

properly evaluated for the potential unintended consequences it may cause.

Chlorofluorocarbons were hailed as an innovation in refrigeration; we've since discovered that they damaged the ozone layer, so they are now banned. Asbestos was hailed for its insulation properties; we've since discovered that it causes lung disease, so it is now banned. DDT was hailed as a disease-fighting pesticide and its inventor was awarded the Nobel Prize; we've since discovered it causes serious harm to living organisms, so it is now banned. Electronic voting machines were hailed as making voting easier and more accessible; we've since learned that in most cases their results cannot be reliably and consistently verified. Whatever we do to enhance the ability of our military and overseas voters to vote, we must never implement anything that could compromise the accuracy, integrity, and security of the vote count.

One key provision in the House version of the bill that is not in this conference report is a requirement that the Secretary of Defense conduct suicide prevention outreach to every Individual Ready Reserve member who has done at least one tour in Iraq or Afghanistan. I was astonished to learn that some in the Senate objected to this provision on the grounds of costs. How much would it cost the Defense Department to task the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs to have his staff make phone calls to check up on IRR members who might be at risk of taking their own lives? If we can find tens of millions of dollars to buy extra engines for the F-35 fighter that the Pentagon doesn't want, there is no excuse for the Congress not to find the money to help prevent combat veterans from killing themselves.

Finally, this bill requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to "submit to the congressional defense committees separate reports containing assessments of the extent to which the campaign plan for Iraq and the campaign plan for Afghanistan (including the supporting and implementing documents for each such plan) each adhere to military doctrine." Unfortunately, we need far more than a simple assessment as to whether our armed forces are fighting according to established doctrine. What we need is a critical examination of whether they should be fighting in Afghanistan at all. Some of us have asked for a plan of success or a plan of withdrawal before sending another wave of soldiers. We have received no such plan.

As I've stated previously, I will not support an endless military commitment in this region. If a year from now I do not see unambiguous indicators of success—fewer civilian casualties, Afghan and Pakistani security forces in the lead on the security mission, genuine progress in rebuilding Afghanistan's devastated infrastructure and civil institutions—I will not support further funding for operations and will support only measures that will bring our forces home, and quickly.

On balance, this is a good bill and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I am very disappointed that I must vote against the conference report for H.R. 2647, the FY2010 National Defense Authorization Act, because it includes "hate crimes" provisions of H.R. 1913. The provisions were added by the Senate in an effort to facilitate the social engineering and partisan political agenda of the Demo-

crat leadership in Congress. The "hate crimes" language has absolutely nothing to do with the funding and equipping of our servicemembers, and it is especially unfortunate that such a blatant partisan action would be taken during a time of war when our nation's sons and daughters are in harm's way. My no vote supports the values, goals, and mission of the United States military.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the 2010 Defense Authorization Conference Report.

This conference agreement reflects our commitment to the national security objectives of the country and demonstrates our support for our servicemembers and their families.

The bill authorizes \$680 billion for military personnel, equipment and global operations. To improve the quality of life for our troops and their families the report provides a 3.9 percent military pay raise for personnel and preserves important health benefits including prohibiting fee increases in TRICARE and the TRICARE pharmacy program and creating new preventive health care initiatives.

The National Defense Authorization Act covers a large number of federal employees and this conference report includes important benefit improvements for many of them. The report includes a provision to allow employees under the FERS system to use unused sick leave when computing their annuities upon retirement; a provision to allow CSRS workers to phase-down to part-time status at the ends of their careers without reducing their final annuities; and a provision I introduced that permits a small number of returned CSRS employees to receive a reduced annuity rather than being forced to repay interest on their required deposit to the civil service trust fund.

This FY10 Defense Authorization Conference Report promotes our national security priorities, provides for our troops and their families, and improves oversight, and accountability.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired. Pursuant to House Resolution 808, the previous question is ordered.

Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further proceedings on the conference report are postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1447

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SERRANO) at 2 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2647, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. McKEON. I am in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. McKeon moves to recommit the conference report on the bill H.R. 2647 to the committee of conference with instructions to the managers on the part of the House as follows:

(1) To not accept any provision that would provide for the transfer or release of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as described in section 1023(d) of the bill as passed by the House, into the United States or its territories or possessions.

(2) To insist on section 121 of division D of the bill as passed by the House (regarding expansion of eligibility for concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

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

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on adoption of the conference report, if ordered; and motion to suspend the rules on H. Res. 804.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 208, nays 216, answered "present" 2, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 769]
YEAS—208

Aderholt	Brown (SC)	Diaz-Balart, L.
Adler (NJ)	Brown-Waite,	Diaz-Balart, M.
Akin	Ginny	Donnelly (IN)
Alexander	Buchanan	Dreier
Altmire	Burgess	Duncan
Austria	Burton (IN)	Ehlers
Bachmann	Buyer	Emerson
Bachus	Calvert	Fallin
Barrett (SC)	Camp	Flake
Barrow	Cantor	Fleming
Bartlett	Cao	Forbes
Barton (TX)	Capito	Fortenberry
Biggert	Carter	Foster
Billray	Cassidy	Fox
Bilirakis	Castle	Franks (AZ)
Bishop (UT)	Chaffetz	Frelinghuysen
Blackburn	Childers	Galleghy
Blunt	Coble	Garrett (NJ)
Bocchieri	Coffman (CO)	Gerlach
Boehner	Cole	Gingrey (GA)
Bonner	Conaway	Gohmert
Bono Mack	Crenshaw	Goodlatte
Boozman	Culberson	Granger
Boren	Dahlkemper	Graves
Boustany	Davis (AL)	Griffith
Brady (TX)	Davis (KY)	Guthrie
Bright	Deal (GA)	Hall (NY)
Broun (GA)	Dent	Hall (TX)