

the purposes of this section \$3,000,000 for fiscal years 2010 through 2015. Such funds shall remain available until expended.

(d) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate the Program with other like watch programs. The Secretary shall submit, concurrent with the President's budget submission for each fiscal year, a report on coordination of the Program and like watch programs within the Department of Homeland Security to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 853, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to begin by thanking Chairman OBERSTAR and Chairman THOMPSON for their very diligent and intense work on this very important bill touching so closely to the topic of national security and making sure that our borders are secure and people are safe.

We have taken great strides in the last few years to ensure that our coasts, our rivers, our bridges, our tunnels, our ports and ships are safer than perhaps they were before. But the reality is that they are, as we all know, still vulnerable to attack.

With more than 95,000 miles of shoreline, more than 290,000 square miles of water and approximately 70 million recreational boats in the United States, the United States Coast Guard and local first responders simply cannot protect our Nation's waterways on their own. Individual citizens are often in the best position to notice suspicious activities that may be early indicators of terrorist activity. Any observations of suspicious or unusual activity could be extremely valuable to our national security, so we need a system in place to train volunteers to report their findings.

The amendment that I offer this evening strengthens, streamlines, and improves the national effort to engage local citizens in the fight to protect our waterways through the America's Waterway Watch Program. This program is an essential step toward improving our national maritime and homeland security outreach and awareness strategy, educating industry and the public on the need to be vigilant and to report suspicious activity. The amendment aims to develop a system to collect and share these reports.

My amendment would authorize full funding for this program for the very first time, allowing the Coast Guard to fulfill the promise of the program by providing resources, training support and awareness of best practices to our Nation's small vessel owners, recreational boaters, tugboat operators, fishermen and marina operators, those people who are day in and day out closest to where activity is likely to occur.

In the spirit of national security and with the support of the United States

Coast Guard and the House Homeland Security Committee, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I seek to claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, we have no objection to the gentleman's amendment. The amendment would require the Coast Guard to establish the American Waterways Watch Program, which I understand is already in operation today. The language is identical to language that was offered by former Transportation Committee member from the State of Washington, DAVE REICHERT, as an amendment to the bill in the 110th Congress. So we have no object to its inclusion once again.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HIMES. I thank my colleague and friend from New Jersey (Mr. LOBIONDO) and yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES).

The amendment was agreed to.

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

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HIMES) having assumed the chair, Mr. POLIS, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3619) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

#### 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.

#### ASTHMA IN AMERICA

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

Mr. KAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate having the opportunity to review with the Members of the House, and also with other people watching, one of the most important ailments of the country, and that is there is today an asthma epidemic all across these United States. The rate of asthma in terms of its incidence of morbidity and mortality has been increasing each and every year.

What we find here today is asthma in America has some numbers we all need to be aware of: 22 million people here in these United States suffer from symp-

toms of asthma. There are 4,000 deaths every year from people who have asthma that's totally out of control, under-medicated and undercared for. Too often today, patients will suffer from allergic reactions not just in the nose and the sinuses, which we call hay fever or allergic rhinitis, but also in the lungs, where we call it asthma, for asthma is nothing more than an allergic reaction within the lungs.

\$20 billion is what we spend every year treating and diagnosing this condition. We can and must do better. In terms of lost days of work, over 10 million days are lost because people are ill with their asthma symptoms, and 13 million school days are lost each and every year because children are under-diagnosed and undertreated with this important condition. We can and we must do better, and one way to do that is to guarantee that patients receive an accurate diagnosis.

Recently, in the health care debate here in the House, much attention has been paid to primary care or to the medical home model where every citizen in the country would have a primary care physician to go to to receive their medical care, not just for themselves, but for members of their family as well.

So how well are the primary care doctors doing when taking care of these asthma patients? In a number of double-blind crossover control studies, we find that asthma specialists have been delivering higher quality and lower costs to the care of these asthmatic patients. There has been a documented 95 percent reduction in hospitalization when taking patients once hospitalized with asthma and then following the patients, whether they are referred to primary care or to an asthma specialist. There has been a 95 percent reduction in hospitalization, a 77 percent reduction in visits to an emergency room, and a 77 percent reduction in days missed from work.

Clearly, the evidence reveals that specialty care for the diagnosis, treatment and management of this chronic and often fatal disease is best handled by those who are specialists in the area. These facts have to be considered as we consider legislation that would compress people and, not force people, but guide them into primary care versus specialty care.

Throughout the country, specialists and primary care physicians have been working hand in hand and need to collaborate and cooperate when caring for patients, not just with asthma, but with all sorts of medical ailments.

And now that we are on the subject of health care reform, there are three essential elements that must be in a piece of legislation to pass this House and the Senate and to be signed by the President. They include not only no discrimination against any citizen due to preexisting conditions, but also transparency in the medical marketplace where every entity, every individual or business entity, that offers