

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2892, and that I may include tabular material on the same bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DAVIS of California). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 573 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2892.

□ 1536

#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2892) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, with Ms. DEGETTE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time. The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Chair, I am pleased to present the fiscal year 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, as reported by the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee. It is the product of extensive information gathering and analysis, with 15 hearings touching every Department of Homeland Security component. The bill provides the resources and the direction that the Department needs for the coming fiscal year.

This bill also reflects our subcommittee's tradition of bipartisan cooperation initiated by its first chairman and now ranking member, HAL ROGERS. I want to thank the distinguished ranking member for his advice and help on making this a better bill, and to his staff, too, for working so closely and constructively with us. We agree on most of this bill, if not every item, and I believe this is a bill that every Member in this body can get behind.

In total, the bill contains \$42.625 billion in discretionary appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security.

This is \$2.6 billion, or 6.5 percent, above the comparable fiscal year 2009 amount, and about 1 percent below the administration request, excluding Coast Guard overseas contingency operations. This level reflects our share of the \$10 billion cut made in the budget resolution to the administration's overall request.

Homeland security requires identification and response to all threats, whether man-made or natural. This "all-hazards" approach is the hallmark of our subcommittee, an approach we are happy to see President Obama and Secretary Napolitano embrace. The persistent threat of pandemic flu is an unmistakable reminder of why we must prepare for all hazards, as is the annual and predictable onslaught of natural disasters, from hurricanes and floods to wildfires and ice storms. Accordingly, this bill will enable our government to better protect the American people against all major threats.

Appropriately for the start of hurricane season, the bill maintains a robust \$844 million for FEMA management and administration, and \$2 billion for disaster relief. In addition, the bill and report specifically place FEMA at the forefront of disaster response management, thereby avoiding confusion when working with our State and local partners.

State and local emergency managers and first responders are equal partners in disaster preparedness and response, and I am pleased that the administration's budget request recognizes this important partnership. This bill strengthens our commitment to our State and local partners by providing \$3.96 billion for grant and training programs, including: \$330 million for Emergency Management Performance Grants, our one true all-hazards grant program; \$950 million for State homeland security grants; \$887 million for the Urban Area Security Initiative, which targets the highest risks of terrorism; and \$800 million for firefighter assistance grants.

Within that \$800 million for firefighter assistance grants, \$420 million is for SAFER staffing grants, or personnel grants, and \$380 million is for basic equipment and training grants. The additional funding for SAFER is part of a targeted and temporary effort to stem the tide of layoffs and ensure our communities are protected by an adequate number of firefighters.

In addition to the increased funding, the supplemental appropriations bill just passed allows the waiver of certain restrictions and broadens the use of SAFER to allow the grants to be used for the hiring, rehiring and retention of firefighters for fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

Madam Chairman, one could make an argument for increasing nearly any account in this bill; but since we can't spend the whole Federal Treasury on homeland security, we must base our priorities on risk. The subcommittee has done this with respect to the iden-

tification and removal of illegal aliens who have committed crimes; in other words, illegal aliens who have proven their capacity to do harm in our communities.

The bill continues the tradition of recent bills by targeting \$1.5 billion of Immigration and Customs Enforcement appropriations for this priority, an effort that the President and Secretary Napolitano wholeheartedly support.

Part of this funding furthers development of the Secure Communities program, which offers a productive approach for Federal immigration agents to work closely with State and local law enforcement while distinguishing the traditional Federal role of enforcing immigration law from the local role of prosecuting criminal violations. We have heard from many law enforcement and community groups about the importance of keeping a bright line between immigration enforcement and local community policing, and the Secure Communities program does just that.

Taking on the international drug cartels along our southwest border is another major priority we support in this bill. The bill enhances funding for CBP and ICE to combat illegal narcotics smuggling from Mexico and the cartels' trafficking in weapons and bulk currency. The bill supports a realistic and strategic approach to southwest border infrastructure and maintains a historically robust Border Patrol force.

Other specific priorities we have funded included: \$800 million for explosive detection systems at airports and \$122.8 million for air cargo security to meet the 100 percent screening requirement for air cargo in the hold of passenger planes by August of 2010; \$804 million to continue developing systems to screen inbound land- and sea-based cargo for weapons or nuclear materials, which includes \$162 million to strengthen overseas operations to monitor and target cargo; \$241.5 million for the Coast Guard to support overseas contingencies in the Persian Gulf and off the coast of Somalia; \$382 million for cybersecurity, to help protect vulnerable computer infrastructure from the escalating sophistication and intensity of cyberattacks; and \$10 million above the administration's request to expand the Alternatives to Detention program nationwide. Alternatives to Detention is a cost-effective alternative for low-risk individuals such as asylum seekers, families, and the elderly.

The bill includes several policy items requested by the administration. It clarifies fee authorities for temporary protected status petitions and visa fraud investigations; it extends the E-Verify program for 2 years; and it continues a longstanding provision related to imported prescription drugs.

As it did last year, this bill contains Member-requested and Presidential earmarks. Each Member's project has