the Inspector General a Presidential appointee confirmed by the Senate not only gives them independence from their agency management but also gives them more stature to come directly to Congress with any problems that they encounter.

Congresswoman DIANE WATSON, the chairwoman of the Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Management, held a hearing on this bill where it had the support of the GAO. At the hearing, the agency Inspectors General made some suggestions on improving the bill, which has been incorporated in an amendment adopted at the committee markup. The amendment specifically clarifies that the Inspector General and the Inspector General staff retain their existing pay and personnel structure. It also clarifies and strengthens the subpoena authority of these Inspectors General, and it requires the heads of the agencies to report to Congress on actions they have taken in response to Inspector General recommendations.

Inspectors General have the unique responsibility of reporting both to the President and to Congress. Congress has to make sure that the Inspectors General have the legal authority and tools they need to continue their roles as nonpartisan, professional, honest brokers; and this bill, I believe, does that.

I urge all Members to support H.R. 885.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

As we all noted this year, oversight and accountability are vitally important, and the Inspectors General are on the frontline of this effort. This bill will enhance the independence and effectiveness of the IGs at several critical institutions.

Currently the IGs at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the National Credit Union Administration, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System are appointed and can be removed by the head of the institution. This structure could limit the IG's independence. This bill will make these IGs Presidentially appointed and Senate-confirmed, reducing the risk of undue influence by the heads of these institutions. Although additional Senate-confirmed positions are unnecessary in most cases, it is important that we preserve and enhance their independence within these organizations. I want to thank our colleagues for working with us to improve this bill and making several important changes.

We now ensure that the positions covered by this bill will not suffer a reduction in pay and the individuals will remain on par with similarly situated senior individuals at the institution. More importantly, we also provide IGs with subpoena authority, an important tool for oversight and accountability, as we all know from our work on the Oversight Committee. Finally, the bill requires the regulatory agencies to take some action on the deficiencies identified by the IGs. These agencies cannot simply ignore the findings.

Madam Speaker, given the enormous role these institutions play in our Nation's financial sector, it is important that the IGs have the tools and independence to ensure that these institutions operate above reproach.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Utah for his hard work on this bill and his ongoing commitment, and it has been that case on much of the legislation that comes before our committee for his bipartisan and willingness to work very hard on these issues. I consider it an honor to work with him.

I would like to submit for the RECORD an exchange of letters between the Honorable COLLIN PETERSON, chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, and the Honorable EDOLPHUS TOWNS, chairman of our Oversight Committee, with respect to their concerns regarding this bill.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,

Washington, DC, June 8, 2009.

Hon. EDOLPHUS TOWNS,

Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN TOWNS: I write to you regarding H.R. 885, the Improved Financial and Commodity Markets Oversight and Accountability Act.

H.R. 885 contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture. I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I will not seek a sequential referral of the bill. However, agreeing to waive consideration of this bill should not be construed as the Committee on Agriculture waiving its jurisdiction over H.R. 885.

Further, the Committee on Agriculture reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation on provisions of the bill that are within the Committee's jurisdiction.

I look forward to working with you as we prepare to pass this important legislation.

Sincerely,

COLLIN C. PETERSON,

Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, June 8, 2009.

Hon. COLLIN C. PETERSON,

Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,

House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PETERSON: Thank you for your letter regarding the Committee on Agriculture's jurisdictional interest in H.R. 885, the "Improved Financial and Commodity Markets Oversight and Accountability Act".

I appreciate your willingness to expedite this legislation for House floor consideration, and agree that certain provisions of the bill are of jurisdictional interest to the Committee on Agriculture. I acknowledge that by forgoing a sequential referral, your Committee is not relinquishing its jurisdiction and I will fully support your request to be represented in a House-Senate conference on those provisions over which the Committee on Agriculture has jurisdiction in H.R. 885.

I will submit a copy of your letter and this response as part of the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor. Thank you for your support of H.R. 885 and your cooperation as we work towards enactment of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

EDOLPHUS TOWNS,

Chairman.

Madam Speaker, I would now like to yield such time as he may consume to the lead sponsor of this measure, a very diligent Member of Congress and a part of our leadership team, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH). Chairman, you have done an outstanding job, along with the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ), in outlining what this bill does.

Before I begin, because this has been such a nonpartisan effort in so many respects and a commitment, first and foremost, on the part of the Oversight Committee to take a bill, whose genesis evolved out of the last session, and make it a better bill and perfect it, to those ends, along with Mr. LYNCH and Mr. CHAFFETZ, I would especially like to thank Chairman ED TOWNS. Mr. TOWNS has done such a great job in marshaling this bill forward, along with DIANE WATSON.

I would further like to thank, on their staff, Mike McCarthy, Adam Bordes and Bert Hammond of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee; Austin Burns of the majority leader's staff; and BARNEY FRANK, MEL WATT and DENNIS MOORE for their ongoing efforts to reform the regulation of our markets and financial sectors and for their input into this legislation; my good friend TODD PLATTS, who also assisted in this; and FRANK LOBIONDO, who was a cosponsor of this

bill almost 2 years ago. I especially want to single out for their efforts two reform-minded freshmen who have come to Congress, JOHN BOCCIERI of Ohio and GLENN NYE of Virginia, and especially to Amy O'Donnell of my staff and Jackie Sheltry.

We refer to this bill in the short form, just frankly, as providing an independent Inspector General for the financial services industries that are in such desperate need of this oversight, and I think the chairman outlined it well. The genesis of this bill actually took place from conducting a public forum back in my district and listening to former Republican mayor of South Windsor, Connecticut, John Mitchell, and our attorney general of the State of Connecticut, Richard Blumenthal. When we were looking at speculation in the market and what was happening with the CFTC and oil commodities, when we realized that the more and closer we looked at who was regulating these agencies, it was somewhat a case of the foxes guarding the henhouse.

Many have asked when we went home over this break and since the financial collapse on Wall Street, people have been astounded in trying to answer the question of, how could it be that Bernie Madoff was scamming thousands of innocent Americans into giving up their life savings? Where were the regulators? Where were the agencies? Where were they when speculators were wreaking havoc on the oil markets?

I can think of no sector where honesty, independence and transparency are needed more right now than in our financial and commodity markets, yet the regulators of these markets have been allowed to work with no oversight of what they are doing and whether they are fulfilling their mission to protect the American consumer. That's because the Inspectors General, as the chairman outlined, who should be working on behalf of average Americans, were working for the heads of the agencies they should be overseeing. As I said earlier, this is a classic case of the fox watching the henhouse, and it's having a profound impact on the work of our regulatory agencies.

We have done a review, and this is something that we pointed out at the committee. The review found that offices of the Inspector General, that independent offices where they are appointed by the President and approved by the Senate, completed over 117 investigations in 2008 while their non-independent counterparts completed just 12. That's 117 versus 12. The Inspector General of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission released information, showing that despite the recent economic crisis and the turbulence in the oil market, his office completed just two investigations and updated one from October of last year through March. Simply stated, an independent watchdog ensures better performance from a government agency.

I commend the committee because what they've done is provide greater

accountability and transparency. I also commend United States Senator DODD, who will also be taking this bill up on the Senate side as well. Again, I thank everybody on the committee and especially ED TOWNS for his hard work and dedication to make sure this bill got to the floor.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I want to also echo my compliments to Chairman TOWNS for his bringing this forward; Ranking Member ISSA who has a keen interest in this area for his work; and the Chair of the subcommittee, Mr. LYNCH, who is truly a gentleman and a great person to work with.

I also want to put comments in for the good men and women throughout our Federal Government that are working in all of these types of functions. I was excited to participate on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee because of the tremendous workload that they have. There's a great expectation from the American people that we deal with their money fairly and honestly, that we make sure that every dollar is accounted for; and we've seen too many mishaps where dollars have been overspent or overused. Certainly as we look at what is going to be, surely, the single-largest tax increase in the history of the United States with the so-called cap-and-trade, as the Democrats move this bill forward, if it were to pass, literally hundreds of billions of dollars taken out of the pockets of Americans all across the country that will be spent on who knows what, we have got to make sure that every single one of those dollars is accounted for.

Even though I voted "no," this body passed a \$1 trillion stimulus package, again, pulling \$1 trillion dollars out of our economy, pulling \$1 trillion out of Americans' pockets, handing it out to somebody else, bailouts and the rest of it. We need to make sure that the independent auditing, the people who are involved in oversight and government reform at every agency across the Nation throughout our government are doing their job, paying attention and making sure that every dollar is accounted for.

Having no other speakers, I will yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, in closing, we would like to reiterate our strong support for H.R. 885 and its lead sponsor and champion, Mr. LARSON. Again, we appreciate the great work being done by ED TOWNS, the full committee Chair; Mr. ISSA, its ranking member; and the gentleman from Utah, because this will increase the independence of these Inspectors General at financial regulatory agencies at a time when we need these internal watchdogs to be more effective than ever. We do appreciate the work that is being done by our Inspectors General and their staff, investigators and researchers. They work very hard for us. They do work that is not often appreciated, I think, on behalf of the American peo-

ple; and this will, I think, allow them a greater level of independence to do the job that needs to be done. So I urge my colleagues to join Mr. LARSON and all of us in supporting the passage of this measure.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 885, the Improved Financial and Commodity Markets Oversight and Accountability Act. The bill is sponsored by my friend and colleague from Connecticut, Congressman LARSON, and I commend his leadership on strengthening oversight and accountability to our government.

As I have told him personally, I appreciate the hard work Congressman LARSON put into crafting H.R. 885, a bill to reform several Offices of Inspector General in an effort to bring a greater level of independence and transparency to the agencies they oversee. And as the sponsor of the bill knows, I initially raised a few concerns with the bill to make sure we maximize the efforts of these Inspectors General to provide strong and tough oversight.

As a former District Attorney, the focus of any investigation should always be quality over quantity. Inspectors General should not focus on meeting some meaningless quota of closed cases. Instead, we want our Inspectors General to uncover waste, fraud and abuse wherever they find it so the agency they supervise and Congress can promptly address those abuses.

The House Financial Services Committee, under the leadership of Chairman BARNEY FRANK and of which I chair the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, will soon be considering a comprehensive regulatory reform package to overhaul our financial regulatory system.

In that effort, I will be working with Members on both sides of the aisle to identify any additional oversight protections we need to implement to ensure our financial system is transparent and protects consumers, investors and taxpayers. For example, I personally would like to see better coordination between Inspectors General on a regular basis to identify waste, fraud and abuse by creating a "Financial Inspectors General Council" where oversight concerns that may have a broader reach can be identified and corrected quickly.

I appreciate Congressman LARSON listening to me and discussing my concerns. We both agree that we need to move quickly on all fronts to strengthen oversight of our financial system, and it is in that spirit that I support this bill that the House is considering now.

I look forward to working closely with Congressman LARSON, Republicans and Democrats to take the necessary, additional steps to make certain we have an improved oversight structure in place so we don't have a repeat of a financial crisis of this magnitude.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 885, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1530

WOUNDED VETERAN JOB
SECURITY ACT

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 466) to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit discrimination and acts of reprisal against persons who receive treatment for illnesses, injuries, and disabilities incurred in or aggravated by service in the uniformed services, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 466

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

SECTION 2. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Wounded Veteran Job Security Act".

SEC. 3. RIGHTS OF PERSONS WHO RECEIVE TREATMENT FOR ILLNESSES, INJURIES, AND DISABILITIES INCURRED IN OR AGGRAVATED BY SERVICE IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.

(a) RIGHTS OF PERSONS WHO RECEIVE TREATMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 4320. Rights of persons absent from employment for treatment of service-connected disabilities

“(a) RETENTION.—Subject to subsection (e), a person who is absent from a position of employment by reason of the receipt of medical treatment for a service-connected disability is entitled to be retained by the person's employer.

“(b) SENIORITY.—A person who is absent from employment by reason of the receipt of medical treatment for a service-connected disability and who is entitled to be retained by the person's employer under subsection (a) is entitled to the seniority and other rights and benefits determined by seniority that the person had on the date of the commencement of such treatment plus the additional seniority and rights and benefits that such person would have attained if the person had remained continuously employed.

“(c) BENEFITS.—(1) A person who is absent from a position of employment by reason of the receipt of medical treatment for a service-connected disability and who is entitled to be retained by the person's employer under subsection (a) shall be—

“(A) deemed to be on furlough or leave of absence while receiving such treatment; and

“(B) entitled to such other rights and benefits not determined by seniority as are generally provided by the employer of the person to employees having similar seniority, status, and pay who are on furlough or leave of absence under a contract, agreement, policy, practice, or plan in effect at the commencement of such service or established while such person is so absent.

“(2)(A) Subject to subparagraph (C), a person described in subparagraph (B) is not entitled to rights and benefits under paragraph (1)(B).

“(B) A person described in this subparagraph is a person who—

“(i) is absent from a position of employment by reason of the receipt of medical treatment for a service-connected disability; and

“(ii) knowingly provides written notice of intent not to return to a position of employment after receiving such treatment.

“(C) For the purposes of this paragraph, the employer shall have the burden of prov-

ing that a person knowingly provided clear written notice of intent not to return to a position of employment after being absent from employment by reason of the receipt of medical treatment and, in doing so, was aware of the specific rights and benefits to be lost under subparagraph (A).

“(3) A person deemed to be on furlough or leave of absence under this subsection while receiving medical treatment for a service-connected disability shall not be entitled under this subsection to any benefits to which the person would not otherwise be entitled if the person had remained continuously employed.

“(4) Such person may be required to pay the employee cost, if any, of any funded benefit continued pursuant to paragraph (1) to the extent other employees on furlough or leave of absence are so required.

“(5) The entitlement of a person to coverage under a health plan is provided for under section 4317 of this title.

“(d) LEAVE.—Any person who is absent from a position of employment with an employer by reason of the receipt of medical treatment for a service-connected disability shall be permitted, upon request of that person, to use during the period during which the person is so absent, any vacation, annual, medical, or similar leave with pay accrued by the person before the commencement of such period. No employer may require any such person to use vacation, annual, family, medical, or similar leave during such period.

“(e) EXCEPTIONS.—(1) An employer is not required to comply with the requirements of this section if—

“(A) the employer's circumstances have so changed as to make such compliance impossible or unreasonable;

“(B) such compliance would impose an undue hardship on the employer; or

“(C) the employment from which the person is absent by reason of the receipt of medical treatment is for a brief, nonrecurrent period and there is no reasonable expectation that such employment will continue indefinitely or for a significant period.

“(2) In any proceeding involving an issue of whether (A) any compliance referred to in paragraph (1) is impossible or unreasonable because of a change in an employer's circumstances, (B) such compliance would impose an undue hardship on the employer, or (C) the employment referred to in paragraph (1)(C) is for a brief, nonrecurrent period and there is no reasonable expectation that such employment will continue indefinitely or for a significant period, the employer shall have the burden of proving the impossibility or unreasonableness, undue hardship, or the brief or nonrecurrent nature of the employment without a reasonable expectation of continuing indefinitely or for a significant period.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4319 the following new item:

“4320. Rights of persons absent from employment for treatment of service-connected disabilities.”.

(b) HEALTH PLAN.—Section 4317 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) This section shall apply with respect to a person who is absent from a position of employment by reason of the receipt of medical treatment for a service-connected disability (other than a person described in section 4320(c)(2)(B) of this title) on the same basis as a person who is absent from a position of employment by reason of service in the uniformed services. In the case of a person who is absent from a position of employ-

ment by reason of the receipt of medical treatment for a service-connected disability (other than a person described in section 4320(c)(2)(B) of this title), the period during which the person is so absent shall be treated as a period of service in the uniformed services for purposes of this section.”.

(c) PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION AND ACTS OF REPRISAL.—Section 4311 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by inserting after “uniformed service” the following: “. or who has an illness, injury, or disability determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to have been incurred in or aggravated by such service.”; and

(B) by striking “or obligation” and inserting “obligation, or receipt of treatment for that illness, injury, or disability”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “or obligation for service” the first time it appears and inserting “obligation for service, or receipt of treatment for an illness, injury, or disability determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to have been incurred in or aggravated by service.”; and

(B) by striking “or obligation for service” the second time it appears and inserting “obligation for service, or receipt of treatment”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to medical treatment received on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the great State of California.

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

Madam Speaker, as chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives, I have been honored to bring bill after bill that says “thank you” to our Nation's veterans, and this is another bill that will in fact do that, to say thank you to those who have served our Nation.

My distinguished colleague from Texas, Mr. DOGGETT, has introduced H.R. 466, the Wounded Veteran Job Security Act. His steadfast commitment to our men and women in uniform and this Nation's veterans is to be commended.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to Mr. DOGGETT to explain the bill.

Mr. DOGGETT. Thank you very much, Chairman FILNER, and thank you Ranking Member BOOZMAN, for the leadership that each of you provides for those who have served our country.

The return of a soldier or sailor to civilian life is a tradition as old as the Republic itself. Just outside this House Chamber in the great rotunda of the Capitol is a portrait of General George Washington resigning his command in the Continental Army at the close of the Revolution.

In his farewell orders to his troops in November of 1783, he praised the brave men, retiring victorious from the field of war to the field of agriculture. He urged his soldiers to participate in “all the blessings which have been obtained,” and asked rhetorically, “In

such a Republic, who will exclude them from the rights of Citizens and the fruits of their labor?"

Washington reminded this Congress of its duty to support these new veterans, he said, "so that the officers and soldiers may expect considerable assistance in recommencing the civil occupations."

Well, today, more than 34,000 of America's troops have been wounded as a result of their brave service in Iraq and in Afghanistan. Of these men and women, about 8,000 have suffered traumatic brain injuries and another 1,200 have undergone amputation of a limb.

Battlefield injuries like this don't end on the battlefield, and as General Washington long ago confirmed, neither should our commitment to these wounded warriors. When it comes to recovery, the road back to civilian life can be long, and it can be difficult. Complications arise from amputations. They can force a veteran to return repeatedly to the Veterans Administration for medical care; or what begins as a migraine may turn out to be a traumatic brain injury requiring a battery of time-consuming tests.

Even those veterans that live near a veterans facility find it difficult balancing their medical requirements with other demands on their time; and, of course, many veterans live far away and must travel a long distance, like a veteran in Luling, Texas, who must drive back and forth to the VA hospital in Temple in what may take 4 or 5 hours.

But this is not the only long road that some veterans confront. This legislation is the result of problems that some Texas veterans brought to my attention. They said wounded veterans should not be fired after they exhaust their sick and vacation leave to receive care for injuries that a VA doctor says they need that they incurred while defending our country.

I agree. And they said there ought to be a law supporting our veterans, and I felt confident when the Veterans' Affairs Committee and this Congress heard their plea, they would answer, as they have today.

You see, Madam Speaker, some employers have policies limiting the amount of time that an employee can be out on sick leave. An employee that exceeds that limit may be terminated; and as the law is written today, this means an employer can legally terminate a veteran with a service-related disability for receiving the care that he or she so desperately needs.

I stand here today to say that is not good enough. Our veterans should not have to choose between their lives and their livelihoods. No veteran should have to stand in front of their employer after suffering an injury while serving the Red, White and Blue and be told, you have a pink slip. I am sorry, you can't have a job. But the fact is that this has happened, and it has happened to some simple Texas veterans.

In 1994, when the Congress passed and President Clinton signed the Uni-

formed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act to clarify and strengthen the Veterans Reemployment Rights Statute, its first purpose was to encourage non-career service in the uniformed services by eliminating or minimizing the disadvantages to civilian careers and employment which can result from such service.

Now that we are 15 years down the road, it is time to take decisive action to develop policies that evolve with the changing needs of our troops. That is what the Wounded Veteran Job Security Act that we consider today that I authored seeks to accomplish. It amends existing law to establish a right of veterans who receive treatment for illness, injuries and disabilities incurred or aggravated by uniform service to the United States to be retained by their employers.

I appreciate the support of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Fleet Reserve Association, and the Disabled American Veterans, important organizations representing our veterans who have endorsed this legislation.

This legislation requires employers to retain a person who is absent from work because they are receiving medical treatment for a service-related injury or disability. It grants the servicemembers the same seniority and other rights and benefits that they had prior to receiving treatment, and it seeks to ensure that these servicemembers receive the same rights and benefits as other employers who are on furlough or leave of absence.

Our service men and women selflessly put aside their civilian lives to step into uniform and serve the cause of freedom and stand up for all of us. Today, it is our responsibility to stand up for them.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to ensure no American veteran ever has to choose between getting well and getting paid.

I thank the leadership on the committee.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the manager's amendment to H.R. 466. This bill would add protections against employment discrimination due to continued treatment for a service-connected disability to the Uniform Service Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, or USERRA; and that is the right thing to do.

Those who are seriously injured serving in the Nation's military should not be disadvantaged in the workplace beyond what their injuries have already put upon them; and allowing a reasonable amount of time off from their jobs for continuing service-connected medical treatment is the least thing that we can do. I believe that including them in USERRA is appropriate because it leaves no doubt as to an employer's obligation to service-disabled employees.

I extend my appreciation to the distinguished chairwoman, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, who has worked with us to improve the bill. Together we have clarified issues related to service-connected disability leave as well as other issues such as pension benefits and protections for businesses whose circumstances have changed so significantly that the application of these provisions would impose a serious burden on the employer.

This is a very worthy bill, and we appreciate Mr. DOGGETT bringing it forward. I would urge my colleagues certainly to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of veterans and military personnel in America. As one who believes in the Constitution under the original intent of the writers of that document and one who believes that most of what we do here in this House and in this Congress is unconstitutional, according to that original intent, supporting our veterans and our military personnel is absolutely critical for the national security of America.

We are not doing what we are supposed to do for our veterans. We have broken promises over and over again. The veterans are not getting the benefits that they have been promised; and I think that is immoral and verges on criminal, because we have broken as a Federal Government the promises that we have made to the veterans and military personnel in America. We need to fulfill those promises. We need to do what we have said we would do for them, and that is to take care of them, to take care of their spouses. We need to do so for their lifetime.

On the other hand, what we are doing here is we are going further and further down the road away from the Constitution and the original intent. We are stealing our grandchildren's future by spending more and more money that we don't have.

It is right and good and proper for us to spend money on national defense and supporting our veterans. It is right and good and proper to spend money on military personnel, on the national defense, on homeland security. It is not right and proper for us to continue spending our grandchildren's future.

The American people are going to have to stand up and say no to this robbing their future. They are going to have to contact their Members of Congress and say no to cap-and-trade, no to bailing out Big Business, no to doing all the things that we are doing over and over again here in this Congress. It is up to the American people to stand up and say no.

I say yes to veterans, yes to the military, yes to strong national defense,

yes to good policies for the veterans, and no to this steamroll to socialism.

Mr. FILNER. I am not sure whether the previous speaker supported or opposed the bill. I guess he opposes any help for health care for our citizens, any help for job security for our citizens, any help for the environmental protection of our citizens, any help for education for our citizens, any help for housing for our citizens. I still don't know where he stands on this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, having no more speakers on the bill, I would like to extend my appreciation once again to Mr. DOGGETT for bringing the bill forward, to Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Chairman FILNER and Ranking Member BUYER for their support and everyone working together to improve the Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

Again, you know where I am at on this bill. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 466, as amended.

I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 466, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FILNER. I urge all of my colleagues to join us in reaffirming our Nation's commitment to care for our servicemembers, veterans and their dependents, unanimously supporting H.R. 466, as amended.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 466, the "Wounded Veteran Job Security Act." I would like to thank my colleague Representative LLOYD DOGGETT for introducing this important piece of legislation, as well as the co-sponsors.

I stand in support of this legislation because it will prevent employers from discriminating against disabled veterans, who have to take a leave of absence from their jobs to receive medical treatment for illnesses, injuries, and other disabilities that they incurred during their time in the armed services. This bill will also entitle a disabled veteran to use vacation, annual, medical, or similar leave with pay before the beginning of their treatment.

Like all Americans, the 102,261 disabled veterans in the state of Georgia, rely upon the incomes that they earn from their jobs, because receiving disability payments alone is not enough. When veterans receive disability payments, the amount of their compensation is dependent upon the evaluation of the severity of their disabilities and then the severity of the injury is rated in increments of 10, ranging between 10 and 100 percent.

As of the beginning of the 2009 fiscal year, the largest category of veterans was at the 10 percent disability rate. These 782,000 veterans of the 2.9 million in total receiving disability payments are only being paid approximately \$123 per month which totals to \$1,476 a year. Presently, it is impossible to make a

living and support a family on this amount of money, especially in Georgia's Fourth Congressional District. In the Georgia Fourth Congressional District the average yearly household income is approximately \$49,000. The termination of a veteran because of their need to obtain medical treatment for an injury or injuries incurred while they were in the armed services of their country is not fair. We owe these individuals a great deal. These veterans have given so much to the United States, and were willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice—their lives for freedom. The least we can do is protect their well being after their service.

Mr. FILNER. 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. FILNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 466, as amended.

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

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for certain rights and benefits for persons who are absent from positions of employment to receive medical treatment for service-connected disabilities."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. HALVORSON) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1736, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 1709, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 420, de novo.

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

INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the mo-

tion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1736, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1736, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 341, nays 52, not voting 40, as follows:

[Roll No. 311]

YEAS—341

Abercrombie	Davis (TN)	Kanjorski
Ackerman	DeFazio	Kaptur
Aderholt	Delahunt	Kildee
Adler (NJ)	DeLauro	Kilpatrick (MI)
Alexander	Dent	Kilroy
Altmire	Diaz-Balart, L.	King (NY)
Andrews	Diaz-Balart, M.	Kirk
Arcuri	Dicks	Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Austria	Dingell	Kissell
Baca	Doggett	Klein (FL)
Baird	Donnelly (IN)	Kline (MN)
Baldwin	Doyle	Kosmas
Barrow	Dreier	Kratovil
Bartlett	Driehaus	Kucinich
Barton (TX)	Edwards (MD)	Lance
Bean	Edwards (TX)	Langevin
Becerra	Ehlers	Larsen (WA)
Berkley	Ellison	Larson (CT)
Berman	Ellsworth	Latham
Berry	Emerson	LaTourette
Biggert	Engel	Latta
Bilbray	Eshoo	Lee (CA)
Bilirakis	Etheridge	Lee (NY)
Bishop (GA)	Fallin	Levin
Bishop (NY)	Farr	Lewis (CA)
Blackburn	Fattah	Lipinski
Blumenauer	Filner	LoBiondo
Bocchieri	Fleming	Loeb sack
Boehner	Forbes	Loftgren, Zoe
Bonner	Fortenberry	Lowe y
Boozman	Foster	Lucas
Boren	Frank (MA)	Luetkemeyer
Boswell	Frelinghuysen	Lujan
Boucher	Fudge	Lynch
Brady (PA)	Galle gly	Maffei
Brady (TX)	Gerlach	Manzullo
Braley (IA)	Giffords	Markey (CO)
Bright	Goodlatte	Markey (MA)
Brown (SC)	Gordon (TN)	Marshall
Brown, Corrine	Granger	Massa
Brown-Waite,	Graves	Matheson
Ginny	Grayson	Matsui
Buchanan	Green, Al	McCarthy (CA)
Burton (IN)	Green, Gene	McCaul
Buyer	Griffith	McCollum
Calvert	Guthrie	McCotter
Camp	Gutierrez	McDermott
Cantor	Hall (NY)	McHugh
Cao	Hall (TX)	McIntyre
Capito	Halvorson	McKeon
Capps	Hare	McMahon
Capuano	Harman	McMorris
Cardoza	Harper	Rodgers
Carnahan	Hastings (FL)	McNerney
Carney	Heinrich	Meek (FL)
Carson (IN)	Heller	Meeks (NY)
Cassidy	Hergert	Melancon
Castle	Herseth Sandlin	Mica
Castor (FL)	Higgins	Michaud
Chandler	Hill	Miller (MI)
Childers	Himes	Miller (NC)
Clarke	Hinche y	Minnick
Clay	Hinojosa	Mitchell
Clyburn	Hirono	Mollohan
Cohen	Holden	Moore (KS)
Cole	Holt	Moore (WI)
Connolly (VA)	Honda	Murphy (CT)
Conyers	Hoyer	Murphy (NY)
Cooper	Inglis	Murphy, Patrick
Costa	Inslee	Murphy, Tim
Crenshaw	Israel	Murtha
Crowley	Jackson (IL)	Myrick
Cuellar	Jackson-Lee	Nadler (NY)
Cummings	(TX)	Napolitano
Dahlkemper	Jenkins	Neal (MA)
Davis (AL)	Johnson (GA)	Nye
Davis (CA)	Johnson, E. B.	Oberstar
Davis (IL)	Jones	Obey
Davis (KY)	Kagen	Olson

Oliver Ryan (OH)
 Ortiz Ryan (WI)
 Pallone Salazar
 Pascrell Sanchez, Linda
 Pastor (AZ) T.
 Paulsen Sanchez, Loretta
 Payne Sarbanes
 Perlmutter Schakowsky
 Perriello Schauer
 Peters Schiff
 Peterson Schmidt
 Petri Schwartz
 Pingree (ME) Scott (GA)
 Platts Scott (VA)
 Polis (CO) Serrano
 Pomeroy Shea-Porter
 Posey Sherman
 Price (NC) Shimkus
 Quigley Shuler
 Radanovich Simpson
 Rahall Sires
 Rangel Skelton
 Rehberg Slaughter
 Reichert Smith (NE)
 Reyes Smith (NJ)
 Richardson Smith (TX)
 Rodriguez Smith (WA)
 Roe (TN) Souder
 Rogers (AL) Space
 Rogers (KY) Speier
 Rogers (MI) Spratt
 Rooney Stark
 Ros-Lehtinen Stupak
 Roskam Sutton
 Ross Tanner
 Roybal-Allard Tauscher
 Rush Taylor

NAYS—52

Akin Garrett (NJ)
 Bachmann Gingrey (GA)
 Bachus Gohmert
 Blunt Hensarling
 Boustany Hunter
 Broun (GA) Issa
 Burgess Johnson, Sam
 Campbell Jordan (OH)
 Carter King (IA)
 Chaffetz Kingston
 Coble Lamborn
 Coffman (CO) Linder
 Conaway Lummis
 Culberson Lungren, Daniel
 Duncan E.
 Flake Marchant
 Foxx McClintock
 Franks (AZ) McHenry

NOT VOTING—40

Barrett (SC) Hoekstra
 Bishop (UT) Johnson (IL)
 Bono Mack Kennedy
 Boyd Kind
 Butterfield Lewis (GA)
 Cleaver Mack
 Costello Maloney
 Courtney McCarthy (NY)
 Deal (GA) McGovern
 DeGette Miller, Gary
 Gonzalez Miller, George
 Grijalva Moran (VA)
 Hastings (WA) Putnam
 Hodes Rohrabacher

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1857

Messrs. AKIN, HENSARLING, Ms. FOXX, Messrs. PENCE and COFFMAN of Colorado changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 311, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

STEM EDUCATION COORDINATION ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1709, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1709, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 353, nays 39, not voting 41, as follows:

[Roll No. 312]

YEAS—353

Abercrombie Coffman (CO)
 Ackerman Cohen
 Aderholt Cole
 Adler (NJ) Connolly (VA)
 Alexander Conyers
 Altmire Cooper
 Andrews Moran
 Arcuri Crenshaw
 Austria Crowley
 Baca Cuellar
 Bachus Cummings
 Baird Dahlkemper
 Baldwin Davis (AL)
 Barrow Davis (CA)
 Bartlett Davis (IL)
 Barton (TX) Davis (KY)
 Bean Davis (TN)
 Becerra DeFazio
 Berkeley Delahunt
 Berman Hoyer
 Berry DeLauro
 Biggert Inglis
 Bilbray Diaz-Balart, L.
 Bilirakis Diaz-Balart, M.
 Bishop (GA) Dicks
 Dingell Jackson (IL)
 Doggett Jackson-Lee
 Blackburn (TX)
 Donnelly (IN)
 Doyle Johnson (GA)
 Dreier Johnson, E. B.
 Driehaus Johnson, Sam
 Edwards (MD) Jones
 Edwards (TX) Kagen
 Ehlers Kanjorski
 Ellison Kildee
 Ellsworth Kilpatrick (MI)
 Emerson Kilroy
 Engel King (NY)
 Eshoo Kirk
 Etheridge Kirkpatrick (AZ)
 Fallon Kissell
 Farr Klein (FL)
 Fattah Kline (MN)
 Flner Kosmas
 Fleming Kratochvil
 Forbes Kucinich
 Fortenberry Lance
 Foster Langevin
 Frank (MA) Larsen (WA)
 Frelinghuysen Larson (CT)
 Fudge Latham
 Gallegly LaTourette
 Gerlach Latta
 Giffords Lee (CA)
 Gingrey (GA) Lee (NY)
 Goodlatte Levin
 Gordon (TN) Lewis (CA)
 Granger Lipinski
 Graves LoBiondo
 Grayson Loeback
 Green, Al Lofgren, Zoe
 Green, Gene Lowey
 Griffith Lucas
 Guthrie Luetkemeyer
 Gutierrez Luján
 Hall (NY) Lungren, Daniel
 Hall (TX) E.

Lynch Payne
 Maffei Perlmutter
 Manzullo Perriello
 Markey (CO) Peters
 Markey (MA) Peterson
 Marshall Petri
 Massa Pingree (ME)
 Matheson Pitts
 Matsui Platts
 McCarthy (CA) Polis (CO)
 McCaul Pomeroy
 McCollum Posey
 McCotter Price (GA)
 McDermott Price (NC)
 McHugh Quigley
 McIntyre Radanovich
 McKeon Rahall
 McMahon Rangel
 McMorris Rehberg
 Rodgers Reichert
 McNeerly Reyes
 Meek (FL) Richardson
 Meeks (NY) Rodriguez
 Melancon Roe (TN)
 Mica Rogers (AL)
 Michaud Rogers (KY)
 Miller (FL) Rogers (MI)
 Miller (MI) Rooney
 Miller (NC) Ros-Lehtinen
 Minnick Roskam
 Mitchell Ross
 Mollohan Roybal-Allard
 Moore (KS) Royce
 Moore (WI) Rush
 Moran (KS) Ryan (OH)
 Murphy (CT) Ryan (WI)
 Murphy (NY) Salazar
 Murphy, Patrick Sánchez, Linda
 Murphy, Tim T.
 Murtha Sanchez, Loretta
 Myrick Watt
 Nadler (NY) Schakowsky
 Napolitano Schauer
 Neal (MA) Schiff
 Nye Schmidt
 Oberstar Schwartz
 Obey Scott (GA)
 Olson Scott (VA)
 Olver Serrano
 Ortiz Shea-Porter
 Pallone Sherman
 Pascrell Shimkus
 Pastor (AZ) Shuler
 Paulsen Shuster

NAYS—39

Akin Foxx
 Bachmann Franks (AZ)
 Boehner Garrett (NJ)
 Boustany Gohmert
 Broun (GA) Hensarling
 Campbell Issa
 Carter Jordan (OH)
 Chaffetz King (IA)
 Coble Kingston
 Conaway Lamborn
 Culberson Linder
 Duncan Lummis
 Flake Marchant

NOT VOTING—41

Barrett (SC) Hoekstra
 Bishop (UT) Johnson (IL)
 Bono Mack Kaptur
 Boyd Kennedy
 Butterfield Kind
 Cleaver Lewis (GA)
 Costello Mack
 Courtney Maloney
 Deal (GA) McCarthy (NY)
 DeGette McGovern
 Gonzalez Miller, Gary
 Grijalva Miller, George
 Hastings (WA) Moran (VA)
 Hodes Putnam

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1905

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CELEBRATING FLAG DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 420.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 420.

The question was taken.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. 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 391, noes 0, not voting 42, as follows:

[Roll No. 313]

AYES—391

Abercrombie Burton (IN) Dicks
Ackerman Buyer Dingell
Aderholt Calvert Doggett
Adler (NJ) Camp Donnelly (IN)
Akin Campbell Doyle
Alexander Cantor Dreier
Altmire Cao Driehaus
Andrews Capito Duncan
Arcuri Capps Edwards (MD)
Austria Capuano Edwards (TX)
Baca Cardoza Ehlers
Bachmann Carnahan Ellison
Bachus Carney Ellsworth
Baird Carson (IN) Emerson
Baldwin Carter Engel
Barrow Cassidy Eshoo
Bartlett Castle Etheridge
Barton (TX) Castor (FL) Fallon
Bean Chaffetz Farr
Becerra Chandler Fattah
Berkley Childers Filner
Berman Clarke Flake
Berry Clay Fleming
Biggert Clyburn Forbes
Bilbray Coble Fortenberry
Bilirakis Coffman (CO) Foster
Bishop (GA) Cohen Foxx
Bishop (NY) Cole Frank (MA)
Blackburn Conaway Franks (AZ)
BlumenaUER Connolly (VA) Frelinghuysen
Blunt Conyers Fudge
Boccheri Cooper Gallegly
Boehner Costa Garrett (NJ)
Bonner Crenshaw Gerlach
Boozman Crowley Giffords
Boren Cuellar Gingrey (GA)
Boswell Culberson Gohmert
Boucher Cummings Goodlatte
Boustany Dahlkemper Gordon (TN)
Brady (PA) Davis (AL) Granger
Brady (TX) Davis (CA) Graves
Bralley (IA) Davis (IL) Grayson
Bright Davis (KY) Green, Al
Broun (GA) Davis (TN) Green, Gene
Brown (SC) DeFazio Griffith
Brown, Corrine DeLahunt Guthrie
Brown-Waite, DeLauro Gutierrez
Ginny Dent Hall (NY)
Buchanan Diaz-Balart, L. Hall (TX)
Burgess Diaz-Balart, M. Halvorson

Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
LoebSack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Maffei
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui

Barrett (SC)
Bishop (UT)
Bono Mack
Boyd
Butterfield
Cleaver
Costello
Courtney
Deal (GA)
DeGette
Gonzalez
Grijalva
Hastings (WA)
Hodes

McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Roybal-Allard

NOT VOTING—42
Hoekstra
Hunter
Johnson (IL)
Kennedy
Kind
Lewis (GA)
Mack
Maloney
McCarthy (NY)
McGovern
Melancon
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Moran (VA)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1912

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 8, 2009, I was unavoidably absent for three rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted for the International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009, the STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009, and H. Res. 420—Celebrating the symbol of the United States flag and supporting the goals and ideals of Flag Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, because of official business in Houston on June 4, 2009, speaking at a graduation in a school district that had suffered great damage during Hurricane Ike, North Forest High School in the North Forest Independent School District, I missed the following votes:

Roll call vote No. 304 on agreeing to an amendment to H.R. 2200, I would have voted “no.”

Roll call vote No. 305 on agreeing to an amendment to H.R. 2200, I would have voted “aye.”

Roll call vote No. 306 on the Thompson of Mississippi amendment to H.R. 2200, I would have voted “aye.”

Roll call vote No. 307 on the passage of H.R. 2200, the Transportation Security Administration Authorization Act, authored by Jackson-Lee, I would have voted “aye.”

Roll call vote No. 308 on agreeing to an amendment to H.R. 626, I would have voted “no.”

Roll call vote No. 309, the motion to recommit on Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act, I would have voted “no.”

Roll call vote No. 310, passage of H.R. 727, the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act, I ask that my vote be recorded as “aye.”

□ 1915

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S. ARMY FIRST SERGEANT BLUE C. ROWE OF WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA

(Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to pay tribute to U.S. Army First Sergeant Blue C. Rowe. Sergeant Rowe, a devoted husband and father, was a constituent of

mine from Whittier, California. This brave American was killed in action in Afghanistan on May 26, 2009, on the 15th anniversary of his service in the military.

Sergeant Rowe was killed by an improvised explosive device. The 33-year old Rowe leaves behind his 7-year old son, Andrew, and his wife Cindy. My thoughts and prayers go out to Cindy and Andrew, and I hope that they can find some solace in the gratitude that our Nation owes to Sergeant Rowe for his honorable service to his countrymen.

Sergeant Rowe spent his entire adult life serving our country. He joined the Army in 1994 and served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Last July he mobilized again for duty in Afghanistan.

He and his family have made the greatest sacrifice that one can make, and we are forever in his debt.

Sergeant Rowe, whose life embodied the meaning of the word "patriot", will be missed by family, friends and colleagues, but his honorable deeds will not be forgotten.

THE 21ST CZAR OF AMERICA

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we have yet another czar appointed by the administration. The Pay Czar will set limits on how much money people can make that took bank bailout money.

The government is establishing a central committee accountable and answerable only to the President. These czars and czarinas avoid scrutiny of Congress. There is no advice and consent by the Senate and little oversight, and no one knows what these czars really do or how they're doing it. There is no authority found anywhere in the Constitution to appoint these czars. They enforce czar rules with no recourse by the citizens. The czars claim they know best how to take care of the masses.

It's appropriate that this administration and past administrations use this Russian term "czar" since the Russians, under the Soviet Union, invented the Politburo. The Soviet Politburo was made up of political party appointees that made all policy decisions and ruled the country through their dictates.

Now we have 21 czars. The newest, the Pay Czar, is moving us ever nearer to a socialist union which leaves us less and less control of the government by the people.

And that's just the way it is.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, despite the current focus on disagree-

ments over funding for the International Monetary Fund and closure of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, the primary intent of the supplemental is to continue funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. As Members who remain opposed to the bill, we need to make sure and make clear our opposition and work to defeat the bill.

It's notable that attempts to make important changes to the legislation, such as a call for an exit strategy from Afghanistan, or demands for increased transparency or accountability at the IMF, have been rebuffed. Continued funding of the war operations in Iraq ensures a continued occupation, thereby undermining the stated U.S. goal for withdrawal by the end of 2010. Funds for Iraq should be dedicated to bringing all of our troops home, and bringing those contractors home as well.

It's time to end this war. "No" to any more funds for the war in Iraq and the war in Afghanistan. And "no" if they try to put any other kind of legislation and tie it to the war funding.

Defeat the supplemental.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT PICK WINNERS AND LOSERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the recent focus on Israel and the Arab-Israeli conflict that continues today is vital and important to our world peace. There are a lot of people out there trying to revise history, however.

The State of Israel was established in 1948 by British mandate after the Holocaust of World War II. The Jewish people lay claim to this area since Biblical times. The establishment of the Jewish State of Israel merely formalized the return of their indigenous homeland by international agreement. Both the United States and the U.N., including the Soviet Union, recognized the State of Israel.

The day after the Jewish state was established in 1948, it was invaded by six surrounding Arab nations. A negotiated cease-fire ended hostility, with Jerusalem being split in the middle between Israel and Jordan.

In 1967 Israel was once again invaded by Syria from the north, Jordan from the east and Egypt from the southwest. During the war, Israel defended itself and expanded its border by including the Golan Heights that was controlled by Syria, the West Bank, controlled by Jordan, and Gaza, controlled by Egypt.

Some would have you believe that the establishment of the State of Israel changed the borders of Arab states in agreements that had existed for centuries. That is simply incorrect. The boundaries of the Middle East countries were fixed by Western powers after Turkey was defeated in World War I. The French took over Syria and Lebanon. The British took over Palestine and Iraq. The areas allotted to Israel had been under the control of the Ottoman Empire from 1517 to 1917. During this 400-year reign of the Turks, the Holy Land was only sparsely populated. The few folks living there were an oppressed Jewish population and mostly revolving Muslim immigrant groups, but also there were small groups of Christians in the area.

The actual boundaries of what became the State of Israel were set by the United Nations in 1947. When formally established in 1948, the attacks on the tiny new state of Israel began immediately by the neighboring Arab states.

Yasser Arafat formed the Palestine Liberation Organization, or the PLO, in 1964. He formed a state within a state in the Palestinian homeland of Jordan. Arafat many times stated that Jordan is Palestine. It was not until the 1967 war that the Arab nations backed the PLO for the purpose of taking back land that Israel had won in that defensive war of 1967. In 1967 Arab forces massed against Israel, surrounding the tiny nation.

Egyptian President Nasser was allowed to kick the U.N. peacekeepers out of the Sinai Peninsula, which acted as a buffer between Egypt and Israel. The world watched as hundreds of thousands of Arab troops tried to "drive Israel into the sea." The unexpected brilliance of the Israeli military stopped the aggression from all directions, and Israel was secure for a moment.

As a result of that war for survival, Israel fairly won land: The Sinai, the West Bank and Gaza. Everywhere else in the world, territory acquired in self-defense is only returned in the context of a negotiated peace. Israel has never been fully afforded that negotiated peace. Israelis have returned land time and time again when a peaceful settlement was reached. Soon they may run out of land to give away.

In the Camp David accords of 1978, Israel returned the Sinai to Egypt in return for a peace treaty. Jordan and Syria have less formal but similar agreements with Israel.

Now one issue is whether Israeli Jews that have settled into the West Bank should leave or not be allowed to have natural expansion of their own communities. This should be negotiated between the Israeli Government and the Palestinians. The United States should not interfere in and prevent negotiations by picking winners and losers.

This year the United States is picking the loser of Israel. The United States should help broker negotiations

and help get all parties to negotiate, but not demand either side take a certain position.

Israel has been a longtime ally of the United States, and our interest should be that the sides involved solve this problem without the United States dictating who wins and who loses.

And that's just the way it is.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S SPEECH GIVES NEW HOPE TO THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to praise President Obama for his historic speech in Cairo last Thursday. By speaking with respect and honesty to the Muslim world, the President built new bridges, bridges of understanding and peace.

The speech contrasted sharply with the approach taken by the previous administration. There was no arrogance or fear-mongering in President Obama's speech. He made no threats. He did not talk about an endless war on terrorism.

Instead, the President called for a new beginning between the United States and the Muslim people. He renewed his pledge that America "is not—and never will be—at war with Islam."

He called for cooperation instead of conflict. He courageously acknowledged the mistakes of the past and called for an end to mistrust.

The President marginalized violent extremists by saying, and I quote him, "The enduring faith of over a billion people is so much bigger than the narrow hatred of a few."

He defended Israel's right to live in peace while recognizing the Palestinian people's right to a state of their own.

On Iran, President Obama urged diplomacy and reiterated his call for a nuclear-free world. And he advocated for democracy, for religious freedom, economic opportunity and the rights of women and girls.

Madam Speaker, everyone listening to the speech had to be inspired by the President's eloquence and good will. But the President also acknowledged that the speech was just a start. Now we face the hard work, the work of making peace a reality, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On this issue, I've urged the President to move in a bold new direction. I've called upon him to speed up the timetable for the withdrawal of our troops and military contractors from Iraq, and to leave no residual forces behind, because I believe the sooner we return full sovereignty to Iraq, the better.

I voted against the supplemental appropriations action because it will prolong our occupation of Iraq and sink us deeper into the quagmire of Afghanistan.

We must develop a plan to redeploy our troops out of Afghanistan. Otherwise, we'll face another endless occupation, one that will fuel anti-Americanism and promote instability, which actually is happening in Afghanistan and Pakistan today.

□ 1930

We need a whole new approach to the region. Instead of sending in more troops and investing in military solutions that won't work, we should be investing in smart, peaceful power that will work. Smart power means helping the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan to build roads, schools, hospitals, and better agricultural systems. It means helping to create jobs and assisting those who have been displaced by the war. This is what the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan really want from the United States. If we provide smart assistance to them, Madam Speaker, we will defeat the violent extremists. We will bring peace to the region, and we will make America safer. This strategy is at the core of my SMART Security Platform for the 21st Century. This is legislation that is described in House Resolution 363.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to consider House Resolution 363 and to support it.

REDESIGNATING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY AS THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

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. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues in the House from both parties for joining me as cosponsors of H.R. 24, legislation to redesignate the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps. As of today, this legislation has 278 bipartisan cosponsors.

For the past 7 years, the language of this bill has been part of the House version of the National Defense Authorization Act. Each year, the full House of Representatives has supported this change. This year, I am grateful to have the support of Senator PAT ROBERTS, a former marine, who introduced the same bill in the Senate, S. 504. With his help, I am hopeful that this will be the year the Senate supports the House's position and joins in bringing proper respect to the fighting team of the Navy and Marine Corps.

The Navy and Marine Corps have operated as one entity for more than two centuries, and H.R. 24 would allow the name of their Department to illustrate this fact. This legislation is not about changing the responsibilities of the Secretary of the Department, reallocating resources between the Navy and Marine Corps or altering their missions. Redesignating the Department as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps is a symbolic gesture, but it is important to the team.

Over the years, I have been encouraged by the overwhelming support for this change that I have received from so many members of the United States Armed Forces. Last month, I received a letter from retired Marine Colonel Giles Kyser, who kindly expressed his support for H.R. 24.

He wrote, "As a combat commander of marines and sailors in Iraq, I submit that no one understands the parity of the two services better than the corpsmen and chaplains serving alongside 'their marines.' I dare say, if you asked any one of those sailors to voice an opinion about the proposed change, most would wonder why our country took so long to take this simple action."

The colonel further wrote, "When President Truman considered disbanding the Marine Corps after World War II in 1946, then Commandant of the Marine Corps, Medal of Honor recipient Alexander Vandergrift brought the issue before the Congress of the United States. The general merely presented the Marine Corps' combat lineage and let those actions speak for themselves. After hearing the general's remarks, our congressional leaders did the right thing: not only preserving our Corps but ensuring its roles, missions; and even its size became part of the law of the land."

The colonel further stated in his letter, "The stroke of a pen, adding three words 'and Marine Corps,' will complete General Vandergrift's action of some 63 years ago; will ensure our leaders, their staffs and their constituents clearly recognize the coequal status of the Marine Corps; and will ensure once and for all time the equality of our marines in the eyes of the Nation and its people."

Madam Speaker, I submit the full text of Colonel Kyser's letter for the RECORD.

MAY 14, 2009.

Congressman WALTER B. JONES

House of Representatives,
Rayburn Building, Washington, DC.

CONGRESSMAN JONES, Per our discussions on 12 May I wanted to pass on a few suggestions regarding your proposed Bill (H.R. 24) "To redesignate the Department of the Navy as the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps." I believe your initiative comes at a time in the history of our Nation and of our Navy and Marine Corps when permanently establishing the Marine Corps' parity as an equal service with the Army, Navy, and Air Force constitutes an ethical and practical imperative not only from the standpoint of history, but from the standpoint of educating key leaders and their staffs.

Your efforts to-date clearly underscore why according the Marine Corps equal status within the Department of Defense constitutes the "right thing to do." The contributions of our Marines, written in blood across the globe during our current contingency operations merit a change raising the awareness of the Nation and its leaders regarding the role our Marines play in their defense. Moreover, and if only as a supporting argument, how many Americans truly at understand that the sacrifices made since September 11 2001 by our Marines always take place with Sailors at their side on the battlefield? Those Sailors, who while at

their side, often provide either the immediate aid that saves their lives, or the special comfort of a comrade during their final moments on this earth. Such is the unshakable bond of the Marines and Sailors who live at the tip of the spear, where the measure of a man or woman's life is defined by actions, and where moments of courage and compassion confer a nobility that clearly compels equal recognition in the eyes of the citizens they defend.

As a combat commander of Marines and Sailors in Iraq, I submit that no one understands the parity of the two services better than the Corpsmen and Chaplains serving alongside "their Marines." I dare say that if you asked any one of those Sailors to voice an opinion about the proposed change that they would support the change with the same degree of commitment they always show "their Marines" and, most would wonder why our country took so long to take this simple action.

After all is said and done, the substance of the proposed change focuses us on the young men and women who willingly gave the last full measure of devotion to this country. The redesignation honors them and constitutes an ethical imperative. * * * it is the right thing to do and we must do it.

The second imperative revolves around a very practical truth. In an environment where decisions taken find their foundation in understanding the context of the issue, most Americans, even those here in the rarified air of Washington DC, simply do not realize that the Department of the Navy includes both the Navy and Marine Corps. The practical result of that lack of knowledge finds very concrete expression in the history of deliberation and budgets within the Department of Defense. Many Congressional, White House, and even Department of Defense staffers must constantly be reminded that the Department of the Navy, and its total obligation authority includes both the Navy and the Marine Corps in order to avoid cutting away the muscle of the Corps as it competes for funding. The Marine Corps' advertising efforts and information campaign within the Capital Region help to overcome the challenge, but why should the Marine Corps and the Department of the Navy have to begin their efforts from a position of informational weakness? Certainly, the stroke of a pen changing the existing designation provides a demonstrable first step in overcoming the positional deficit plaguing the Corps since its inception some two hundred and thirty-four years ago.

Indeed, when President Truman considered disbanding the Marine Corps after World War II in 1946, then Commandant of the Marine Corps, Medal of Honor recipient Alexander Vandegrift brought the issue before the Congress of the United States. The General merely presented the Marine Corps' combat lineage and let those actions speak for themselves. He refused to, in his words, come on "bended knee" to argue the case for Marines and Sailors who served so bravely and brilliantly in places like Tripoli, Montezuma, Belleau Wood, Tarawa, and Iwo Jima. After hearing the General's remarks, our Congressional Leaders did the right thing; not only preserving our Corps, but ensuring its roles, missions, and even its size became part of the law of the land.

It is time again for our Congressional Leaders to "do the right thing" in a time when fiscal reality might again place our Marines and the Sailors who serve with them at a disadvantage born not from malice aforethought as was the case in 1946, but born of a lack of education existing for more than two hundred and thirty years. The stroke of a pen, adding three words "and Marine Corps" will complete General

Vandegrift's action of some sixty-three years ago, will ensure our leaders, their staffs, and their constituents clearly recognize the co-equal status of the Marine Corps and, will ensure once and for all time, the equality of our Marines in the eyes of the Nation and its people. This is not a request made from a "bended knee." It is a request made from the position of attention, facing forward, but not forgetting the sacrifice of those Marines and Sailors of the past. The change constitutes an ethical and practical imperative and is "the right thing to do."

Very respectfully,

JAMES GILES KYSER IV,
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired).

Madam Speaker, the marines who are fighting today deserve this recognition—those living and fighting and those who have given their lives for this country.

I have beside me an actual copy of a letter that was sent to a marine family. This is the way it is today—the Secretary of the Navy with the Navy flag, "Dear Marine Corps family, on behalf of the Department of the Navy, we extend our deepest sympathy in the loss of your loved one."

Madam Speaker, if H.R. 24 and Senate 504 become the law of the land, it will be the way it should be to a family—to a Marine family who gave a life for this country. It will say the Secretary of the Navy and the Marine Corps, and it will have the Navy flag and the Marine flag. It will say, "Dear Marine Corps family, on behalf of the Department of the Navy and the Marine Corps, please accept my sincere condolences on the loss of your loved one."

This is all it is about—bringing the team together. It is time that the Marine Corps is recognized as part of the fighting team.

With that, Madam Speaker, before I yield back my time, I will ask God to please bless our men and women in Afghanistan and Iraq. I will ask God to, please, with his loving arms, hold the families who have given children, dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq. I close three times by asking God: God, please, God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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 addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GUANTANAMO BAY DETAINEES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about an issue of great importance to our country.

Shortly after I returned from a trip to Algeria in 1998, where thousands had been killed from terror attacks in the wake of the two U.S. Embassy bombings in Africa where 267 people were killed, including one of my constituents from McLean, Virginia, who was serving at the Nairobi Embassy, I authored a bill creating the National Commission on Terrorism.

The commission's report in June of 2000 provided evidence of the growing threat of international terrorism and the steps needed to combat the threat. A Congressional Research Service report described the main finding of the commission this way: "It calls on the U.S. Government to prepare more actively to prevent and deal with a future mass casualty, catastrophic terrorist attack."

Regrettably, the commission's recommendations were not implemented until after the attacks on 9/11 when 3,000 people were killed, including 30 from my congressional district.

I was disappointed that both the Clinton administration and, later, the Bush administration did not take more seriously the recommendations of the commission. I take seriously the responsibility of congressional oversight, especially in matters with potential national security implications. Profound national security issues were, of course, thrust to the forefront on 9/11.

Following the attacks, Congress granted the President the authority "to use all necessary and appropriate force against those who planned, authorized, committed or aided the terrorist attacks against the United States."

In the ensuing war on terror, many individuals were captured and transferred to Guantanamo Bay. On January 22, 2009, in an attempt to fulfill his campaign pledge, President Obama issued an Executive order requiring that Guantanamo be closed no later than 1 year from the date of issuance. However, in the weeks and months following, the Justice Department, under the direction of Attorney General Eric Holder, has failed to provide necessary information to Congress regarding their plans for implementing this order.

It is important for the American people to know the full details on all of the detainees currently housed at Guantanamo Bay. They are not simply felons who are serving their time with

the future of release; they are hardened terrorists who are bent on killing Americans.

The detainees already released have had a high rate of recidivism. On March 11, *The Washington Post* detailed how a detainee recently released from Guantanamo Bay is now the operations commander of the Taliban forces that are attacking U.S. and NATO forces in southern Afghanistan. There also have been reports that 61 of the detainees who were processed and released from Guantanamo Bay were recaptured—fighting American forces.

If those individuals were deemed safe to release from custody, yet they returned to terrorist activities, including killing Americans, what does that say about how dangerous the detainees at Guantanamo Bay still must be?

A recent *New York Times* article indicated that one out of every seven low security prisoners released from Guantanamo Bay was recaptured, fighting American forces on foreign battlefields. What does this say about the threat from the medium and high security risk detainees still being held?

I was also troubled to read that five Guantanamo detainees described themselves as “terrorists to the bone” and stated in a court filing that they describe their roles in the 9/11 attacks as a “badge of honor.” These dangerous individuals simply cannot be transferred anywhere near large civilian populations.

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed was the architect of the 9/11 attacks, and he took pleasure in beheading *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl.

Ramzi Binalshibh was identified as one of the planners of 9/11, and he was supposed to be one of the hijackers until he was denied entry into the United States. Walid bin Attash is believed to be the mastermind behind the bombing of the USS *Cole* in Yemen in the year 2000.

I am also concerned about the danger these individuals would pose were they to be placed in U.S. prisons or jails. These individuals are responsible for planning the deaths of thousands of Americans.

In the case of El Sayyid Nosair, court tapes show that conspirators provided assurances that, in the event some were captured, the others would work to free them. In addition, during the year 2000 trial of Mahmud Salim, one of the terrorists accused of the 1998 bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Kenya, he stabbed New York prison guard Louis Pepe in the eye during a prison escape attempt.

Al Qaeda saw the rights given to its members to meet with counsel as an opportunity to carry out a violent escape attempt. Mr. Salim was one of the original followers of Osama bin Laden, and was the highest ranking al Qaeda member held in the U.S. at the time.

In addition to trying to escape from prison, al Qaeda members have communicated with confederates while in prison. It is my understanding that Nosair

was involved in plotting the 1993 World Trade Center bombing while in custody in Attica State Prison. In addition, Osama bin Laden has publicly credited Sheikh Abdel Rahman with issuing the fatwa that approved the 9/11 attacks while he was in Federal prison, despite the high security confinement conditions imposed on him. It also emerged later that, with the assistance of his lawyer, Rahman was continuing to send instructional messages to the Islamic Group, his Egyptian terrorist organization.

In 2004, NBC News reported that, despite their incarceration in maximum security conditions, convicted World Trade Center bombers were communicating by mail with the terrorists in Madrid, Spain. Many, many people died in that attack.

There would certainly be strong reasons to believe that detainees currently held at Guantanamo who are known to have rioted and to have grossly abused prison guards would use their access to counsel and to investigators to convey messages to their allies.

I am also concerned about the extra costs that will be incurred in preparing prisons and courthouses for possible trials. I understand that the courthouses in which prior terrorism cases were litigated and the prisons where defendants were held had to be “hardened” to accommodate terrorism prosecutions and the attendant threats they entailed for participants and the public.

A recent *New York Times* article indicated that one out of every seven prisoners released from Guantanamo Bay and determined to be low security risks were recaptured on foreign battlefields, fighting American forces.

What does this say about the danger posed by the medium and high security risk detainees still being held?

□ 1945

There have been numerous documented accounts of al Qaeda members using violence in prison attempting to escape. *Newsday* and the *Buffalo News* reported that during the 1995 trial in New York of Omar Abdel Rahman, the mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, terrorist confederates of Nosair were plotting to break him out of Attica State Prison in New York. An appeals court brief for the trial of Nosair detailed the lengths al Qaeda could go to break out of prison. The appeals court brief states: Mohamad Saad later described to Emad Salem a plan to break El Sayyid Nosair out of jail. He surmised that if he and Salem or others could get jobs with a contractor providing Attica Prison for sanitation or food services and if Nosair could get a prison job that would physically situate him in the appropriate area, they might be able to snatch Nosair and hide him in a nearby apartment until it became safe to move him.

The brief goes on to discuss several conversations Nosair’s friends had with him while he was in Attica.

Another portion of the brief talks about plans to murder someone who antagonized Nosair’s supporters during the trial as well as the trial judge. It also discusses Nosair getting angry that his friends were not trying to free him: “The four had 5-hour meetings in the visitor’s room during which Nosair railed at the evils of the United States and upbraided his callers for ‘sitting doing nothing’ while he sat in jail for having done his part in jihad. When told of Saad’s jailbreak scheme, Nosair recanted that there had only recently been a great escape opportunity when he had been escorted to the prison hospital by two guards armed merely with pistols.”

Nosair observed that the group should be targeting “the big heads,” including Judge Alvin Schlesinger, who had presided over the trial and meted out Nosair’s sentence and New York City Assemblyman Doug Hikind. Nosair said the judge should even be kidnapped and held as a bargaining chip to trade for Nosair’s release or killed.

The same brief goes into detail on the details these operatives had covered in order to help escaped prisoners leave the United States. Two agents detained Ibrihim el-Gabrownny and attempted to frisk him explaining that they were there to execute a search warrant and that he should relax. El-Gabrownny became increasingly belligerent, ultimately struck both agents and was thus placed under arrest.

On his person, the agents found an envelope containing a stack of documents which included Nosair’s American passport, an Egyptian airport document bearing Nosair’s photograph, five passports issued by the government of Nicaragua in July of 1991 depicting Nosair, his wife, and three children with false names assigned to each, five fraudulent Nicaraguan birth certificates exhibiting the same false names in which the passports had been issued, a Nicaraguan driver’s license issued to Nosair and his wife in the same false names.

An indictment filed in Federal court against Lynne Stewart in the case of *U.S. v. Sattar* discusses how the blind sheik killed tourists in Egypt in an attempt to force his release from prison. The indictment states: “On or about November 17, 1997, six assassins shot and stabbed a group of tourists visiting an archeological site in Luxor, Egypt. Fifty-eight foreign tourists were killed along with four Egyptians, some of whom were police officers. Before making their exit, the terrorists scattered leaflets espousing their support for the Islamic Group and calling for the release of Abdel Rahman. Also the torso of one victim was slit by the terrorists and a leaflet calling for Abdel Rahman’s release was inserted.”

On or about November 18, 1997, a statement issued in the name of the Islamic Group said: “A Gama’a unit tried to take prisoner the largest number of foreign tourists possible with the aim

of securing the release of the general emir of the Gama'a al-Islamiyya, Dr. Abdel-Rahman." The statement continued: "But the rash behavior and irresponsibility of government security forces with regard to tourist and civilian lives led to the high number of fatalities." The statement also warned that the Islamic Group "will continue its military operations as long as the regime does not respond to our demands." The statement lists the most important demands as "the establishment of God's law, cutting relations with the Zionist entity Israel and the return of our sheik and emir to his land."

On or about October 13, 1999, a statement in the name of Islamic Group leader, Rifa'i Ahmad Taha Musa, a.k.a. Abu Yasir, who was a co-conspirator not named as a defendant herein, vowed to rescue Abdel Rahman and said that the United States' "hostile strategy to the Islamic movement would drive it to 'unify its efforts to confront America's piracy.'"

In or about March of the year 2000, individuals claiming association with the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group kidnapped approximately 29 hostages in the Philippines and demanded the release from prison of Abdel Rahman and two other convicted terrorists in exchange for the release of those hostages and threatened to behead the hostages if their demands were not met. Philippine authorities later found two decomposed, beheaded bodies in an area where the hostages had been held and four hostages were unaccounted for.

On or about September 21, 2000, an Arabic television station, al Jazeera, televised a meeting of Osama bin Laden and Ayman al Zawahir. Sitting under a banner which read, "Convention to Support Honorable Omar Abdel Rahman," the three terrorist leaders pledged "made to free Abdel Rahman from incarceration in the United States." During the meeting, Mohammed Abdel Rahman, a.k.a. Asadallah, who is a son of Abdel Rahman, was heard encouraging others to "avenge your sheikh" and "go to the spilling of blood."

These are extremely dangerous individuals who would require extraordinary precautions were they to be held in a prison where they were on trial. The court documents that I have referenced tonight detailed the lengths these individuals are willing to go to set compatriots free. This list includes kidnapping and mass murder. It is imperative that the American people understand that these individuals will not be sent straight to a supermax facility, but will be held first in a local jail. Not only would this put significant strains on the local prison guard and staff; it would require huge expenditures to "harden" the facilities to the point where they were secure enough to house high-level threats.

People living in northern Virginia during the trial of Zacharias

Moussaoui will recall that his trial took 4 years and was only ended when he pled guilty to most of the charges against him. For terrorists like Khalid Sheik Mohammed, a trial and appeals process could take much longer than 4 years. Every day these dangerous individuals are in our prison system, the more danger they pose to everyone with whom they come into contact. Prison guards and officials, judges, jurors, and inmates and families could possibly need extra protection from the threat posed by these individuals.

Some have stated that detainees would be sent directly from Guantanamo Bay to a U.S. supermax prison facility and the public should not be concerned. Yet, if detainees from Guantanamo Bay are transferred for trial in civilian courts, they would have to be held in a facility near that court near that venue. Often, these are local jails similar to the Alexandria jail that held Zacharias Moussaoui during the 4 years he was in trial in the Eastern District of Virginia.

Such a move could mean that Khalid Sheik Mohammed, the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks and the man who brutally beheaded Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, could be housed in Alexandria for the duration of his trial. Similar trials in the past have taken more than 4 years.

Regardless of where these detainees are held, I believe it should be in a location that ensures the safety of both those guarding the detainees and American citizens. My primary concern is that their presence in a large civilian population could invite additional attacks and endanger the citizens.

I take the oversight responsibility of Congress very seriously, and the fact that the Justice Department would take these actions without notifying Members of Congress is incredible. These detainees could pose serious threats to local communities and place an extraordinary burden on the cities where these individuals would be tried.

I believe Congress and the American people have a right to know the history of individuals the administration is intent on bringing onto U.S. soil. The Guantanamo Bay prison facility is closing. Since the President has made that decision, we must know the facts to make informed decisions on the next step. My own view is that any trials or military commissions should be held on a military base far away from civilian population centers.

Madam Speaker, much of the recent debate surrounding the closing of Guantanamo Bay has centered on a group of Uyghur detainees from China who are members of the al Qaeda-affiliated terrorist group, the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement, also known as ETIM. Last month, I became aware that Attorney General Eric Holder was planning on allowing these trained terrorists into the United States without informing this Congress or the American people. Newsweek magazine reported that on June 1: "Ad-

ministration officials were poised in late April to make a bold, stealthy move: they instructed the U.S. Marshals Service to prepare an aircraft and a Special Ops group to fly two Chinese Uyghurs and up to five more on subsequent flights from Gitmo to northern Virginia for resettlement. In a conference call overseen by the National Security Council, Justice and Pentagon officials had been warned that any public statement about Gitmo transfers would inflame congressional Republicans, according to a law-enforcement official who asked not to be named discussing internal deliberations."

The Newsweek report—also confirmed by Bloomberg News—makes clear that Attorney General Holder had every intention of releasing these trained terrorists into our communities. I repeat: released into our communities. Not held in our jails, but let free in our neighborhoods and communities.

This administration expects you to take it at its word that these detainees are not a threat. It is unacceptable. Eric Holder should have been prepared to come up and tell the Congress and give the information on these individual cases. But to move these individuals, who were in Guantanamo Bay, on a Friday afternoon when the Congress was gone and the press was not watching, is certainly wrong.

As some of my colleagues may be aware, I have long been an advocate for the Uyghurs, a largely Muslim people in western China. The 8 million Uyghurs have long been the objects of brutal Chinese oppression. And I have advocated for the Uyghurs in China who were being persecuted by the Chinese Government. However, in the 1990s, a small number of Uyghurs began turning to terrorism to target the Chinese Government and innocent civilians. They formed the terrorist organization now known as ETIM. They moved to Afghanistan in 1998 at the invitation of the Taliban.

ETIM is linked to a number of terrorist attacks in China during the mid-1990s, including several bus bombings that killed dozens and injured hundreds of innocent civilians, as well as threats of attacks against the 2008 Olympics in Beijing where people from around the world, including Americans, gathered. Over the past decade, the group has predominantly operated out of Afghanistan and Pakistan and has developed close links with al Qaeda and the Taliban.

On August 19, 2002, then-Deputy Secretary State Richard Armitage designated ETIM as "a terrorist group that committed acts of violence against unarmed citizens." The group was designated by the State Department under Executive Order 13224, "Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions With Persons Who Commit, Threaten to Commit, or Support Terrorism," which defines terrorist activities as "activity that involves a

violent act or act dangerous to human life, property or infrastructure.”

□ 2000

Later in 2002, the U.S. Embassy in Beijing reported that two members of ETIM were deported from Kyrgyzstan after allegedly plotting to attack the U.S. embassy there.

Following the attempted attacks, the United Nations designated ETIM as a terrorist group under Security Council resolutions 1267 and 1390, which provide for the freezing of the group's assets. In 2004, the State Department further added ETIM to the Terrorist Exclusion List under section 411 of the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, which prohibits members of designated terrorist groups from entering into the United States. Just 2 months ago, on April 20, the Obama administration, to their credit, added the current leader of ETIM, Abdul Haq, to the terrorist lists under Executive Order 13224 following U.N. recognition of Haq as an individual affiliated with Osama bin Laden, al Qaeda, or the Taliban.

According to Stuart Levey, Treasury Undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, Abdul Haq commands a terror group that sought to sow violence and fracture international unity at the 2000 Olympic games in China.

ETIM's relationship with al Qaeda has grown increasingly since it was invited by the Taliban to conduct training in Afghanistan in the late 1990s. In 2005, Abdul Haq was admitted to al Qaeda's Shura Council. Additionally, on November 16, 2008, an al Qaeda spokesman "stated that a Chinese citizen named 'Abdul Haq Turkistani' was appointed by Osama bin Laden as the leader of two organizations, al Qaeda in China and Hizbul Islam Li-Turkistan,"—and also confirmed by Abu Suleiman, a member of al Qaeda.

It is abundantly clear that the Uyghur detainees held at Guantanamo Bay are affiliated with the ETIM and trained under Abdul Haq in 2001. According to the detainees' own sworn statements to U.S. authorities, many acknowledged they had trained at an ETIM training camp in Tora Bora from June to November, 2001, and several confirmed that the camp was run by Abdul Haq.

Following the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in the fall of 2001, it is clear that cooperation between ETIM and the Taliban increased. It is reported that the ETIM's leader prior to Abdul Haq, Hasan Mahsum, "led his men to support Taliban and fight alongside them against U.S. and the coalition forces. On October 2, 2003, Hasan Mahsum was killed, along with eight other Islamic militants, by a Pakistani Army raid on an al Qaeda hideout in South Waziristan area in Pakistan."

Additionally, in January, 2008, al Qaeda, in an Afghanistan publication entitled, "Martyrs in Time of Alienation," identified 120 martyrs, including five Uyghur ETIM members who

trained in Tora Bora, who fought with the Taliban in Afghanistan against U.S. troops. One is reported to have been killed fighting U.S. forces during the invasion in 2001. And Hasan Mahsum confirmed, prior to his death in 2003, that ETIM's members trained and fought with al Qaeda forces in Afghanistan.

In addition to their affiliation with a designated terrorist organization and association with al Qaeda leader Abdul Haq, these detainees fervently believe in the creation of a Taliban-style Islamic state in northwestern China and do not share American values of respect, tolerance, and religious pluralism. In fact, the L.A. Times recently reported that, "not long after being granted access to TV, some of the Uyghurs were watching a soccer game. When a woman with bare arms was shown on the screen, one of the group grabbed the television and threw it to the ground, according to the officials."

I am certainly no friend of the Chinese Government. I have long been critical of the oppressive treatment of Uyghur Muslims, as documented in the State Department's most recent human rights reports. But we ought to have no tolerance for terrorism in any form.

Further, violent aims of this nature do not know national boundaries. Thousands of Americans, including the President and high-ranking U.S. Government officials and many American citizens, traveled to the 2008 Beijing Olympics, a stated terrorist target for the ETIM. If their affiliation, associations, and recent behavior were not troubling enough, I am also concerned about their potential further radicalization over the past 8 years while held with al Qaeda members at Guantanamo Bay. Without a declassified threat assessment, how can the American people know for sure if the Uyghurs have not been further radicalized since their capture? How can we assess their potential threat once released into the U.S.? Will they attack Chinese targets within the U.S., provide intelligence to al Qaeda abroad, or even stage an attack on Americans at the direction of these terrorist groups?

Reports indicate that the ETIM's philosophy has dramatically evolved as a result of their training and cooperation with al Qaeda and the Taliban over the last several years. According to terrorism expert Rohan Gunaratna, who is an expert on the ETIM, he said, "In the post-9/11 era, ETIM began to believe in the global jihad agenda. Today, the group follows the philosophy of al Qaeda and respects Osama bin Laden. Such groups that believe in the global jihad do not confine their targets to the territories that they seek to control. The ETIM is presenting a threat to the Chinese as well as Western targets worldwide."

Without detailed information about each Uyghur detainee, including a threat assessment, the American peo-

ple cannot be expected to tolerate trained terrorists being released into their communities. That is not the transparency nor sound judgment that Eric Holder promised he would bring to the Justice Department when he appeared before the House Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Subcommittee last month.

If this administration and Eric Holder will not share this information with the Congress or the American people, how can we be expected to accept assurances that the Uyghur detainees they intend to release into the U.S. are not a threat? Anyone who trains to kill civilians in Tora Bora, whose leader is a member of al Qaeda's Shura Council, does not share our most basic values of tolerance and diversity, and who may have been further radicalized over the last 8 years, is most unequivocally a terrorist and should not be released in the United States. And yet, this Congress and the American people are left in the dark about the administration's plans to release these detainees.

The American people deserve to know and they have a right to know who the Attorney General is asking to place into their communities. Eric Holder's failed attempt to secretly release these Uyghur detainees came in spite of ardent objections from the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security, who were overruled, apparently, by Eric Holder and the White House.

Last month, FBI Director Robert Mueller told the House Judiciary Committee that he was concerned that detainees from Guantanamo could support terrorism or radicalize others, provide intelligence or financial support to terrorist networks, or even take part in terrorist attacks inside the United States. For Eric Holder to do this against the better judgment of the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security and the bipartisan objection from this Congress is unacceptable. This flies in the face of bipartisan congressional opposition to the release of trained terrorists into the U.S., including Republican and Democratic leaderships in the House and the Senate.

Last month, the Senate followed the House lead in removing funding for transferring detainees and demanding that this administration come clean with the American people about their intentions. The Attorney General expects this Congress to sit idly by after it announces it has released 17 Uyghurs held at Guantanamo Bay in the United States. Eric Holder won't allow career FBI agents to even brief Members on this issue. I have asked for briefings from career employees at the FBI, the CIA, the Department of Homeland Security, and have been told by each agency that the Attorney General will not allow them to meet with me.

What is the Attorney General hiding? Let me be clear, these Uyghurs are trained terrorists who were caught in camps affiliated with al Qaeda. Those who would use terror are terrorists, no matter their unintended target.

I have consistently called on the administration to declassify and provide the American people with information regarding the capture, the detention, and a threat assessment of each detainee they intend to release into the U.S. Regardless of their intended targets of terror, the American people deserve to know whether they have been either further radicalized due to their exposure to al Qaeda leaders, such as Khalid Sheik Mohammed, and see the assessments of the threat they pose today.

I also worry about the impact the Uyghurs' release will have on our national security in the long run. What message does their release into the U.S. send to al Qaeda and other terrorist networks? How can the Attorney General guarantee that the released Uyghurs will not stay in contact with al Qaeda and provide them with intelligence from within the U.S.? If the Attorney General cannot or will not answer these questions, then he should not even consider releasing them into the United States. The administration has a moral obligation to share this information with the American people.

Over the last month, both the House and Senate have stripped all funding for these transfers and inserted language into the fiscal year 2009 emergency supplemental bill that would require the administration to provide the American people with a clear plan before any action was taken. Since March, I have written the President, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Homeland Security asking for answers to these and other questions, and I still have not received a single response. I repeat, not a single response after 2 months to some of the most basic questions about the administration's plans.

For weeks I have asked the FBI for briefings daily, only to be told that the Attorney General would not allow them to meet with Members on these issues. And although the President delivered a speech on May 21 at the National Archives on the closing of the detention center at Guantanamo Bay and other national security matters, we have had no more information about his plans to close Guantanamo than we did before. We still do not have the answers on which detainees Eric Holder is planning to transfer to the United States, where they will be tried, and how the administration intends to protect the American people.

The Germans, who had tentatively agreed to accept some of the Uyghur detainees, have complained that the administration won't share enough information with them for an independent assessment of the detainees' security risk. According to the Washington Post, "More trouble emerged when Washington stipulated that the Uyghurs would be barred from traveling to the United States." Last week, the Canadian Government refused to accept these same Uyghur detainees, citing serious security concerns.

So as I close where I began, congressional oversight is imperative, no more so than on matters with profound national security implications, and yet this Congress and the American people remain in the dark about the administration's plans on this pressing issue.

This is no time for vague assurances. This is no time to play fast and loose with critical information. This is no time for political games. The American people deserve more.

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

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. KILROY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus, the CBC, is proud to anchor this hour.

Currently, the CBC is chaired by the Honorable BARBARA LEE from the Ninth Congressional District of California. My name is Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, representing the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, and I will anchor this hour.

CBC members are advocates for humanity, nationally and internationally, and have played a significant role as local and regional activists. We work diligently to be the conscience of the Congress. But understand, all politics are local; therefore, we provide dedicated and focused service to the citizens of the congressional districts we serve.

The vision of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus—to promote the public welfare through legislation designed to meet the needs of millions of neglected citizens—continues to be a focus for our legislative work and our political activities. Tonight's hour will focus on the unemployment crisis in this country.

Just last week, Madam Speaker, the national unemployment numbers were released and the situation is dire. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that nationally another 345,000 people lost their jobs in the month of May. The total unemployment nationally has risen above 9 percent. For African Americans, Madam Speaker, that statistic is much greater. African Americans suffer unemployment at a rate of almost 15 percent.

Over one-quarter of the 14.5 million individuals who are jobless have been unemployed for at least 6 months. Not only are they concerned about finding a job, but they are now fearful their benefits will soon expire.

In my home State of Ohio, the situation is even worse. We have entered double-digit unemployment with a rate of over 10 percent. Not only must we work to help the newly unemployed, but we must assist the chronically unemployed who are many times forgotten.

□ 2015

On Friday, I heard from economist Dr. Paul Harrington at the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northwestern University. He gave three recommendations to deal with the job crisis: number one, radically expand the job training; number two, establish a connection between schools and jobs; and, number three, engage in direct job training activities.

We need to assist the unemployed by retooling them, preparing them for employment opportunities now and for the future. We must always remember that when we work on health care reform, energy, tax legislation, we too must focus on the economy. Our national attention must remain focused on job creation and saving sustainable jobs for our workforce and to prepare them for new or better employment as opportunities present themselves because it is most important that we say to our people that there is a future.

And that is why the topic today is so very important, Madam Speaker. Nationally, we have a unique opportunity through these difficult times to help our workforce. We must reinvent and reenergize our workforce with new training opportunities in existing and emerging industries. In my district, doing so involves investing time, money, and energy into health care, bioscience, advanced manufacturing, logistics and transportation, advanced energy and information technology.

As of April, the State of Ohio's unemployment rate reached 10.2 percent, up from 6.2 percent the same time last year. There are thousands of unemployed and underemployed individuals who must enhance their skills to become competitive in this knowledge-based economy which has now defined our Nation's economy. A strong public consensus supports enhancing the skills of America's workers especially through high-quality education and training. In today's environment, the demand for workers to fill mid-level jobs is quite high and will likely remain high in key sectors of our economy. These mid-level jobs require more education than a high school diploma or a GED but less education than a 4-year degree. In Ohio, nearly 55 percent of all jobs are mid-level jobs, and many of these jobs receiving the new Federal job creation dollars are in health care, green jobs, infrastructure, and construction. Unfortunately, only 45 percent of workers in Ohio have the skill sets for these jobs.

Alarming, Madam Speaker, the National Commission on Adult Literacy recently reported that 30 million adults score at "below basic" levels on assessment tests, meaning they can perform

no more than the most rudimentary literacy tasks. Another 63 million adults are only able to perform only simple, basic everyday literacy tasks. Consequently, Madam Speaker, we have a mismatch between skills of our Nation's workforce, and we must have the ability to succeed and the skills our Nation's workforce actually possesses. What we need to do is match those skills and the people who need jobs.

Years ago, our Nation established a number of workforce development programs to meet this demand by preparing workers for mid-level jobs. Since that time, Federal education and training policies have invested very little in these jobs. Investments in the programs that prepare middle-skilled workers have plummeted. As a result, too many workers struggle to find decent jobs, and too many employers struggle to find skilled employees.

Education and training institutions like community colleges are at the forefront in identifying emerging market demand and training workers to meet 21st century employer needs for professional or career-path opportunities. It is critical that our Federal workforce development policy support the kind of work they are doing.

Cuyahoga Community College, or, as we call it at home, Tri-C, established the Center for Healthcare Solutions, which specializes in fast-track training, allowing displaced workers an opportunity to quickly transition into living wage occupations such as State-tested nursing assistant, dental office assistant, the medical coding specialist that provides stackable credentials and opportunities for rapid career advancement. To meet the needs of a growing health care sector, Tri-C has partnered with the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Workforce Investment Board to offer State-tested nursing assistant training at the Employment Connection, which is our local one-stop career center. The partnership removes barriers to success for clients by providing wraparound services, which are fundamental skills job training and placement services.

With over 60 hospitals, 30 colleges and universities, strong manufacturing capabilities, and billions of dollars in public and private investment, northeast Ohio is poised to become a biomedical hub. The business development organization BioEnterprise reports that the biomedical industry has grown more than 30 percent in the last 5 years, helping northeast Ohio become home to over 600 biomedical companies. Tri-C offers training for all facets of this growing industry through its one-of-a-kind bioscience laboratory featuring medical device manufacturing, pharmaceutical drug manufacturing, and business startups through its Key Entrepreneur Center for Sustainability.

In 2007, approximately 1,500 positions were unfilled in the bioscience industry due to the lack of a trained workforce. It is estimated that approximately 900

of the unfilled positions are in the functional areas of manufacturing and quality control. We have to bridge this disconnect, Madam Speaker, and help obtain the skill set for this job and others like it. Tri-C's Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Center was honored with Team NEO's Economic Development Impact Award for developing a remedy for this workforce shortage. The center has more than 12,000 square feet of renovated space and more than \$6 million of modern equipment and tooling simulators.

Although manufacturing jobs have decreased significantly over the last 30 years, the manufacturing sector in and around my district provides nearly 300,000 jobs, which is 15 percent of the total workforce. It also generates \$36 billion in gross regional product, which is 20 percent of the total gross regional product. Many of the low-skilled occupations have left the region, but there is a significant number of high-skilled, high-wage-paying jobs in advanced manufacturing. This increasingly computerized sector requires a new set of skills. Model job training would work hand in hand with employers to develop customized training for state-of-the-art equipment. Locally, we have developed a Ford Manufacturing Technician Program that is offered for Ford workers at the regional plants for college credit.

Transportation and logistics is also an in-demand sector because of our local regional concentration of warehouses and factories. Utilizing labor market intelligence, the Regional Transportation Institute features a truck driving institute and radio frequency identification lab that sits on the cutting edge of logistics and material tracking systems. Cleveland, Madam Speaker, is within 500 miles of 43 percent of the United States population and is ideally situated as a transportation and logistics hub. The occupations are high tech and hands on.

Recognizing the increasing need for construction contractors to interpret green job specifications, the Green Academy and Center for Sustainability was developed in the fall of 2008. The academy offers both professional development training in the areas of sustainable business practices, Leadership and Energy in Environmental Design accreditation and certification along with a multitude of other offerings in the new green economy requested by businesses and the community. Through GACS, the Pathways to Green Jobs programs will transition at-risk populations into green occupations through training opportunities in deconstruction, weatherization, wind turbine components, manufacturing, and solar panel installation. The first Pathways class, consisting largely of formerly incarcerated individuals and people lacking permanent homes, provide soft skills training along with contextualized hands-on training in a green job.

Federal workforce development programs have faced extremely deep funding cuts over the past 8 years. The Workforce Investment Act, or WIA, and the Wagner-Peyser Employment Services lost more than \$9 billion in funding since 2001, reducing the capacity of our national workforce system to respond even to normal levels of demand for skilled workers, let alone the extraordinary demands for job training and reemployment services we now face.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act made nearly \$4 billion in new funding available through the Department of Labor for jobs training programs. Just under \$3 billion of this funding has already gone out to States through formula grants under the Workforce Investment Act. Speaking with the Deputy Director of Workforce Training in Cuyahoga County, I learned that the county will receive nearly \$14 million in training. The money will help dislocated adults and youth workers. Another \$750 million is due to go out in the form of competitive grants to train people in green jobs, health care, and other high-demand sectors.

There are funds from the Recovery Act that are available to agencies to create jobs in the energy efficiency and renewable energy fields, build roads and bridges, create a new broadband infrastructure, address our Nation's ever-growing health care needs, retrofit public housing and government buildings, and weatherize hundreds of thousands of homes for low-income homeowners. While some of these jobs can be filled by displaced workers already in the affected sectors, many more will be filled by workers dislocated from other sectors like young people entering the labor market for the first time and disadvantaged individuals who previously lacked the skills and opportunities. We cannot expect untrained workers to simply show up at a work site "shovel ready."

It is essential that institutions and training facilities have the capacity and resources necessary to identify the emerging needs of the region in order to best prepare the workforce for lifelong employability. Tri-C is currently serving as a regional co-coordinator for the Ohio Skills Bank initiative through Governor Strickland's Turnaround Ohio plan. The Ohio Skills Bank shares Tri-C's goals of having seamless career pathways and certifications that allow adult workers to earn college credit while increasing their job skills and, ultimately, their wages. Employers must create and implement these programs. Through the Ohio Skills Bank, northeast Ohio has decided to first focus on the health care, manufacturing, and information technology sectors as key industries that have immediate workforce needs.

My region is poised to leverage funding made available through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act

with an existing and nimble infrastructure focusing on career pathways, industry partnerships, and increased training. To best address emerging industry needs with a new kind of workforce that requires a high level of transferrable skills, it is necessary to adjust funding structures so that training opportunities are accessible and usable. The United States Department of Labor has asked that each State revise their State Workforce Investment Act plans to reflect the strategies they intend to pursue and implement these goals. States have the opportunity to increase training capacity through the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act with a few key shifts in how the funding is structured.

□ 2030

To increase training, as prioritized by Congress, funding must directly support educational training facilities. This will allow institutions like Tri-C to increase capacity and provide a more effective, less expensive way of receiving immediate training. A few ways to achieve this would be for Congress to eliminate the mandatory sequence of services that very often hurts individuals seeking job training, thereby slowing down the process by which people access the services they need most. In the majority of cases, strong worker training would be the answer. An increased emphasis on training must be coupled with direct support for the development of additional training at community colleges.

A second way to improve the program is through the authorization of Community-Based Job Training Grants created in 2004. These grants build the capacity of community colleges to train workers and develop the skills necessary for success in high-growth and high-demand industries. Finally, Congress should give local workforce investment groups greater flexibility to utilize training contracts. This is especially helpful with low-tuition training providers. We have the opportunity to think broadly about the most effective ways to deliver Workforce Investment Act funds at the regional and local levels. This would ensure the proper mix between participant access to training and the development of training capacity. The Community-Based Job Training Grants provide a model for examining possible reforms of service delivery under the adult and dislocated worker program.

It appears that we are moving toward a pyramid economy, with a small number of highly skilled jobs at the top, a large number of low-skill, low-paying jobs at the bottom, and relatively few middle-class, mid-level jobs, which actually drove the unprecedented growth of our Nation's economy in the 20th century and made the American Dream a reality for millions of families. But the reality is that mid-level jobs still account for almost half the jobs in this country and will continue to be the largest job segment in the economy for

years to come. As we look to reform our workforce development system to meet the demands of the 21st century labor market, we need to make sure we focus on proven strategies that help workers acquire the skills necessary to fill these jobs and ensure that employers have a skilled workforce which is able to compete in today's global economy. Two strategies emerged as best practices at the State level—sector partnerships and career pathways. Both can help us achieve this goal, and we should ensure that a reauthorized WIA supports these strategies.

Sector partnerships work by bringing together multiple stakeholders in a specific industry with the interest in developing and implementing workforce development strategies that can contribute to local and regional growth. These stakeholders include firms, labor organization, education and training providers, community-based organizations, and State and local agencies. Sector approaches draw upon the experience of many partners who improve worker training, retention and advancement by developing cross-firm skill standards, career ladders, job redefinitions, and shared training and support capacities that facilitate the advancement of workers at all skill levels, including the least skilled. An emerging body of research demonstrates that sector strategies can provide significant positive outcomes for workers, including increased wages and greater job security.

Sector strategies have become an integral part of the way some States respond to local and regional workforce needs. For example, as discussed earlier, the Ohio Skills Bank is implementing workforce development efforts across a broad range of industries in each of the State's 12 economic development regions. Another example is Congressman FATTAH's State of Pennsylvania, which has more than 6,000 firms participating in nearly 80 partnerships, and 70,000 workers receiving training services since 2005.

To date, at least 39 States have adopted industry or sector strategies; but for the most part they are doing so in spite of the Workforce Investment Act, not because of it. As written, the Workforce Investment Act does not adequately support the hard work of convening multiple stakeholders and allowing a local area or a region to develop targeted depth and capacity in high-growth and emerging industries in a way that complements broader workforce development efforts. The SECTORS Act, introduced in the House, of which I am a cosponsor, would establish a separate title under WIA to support industry or sector partnerships and strategies. As a supporter of the legislation, I am working to ensure that the principles set forth in this bill are included in a reauthorized WIA.

Federal workforce development policy also needs to recognize that different workers enter the job market in different ways, from young people en-

tering apprenticeship programs or community colleges, dislocated workers seeking new skills to transition to new careers, to low-income adults enrolling in adult education courses to obtain the basic skills and the literacy needed to pursue an industry-recognized credential. For reasons of both equity and economic necessity, we must work to provide every individual interested in improving their skills with the means and the opportunity to do so while removing barriers they may face along the way.

Career pathways accomplish this goal of easing individuals into the job market by aligning adult education, job training and higher education systems to create seamless transitions for workers at all points of their educational and career trajectories. Successful career path models allow individuals to easily move between institutions and programs to acquire the skills and credentials they need to take advantage of new career opportunities while continuing to work and support their families.

As with sector partnerships, States have tapped into career pathways models as a way to provide economic opportunities for citizens while supplying businesses with new sources of talent. Washington State has had significant success with its own I-Best model, which combines occupational skills training, college-level coursework, and English language and basic skills education to prepare workers for a broad range of occupations. Research indicates that I-Best participants are more likely to continue into credit-bearing coursework and earn occupational credentials than other adult education students. Congressman BOBBY SCOTT's State of Virginia just recently announced the implementation of a statewide strategy to facilitate student transitions between education and employment systems and expand the provision of supportive services to ensure success.

Unfortunately, current law across a number of Federal programs—including WIA, the Higher Education Act and Temporary Assistance For Needy Families—presents significant obstacles to the development of career pathways, establishing different funding streams for various educational and employment programs and often creating conflicting performance measures between systems.

Even within a single program such as WIA, we often see disconnects in the system. For example, one outcome measure for an individual receiving adult basic education services under WIA title II is the attainment of a GED. However, simply having a GED does not mean that a person has the skills he or she needs to enroll in a job training program funded under WIA title I. Unfortunately, far too often people confronted with such obstacles get frustrated and drop out of the system and never get the skills they need to succeed in the workforce. We must

work to reduce the barriers between systems under current Federal law and create incentives for States to better align and connect their workforce development, education and human services systems. WIA authorization is certainly one great place to start.

Madam Speaker, with that, I would now yield to the distinguished Member from California, our Chair, the gentlelady from California, BARBARA LEE.

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE, the gentlelady from Ohio, for continuing to, as I say, beat the drum every Monday night on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, on behalf of many of our communities, which have been really shut out and marginalized for years and years and years but also on behalf of the American people because we know and we recognize, as members of the Congressional Black Caucus, that what's good for our communities, especially communities of color, the African American community, makes America stronger. It's good for the country. So thank you very much for continuing to lift our voices on behalf of the people.

Tonight you've done a great job talking about really the reason and the rationale that we have to embrace workforce development training, job training. Because so many of our constituents are not only recently unemployed, but they just haven't been employed for many, many years, for many, many historic reasons, many of which are systemic. The opportunities just have not been there. As I was listening to you, I was reminded of the new green industry. It's a trillion-dollar industry, but of course there are many in our country who don't have the requisite skills to be able to even apply for these jobs in this new industry.

I want to just call attention to one organization in my district, in Oakland California, the Oakland Green Job Corps, where young people are learning green technology, are learning to weatherize homes, are learning to put solar panels on roofs. They are learning and developing the skills necessary to be able to be fully employed in this new industry, and these are young people who may not have had a chance, had it not been for the Cyprus Mandela Training Center, Mayor Ron Dellums, our city of Oakland, and of course the Department of Labor and all of the partners who have helped put that together. Our energy czar from the White House, Ms. Brownner came out, and she looked at the Green Job Corps, and we are hoping that this will be seen as a model to replicate throughout the country.

Let me just remind you that the Congressional Black Caucus has historically been known as the conscience of the Congress, and we recognize that the dignity of all human beings is extremely important in our work to close these—some of us call it these moral gaps that exist, these disparities. And tonight of course we're talking about jobs, employment and unemployment.

Well, the good-paying jobs recognize the dignity of all human beings; and when people are unemployed, when they don't have jobs, it's very difficult to take care of their families, take care of themselves. As a person who majored in psychiatric social work, I understand all the psychological effects. We just see that each and every day now, the emotional trauma, the depression. Suicide rates are soaring now as a result of this Bush recession. So we have to remember that when people are unemployed, it's not only that they don't have a job to make money; but it's their self-esteem, their self-worth, it's their dignity that becomes shattered as a result of this, and so we have to work very hard each and every day to make sure that we provide the vehicles and the opportunities for everyone in our country to get a job.

The trigger may have been, of course, the bubble in the housing markets in terms of the unemployment rate; but I tell you, these excesses on Wall Street and the failure of the Bush administration to enforce any securities laws, the deregulation of the financial services industry—and I was on the Financial Services Committee for 8 years, and we kept talking about that with Chairman Greenspan, and there were very few who really wanted to bite the bullet and say, we have to not do this. But we did, unfortunately. So now we have an industry that's just run wild, really. It's run amok. We also have to remember that there was very little oversight of the banks, and this unfortunate situation has spread this crisis to each and every household and business in our country. We've seen 7 million jobs lost since the beginning of the Bush recession, and the unemployment rate has now risen to 9.4 percent nationally—14.9 percent, however, for African Americans and for Latinos.

Now during the Bush administration, 5 million more people fell into poverty. Unfortunately now we have 37 million Americans living in poverty, 47 million with no health insurance, and that is rising. So we have to tackle this because if we don't tackle this, we will have millions more living in poverty. Actually, last week the Congressional Black Caucus released our agenda as well as our biannual report, and we call it Opportunities for All—Pathways Out of Poverty.

□ 2045

All members of the CBC put one of their bills on this agenda. We have 42 bills, and if you look at each and every one of the pieces of legislation that is pending that we consider our priority legislation, each one provides a pathway out of poverty and an opportunity for all.

We also, unfortunately, in the last few years have watched company after company cut their benefits, and millions more Americans now, as I said earlier, have lost their health insurance and their retirement plans and pension plans have fallen, unfortunately, off the table.

The last administration has left us and our Nation in shambles, and it is really critical that we come together to begin the work of providing opportunities for all in America and ending this spiral of poverty that is spiraling downward, unfortunately, with millions more people in this situation.

We have got to expand and extend the proven anti-poverty programs that were included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, like expanding access to the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit. We have to maintain support for the vital extensions of unemployment insurance and COBRA health insurance.

Millions of Americans need these subsidies, while millions of Americans continue to face job loss and extended periods of unemployment. These are stopgap measures, but this has to be seen as necessary just to stop the hemorrhaging and give people some relief so they can survive and sustain themselves until the jobs that we are working so hard to create are created.

We have got to maintain support for and invest in education and job training programs, as Congresswoman FUDGE talked about earlier, and fully support initiatives such as the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, which our colleague Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, who chairs the Housing and Opportunity Subcommittee of the Financial Services Committee, worked so hard with the Congressional Black Caucus' support to bring some stability to our hardest-hit communities.

But we all know we have to do more. We need to raise and index the minimum wage so that every working person can be assured that they will earn a wage that will lift them up and out of poverty each and every year without having to rely on legislation to keep up with increases in the cost of living. Yes, we increased the minimum wage several years ago; but I believe, like many of my colleagues believe, that we must support and find ways to provide for a living wage. Raising the minimum wage is not enough.

We also must ensure access to early childhood education, guarantee a quality public education for every American student, and make sure that every working family has access to affordable, quality child care.

Again, why is child care so important? Well, we have millions of women, millions of single moms and single men who want to work, but they can't afford the child care. So we cannot look at creating jobs without understanding we must provide for the job training and child care assistance so that they can really afford to get a job and will not have to worry about their young people.

Also, and oftentimes we forget this, there are millions of men now that we call in my community "formerly incarcerated individuals" who have been released from jail. We know that the recidivism rate is very high, and part of

the reason is because there is very little employment for these individuals. So we have to provide support for our reentry initiatives.

I am very proud of the fact that Congressman DANNY DAVIS, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus from Illinois, continues to work on behalf of those who would not have this second chance. We passed the Second Chance Act a couple of years ago, but we must fully fund this so that we can provide for that job training and those jobs for formerly incarcerated individuals.

Also our disconnected youth. We have young people who need jobs. Many families now, because of the fact that mothers and fathers are unemployed, oftentimes young people have to help, and they deserve to be able to get a job too. So we have to fully fund and support summer job programs for our young people, which I am very proud of the fact that President Obama, Speaker PELOSI and all of our leadership here, our majority whip, Mr. CLYBURN, supported with the economic recovery package to make sure we have funding in there for our summer jobs program for youth.

Also access to health care. Some of us believe, and I know many of us in the Congressional Black Caucus believe, that health care should not be a privilege. It is a basic right. It is a basic right, and as we begin health care debate, again we cannot forget that closing health care disparities in communities of color must be part of any health care reform package. Otherwise, those communities, those individuals who have historically been discriminated against in our health care system, and really that is what has happened over the years, it has been discrimination, they deserve to have some of these gaps closed. So this has to be part of, again, a comprehensive approach to job creation and employment.

So let me just conclude by saying that during this economic crisis, we think that we have to see this also as an opportunity to make the changes that we seek, some of the systemic changes that we seek, to guarantee access to health care, to guarantee and ensure fair and adequate housing for all, and to provide top-flight education for all of our children and support the growth of the new green living wage economy that will carry America into the 21st century.

We have to support the Employee Free Choice Act, because many of us in the African American community know if it hadn't been for labor unions, many of our families would not have become middle income. So the right to organize, the right to participate and to be in a union is essential, because when we are talking about jobs, we are not just talking about a job; but we are talking about a job with justice, jobs with good pay, with benefits, with a pension, with health care, the type of a job that any American deserves. So this Employee Free Choice Act is an

extremely important part of any jobs movement that we have developed here in the Congress.

The Congressional Black Caucus continues to be the conscience of the Congress, and we are going to continue to speak out and work with those who don't have a voice, who have been marginalized, and who could possibly be left behind were it not for members of the Congressional Black Caucus who stand strong, 42 of us, in moving forward an agenda, opportunities for all, pathways out of poverty.

Let me thank Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE again for stepping up to the plate and for bringing this very critical debate once again on a Monday night to the country.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

I would again like to thank our Chair for her leadership. Certainly Congresswoman LEE has kept the focus of the CBC on those who have the least, and that is very, very important. She has kept our focus on job creation and has allowed us to be the voice for the voiceless. With her leadership, we know that we represent more of the poor than any other group of people in this House, and it is just refreshing to know that our focus as a caucus is on poverty and jobs. I thank you again for your leadership.

Ms. LEE of California. If the gentle lady will further yield for a moment, please, let me talk about very quickly one of the aspects of job creation and the issue as it relates to pay equity for women.

As I remember, the numbers are really staggering when you look at women. They make I think it is maybe 70-some cents on the dollar; African American women a lot less, maybe 60-some cents on the dollar; and Latinas even less than that.

I think it is very important as we talk about jobs and job creation, we have to really first applaud the President for signing the Lilly Ledbetter Act, and, secondly, in each and every initiative that we take here in the House, make sure that we look at the bills in terms of the type of equity and justice it brings to women, because women have a long way to go in our society.

We have made tremendous gains, but when you look at these moral gaps in terms of wages, we have to understand that we do need to take, and some don't want to say affirmative action, but I consider affirmative action a very Democratic policy, and so we do need to take affirmative action to make sure that these disparities in wages as they relate to women are closed and closed very quickly as we create these new jobs in the industries of the future.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you, Madam Chairman. I would say there are so many things we need to be addressing. Certainly what I have found in my home district is that as you look at what is happening with women and children, it is really appalling. Right

now, the fastest growing group of children in schools today are homeless children. That means their parents are homeless, and more times than not it is just a mother. So these are people who most of the time don't have jobs and don't have the ability to take care of their children, and we have to do what we have to do as a government. We have to make sure we provide.

So I am really happy that in the Recovery and Reinvestment Act we put significant money in there for shelters, for meals for children, for food stamps, for many things that I think are going to make their lives better. We have done what we think we needed to do to at least get them back moving in the right direction.

So I think you are right. As we look at where women are today, not just in equal pay, not just in benefits, but in how we live as people in this society, I think it is very, very important that we focus on where women are going in this society. I know that because of your leadership, that is one of the things the CBC has been looking at.

So I thank you again for all that you do to make sure that women get equal treatment, that women have the ability to raise their children in a positive and safe place, because if we hadn't done some of the things that we have done with this recovery package, where would they be? Certainly you may be poor, but you still deserve a decent place to live. You still deserve to be able to feed your children and send your kids to school in a safe environment.

Again, I thank you just for the kind of leadership that you have given to us that makes us really take a look at what is happening in our communities.

Ms. LEE of California. Well, I thank the gentle lady for her comments, and I just want to say, we have to look at what is taking place with everyone in our country during this economic downturn. Many have said, why would we do some of the things we did in the economic recovery package, such as many of the initiatives that you spoke of? How could we not do it? Otherwise we would leave millions behind once again. So that was a mandate that we had to do.

Another area that you helped us so brilliantly on was the involvement of and ensuring the involvement of minority and women-owned businesses in the economic recovery package.

Oftentimes, as difficult as it is when you lose a job and are unemployed, new opportunities open up. Small entrepreneurs now have the opportunity, those with creative ideas, to establish small businesses. We put I believe it was \$35 million in a micro-loan program, so the small entrepreneurs, people who have been unemployed, who want to start a business, who want to start whatever type of a business, can go to the SBA now and apply for a loan without having to go through all of the rigmarole that oftentimes businesses have to go through. Now people who

have been recently unemployed can have the opportunity to actually establish a small business so that they can take care of themselves and their families during this very difficult time.

We also made sure that we put some very strong language in terms of the involvement of minority and women-owned businesses in all the Federal funding that was coming through the agencies in our package, for example, the Department of Transportation and the infrastructure money.

Well, I am saying this loud and clear now to everyone in this country in terms of minority and women-owned businesses: that money that will be coming to these States, you have to make sure that you involve your minority and women-owned companies in contracts and subcontracts in this construction money, in this infrastructure money, because it is all well and good to be able to hire people for the jobs, but there are many who have the skills and the businesses who want to participate in the economic vitality of our country through the business route. So it is very important that our small and minority-owned and women-owned businesses are able to create the jobs themselves.

That is a Federal requirement. Hopefully, States are complying with the law. But if they are not, we definitely have an oversight process that is going to be looking at this.

I happily yield back to my colleague from Ohio.

□ 2100

Ms. FUDGE. Again, Madam Chairman, I think that we have done a lot of work in a very short period of time. And I thank you for your leadership, and certainly I thank our leadership, the leadership of our caucus, as well as the leadership of the administration of our Nation for their vision.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. KIND (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of family reasons.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of travel.

Mr. MACK (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today, June 9 and 10 on account of attending his daughter's graduation.

Mrs. BONO MACK (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today, June 9 and 10 on account of attending her daughter's graduation.

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 Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and ex-

tend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, June 12.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today, June 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, June 12 and 15.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today, June 9, 10, 11, 12 and 15.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, June 12 and 15.

Mr. PAULSEN, for 5 minutes, June 9.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK, for 5 minutes, June 9.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 663. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12877 Broad Street in Sparta, Georgia, as the "Yvonne Ingram-Ephraim Post Office Building".

H.R. 918. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 East 3rd Street in Jamestown, New York, as the "Stan Lundine Post Office Building".

H.R. 1284. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 West Main Street in McLain, Mississippi, as the "Major Ed W. Freeman Post Office".

H.R. 1595. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3245 Latta Road in Rochester, New York, as the "Brian K. Schramm Post Office Building".

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 9, 2009, at 10:30 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of Rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2035. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Mushroom Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Order [Document Number: AMS-FV-09-0019; FV-09-703] received May 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2036. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Walnuts Grown in California; Order Amending Marketing Order No. 984; Correcting Amendment [Doc. No.: AO-192-A7; AMS-FV-07-0004; FV06-984-1 C] received May 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2037. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearment Oil Produced in the Far West; Salable Quantities and Allotment Percentages for the 2009-2010 Marketing Year [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-08-0104; FV09-985-1 FR] received May 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2038. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Onions Grown in South Texas; Change in Regulatory Period [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-309-0012; FV09-959-1 IFR] received May 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2039. A letter from the Acting Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Honey Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Order; Termination [Document Number: AMS-FV-09-0006; FV-09-701] received May 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

2040. A letter from the Under Secretary of Defense, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter to report the Antideficiency Act violation, Army case number 06-07, estimated at \$32,144,000, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

2041. A letter from the Major General, USAF Vice Director, Defense Logistics Agency, transmitting notification that the Section 14 Biennial Requirements Report has been delayed pending completion of the Senate Appropriations Committee (SAC) report to accompany H.R. 3222, the FY 2008 National Defense Appropriations Bill, S. Rep. No. 110-155; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2042. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, Department of the Navy, transmitting a letter notifying Congress of a performance decision by the Department of the Navy to convert the information assurance functions currently being performed by eight (8) military personnel of the Fleet Area Control and Surveillance Facility, located in Virginia Beach, VA; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2043. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Acquisition Regulation: Security Clause (RIN: 1991-AB71) received May 20, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2044. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Mgmt. Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Organ-Specific Warnings; Internal Analgesic, Antipyretic, and Antirheumatic Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use; Final Monograph [[Docket No.: FDA-1977-N-0013] (formerly Docket No.: 1977N-0094L)] (RIN: 0910-AF36) received May 20, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2045. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — In the Matter of Amendment of Parts 73 and 74 of the Commission's Rules to Establish Rules for Replacement Digital Low Power Television Translator Stations [MB Docket No.: 08-253] received May 20, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

2046. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2047. A letter from the Vice Admiral, USN Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting a report submitted in accordance with Section 36(a) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2048. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance for Transmittal No. 09-22, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2049. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance for Transmittal No. 09-15, pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2050. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 032-09, pursuant to Public Law 110-429, section 201; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2051. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 036-09, pursuant to Public Law 110-429, section 201; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2052. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 18-78, "Transportation Infrastructure Improvements GARVEE Bond Financing Temporary Act of 2009", pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2053. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2054. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2055. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2056. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2057. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2058. A letter from the Chairman, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the semi-annual report on activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009, pursuant to Public Law 95-452, section 5; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

2059. A letter from the Director, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report entitled, "National Prescription Drug Threat Assessment 2009 (NPDTA 2009)"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2060. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's report on Settlements

by the United States with Nonmonetary Relief Exceeding Three Years and Settlements Against the United States Exceeding \$2 Million for the Fourth Quarter 2008, pursuant to Public Law 107-273, section 202(a)(1)(c); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2061. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; MD Helicopters, Inc. Model MD900 (including the MD902 Configuration) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2008-0772; Directorate Identifier 2008-SW-30-AD; Amendment 39-15872; AD 2009-07-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 22, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2062. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Liberty Aerospace Incorporated Model XL-2 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0329; Directorate Identifier 2009-CE-020-AD; Amendment 39-15878; AD 2009-08-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 22, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2063. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Hawker Beechcraft Corporation Model BH.125 Series 600A Airplanes and Model HS.125 Series 700A Airplanes Modified in Accordance With Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) SA2271SW [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1240; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-098-AD; Amendment 39-15877; AD 2009-08-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 22, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2064. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-300, -400, and -500 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2008-0412; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-346-AD; Amendment 39-15870; AD 2009-07-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 22, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2065. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Limited Model 206A, 206B, 206L, 206L-1, 206L-3, 206L-4, 222, 222B, 222U, 230, 407, 427, and 430 Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0301; Directorate Identifier 2008-SW-69-AD; Amendment 39-15876; AD 2009-08-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 22, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2066. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney (PW) JT9D-7 Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2008-0759; Directorate Identifier 2008-NE-02-AD; Amendment 39-15824; AD 2009-04-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 22, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2067. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company CF6-80C2 and CF6-80E1 Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1025; Directorate Identifier 2008-NE-31-AD; Amendment 39-15862; AD 2009-07-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 22, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2068. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC-8-50 Series Airplanes; Model DC-8F-54 and DC-

8F-55 Airplanes; Model DC-8-60 Series Airplanes; Model DC-8-60F Series Airplanes; Model DC-8-70 Series Airplanes; Model DC-8-70F Series Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2008-1324; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-101-AD; Amendment 39-15875; AD 2009-08-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 22, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2069. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell Flight Management System (FMSs) Equipped with Honeywell NZ-2000 Navigation Computers and Honeywell IC-800 or IC-800E Integrated Avionics Computers; as Installed on Various Transport Category Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2008-0899; Directorate Identifier 2008-NM-022-AD; Amendment 39-15874; AD 2009-08-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 22, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

2070. A letter from the Deputy Director, NIST, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF) NIST Gaithersburg and Boulder Programs; Availability of Funds [Docket Number: 0812021539-81544-01] received May 20, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science and Technology.

2071. A letter from the Deputy Director, NIST, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Measurement, Science and Engineering Research Grants Programs; Availability of Funds [Docket No.: 0812021541-81547-01] received May 20, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science and Technology.

2072. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — IMPORTED DIRECTLY REQUIREMENT UNDER THE UNITED STATES-BAHRAIN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT [Docket No.: USCBP-2009-0015 CBP Dec. 09-17] (RIN: 1505-AC13) received May 20, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2073. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 1274.—Determination of Issue Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issued for Property (Also Sections 42, 280G, 382, 412, 467, 468, 482, 483, 642, 807, 846, 1288, 7520, 7872.) (Rev. Rul. 2009-16) received May 20, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2074. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 72.—Annuities; certain proceeds of endowment and life insurance contracts (Also Sections 1001, 1011, 1012, 1221, and 1234A) (Rev. Rul. 2009-13) received May 6, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2075. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Extension of Date for Multiemployer Plans to Elect Relief under Sections 204 and 205 of WRERA [Notice 2009-42] received May 6, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2076. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Section 101.—Certain Death Benefits. (Also Sections 263, 865, 1001, 1011, 1012, and 1221) (Rev. Rul. 2009-14) received May 6, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2077. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — 26 CFR 601.601: Rule and Regulations. (Also Part I, Sections 25, 103, 143; 1.25-4T, 1.103-1, 6a.103A-2.) (Rev. Proc. 2009-27) received May 6, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[Pursuant to the order of the House on June 4, 2009 the following report was filed on June 5, 2009]

Mr. WAXMAN: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2454. A bill to create clean energy jobs, achieve energy independence, reduce global warming pollution and transition to a clean energy economy; with an amendment (Rept. 111-137 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

[Submitted on June 8, 2009]

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1741. A bill to require the Attorney General to make competitive grants to eligible State, tribal, and local prosecutors to establish and maintain certain protection and witness assistance programs; with amendments (Rept. 111-138). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2344. A bill to amend section 114 of title 17, United States Code, to provide for agreements for the reproduction and performance of sound recordings by webcasters (Rept. 111-139). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 1687. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at McKinley Avenue and Third Street, SW., Canton, Ohio, as the "Ralph Regula Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; with amendments (Rept. 111-140). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Resolution 472. Resolution congratulating and saluting the seventieth anniversary of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) and their dedication to general aviation, safety and the important contribution general aviation provides to the United States; with an amendment (Rept. 111-141). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Resolution 410. Resolution recognizing the numerous contributions of the recreational boating community and the boating industry to the continuing prosperity and affluence of the United States (Rept. 111-142). Referred to the House Calendar.

[The following action occurred on June 5, 2009]

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committees on Education and Labor and Foreign Affairs discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2454.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the following action was taken by the Speaker:

(The following action occurred on June 5, 2009)

H.R. 2454. Referral to the Committees on Financial Services, Science and Technology,

Transportation and Infrastructure, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Ways and Means for a period ending not later than June 19, 2009.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MAFFEI (for himself, Mr. KRATOVL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HOYER, Mr. MCMAHON, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. POSEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. PAULSEN, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. DAVIS of Alabama):

H.R. 2743. A bill to restore the economic rights of automobile dealers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. RICHARDSON (for herself, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. FILNER, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. MALONEY, Ms. NOR-TON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. BORDALLO):

H.R. 2744. A bill to prohibit discrimination in Federal assisted health care services and research programs on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability status; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HENSARLING:

H.R. 2745. A bill to amend the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to provide repayment procedures for certain assistance received under the Troubled Asset Relief Program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CARNAHAN (for himself and Ms. MATSUI):

H.R. 2746. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to allow for additional transportation assistance grants; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. HALVORSON:

H.R. 2747. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to improve outreach and support activities and to increase award recipients from rural areas with respect to the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer 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. POMEROY (for himself and Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida):

H.R. 2748. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage guaranteed lifetime income payments by excluding from income a portion of such payments; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DINGELL (for himself, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. STUPAK, Ms. DEGETTE, and Ms. SUTTON):

H.R. 2749. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to improve the safety of food in the global market, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LATOURETTE (for himself, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. NUNES, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. McKEON, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. TURNER, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. McHENRY, and Mr. SIMPSON):

H.R. 2750. A bill to restore the economic rights of automobile dealers, and for other

purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. SUTTON (for herself, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. UPTON, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOCCIERI, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. SCHAUER, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CAMP, Mr. HARE, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LOEBACK, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. KILROY, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. TITUS, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. HILL, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. DRIEHAUS, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. WATT, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. LEVIN, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 2751. A bill to accelerate motor fuel savings nationwide and provide incentives to registered owners of high polluting automobiles to replace such automobiles with new fuel efficient and less polluting automobiles; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. AKIN (for himself, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. BARTLETT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. CARTER, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. JORDAN of Ohio, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LATTA, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PENCE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. TERRY, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 2752. A bill to establish certain requirements relating to the provision of services to minors by family planning projects under title X of the Public Health Service Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BERRY:

H.R. 2753. A bill to delay the implementation of new Medicare hospital geographic wage reclassification criteria until the Secretary of Health and Human Services issues a proposal to revise the hospital wage index classification system that addresses certain considerations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself and Mr. TERRY):

H.R. 2754. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish the Nurse-Managed Health Clinic Investment program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida):

H.R. 2755. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to assist underperforming schools to recruit, support, and retain highly qualified and effective teachers by providing grants for participation in the Targeted High Need Initiative program of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. KIND, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. BACA, Mr. BILBRAY, and Mr. FILNER):

H.R. 2756. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow eligible veterans to use qualified veterans mortgage bonds to refinance home loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. INGALLS):

H.R. 2757. A bill to require the return to the American people of all proceeds raised under any Federal climate change legislation; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KIND (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

H.R. 2758. A bill to amend part C of title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to Medicare special needs plans and the alignment of Medicare and Medicaid for dually eligible individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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 Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona:

H.R. 2759. A bill waiving the cost-share requirement under the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant program for grants awarded during fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Science and Technology.

By Ms. WATSON (for herself, Mr. DREIER, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. MCCARTHY of California, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. NUNES, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. STARK, and Mrs. TAUSCHER):

H.R. 2760. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1615 North Wilcox Avenue in Los Angeles, California, as the "Johnny Grant Hollywood Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. WATSON (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CLAY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. FATTAH):

H.R. 2761. A bill to sever United States' government relations with the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma until such time as the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma restores full tribal citizenship to the Cherokee Freedmen disenfranchised in the March 3, 2007, Cherokee Nation vote and fulfills all its treaty obligations with the Government of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. WELCH:

H.R. 2762. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the exception from the treatment of publicly traded partnerships as corporations for partnerships with passive-type income shall not apply to partnerships directly or indirectly deriving income from providing investment adviser and related asset management services; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. CLARKE, and Mr. MEEKS of New York):

H. Con. Res. 145. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Caribbean American HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MALONEY (for herself, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. FARR, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. OLVER):

H. Con. Res. 146. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 64th anniversary of the United Nations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona:

H. Res. 515. A resolution condemning the murder of Army Private William Long and the wounding of Army Private Quinton Ezeagwula, who were shot outside the Army Navy Career Center in Little Rock, Arkansas on June 1, 2009; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts (for himself and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H. Res. 516. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Postal Service should issue a semipostal stamp to support medical research relating to Alzheimer's disease; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. MCDERMOTT (for himself, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. DICKS, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H. Res. 517. A resolution congratulating the University of Washington women's softball team for winning the 2009 Women's College World Series; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. HOLDEN, and Mr. PALLONE):

H. Res. 518. A resolution honoring the life of Jacques-Yves Cousteau, explorer, researcher, and pioneer in the field of marine conservation; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. STUPAK (for himself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MCHUGH, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. MASSA, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. HALL of New York, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H. Res. 519. A resolution expressing appreciation to the people and Government of Canada for their long history of friendship and cooperation with the people and Government of the United States and congratulating Canada as it celebrates "Canada Day"; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of Rule XXII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

63. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the State House of Representatives of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 12 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF INDIA FOLLOWING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN MUMBAI AND TO MEMORIALIZE THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS TO WORK WITH INDIAN AUTHORITIES IN BOTH HUMANITARIAN AND STRATEGIC CAPACITIES; to the Committee on Financial Services.

64. Also, a memorial of the State House of Representatives of Michigan, relative to

House Resolution No. 47 MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO OPPOSE PREEMPTIVE FEDERAL INSURANCE REGULATORY MEASURES; to the Committee on Financial Services.

65. Also, a memorial of the State House of Representatives of Michigan, relative to House Resolution No. 40 MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO GIVE FAIR CONSIDERATION TO ALL FACETS OF THE DOMESTIC AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE \$5 BILLION FEDERAL AUTO SUPPLIER TARP FUNDING, AND TO ENACT AN OVERSIGHT MECHANISM TO ASSURE THAT THE FUNDS ARE FAIRLY DISTRIBUTED; to the Committee on Financial Services.

66. Also, a memorial of the 52nd Legislature of Oklahoma, relative to SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 42 disagreeing with President Obama's Administration's characterization of returning military veterans and other supporters of traditional American values; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CROWLEY:

H.R. 2763. A bill for the relief of Llesh Miraj, Enkeleda Miraj, Michaela Miraj, Vanessa Miraj, and Sabrina Miraj; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WOOLSEY:

H.R. 2764. A bill for the relief of Lilly M. Ledbetter; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 22: Mr. KRATOVIL, Mr. CAMP, and Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H.R. 25: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.

H.R. 49: Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 137: Mr. AKIN and Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 211: Mr. ARCURI and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 213: Mr. COHEN and Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 235: Mr. KRATOVIL, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. HODES.

H.R. 303: Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 327: Mr. CAO and Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 426: Ms. BERKLEY.

H.R. 430: Mr. SCHOCK.

H.R. 450: Mr. WAMP.

H.R. 503: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 574: Mr. WEINER.

H.R. 594: Mr. GRJALVA.

H.R. 616: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. KAGEN, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. HOLDEN, and Mr. BOYD.

H.R. 621: Mr. OBEY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. REYES, Mr. CASTLE, and Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 622: Mrs. DAHLKEMPER.

H.R. 690: Mr. MAFFEI, Ms. JENKINS, and Mr. MORAN of Kansas.

- H.R. 710: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 745: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 816: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and Mr. NYE.
H.R. 840: Mr. NADLER of New York.
H.R. 853: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 881: Mr. TIAHRT and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 913: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.
H.R. 988: Mr. PLATTS, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 997: Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee.
H.R. 1064: Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. REYES.
H.R. 1067: Mr. DEAL of Georgia.
H.R. 1103: Mr. CONAWAY and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 1126: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 1135: Mrs. SCHMIDT.
H.R. 1142: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 1165: Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.
H.R. 1166: Mr. MURTHA.
H.R. 1173: Mr. MURTHA.
H.R. 1177: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, and Mr. COLE.
H.R. 1210: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 1211: Mr. WALZ and Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 1283: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 1324: Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. PIERLUISI.
H.R. 1326: Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 1335: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 1378: Mr. MATHESON, Mr. WEINER, and Mrs. CAPPS.
H.R. 1395: Mrs. BONO MACK.
H.R. 1409: Mr. MURPHY of New York.
H.R. 1423: Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. SESTAK, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SCHAUER, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.
H.R. 1425: Mr. HODES.
H.R. 1443: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 1454: Mr. SESTAK and Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 1460: Mr. EDWARDS of Texas.
H.R. 1470: Mr. MITCHELL.
H.R. 1478: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts and Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 1479: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. MASSA.
H.R. 1505: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 1521: Mr. BOREN, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. JONES, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 1528: Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 1530: Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 1531: Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 1544: Mr. NYE.
H.R. 1551: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 1552: Mr. MURPHY of New York.
H.R. 1557: Mrs. DAHLKEMPER.
H.R. 1588: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 1616: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.
H.R. 1670: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 1682: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 1716: Mr. HALL of New York and Mr. MURPHY of New York.
H.R. 1721: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1751: Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1774: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 1775: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 1799: Mr. KRATOVIL.
H.R. 1802: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 1826: Mr. PERRIELLO.
H.R. 1827: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 1835: Mr. ALEXANDER and Mr. BACHUS.
H.R. 1855: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 1910: Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 1912: Mrs. MALONEY and Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H.R. 2017: Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. BOREN, Mr. TERRY, and Mr. MCHENRY.
H.R. 2035: Mr. HILL and Mr. SNYDER.
H.R. 2051: Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 2060: Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 2062: Mr. SESTAK and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 2085: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 2135: Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 2163: Mr. MINNICK.
H.R. 2164: Mr. MINNICK.
H.R. 2193: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 2196: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
H.R. 2202: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 2209: Mr. ANDREWS.
H.R. 2261: Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 2296: Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 2304: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 2321: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 2329: Mrs. MYRICK, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 2332: Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 2339: Mr. HARE and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2350: Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut.
H.R. 2360: Mr. KRATOVIL and Mr. MURPHY of New York.
H.R. 2373: Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KAGEN, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 2393: Mr. LATHAM and Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.
H.R. 2414: Mr. MAFFEI, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 2426: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2497: Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 2499: Ms. SPEIER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. MARCHANT, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 2517: Ms. KILROY.
H.R. 2520: Mr. CAMPBELL and Mr. MARCHANT.
H.R. 2523: Mr. MINNICK.
H.R. 2527: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. SCHRADER.
H.R. 2547: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. SPACE.
H.R. 2597: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2609: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 2624: Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 2662: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. SESTAK.
H.R. 2669: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 2674: Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 2690: Ms. WATSON.
H.R. 2695: Mr. DELAHUNT and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 2709: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York and Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 2715: Mr. SHUSTER and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.J. Res. 37: Mr. KING of Iowa.
H.J. Res. 46: Mr. GONZALEZ.
H. Con. Res. 59: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H. Con. Res. 102: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. SCHAUER.
H. Con. Res. 110: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H. Con. Res. 131: Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. MANZULLO.
H. Con. Res. 135: Mr. HARPER.
H. Con. Res. 142: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. SIRES, Mr. FILNER, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. HILL.
H. Res. 44: Mr. ROONEY.
H. Res. 55: Mr. FILNER.
H. Res. 57: Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida.
H. Res. 69: Mr. SABLAN and Mr. SESTAK.
H. Res. 81: Mrs. DAHLKEMPER.
H. Res. 89: Mr. COHEN.
H. Res. 90: Mr. COURTNEY.
H. Res. 191: Mr. SESTAK.
H. Res. 260: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H. Res. 271: Mr. SESTAK.
H. Res. 350: Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MACK, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GRAVES, and Mr. STUPAK.
H. Res. 364: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H. Res. 366: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. WU.
H. Res. 383: Mr. CAPUANO.
H. Res. 398: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H. Res. 408: Mr. FORBES.
H. Res. 409: Mr. TERRY and Mr. SESTAK.
H. Res. 410: Mr. PAUL and Mr. PENCE.
H. Res. 411: Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. ROHR-ABACHER, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. NUNES, Mr. HONDA, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. DREIER, Mr. GUTHRIE, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. LEE of New York, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. PAULSEN.
H. Res. 419: Ms. CLARKE and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H. Res. 420: Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, and Mr. BUYER.
H. Res. 443: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. HALL of New York.
H. Res. 454: Mr. POMEROY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. KRATOVIL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. CARNEY, and Mr. PAULSEN.
H. Res. 479: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. OBERSTAR, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. HONDA, Mr. COSTA, Mr. SIRES, Mr. BACA, Mr. MITCHELL, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. ENGBEL, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. WALZ, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. FARR, Ms. WATSON, and Mr. STUPAK.
H. Res. 483: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. NYE, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. LAMBORN.
H. Res. 486: Mr. HOLT.
H. Res. 491: Mr. HALL of New York and Mr. SESTAK.
H. Res. 492: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. WAMP, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. LANCE, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. SCHOCK, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DENT, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. KIRK, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. WU, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. HIMES.
H. Res. 496: Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. CAO.
H. Res. 498: Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. BARTON of Texas, and Mr. CALVERT.
H. Res. 503: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.
H. Res. 505: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H. Res. 507: Ms. HIRONO and Mr. WALZ.
H. Res. 509: Ms. BORDALLO.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks,

limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative BERMAN, or a designee, to H.R. 2140, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of Rule XXI.

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PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 1 of Rule XXII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

39. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the California Federation of Teachers AFT, AFL-CIO, relative to 2009 CFT RESOLUTION 6 Support quality preschool and invest in early childhood workers; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

40. Also, a petition of the County of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, relative to RESOLUTION NO. 17 OF 2009 OPPOSING FEDERAL

LEGISLATION IMPLEMENTING THE CARD-CHECK PROCESS AND ELIMINATING SECRET BALLOTS; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

41. Also, a petition of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, relative to RESOLUTION NO. 141-09 calling on the U.S. Department of State to use all diplomatic channels to work with the Iraqi Government to stop the persecution of Iraqi Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) citizens and immediately stop the murders of Iraqi LGBT citizens; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

42. Also, a petition of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, relative to RESOLUTION NO. 138-09 declaring April 24, 2009, as Armenian Genocide Commemoration Day in San Francisco; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

43. Also, a petition of the City of Watsonville, California, relative to RESOLUTION NO. 83-09 OPPOSING EXPANSION OF OFF-SHORE OIL DRILLING AND REQUESTING THAT THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES REINSTATE THE FED-

ERAL OFF-SHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING MORATORIUM FOR 2009 AND BEYOND; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

44. Also, a petition of the California Federation of Teachers AFT, AFL-CIO, relative to 2009 CFT RESOLUTION 27 Support justice for Oscar Grant; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

45. Also, a petition of the California Federation of Teachers AFT, AFL-CIO, relative to a resolution urging Congress to not be swayed by corporate lobbying for second-class workers, or racist elements who want to scapegoat Latin American neighbors for the recent economic downturn; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

46. Also, a petition of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, relative to RESOLUTION NO. 137-09 Urging federal authorities to remove obstacles to United Citizenship for Shirley Tan, and urging the passage of the Uniting American Families Act (UAFSA, H.R. 1024, S. 424); to the Committee on the Judiciary.