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No. 189

## 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,  
December 14, 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.

### THE REBUILDING AND RENEWING OF AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, this morning's New York Times had a column by John Harwood, entitled: Obama's Potential Quandary—Creating Jobs or Reducing the Deficit, which analyzed what is potentially a dilemma, but it doesn't have to be that way.

### NOTICE

If the 111th Congress, 1st Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 23, 2009, a final issue of the *Congressional Record* for the 111th Congress, 1st Session, will be published on Thursday, December 31, 2009, to permit Members to insert statements.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT-59 or S-123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Wednesday, December 30. The final issue will be dated Thursday, December 31, 2009, and will be delivered on Monday, January 4, 2010.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the *Congressional Record* may contain subject matter, or relate to any event, that occurred after the sine die date.

Senators' statements should also be formatted according to the instructions at [http://webster/secretary/cong\\_record.pdf](http://webster/secretary/cong_record.pdf), and submitted electronically, either on a disk to accompany the signed statement, or by e-mail to the Official Reporters of Debates at "Record@Sec.Senate.gov".

Members of the House of Representatives' statements may also be submitted electronically by e-mail, to accompany the signed statement, and formatted according to the instructions for the Extensions of Remarks template at <http://clerk.house.gov/forms>. The Official Reporters will transmit to GPO the template formatted electronic file only after receipt of, and authentication with, the hard copy, and signed manuscript. Deliver statements to the Official Reporters in Room HT-59.

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By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, *Chairman.*

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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The rebuilding and renewing of America should be one issue that actually brings us together, where there are solutions that are clear and complementary in terms of creating jobs, protecting the environment and reducing the budget deficit.

We have serious needs all across America for water and transportation investments in every single community. There are estimates that up to 20 million Americans every year are sick needlessly from waterborne illness because of failures in water systems. There are millions of hours and billions of dollars that are wasted as Americans and American businesses are stuck in traffic. There are tens of thousands of unsafe bridges. There are transit systems in desperate need of repair and revitalization.

What America needs, first and foremost, is a vision of investing in renewing and rebuilding America in this century. The plans for infrastructure for this century are available. As someone who has labored in this field for years, working around the country, I know that the vision is ready to be incorporated into the reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Act or in new water trust fund legislation, and it can be done not in years or in months but in a matter of weeks. This work is ready.

Next, we must commit to extracting more value out of existing and future investments. Luckily, here, too, reform is in the works. I have been deeply impressed with the work of Secretary Ray LaHood of Transportation, of Housing Secretary Shaun Donovan and of EPA administrator Lisa Jackson, where the Federal Government is in the process of creating a new partnership with our communities, businesses and families in terms of how the Federal Government does business and invests that money.

But even with bold vision and with more value being extracted, we actually are going to need to invest more money. The Chinese, for instance, are investing about nine times as much as the United States in their infrastructure needs. We are losing the race for global competitiveness while we see conditions deteriorating at home. The Society of Civil Engineers has graded American infrastructure at a D, and suggests that it requires at least \$2.2 trillion in the next 5 years to bring things up to standard.

If we act now, there are, in fact, areas of broad support for more investment—from business, local government and the American people—if this increased money goes to rebuild and renew our country.

There is a danger that our current direction will not be as effective as it could be. I am heartened that there appears to be a consensus that we will be spending, perhaps, \$50 billion or more in new infrastructure investment, but if this money is simply going to flow through existing channels with an imperative that it be spent as quickly as

possible, it is not going to have as much long-term impact as it would if we were to do it right.

Doing it right means a reauthorization of the 6-year Transportation bill with a national purpose and reform specified. It means the creation of a water trust fund to give money where it is needed. It is the reenactment of the Superfund tax so that polluters actually pay to clean up dangerous areas that are found in every single State. It would create tens of thousands of jobs while it would reduce environmental threats.

There are many contentious, complex and partisan issues that, understandably, divide Congress and the American people, but renewing and rebuilding America is not one of them. Done right, it will be deficit-neutral with a bold vision to revitalize the economy while strengthening our communities and protecting the planet. I hope we all start the new year with a commitment to invest in livable communities where our families are safer, healthier and more economically secure.

#### 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 37 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. RAHALL) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

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

Our conversation with You, Lord, is so often born out of passing needs and events but always rooted in faith and Your faithful love. Through our prayer, things often become clearer, we recover focus or You give us strength to persevere.

We are confident, Lord, You will provide in the way You see best. When our personal efforts are stymied or our collective means fail us, we begin to face our own limitations.

It then remains for us only to lift up our eyes to You so that You might respond to our deepest needs as You see best. It is then and only then we say with free abandonment, "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 Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia 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.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3288) "An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes."

#### CONGRATULATING A FEW OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAMS

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

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a few outstanding high school football teams for their efforts in the State playoffs. These tremendous athletes are an exemplification of true dedication and remarkable talent.

The teams being recognized in the 11th District of Georgia are as follows: Bremen High School in Haralson County; Bowdon High School, Carroll County; the Darlington School in Troup County; Trion High School in Chattooga County; Armuchee High School in Floyd County; Pepperell High School in Floyd County; Chattooga High School, Chattooga County; Calhoun High School in Gordon County; Carrollton High School, again, Carroll County; Hiram High School in Paulding County; McEachern High School in Cobb County; and last but not least, Marietta High School in Cobb County.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud these young men, their bands, their dance teams, their cheerleaders, for proving themselves such sound competitors in the State playoffs. I am certainly proud of them for their achievements.

Congratulations to all on a great season.

#### 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 2 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1604

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. PINGREE of Maine) at 4 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE  
EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4284) to extend the Generalized System of Preferences and the Andean Trade Preference Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4284

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

**SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.**

Section 505 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2465) is amended by striking “December 31, 2009” and inserting “December 31, 2010”.

**SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE ACT.**

(a) EXTENSION.—Section 208(a) of the Andean Trade Preference Act (19 U.S.C. 3206(a)) is amended in paragraphs (1) and (2) by striking “December 31, 2009” each place it appears and inserting “December 31, 2010”.

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN APPAREL ARTICLES.—Section 204(b)(3) of the Andean Trade Preference Act (19 U.S.C. 3203(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in clause (iii)—

(i) in subclause (II), by striking “7 succeeding 1-year periods” and inserting “8 succeeding 1-year periods”; and

(ii) in subclause (III)(bb), by striking “and for the succeeding 2-year period” and inserting “and for the succeeding 3-year period”; and

(B) in clause (v)(II), by striking “6 succeeding 1-year periods” and inserting “7 succeeding 1-year periods”; and

(2) in subparagraph (E)(ii)(II), by striking “December 31, 2009” and inserting “December 31, 2010”.

(c) REPORT.—Section 203(f)(1) of the Andean Trade Preference Act (19 U.S.C. 3202(f)(1)) is amended by striking “April 30, 2003” and inserting “June 30, 2010”.

**SEC. 3. CUSTOMS USER FEES.**

Section 13031(j)(3) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(j)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “February 14, 2018” and inserting “May 14, 2018”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “February 7, 2018” and inserting “June 7, 2018”.

**SEC. 4. TIME FOR PAYMENT OF CORPORATE ESTIMATED TAXES.**

The percentage under paragraph (1) of section 202(b) of the Corporate Estimated Tax Shift Act of 2009 in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act is increased by 1.5 percentage points.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

## GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4284. This bill extends two preference programs—the Generalized System of Preferences, known as GSP, and the Andean Trade Preference Act, known as ATPA—for 1 year. Without this extension, the two programs will expire in less than 3 weeks, on December 31.

Preferences, including GSP and ATPA, are important tools in U.S. trade policy. They are a means by which the U.S. can work with developing nations to help them capture the opportunities and to meet the challenges of trade and globalization.

Over many decades, the GSP and Andean programs have seen these results for developing nations: The GSP currently provides duty-free treatment to over 3,500 types of products coming into the U.S. from more than 130 developing countries. The program provides duty-free access to even more products from the 44 poorest, or least developed, countries. Last year, the GSP program facilitated \$31.7 billion in imports from all beneficiary nations. ATPA provided additional benefits to the Andean nations to help address their special circumstances, in particular, their efforts to fight the trade in narcotics. Under ATPA, imports grew from \$97 million in 1992, which was the first full year after enactment, to more than \$17 billion in 2008, including \$4 billion of nonfuel imports.

The programs have been crafted carefully so that they mirror the complementarities of trade between the developing nations and the United States. The needs of developing nations have been matched to the needs here at home. As a result, both programs have provided significant benefits here in the United States as well.

ATPA has developed an important market for U.S. textiles in the Andean region, and both ATPA and GSP have improved the sourcing options that many U.S. businesses, including many small and medium enterprises, use to remain competitive in the global mar-

ketplace. In recent years, for example, the majority of U.S. imports—75 percent—using GSP were imports used to sustain U.S. manufacturing, including raw materials, parts and components, and machinery and equipment.

At the same time that they have been structured to foster increased trade, the preference programs have been shaped to encourage developing countries to implement the kinds of policies that are necessary for increased trade to achieve the goal of development. Specifically, the preference programs have incorporated key eligibility criteria, including conditions regarding respect of fundamental worker rights, the rule of law, basic rules protecting innovation and investment, and policies to fight corruption.

The preference programs confirm what many of us have been saying for a long time—trade must be shaped so as to spread its benefits widely. That is true whether we talk about unilateral preference programs or bilateral and multilateral trade agreements.

I do not mean to suggest, however, that our work is done when it comes to preference programs. Far from it. We need to ask whether the preference programs are working as well as they should. This requires taking a hard look at all aspects of the programs, including how present eligibility criteria are working. In addition to considering any improvements, we also need to look at whether there is a need to include additional eligibility criteria, including relating to the environment.

This also means taking a careful look at those countries that are in an especially vulnerable situation. One example is Cambodia, which has been hard hit by the global economic recession. As many of my colleagues may recall, Cambodia and the U.S. were partners in a pioneering project called Better Factories Cambodia. That project, which grew out of the U.S.-Cambodia Textile Agreement in the late 1990s, sought to promote labor standards through a trade agreement at a time when many in the world were demonizing such efforts as protectionism. The effort bore fruit, significantly improving the rights of and conditions for workers, which, in turn, can help expand other freedoms.

However, that industry is now under siege as a result of the global recession and of competition, including from China and Vietnam. According to testimony provided in a recent Ways and Means hearing, nearly 1 quarter—80 of 340—of all exporting factories have been shut down, and nearly 80,000 workers—most of them women—have lost their jobs in Cambodia. We need to know whether the preference programs are doing enough to help these enormous challenges.

The extension we are voting on today gives us the time we need to look carefully at these important issues. The Ways and Means Committee and the

Trade Subcommittee plan to hold hearings and to work with the administration next year in a comprehensive review of our preference programs. Today's bill also provides for a review, in the middle of next year, of the Andean Trade Preference Act and of all issues relating thereto with each of the countries covered by the act.

I want to take a moment to thank my Republican colleagues for working on this extension with Chairman RANGEL and me. I look forward to working with Ranking Members DAVID CAMP and KEVIN BRADY and with our other colleagues on both sides of the aisle to evaluate the preference programs over the course of next year as we together determine whether we can make them work better for all beneficiaries—for both the citizens of developing nations and for our citizens.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, let me be blunt. We can and should be doing much more to advance our trade agenda and to create much needed jobs for American workers.

This year, America's trade agenda has stalled, and it has had a chilling effect on our economy, on job creation and on global commerce, in some cases, even weakening our national security interests. The delay in considering the Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement alone has cost U.S. exporters and their workers over \$2.4 billion in unnecessary tariffs.

Last week, the President said there would be a renewed focus on trade next year. I welcome that commitment, and I stand ready to prepare our free trade agreements for congressional consideration. In the meantime, we still have valuable work to do. Although we are not dealing with any of our pending free trade agreements today, we are considering important trade programs which protect our own interests and which help advance developing nations—extensions of the Generalized System of Preferences and the Andean Trade Preference Act.

Make no mistake; the legislation before us is far from perfect, but it is a chance to ensure that the trade agenda does not slide further backward. By supporting this bill, we are sending a signal to the world that America is ready and willing to engage.

I am a strong supporter of our trade preference programs. These programs are vital, particularly as we struggle with the global recession and with the collapse in international trade. Allowing these preference programs to lapse would be a mistake that would encourage the rest of the world, which is already passing us by when it comes to new trade agreements, to increase their lead on us, and we cannot allow that to happen.

□ 1615

As I noted, this legislation should have been stronger to provide greater

certainty to American employers doing business in developing countries, something sorely needed in this economic climate.

I would have preferred to see a 2-year extension of that program instead of the 1-year extension before us, but I think we all agree that a 1-year extension is better than no extension at all.

I would also have preferred to see a continuation of the bipartisan provision in the current Andean Trade Promotion Act program that requires enhanced oversight over Ecuador's compliance with the eligibility criteria. Unfortunately, this legislation fails to recognize the serious questions that surround Ecuador's compliance with the eligibility criteria for this program.

The 2008 bipartisan extension of ATPA extended benefits for Ecuador but required the administration to issue a report on Ecuador's compliance with eligibility criteria. This report, released on June 30 of this year by the Obama administration, highlighted multiple concerns, which I share.

Specifically, the report raised questions about Ecuador's compliance with its international investment obligations. The report raised concerns about Ecuador's decision to increase certain import duties above their bound levels and impose quotas on imports. None of these issues have been resolved. In fact, they have gotten worse.

Despite failure by Ecuador to address the issues raised in the Obama administration report, the majority has inexplicably stripped out last year's reporting requirement. For all the talk from the other side about enforcement and compliance, this legislation fails to address legitimate concerns our workers and employers face in Ecuador. While the legislation requires reporting for all of the Andean countries, I am disappointed that the majority has decided not to engage in specific oversight of a country clearly falling short of our expectations.

As 2009 comes to a close, there will be many retrospectives on the year. One focus ought to be on whether Washington advanced a pro-growth, pro-job trade agenda. The answer is clearly "no."

We started the year with the passage of a new Trade Adjustment Assistance program, showing what can be achieved when there is a bipartisan, bicameral commitment. We should all be very proud of what we have done for workers who are trying to adjust to the global economy.

But until today, there has been absolutely no positive movement on the trade agenda since TAA. While I am encouraged the majority decided to extend two trade preference programs, the failure to make this legislation as robust as it could have been shows the need to return next year to the sort of bipartisanship that we saw on TAA. I urge the majority to make that happen, and I am committed to doing my part.

Madam Speaker, we owe the American people a better result. Today's legislation gives us the first opportunity to build on the President's words to us at the White House last week, in which he acknowledged the importance of trade in creating jobs, but it represents the bare minimum.

I urge my colleagues to support a robust trade agenda that creates opportunities for American workers. For that reason, I support passage of this legislation.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. I now am privileged to yield 3 minutes to the very distinguished member of the committee and my colleague, Jim McDermott of Washington.

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge the passage of H.R. 4284 to extend the general system of preferences and the Andean trade preference program for 1 year. I have called for an extension to our preference programs in the past. We need to make these programs long and stable. This extension is only for a year, and that's okay in this instance, because we need to force more action on broader preference reform.

In difficult economic times like today, developed countries sometimes decide to pull back. But I think that in a globalized economy we need to push forward on improving trade with poorer countries of the world.

Our preference programs have done enormous good for the poor of the world and for American business. Now we need to make them even better.

For development to really accelerate, we need to get more countries involved in trading more products. I have introduced a bill with the support of Chairman RANGEL and Congressman LEVIN that will go far in modernizing our preference programs for American businesses and the poor of the world.

Now, while there are details to work out, there is broad agreement that our trade programs need to be stable, they need to be simplified, they need to be more effective, and they need to help more people.

I think we agree that the stability of our programs is essential to them being effective. No one who has ever run a business would want to invest in a climate that is so unstable, that goes year by year, you are never sure can you plan on it next year. That simply is very difficult for businesses to deal with, and our programs, therefore, need to be long term.

Second, our programs are too complicated and too hard to use. Simplifying our programs and doing more to help our partners meet the important standards we set are keys to their success.

An interesting fact sort of clarifies it in your mind. Cambodia pays as much tariff on \$1.5 billion worth of exports in

the United States as does Great Britain on \$50 billion. Now, if you are trying to help Cambodia, you ought to think about those kinds of numbers. We need to address the capacity building. We all know that the wisdom of trade, not aid, is obvious. Preferences help our trading partners quite a bit. But without thoughtful capacity building, we can only help them so much. We need to pool these efforts together to help poor countries grow and to give American businesses more customers.

Finally, we need to find a way to strengthen the programs we have while at the same time helping more people. Trade is not a zero-sum game. We can strengthen our current programs while also helping other desperately poor countries who right now get no benefits. We can help different countries like Lesotho, the Philippines, and Cambodia at the same time.

I think this is a good start, and the House ought to pass this bill, and next year we will deal with a larger bill.

Mr. CAMP. At this time, Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. REICHERT).

Mr. REICHERT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today also in support of this legislation to extend our trade preference programs.

Trade is vital to creating jobs, growing our economy, and strengthening ties with key partners around the world. Preferences are a bridge for developing countries to enter the global market, to grow, and to achieve permanent trade relationships with America.

Look no further than South Korea and Colombia for great examples of preferences done right. Through successful preference programs, both allies now stand ready to enter into permanent trade agreements with the United States.

The failure to pass pending free trade agreements like those with Korea and Colombia is costing America thousands of jobs and billions of dollars. President Obama did recently speak about how growing exports creates jobs, and I hope the Congress will soon prepare these agreements for consideration, because not only do these agreements create jobs, but also business relationships and partnerships and friendships.

It creates opportunities for cultural exchanges and the opportunities to help our friends across the globe educate each other and educate us. It also even affects our national security and our environment.

While I am disappointed that we could not extend these preference programs beyond just 1 year, they are too important to our partner countries to let them expire. I urge all of my colleagues to support this extension of our preference programs.

Mr. LEVIN. It's now my privilege to yield 3 minutes to my very distinguished colleague and member of the Ways and Means Committee from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in permitting me to speak on this, as I appreciate his thoughtful leadership in this area of trade and balancing the commitments that we have.

The extension of the system of preferences was not merely related to trade but is reflective of a Nation's social values. It was in that context that we inaugurated our program of preferences in 1974.

It's more than a trade agreement; it's a statement about what policies we find valuable in our trading partners and which policies we feel drive the development of nations. For this reason, it's often referred to as a tool of foreign policy as well as trade.

We appropriately judge our trading partners on eligibility for this program on protection of American commercial interests, protection of intellectual property, preventing the seizure of property belonging to United States citizens or businesses, as well as protection of individual rights such as the protection of commonly accepted labor rights and the elimination of child labor.

Madam Speaker, the United States has, I think, at times fallen short in our dealing with tariff barriers for poor nations and agriculture. My friend from Washington referenced the difference between Cambodia and Great Britain.

I am hopeful that we will be able to work in the year ahead dealing with some outmoded tariff dealing with footwear and outerwear that's no longer even manufactured in the United States, and I am confident that we can work through in this approach.

But I would hope, as we move forward, that we would add to the list of the criteria by which we are going to judge the extension of these preferences environmental criteria. They are noticeably absent as we go through the list currently.

Making sure that agreements are required of our trading partners to enforce environmental laws already on the books and comply with various international environmental agreements, I think, is absolutely essential.

Concern for the environment is a core element of development. It reflects an appreciation of civil law for protection of individual and often indigenous people's rights and concern for the long-term sustainability of a state and society. Protection of the environment is not merely what rich nations do after they become wealthy, but it is what nations must do as they become wealthy.

Madam Speaker, at this moment the world is meeting in Copenhagen, and I am pleased the United States has not turned its back on these global climate negotiations. We are dealing with problems of energy demands and carbon pollution that may well be the most important for this century.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. These may be the most important discussions that we are going to have on the survival of human habitation as we know it, for the economies of countries rich and poor.

Being able to deal meaningfully with environmental protections through trade negotiations is perhaps the single most effective way that we are going to be able to establish a basis, a criteria, moving forward.

I hope that we will be able to have a more robust conversation in this next year. I hope that we will be successful in moving the world and this country forward in Copenhagen. I hope that as we move forward we can work together to strengthen the role of environmental protections that will be found as we extend these preferences in the future and our overall approach to trade.

Mr. CAMP. At this time, Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, here we go again. Another year, another Andean trade preference extension, another year of the Colombian trade agreement held up. Another missed opportunity.

Let's be clear: The Colombia agreement, which the majority is not moving, would be a job creator for Americans. If we passed it, Colombian tariffs, the tariffs that they place on U.S. exports, would be cut. If you reduced that export tariff, it would create more jobs here in the United States.

With the Colombia FTA, we could get two-way trade between the United States and Colombia. Right now, U.S. exporters sending to Colombia are mainly small- and medium-sized businesses. A lot of them are in my area in Southern California. They are our economic engine.

Let's help them. It's very ironic that many who routinely attack trade agreements are giving Colombia preferential treatment here today, asking for nothing in return, which is especially galling when there is a good agreement sitting on ice which would help our exporters in that market.

□ 1630

I think it's time to stand up for the American worker; certainly past time to get an agreement that's a two-way agreement here.

Of course, Colombia is our closest partner in an important region. It is locked in a very deadly struggle with well-financed forces, in this case terrorists and drug traffickers that are called the FARC. This bill today is better than nothing, but the majority is missing a good opportunity, an opportunity to help a friend in Colombia and to help American workers by passing the Colombia FTA.

This bill has another shortcoming that I wanted to speak on briefly, and that is Ecuador. A beneficiary, Ecuador is far, far from living up to this program's conditions. To be a beneficiary

of this agreement, there should be certain requirements. Yet it hasn't been cooperative in combating narco-terrorism, and Ecuador is very close to the FARC, which is warring against the Colombian Government. Its independent media has come under government attack. Its government has corrupted its legal system, harming U.S. companies.

Just to go into some of the specifics, the President of Ecuador, President Correa, has dissolved the Parliament there, the Congress. He has replaced all the judges in the country. He's censored the media and seized control of the television stations there. The State Department's 2009 human rights report cites concerns with what the State Department calls corruption and the denial of due process within Ecuador's judicial system. Transparency International ranked this country as one of the worst surveyed for 2008 in terms of its corruption perceptions index, one of the worst in corruption. And it has announced that it will withdraw from its bilateral investment treaty with the United States.

This bill frankly would be better without Ecuador. Instead, the majority rejected using these benefits as leverage. I think that's also a missed opportunity. Rejecting this bill would hurt Colombia and our strategic interests there, so let's pass it; but it should be noted that we should have done so much better for American jobs.

Mr. LEVIN. I now yield 3 minutes to my very distinguished colleague and friend, Mr. DOGGETT of Texas.

Mr. DOGGETT. I thank the gentleman and I thank him for his leadership.

I certainly support more trade—where it most stands to benefit American consumers and to spur economic development in some of the world's least developed countries. During the last 2 years, there has been considerable talk about crafting a 21st century American trade policy that ensures we are not encouraging trade that depends upon degrading our environment and lowering labor standards. Unfortunately, talk is often about all that we've had. Upholding labor and environmental standards has been much more rhetoric than reality. Today's renewal of this GSP legislation does nothing to encourage participating countries to even enforce their own minimal environmental laws or to honor the multilateral environmental agreements that they have joined.

This is in significant contrast with the European Union. There, in order to enjoy the benefits of its GSP Plus program, beneficiary countries must fully implement major multilateral environmental agreements. There's no reason why we should not be doing the same and more. We should have led the European Union on the environment, but we can now at least follow its lead.

There are GSP labor standards, but under the Bush administration, naturally, there was very little interest in

seeing them enforced. Why, for example, should the thuggish government of Uzbekistan enjoy any trade preferences? In addition to being one of the world's leading violators of human rights across the board, we have ample evidence of widespread labor abuses within Uzbekistan, including compulsory child labor. For over 2 years, the USTR has failed to act on a related petition about child labor, even after the Uzbeks failed to appear at a hearing to defend or explain their egregious child labor record.

This raises troubling questions about the integrity and effectiveness of the USTR review process. The Uzbek case is but one example of the significant problems with that enforcement mechanism of labor provisions in the GSP. Surely our trade policies here in the 21st century can aspire to do more than to bless practices that come right out of a 19th century Charles Dickens novel.

In the promised GSP review for this next year, as described by Chairman LEVIN, I think we have considerable work to do if we are to give full and complete meaning to the promises of President Barack Obama that our trade policy will reflect not only our desire for more commerce but our commitment to uphold our environment and our workers.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the ranking member of the Trade Subcommittee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I have long been a supporter of our preference programs because they allow valuable inputs to enter the United States duty free, helping our manufacturers and their employees. At the same time, trade preference programs are an important tool to help developing countries break into the international market. Over many years, Congress has worked on a bipartisan basis to develop trade preference programs that have provided a vital economic boost to many developing countries.

But effective trade preferences are just one step on a developing country's journey to becoming a full player in the international market, which a country achieves through a permanent, reciprocal trade agreement with the United States. Chile, Singapore and the CAFTA countries all graduated from trade preferences into these more mature relationships, giving them full, permanent duty-free access to the U.S. market. This is a significant benefit over the partial, temporary access provided by our preference programs, sending a strong signal that helps attract necessary investment and capital into the partner country.

For the United States, the benefits of reciprocal trade are obvious. American workers and businesses get a level playing field as a result of these countries opening their markets to U.S. exports. As a result, U.S. exports to these countries surge and those growing ex-

ports support American jobs. We can quickly realize similar benefits by implementing the pending trade agreements with Colombia and Panama, two more countries that are anxious to move from a one-way relationship to one that levels the playing field for American workers. I am frustrated to once again be faced with extending preferences for these countries instead of voting on a more permanent relationship that benefits all of us.

Now there are many countries that aren't yet ready to take the step from preferences to a free trade relationship, and for these countries effective trade preference programs are the right policy. To that end, we must design our preference programs with eligibility criteria that challenge countries to improve their laws while encouraging investment. The current eligibility criteria provide the right balance, allowing the U.S. on many occasions to use these criteria to prompt improvements in conditions in several countries and further economic development.

At the same time, when a country does not abide by the criteria in the preference programs, we must take notice and even eliminate benefits if necessary. Otherwise, the effectiveness of the criteria is undermined.

In this regard, I have been watching the situation in Ecuador for several years, and I'm deeply troubled by what I am seeing. When Congress last extended ATPA in 2008, we added an additional statutory review requirement for Bolivia and Ecuador because of our concerns about their compliance with the eligibility criteria. This past June the Obama administration completed this review. The administration found that Bolivia was not complying with the eligibility criteria in the ATPA program, which is why Bolivia is no longer eligible for benefits. The administration also noted several serious concerns about Ecuador. In particular, the administration cited Ecuador's withdrawal from the International Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes and Ecuador's unilateral decision to raise many of its tariffs to levels above its WTO bindings.

Since the administration's report, there have been further troubling developments in Ecuador. The country has announced that it will withdraw from its bilateral investment treaty with the United States, and the investment climate continues to cause concern. In addition, President Correa has made questionable statements with regard to Ecuador's respect for intellectual property rights. Moreover, negotiations to replace U.S. access to the Manta air base are still unresolved. Together with many other Members, I remain extremely concerned about the situation in Ecuador.

Therefore, I am disappointed that the bill before us today does not retain the requirement in current law that the President report to Congress on the situation in Ecuador. I believe that this

report provides us an opportunity to keep a careful eye on Ecuador and its compliance with the eligibility criteria. But just as important is the fact that the reporting requirement is enormously important as a signal to Ecuador—a message that this Congress is watching Ecuador closely.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CAMP. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I thank the gentleman from Michigan.

In addition, I am disappointed that today's bill doesn't do more to establish certainty for users of the program here and abroad through an extension that is longer than a mere year. I and Mr. CAMP have been seeking a 2-year extension.

Madam Speaker, I support this bill because I don't want the remaining preferences to lapse, but we can and should do better.

Mr. LEVIN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I urge my colleagues to support the Andean Trade Preference Extension Act of 2009, which will extend the Andean trade preferences, as we know as ATPA, and also the Generalized System of Preferences, we also refer to as GSP, for an additional year. However, I do think it's important to note my disappointment that we did not put a message specifically putting Ecuador on notice that its behavior and its receipt of continued benefits is at serious risk. There is a deteriorating investment climate in Ecuador as well as their repudiation of the bilateral investment treaty. I think it's very important that while it is understood in this legislation that there is language maintaining a review, I am concerned that there is not specific language aimed at challenging Ecuador's actions. I do think this is a change from current law and it's a step backward. I think it's important to send a strong message that any central tenet of a preference program is that the participants uphold their commitments to the rule of law as well as their commitments to the U.S. on investment and other matters.

So as a result of this, I believe preference programs should not be viewed as an entitlement; that they are based upon meeting certain criteria as I mentioned, particularly, as others have said, the observance of labor and environmental laws, certainly actions to prevent the distortion of investment as well as the support and enforcement of intellectual property laws as well as reasonable access to markets.

However, I do think despite these concerns, this legislation is extremely important. It is essential that we extend this for another year. I think that this is an important step to take, and I will support its passage. I look forward to working with the administration as well as my colleagues on the

Ways and Means Committee, Chairman RANGEL and Chairman LEVIN, as we continue to address trade issues in the coming year.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4284, which would extend the Andean Trade Preferences Act, ATPA, and the Generalized System of Preferences, GSP, for an additional year. I would like to thank Chairman RANGEL for his leadership on this issue and for bringing this bill to the floor. It is critically important that we extend these trade preferences before they expire at the end of this calendar year. We have seen in the past the damage that a short lapse can do to cross border business relationships.

The trade preferences we seek to extend benefit both the United States and our South American trading partners. These preferences support economic growth both here in the United States and abroad in some of the poorest countries in the world. Almost 2 million jobs in the United States and the Andean region depend on ATPA preferences and the region has emerged an important market for U.S. exports. Because use of the programs is conditioned through eligibility criteria, such as labor, human rights, and intellectual property, the United States is able to advance both important economic and foreign policy goals.

I therefore urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 4284.

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4284, the Andean Trade Preference Extension Act of 2009 (ATPA), which would extend both the General System of Preferences (GSP) and the Andean Trade Preferences for one year.

It is important to extend these preference programs, which assist developing countries in their efforts to build up domestic industries, increase exports, and alleviate poverty. In some cases, these programs have worked well. South Korea, Singapore, and other nations have graduated from the GSP program, and no longer qualify for these special trade benefits.

Failure to extend these preferences would put even more pressure on impoverished populations in developing nations.

Make no mistake, my support for this extension is not an unqualified endorsement of their current structure. To be sure, our preferences programs need improvement.

One key improvement that is desperately needed is to change the prevailing view that trade preferences are a development strategy. Instead, we must recognize that trade preferences are only part of a comprehensive development strategy, which must also include investments in education, training, and infrastructure, as well as a consideration of targeted debt relief.

In addition, our preferences programs currently have inadequately-enforced labor standards and no environmental standards whatsoever.

The rationale for linking trade and labor rights is vital to avoiding a "race to the bottom." For American working families, we need to ensure that developing countries attract investment based on a competitive wage advantage, not by artificially suppressing wages through labor repression. For working families in developing countries, the opportunity to bargain collectively for better wages and working conditions will ensure that some of the bene-

fits of trade go to them, not just to multi-national corporations.

This one-year extension will give us the time we need to reform existing programs without disrupting the fragile economies of the lesser-developed nations that our preferences programs are designed to help.

Finally, I want to address the issue of Ecuador in particular. Unfortunately, it has come to my attention that Chevron Corporation has been urging Members of Congress and the Administration to punish Ecuador because its government refuses to intervene in a private lawsuit against the oil giant. The plaintiffs in the lawsuit contend that the company is responsible for polluting a vast area of the Amazon Basin, causing serious health and environmental consequences.

While I take no position on the lawsuit, I do believe that the plaintiffs should have their day in court. I also believe that, of all the legitimate reasons to oppose the U.S. trade preferences programs, doing the bidding of a single corporation is not one of them.

As the editors of the Los Angeles Times wrote in a recent editorial, "There are other factors for Congress to consider in determining whether to extend Ecuador's trade preferences: workers' rights and trade and investment policy also are important. And there are issues that remain to be negotiated between the two countries. But in each of these areas, Ecuador has demonstrated a willingness to work with the U.S. That should be the test for an extension of trade benefits, not the private interests of one corporation."

To reiterate, while our trade preferences programs are not perfect, extending them for one year is vital, and I strongly support this legislation.

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

Mr. LEVIN. I urge passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4284.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 303) to reauthorize and improve the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2009".

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.  
 Sec. 2. Reauthorization.  
 Sec. 3. Website relating to Federal grants.  
 Sec. 4. Report on implementation.  
 Sec. 5. Strategic plan.  
 Sec. 6. Data standard requirements.

## SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 11 of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “and sunset”; and

(2) by striking “and shall cease to be effective 8 years after such date of enactment”.

## SEC. 3. WEBSITE RELATING TO FEDERAL GRANTS.

Section 6 of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (g) and (h), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsections:

“(e) WEBSITE RELATING TO FEDERAL GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish and maintain a public website that serves as a central point of information and access for applicants for Federal grants.

“(2) CONTENTS.—To the maximum extent possible, the website established under this subsection shall include, at a minimum, for each Federal grant—

“(A) the grant announcement;

“(B) the statement of eligibility relating to the grant;

“(C) the application requirements for the grant;

“(D) the purposes of the grant;

“(E) the Federal agency funding the grant;

“(F) the deadlines for applying for and awarding of the grant.

“(G) all applications received for the grant, set forth in the single data standard adopted under section 9(b); and

“(H) all reports relating to the use of the grant, set forth in the single data standard adopted under section 9(b).

“(3) USE BY APPLICANTS.—The website established under this subsection shall, to the greatest extent practicable, allow grant applicants to—

“(A) use the website with any computer platform;

“(B) search the website for all Federal grants by type, purpose, funding agency, program source, and other relevant criteria;

“(C) apply for a Federal grant using the website;

“(D) manage, track, and report on the use of Federal grants using the website; and

“(E) provide all required certifications and assurances for a Federal grant using the website.

“(4) USE BY THE PUBLIC.—The website established under this subsection shall, to the greatest extent practicable, allow members of the public to—

“(A) view the items described in paragraph (2);

“(B) navigate easily among and between the items described in paragraph (2) and other supporting materials;

“(C) download grant applications and reports, in the single data standard adopted under section 9, individually or as a single data set; and

“(D) access individual grant applications and reports at web addresses that are distinct, permanent, unique, and searchable.

“(f) PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring the publication of information otherwise exempt under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (popularly referred to as the ‘Freedom of Information Act.’); and

(3) in subsection (h), as so redesignated, by striking “All actions” and inserting “Except

for actions relating to establishing the website required under subsection (e), all actions”.

## SEC. 4. REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.

The Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended by striking section 7 and inserting the following:

### “SEC. 7. EVALUATION OF IMPLEMENTATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 9 months after the date of the enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2009, and every 2 years thereafter until the date that is 15 years after the date of the enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2009, the Director shall submit to Congress a report regarding the implementation of this Act.

“(b) CONTENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include, for the applicable period—

“(A) a list of all grants for which an applicant may submit an application using the website established under section 6(e);

“(B) a list of all Federal agencies that provide Federal financial assistance to non-Federal entities;

“(C) a list of each Federal agency that has complied, in whole or in part, with the requirements of this Act;

“(D) for each Federal agency listed under subparagraph (C), a description of the extent of the compliance with this Act by the Federal agency;

“(E) a list of all Federal agencies exempted under section 6(d);

“(F) for each Federal agency listed under subparagraph (E)—

“(i) an explanation of why the Federal agency was exempted; and

“(ii) a certification that the basis for the exemption of the Federal agency is still applicable;

“(G) a list of all common application forms that have been developed that allow non-Federal entities to apply, in whole or in part, for multiple Federal financial assistance programs (including Federal financial assistance programs administered by different Federal agencies) through a single common application;

“(H) a list of all common forms and requirements that have been developed that allow non-Federal entities to report, in whole or in part, on the use of funding from multiple Federal financial assistance programs (including Federal financial assistance programs administered by different Federal agencies);

“(I) a description of the efforts made by the Director and Federal agencies to communicate and collaborate with representatives of non-Federal entities during the implementation of the requirements under this Act;

“(J) a description of the efforts made by the Director to work with Federal agencies to meet the goals of this Act, including a description of working groups or other structures used to coordinate Federal efforts to meet the goals of this Act; and

“(K) identification and description of all systems being used to disburse Federal financial assistance to non-Federal entities.

“(2) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—The second report submitted under subsection (a), and each subsequent report submitted under subsection (a), shall include—

“(A) a discussion of the progress made by the Federal Government in meeting the goals of this Act, including the amendments made by the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2009, and in implementing the strategic plan submitted under section 8, including an evaluation of the progress of each Federal agency

that has not received an exemption under section 6(d) towards implementing the strategic plan; and

“(B) a compilation of the reports submitted under section 8(c)(3) during the applicable period.

“(c) DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE PERIOD.—In this section, the term ‘applicable period’ means—

“(1) for the first report submitted under subsection (a), the most recent full fiscal year before the date of the report; and

“(2) for the second report submitted under subsection (a), and each subsequent report submitted under subsection (a), the period beginning on the date on which the most recent report under subsection (a) was submitted and ending on the date of the report.”.

## SEC. 5. STRATEGIC PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is further amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 8, 9, 10, and 11 as sections 9, 10, 11, and 12, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 7, as amended by this Act, the following new section:

### “SEC. 8. STRATEGIC PLAN.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2009, the Director shall submit to Congress a strategic plan that—

“(1) identifies Federal financial assistance programs that are suitable for common applications based on the common or similar purposes of the Federal financial assistance;

“(2) identifies Federal financial assistance programs that are suitable for common reporting forms or requirements based on the common or similar purposes of the Federal financial assistance;

“(3) identifies common aspects of multiple Federal financial assistance programs that are suitable for common application or reporting forms or requirements;

“(4) identifies changes in law, if any, needed to achieve the goals of this Act; and

“(5) provides plans, timelines, and cost estimates for—

“(A) developing an entirely electronic, web-based process for managing Federal financial assistance, including the ability to—

“(i) apply for Federal financial assistance;

“(ii) track the status of applications for and payments of Federal financial assistance;

“(iii) report on the use of Federal financial assistance, including how such use has been in furtherance of the objectives or purposes of the Federal financial assistance; and

“(iv) provide required certifications and assurances;

“(B) ensuring full compliance by Federal agencies with the requirements of this Act, including the amendments made by the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2009;

“(C) creating common applications for the Federal financial assistance programs identified under paragraph (1), regardless of whether the Federal financial assistance programs are administered by different Federal agencies;

“(D) establishing common financial and performance reporting forms and requirements for the Federal financial assistance programs identified under paragraph (2), regardless of whether the Federal financial assistance programs are administered by different Federal agencies;

“(E) establishing common applications and financial and performance reporting forms and requirements for aspects of the Federal financial assistance programs identified

under paragraph (3), regardless of whether the Federal financial assistance programs are administered by different Federal agencies;

“(F) developing mechanisms to ensure compatibility between Federal financial assistance administration systems and State systems to facilitate the importing and exporting of data;

“(G) developing common certifications and assurances, as appropriate, for all Federal financial assistance programs that have common or similar purposes, regardless of whether the Federal financial assistance programs are administered by different Federal agencies;

“(H) minimizing the number of different systems used to disburse Federal financial assistance; and

“(I) applying the single data standard adopted under section 9 to Federal grants and grant applications.

“(b) CONSULTATION.—In developing and implementing the strategic plan under subsection (a), the Director shall consult with representatives of non-Federal entities and Federal agencies that have not received an exemption under section 6(d).

“(c) FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date on which the Director submits the strategic plan under subsection (a), the head of each Federal agency that has not received an exemption under section 6(d) shall develop a plan that describes how the Federal agency will carry out the responsibilities of the Federal agency under the strategic plan, which shall include—

“(A) clear performance objectives and timelines for action by the Federal agency in furtherance of the strategic plan; and

“(B) the identification of measures to improve communication and collaboration with representatives of non-Federal entities on an on-going basis during the implementation of this Act.

“(2) CONSULTATION.—The head of each Federal agency that has not received an exemption under section 6(d) shall consult with representatives of non-Federal entities during the development and implementation of the plan of the Federal agency developed under paragraph (1).

“(3) REPORTING.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the head of a Federal agency that has not received an exemption under section 6(d) develops the plan under paragraph (1), and every 2 years thereafter until the date that is 15 years after the date of the enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2009, the head of the Federal agency shall submit to the Director a report regarding the progress of the Federal agency in achieving the objectives of the plan of the Federal agency developed under paragraph (1).”

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5(d) of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended by inserting “, until the date on which the Federal agency submits the first report by the Federal agency required under section 8(c)(3)” after “subsection (a)(7)”.

#### SEC. 6. DATA STANDARD REQUIREMENTS.

(a) DATA STANDARD REQUIREMENTS.—The Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is further amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 9, 10, 11, and 12 as sections 10, 11, 12, and 13, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 8, as added by this Act, the following new section:

#### “SEC. 9. DATA STANDARD REQUIREMENTS.

“(a) DATA STANDARD REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall adopt a

single data standard for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of business and financial information for use by private sector entities in accordance with subsection (b) for information required to be reported to the Federal Government, and a single data standard for use by agencies within the Federal Government in accordance with subsection (c) for Federal financial information.

“(2) CHARACTERISTICS OF DATA STANDARDS.—The single data standards required by paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) be common across all agencies, to the maximum extent practicable;

“(B) be a widely accepted, non-proprietary, searchable, computer-readable format for business and financial data;

“(C) be consistent with and implement—

“(i) United States generally accepted accounting principles or Federal financial accounting standards (as appropriate);

“(ii) industry best practices; and

“(iii) Federal regulatory requirements;

“(D) improve the transparency, consistency, and usability of business and financial information; and

“(E) be capable of being continually upgraded to be of maximum use as technologies and content evolve over time.

“(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF SINGLE DATA STANDARD FOR PRIVATE SECTOR.—

“(1) OMB GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2009, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue guidance to agencies on the use and implementation of the single data standard required by subsection (a) for information required to be reported to agencies by the private sector.

“(2) AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) REQUIREMENT.—To the maximum extent practicable and consistent with the guidance provided by the Office of Management and Budget under paragraph (1), the head of each agency shall require the use of the single data standard required by subsection (a) for business and financial information reported to the agency by private sector companies.

“(B) IMPLEMENTATION.—The head of the agency shall begin implementing the requirement of subparagraph (A) within one year after the date of the enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2009.

“(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF SINGLE DATA STANDARD FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—

“(1) OMB DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2009, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall develop the single data standard required by subsection (a) for use by agencies within the Federal Government for Federal financial information.

“(2) OMB GUIDANCE.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2009, the Director shall issue guidance to agencies on the use and implementation of the single data standard developed under paragraph (1).

“(d) PUBLIC ACCESS TO DATA.—The head of each agency shall ensure that information collected using the single data standards required under this section is accessible to the general public in that format to the extent permitted by law.

“(e) REPORT.—Within one year after the date of the enactment of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2009, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and

the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the status of the implementation of this section.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ means any executive department, military department, Government corporation, Government controlled corporation, independent establishment, or other establishment in the executive branch of the Government (including the Executive Office of the President), or any independent regulatory agency, but does not include—

“(A) the Government Accountability Office;

“(B) the Federal Election Commission;

“(C) the governments of the District of Columbia and of the territories and possessions of the United States, and their various subdivisions; or

“(D) Government-owned contractor-operated facilities, including laboratories engaged in national defense research and production activities.

“(2) EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, MILITARY DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT CORPORATION, GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED CORPORATION, INDEPENDENT ESTABLISHMENT.—The terms ‘Executive department’, ‘military department’, ‘Government corporation’, ‘Government controlled corporation’, and ‘independent establishment’ have the meanings given those terms by chapter 1 of title 5, United States Code.

“(3) INDEPENDENT REGULATORY AGENCY.—The term ‘independent regulatory agency’ has the meaning given that term by section 3502(5) of title 44, United States Code.”

(b) REQUIREMENT FOR USE OF SINGLE DATA STANDARD BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Section 5 of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) SINGLE DATA STANDARD REQUIREMENT.—To the maximum extent practicable and consistent with the guidance provided by the Director under section 9, each Federal agency shall require the use of the single data standard adopted under section 9(b) for—

“(1) all applications for Federal financial assistance; and

“(2) all reports on the use of Federal financial assistance that the agency requires non-Federal entities to submit.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) 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 and to add any extraneous materials.

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 Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and Chairman ED TOWNS, I am proud to present S. 303, the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 2009, for consideration.

□ 1645

Senate 303 was introduced by Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH of Ohio on January 22, 2009, and passed by the United States Senate on March 17, 2009, by unanimous consent. The legislation was subsequently referred to the House Oversight Committee on March 18, 2009, and approved with a manager's amendment on December 10, 2009, by voice vote.

Madam Speaker, the legislation will reauthorize and enhance the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999. Specifically, Senate 303 reauthorizes and makes significant enhancements to the Web site, [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), which serves as a central location for grant applicants to search and apply for Federal grants, as well as to submit the necessary financial reports. The Web site is a one-stop-shop for grant recipients, alleviating much of the paperwork burden that has traditionally been associated with the grant application process and allowing recipients to focus their attention on serving the American public.

In addition to reauthorizing the [grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) Web site, Senate 303 directs the Office of Management and Budget to improve the administration of Federal grants and submit corresponding reports to Congress on its progress towards this end.

I'd also like to note that the gentleman from California, Representative DARRELL ISSA, and the ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform joined Chairman TOWNS in offering a manager's amendment to this legislation during our committee business meeting last week.

The amendment makes a number of important technical changes to the bill. Specifically, it incorporates the provisions of H.R. 2392, the Government Information Transparency Act, legislation directing the Office of Management and Budget to adopt a single data standard for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of business and financial information. The standard must be common across all Federal agencies and make the data widely available to the public.

This standard will also be applied to the data on Federal grants, making it easier to evaluate the use of grant funds. This will make Federal financial information much more accessible to the public, thereby improving the transparency of this data and allowing the public to analyze it more easily. It will also improve the availability and interoperability of financial data reported to the government by the private sector, addressing concerns that the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform raised in their hearings earlier this year.

Madam Speaker, Senate 303 will help strengthen a great resource for Federal grant recipients as well as improve the public's access to important financial data.

I'd like to close my statement by thanking Chairman ED TOWNS, the gen-

tleman from Brooklyn, New York, and Ranking Member DARRELL ISSA, the gentleman from California, for their work on this measure, and I urge my colleagues to join both of those gentlemen in supporting S. 303.

And I reserve the balance of our time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this bill will bring some much-needed transparency to the Federal Government. Senate 303 reauthorizes and improves the Federal Financial Assistance Management Act of 1999, which sought to simplify the application and reporting requirements for Federal grants. It requires the OMB and Federal agencies to develop a strategic plan for streamlining Federal grant processes, and it codifies [grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), the Federal Government's one-stop-shop for grant announcements and applications submission.

S. 303's new requirements are driven by a GAO assessment reporting that OMB and Federal agencies have made modest progress towards standardizing grant announcements and applications. The government has developed a standard format for grant announcements, began consolidating grant management systems, and set up a Web site, [grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). However, it, so far, has failed to develop a common system for a full-scale application, management, and reporting for financial assistance.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate Chairman TOWNS' willingness to work with us to incorporate language from H.R. 2392, the Government Information Transparency Act, which was introduced by Ranking Member ISSA. The provisions that were incorporated from the ranking member's bill will enhance the collection, analysis, and dissemination of business and financial information by the Federal Government through the use of a single data standard. Currently, the Federal Government mandates disclosure of large amounts of information in a multitude of ways. Financial reports in a uniform format will be more transparent and more easily analyzed and critiqued by the public, the media, and the oversight community.

In addition, S. 303 will require grant applications and reports to be made public and prepared according to a single, consistent data standard. For the first time, watchdog groups, journalists, and ordinary citizens will be able to see for themselves the promises and projections that grant applicants make in order to receive taxpayer dollars and then hold them directly accountable. A watchdog group publicizing waste or abuse of taxpayer money could put up a blog post linking directly to applications and reports describing how the money has been appropriated and spent.

A citizen or a news reporter searching for the name of a company might discover that the company had received taxpayer money to complete a

local infrastructure project and be able to hold the company directly accountable for the use of public funds. Information about the amount of money requested, the amount of money spent, and progress on taxpayer-funded projects could be computed automatically and easily. Taxpayers could determine how much grant money had been awarded to a local business or nonprofit, and automatically compare the performance of different grant recipients and recognize disparities in grant funding between States or congressional districts.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chairman TOWNS and his staff for working with the Republicans on this important legislation by incorporating bipartisan language to increase transparency in the Federal Government. I also want to commend Senator VOINOVICH for his hard work on this bill, and I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

We have no further speakers, and I would yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 2392, the "Government Information Transparency Act," to make federal reporting of taxpayer dollars more accessible to the American people. In Committee, Chairman EDOLPHUS TOWNS and I were able to work on a bipartisan basis to get key provisions of this legislation into S. 303, which is now under consideration by the House.

The Government Information Transparency Act instructs the Office of Management and Budget to designate a single data standard for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of business and financial information required to be reported to the federal government.

The federal government mandates disclosure of large amounts of information: financial filings by public companies, call reports by financial institutions, various disclosures by federal contractors, reports by recipients of taxpayer-funded grant money, and the list goes on. Too often, these disclosures are in formats that don't permit electronic searches and comparisons. Some disclosures, in fact, are still made using paper. Moreover, the formats vary from agency to agency, and even within agencies. Unwieldy and incompatible data formats make reported information much less useful than it could be. Even worse, it creates complex and overlapping layers of reporting that serve as the breeding ground for wasteful government.

Information reported to the federal government needs to become both fully searchable and fully standardized. Modern information technology can bridge these two gaps. An interactive data standard that relies on electronic tags to individually identify each element of information can render every piece of data separately readable by software. This interactivity allows the creation of databases that are far more useful than sequential, plain-text financial reports. And if the same standard were applied to every federal agency's disclosure programs—securities, banking, grants, contracts, and so on—unprecedented searches and comparisons would become possible.

So, the Government Information Transparency Act requires the OMB to set up a single interactive data standard for reported information—a standardized, universal, and machine-readable format that will be made available to the general public. The use of a single data standard will still allow agencies to be flexible in how they require information to be submitted. Sophisticated companies might be asked to submit large data files; small companies and nonprofits could fill in Web-based forms that would automatically encode each element on their reports. The result: every report would be computer-readable, and the underlying data could be more easily extracted, searched, and analyzed.

Financial and business information in a uniform format will be more transparent, and thus more accessible for public critique. Fraudulent transactions and irresponsible risk-taking can be more easily detected, search costs are reduced, and companies will be put under greater pressure to explain the underpinnings of the financial statements they release. Instead of assigning an immense oversight responsibility to a handful of federal employees, we can now enable the public to act as citizen-regulators. And because information reported to different agencies will become compatible, investors, watchdog groups, and analysts will have powerful new searches at their disposal.

The Government Information Transparency Act also requires a single data standard for federal financial information, to bring the same interactivity and compatibility to the disclosures put out by federal agencies. By making this kind of information more accessible to the general public, we are unleashing the very best government watchdogs—the American people themselves—to expose waste, fraud, and abuse of their tax dollars.

For business and financial information, the sunlight of transparency has always been the best disinfectant. Our Government Information Transparency Act, added to S. 303, will make that sunlight brighter and clearer than ever.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, in closing, I would just ask all Members to join with Senator VOINOVICH, Chairman TOWNS, and Ranking Member ISSA in support of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of our 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, S. 303, 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.

#### RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH RUNAWAY PREVENTION

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 779) recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 779

Whereas the prevalence of runaway and homelessness among youth is staggering, with studies suggesting that every year, between 1,600,000 and 2,800,000 youth live on the streets of the United States;

Whereas running away from home is widespread, and youth aged 12 to 17 are at a higher risk of homelessness than adults;

Whereas runaway youth most often are youth who have been expelled from their homes by their families; physically, sexually, and emotionally abused at home; discharged by State custodial systems without adequate transition plans; separated from their parents by death and divorce; too poor to secure their own basic needs; and ineligible or unable to access adequate medical or mental health resources;

Whereas effective programs supporting runaway youth and assisting youth and their families in remaining at home succeed because of partnerships created among families, community-based human service agencies, law enforcement agencies, schools, faith-based organizations, and businesses;

Whereas preventing youth from running away from home and supporting youth in high-risk situations is a family, community, and national priority;

Whereas the future well-being of the Nation is dependent on the opportunities provided for youth and families to acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for youth to develop into safe, healthy, and productive adults;

Whereas the National Network for Youth and its members advocate on behalf of runaway and homeless youth, and provide an array of community-based support to address their critical needs;

Whereas the National Runaway Switchboard provides crisis intervention and referrals to reconnect runaway youth to their families and link youth to local resources that provide positive alternatives to running away from home; and

Whereas the National Network for Youth and National Runaway Switchboard are cosponsoring National Runaway Prevention Month in November to increase public awareness of the life circumstances of youth in high-risk situations, and the need for safe, healthy, and productive alternatives, resources, and support for youth, families, and communities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That the House of Representatives—*  
(1) recognizes the importance of youth runaway prevention; and

(2) urges support for greater public awareness efforts and effective runaway youth prevention programs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) 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 and add any extraneous materials.

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 779 for consideration. This resolution recognizes the importance of youth runaway prevention and at-risk youth programs. House Resolution 779 was introduced by my friend and colleague, Representative JUDY BIGGERT of Illinois, on September 25, 2009, and was favorably reported out of the Oversight Committee December 10, 2009, by unanimous consent. Notably, this measure enjoys the support of 55 Members of Congress.

Madam Speaker, according to the National Runaway Switchboard, between 1.6 million and 2.8 million young people run away from home every year. As additionally noted by The New York Times in an October 25, 2009, article on this issue of runaway youth, this societal problem is growing. Specifically, The New York Times reported that the number of contacts made by federally financed outreach programs with runaways increased to 761,000 in 2008, and that was up from 550,000 in 2002, the year that the current methods of counting began.

Notably, National Runaway Switchboard reports that among those young people at greatest risk of running away and facing homelessness are those that have been expelled from school, those that have suffered domestic abuse, and those that have been discharged by State custodial systems without the benefit of an adequate transitional planning program. Additionally, young people who have separated from their parents by death or divorce, live in poverty, and/or are unable to access adequate or mental health resources are similarly at risk of running away and becoming homeless. And the National Runaway Switchboard also reports that youth homelessness affects males and females equally, although females are more likely to seek help through shelters and hotlines.

Despite these concerning reports and statistical programs, there are efforts, such as The National Network for Youth and the National Runaway Switchboard, that provide effective support to runaway youth and assist young people and their families in remaining together by developing partnerships with families, community-based agencies, schools, and faith-based organizations.

These two programs offer invaluable services, including advocacy on behalf of the runaway youth and their families, crisis intervention, and various forms of community-based support to address critical needs. In addition, the two programs have worked together to cosponsor National Runaway Prevention Month, which occurs in November, and attempts to increase public awareness of the life circumstances of youth in high-risk situations and the need for safe, healthy, and productive alternatives, resources and support for runaway youth and their families.

Madam Speaker, in light of the prevalence of the problem of runaway youth as well as youth homelessness,

let us take this opportunity to join Mrs. BIGGERT of Illinois to pass House Resolution 779 and recognize the important role that youth runaway prevention and at-risk youth programs play in addressing these issues.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join Mrs. BIGGERT in supporting H. Res. 779, and I reserve the balance of our time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 779, the resolution recognizing the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month. This initiative is sponsored by my good friends at the National Runaway Switchboard and the National Network for Youth.

As the gentleman from Massachusetts mentioned, between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth run away from home each year. According to the National Runaway Switchboard, crisis calls citing economic distress have increased 200 percent since 2006. Incredibly, one in every 50 children will experience homelessness at some point in their lives. And although some youth will return within a few days of running away, others will remain on the streets, never to return. In far too many cases, these children will fall prey to the worst forms of exploitation, including the sex industry. In fact, 30 percent more youth are using the sex industry as a means of survival today than in the year 2000.

There are many reasons why children run away from home. Some are expelled from their homes by their families or separated from their parents because of death or divorce. In other cases, the child may be fleeing from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse at home. Having run away, these youths are now homeless, without means to secure their own basic needs, and are often ineligible or unable to access medical or mental health resources.

There are many individuals and organizations that are doing whatever they can to assist America's runaway youth by providing food, shelter, clothing, and counseling. Others are working with families to prevent a child from running away in the first place. And still others are intervening and advocating on behalf of the children and giving them options other than running away.

With congressional support, the National Runaway Switchboard provides crisis intervention and referrals to reconnect the runaway youth with their families.

□ 1700

It also helps link young people to local resources that provide positive alternatives to running away.

Founded in the Chicago area in 1971, the NRS now provides comprehensive crisis intervention services for at-risk youth nationwide, including a 24-hour crisis hotline.

In 1974, the National Network for Youth was founded to coordinate the work of community-based organizations that now represent hundreds of youth-oriented organizations and advocate at the Federal level, provide information on available services, and train organizations in best practices.

I want to thank Mr. WOLF, Mr. STUPAK and Ms. LOFGREN, my fellow co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children for joining me on this important effort, and I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) for managing this bill. And I want to thank Mr. ISRAEL, who has worked with me on this important resolution for years.

It is fitting for Congress to endorse the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month and to highlight the effort of those organizations that work so hard to help the youth of America who have left or who are considering leaving their homes for a dangerous and uncertain life on the street.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

If the gentleman has no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today in support of H. Res. 779, "Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month." I would like to thank my colleague Representative JUDY BIGGERT for introducing this very important piece of legislation.

It is appalling that in the United States of America, the greatest country in the world, there is a staggering number of runaway and homeless youth. Studies suggest that every year, between 1,600,000 and 2,800,000 youth live on the streets of the United States. Running away from home is a widespread epidemic, and youth aged 12 to 17 are at a higher risk of homelessness than adults. What is terrifying is that traffickers exploit abused runaways or so-called "throwaways"—children abandoned by their parents and living on the streets.

Runaway youth most often are youth who have been expelled from their homes by their families; physically, sexually, and emotionally abused at home; discharged by State custodial systems without adequate transition plans; separated from their parents by death and divorce; too poor to secure their own basic needs; and ineligible or unable to access adequate medical or mental health resources.

There are effective programs supporting and assisting runaway youth. These programs succeed because of partnerships created among families, community-based human service agencies, law enforcement agencies, schools, faith-based organizations, and businesses. We must support and create more of these organizations in order to save the future of this nation.

Preventing youth from running away from home and supporting those in high-risk situations should be a family, community, and national priority. The future well-being of the Nation is dependent on the opportunities provided for youth and families to acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for youth to develop into safe, healthy, and productive adults.

I want to recognize the National Network for Youth and its members for advocating on behalf of runaway and homeless youth, and for providing an array of community-based support to address their critical needs. Additionally I would like to recognize the National Runaway Switchboard for providing crisis intervention and referrals to reconnect runaway youth to their families and link youth to local resources that provide positive alternatives to running away from home.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and to support National Runaway Prevention Month in November to increase public awareness of the life circumstances of youth in high-risk situations, and the need for safe, healthy, and productive alternatives, resources, and support for youth, families, and communities.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Mrs. BIGGERT for her leadership on this very important issue, and I want to urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 779.

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. 779, 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. LYNCH. 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.

#### COMMENDING THE REAL SALT LAKE SOCCER CLUB

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 942) commending the Real Salt Lake Soccer Club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 942

Whereas the Real Salt Lake soccer club won the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup, defeating the Los Angeles Galaxy at Qwest Field in Seattle, Washington on November 22, 2009;

Whereas Real Salt Lake played through 2 sudden-death overtimes and a penalty-kick shootout to defeat the Galaxy;

Whereas forward Robbie Findlay scored a goal in the second half to tie the game and force an overtime period;

Whereas defender Robbie Russell scored the decisive fifth goal in the seventh round of the shootout to win the game;

Whereas goalkeeper Nick Rimando blocked 4 shots, including 2 in the shootout, and was named the Most Valuable Player of the game;

Whereas head coach Jason Kreis is the youngest coach to win a Major League Soccer Cup, and coached Real Salt Lake to its second post-season appearance since joining the team in 2007; and

Whereas Real Salt Lake defeated the top 2 seeds in the Eastern Conference, the first-seeded Columbus Crew and the second-seeded Chicago Fire, to reach the championship game: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Real Salt Lake soccer club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup; and

(2) congratulates Real Salt Lake for winning the first Major League Soccer Cup in the franchise's history.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) 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 and add any extraneous materials.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, at this time I would like to recognize the principal lead sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON), for 5 minutes.

Mr. MATHESON. I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for yielding.

You know, often when we have a sporting event about to come up, a lot of people predict what's going to happen. But what's great about sports is you never really know what's going to happen. And while we often do a resolution to congratulate teams who have won a major championship, this is kind of special because the Real Salt Lake team went into the playoffs as the last team in. Eight teams made the playoffs for Major League Soccer this year. Real Salt Lake had the worst record, but it's a team that throughout the course of this year has evolved, and in fact there was a stretch of 17 days between two games toward the end of the regular season where the team kind of rededicated itself and went through sort of a mini-training camp again, and when it came out of that camp, it seemed to be a different team.

It got into the playoffs, and of course it was an underdog in its first round, and it won. It was an underdog in the semi-finals, and it won there, too. And then the championship against the L.A. Galaxy. In a shoot-out, the team was able to succeed.

And there's an interesting sign in the locker room of the Real Salt Lake team. The sign says, "The team is the star." And in an era where we often celebrate great individual performances—and there are a number of individuals that certainly deserve mention—still the concept of a team coming together in a team sport seems to be a pattern and a formula for success. And in terms of the Real Salt Lake

soccer team, that is exactly what happened.

So I was thrilled to have the opportunity to offer this resolution. It was interesting going around to my colleagues to collect cosponsorships. This was something that was very accepted on both sides of the aisle. And again, I just think it's great that we have a chance as a Congress to at least congratulate this team on its great accomplishment in winning the Major League Soccer Cup in 2009.

Mrs. BIGGERT. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 942 commending the Real Salt Lake Soccer Club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup.

Last month on November 22 in front of over 46,000 fans at Qwest Field—you'd think that we were in the UK with the popularity of soccer out there. But the Real Salt Lake Soccer Club won the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup, defeating the Los Angeles Galaxy, and the final victory of a remarkable five-game winning streak did not come easily. The Real Salt Lake Soccer Club outlasted a formidable opponent through two sudden-death overtimes and a penalty kick shoot-out en route to a brilliant 5-4 victory. Congratulations.

This victory marked the culmination of a remarkable session for a team that I guess barely made the playoffs and only 5 years ago was a lowly expansion team. In fact, this victory is the first major pro sports championship in Utah for almost 40 years.

Congratulations to the Real Salt Lake Soccer Club, their coach, Jason Kreis—the youngest coach to win a Major League Soccer Cup—and to Utah and their very many, many dedicated fans.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I just want to amplify what has been said by both the speakers. I think there's a certain magic about this championship, that it was totally unexpected, and I, too, want to congratulate Coach Jason Kreis, who became the youngest coach to win a Major League Soccer Cup, and goalkeeper Nick Rimando, the Most Valuable Player. The Real Salt Lake won their first Major League Soccer Cup in only their second appearance in the Major League Soccer playoffs. As a Red Sox fan who suffered forever, I envy the early success.

I do want to note that after compiling a regular season record of 11 wins, 12 losses, and 7 ties, Real Salt Lake narrowly earned the final spot on the 2009 Major League Soccer Playoffs. This is a Cinderella team if there ever was one.

Despite being the underdog, Real Salt Lake orchestrated a series of improbable victories against the defending champion Columbus Crew and the Chicago Fire before—as has been mentioned here—beating the favored Los Angeles Galaxy in the Major League Soccer Cup.

In the championship game, the Los Angeles Galaxy struck first with a goal by Mike Magee in the 41st minute of play, and many thought that might be it, but Real Salt Lake continued to play hard and managed to tie the game in the 61st minute of the game with a goal by Robbie Findley. The game ended in a tie and eventually went to penalty kicks, which Real Salt Lake won by a score of 5-4.

Real Salt Lake's victory in the MLS Cup stands as a testament to what can be achieved through hard work, dedication, and relentless team spirit. As USA Today wrote after the game, "Major League Soccer has its most improbable champion in its 14-year history."

Real Salt Lake's commitment to teamwork and perseverance in the face of adversity is both inspiring and commendable. Their achievement deserves our praise, and personally I want to applaud the team's players, coaches, management, and its fans who never gave up—all of those who helped in this unprecedented success in the Major League Soccer Cup.

Madam Speaker, let us, as a body, take this opportunity to commend this year's Major League Soccer Cup Champions through passage of House Resolution 942, join with Mr. MATHESON of Utah and congratulate Real Salt Lake on winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. 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. 942.

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, 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.

#### HONORING THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 160) honoring the American Kennel Club on its 125th anniversary, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 160

Whereas the American Kennel Club (AKC), headquartered in New York City, with an operations center in Raleigh, North Carolina, was founded in 1884, operates the world's largest registry of purebred dogs and is the Nation's leading not-for-profit organization

devoted to the advancement, study, responsible breeding, care, and ownership of dogs;

Whereas the American Kennel Club approves, sanctions, and regulates the events of its 609 member clubs and monitors more than 4000 licensed and sanctioned clubs throughout the United States who hold events under American Kennel Club rules and regulations;

Whereas in 2008, the American Kennel Club sanctioned or regulated 22,630 sporting events that included breed conformation, agility, obedience, earthdog, herding, field trial, retrieving, pointing, tracking, and coonhound events;

Whereas the American Kennel Club honors the canine-human bond, advocates for the purebred dog as a family companion, advances canine health and well-being, works to protect the rights of all dog owners and promotes responsible dog ownership;

Whereas the American Kennel Club promotes responsible dog ownership and breeding practices and supports thousands of volunteers and teachers from affiliated clubs across the country who teach responsible dog ownership and safety around dogs;

Whereas the American Kennel Club founded and supports the AKC Humane Fund, which promotes the joy and value of responsible pet ownership by supporting breed rescue activities, educating adults and children about responsible dog ownership, and assisting human-services organizations that permit domestic abuse victims access to shelters with their pets;

Whereas the American Kennel Club trains and employs kennel inspectors and conducts over 5,200 kennel inspections each year;

Whereas the American Kennel Club promotes responsible dog ownership, care, and handling of dogs to over 21,000 youths ages 9 to 18 years old enrolled in its National Junior Organization;

Whereas the American Kennel Club is the largest purebred dog registry in the world and the only registry that incorporates health screening results into its permanent dog records;

Whereas the American Kennel Club offers the largest and most comprehensive set of DNA programs for the purposes of parentage verification and genetic identity to ensure reliable registration records;

Whereas the American Kennel Club created and supports the Canine Health Foundation (CHF), which funds research projects focusing on the genetics of disease, the canine genome map, and clinical studies, and has donated over \$22,000,000 to the CHF since 1995;

Whereas the American Kennel Club created and operates DOGNY: America's Tribute to Search and Rescue Dogs, which supports canine search and rescue organizations across the United States;

Whereas the American Kennel Club annually awards \$170,000 in scholarships to veterinary and veterinary technical students;

Whereas the American Kennel Club has reunited more than 340,000 lost pets and their owners through the AKC Companion Animal Recovery (CAR) program;

Whereas the American Kennel Club established the AKC Canine Good Citizen program, which certifies dogs with good manners at home and in the community;

Whereas the American Kennel Club maintains the world's largest dog library and the Museum of the Dog in St. Louis, which houses one of the world's largest collections of dog-related fine art and artifacts, both of which are open to the public; and

Whereas the American Kennel Club celebrates its 125th anniversary this year: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That Congress honors the American Kennel Club for its service to dog owners and the United States public.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) 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 and add any extraneous materials.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, at this time, I would like to recognize the lead sponsor of this resolution, Representative DAVID PRICE, my friend from North Carolina, for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I thank the gentleman, Madam Speaker, and I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 160, honoring the contributions of the American Kennel Club on its 125th anniversary.

Over the course of these 125 years, the AKC has established itself as our Nation's leading not-for-profit organization dedicated to the advancement, study, responsible breeding, care, and ownership of dogs. Today, dog owners throughout the United States can be proud of the work the club does to promote the responsible care that dogs deserve.

With offices employing 300 constituents in my district in Raleigh, North Carolina, and additional staff in New York City, the AKC has also become a major source of good-paying jobs.

Each year, the American Kennel Club sanctions and regulates over 20,000 sporting events. It is also a leader in training inspectors and inspecting dog kennels, conducting more than 5,200 kennel inspections each year.

Through its national junior organization, the AKC has enrolled over 21,000 children aged 9 to 18 to promote responsible dog ownership, care, and handling.

In addition to serving as the world's largest purebred dog registry, the AKC has also started a mixed breed program to allow all dogs to participate in a variety of AKC's sanctioned events. Various AKC programs support the advancement of canine health and well-being, and educate the public on responsible dog ownership.

□ 1715

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. BIGGERT, Chairman TOWNS, and Ranking Member ISSA for moving this resolution forward, and my colleague from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) and 51 other cosponsors for their help as well.

I urge my colleagues to join in support.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 160, honoring the American Kennel Club for its service to dog owners throughout the United States.

Founded in 1884, the Kennel Club operates the largest registry for purebred dogs in the U.S. and is the country's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to the study of dogs and their care. This organization has 609 member clubs and monitors 4,000 licensed and sanctioned clubs holding events under the American Kennel Club rules and regulations.

I have to say, I did show one dog that I had for a period of time, a basset hound, in Chicago, in the American Kennel Club at one of the shows, and it's quite an experience for anybody to do that. It's well run and well regulated.

The American Kennel Club has taken the lead in promoting responsible dog ownership and breeding practices as well as supporting thousands of volunteers across the country who teach safety to dog owners. In order to maintain the high standards for which the American Kennel Club is known, they conduct over 5,200 kennel inspections each year. And, as Mr. PRICE mentioned, youth ages 9 to 18 are enrolled in the National Junior Organization, which really helps to communicate the proper handling of dogs and allows them the opportunity to participate in shows at an early age.

It has also created a Canine Health Foundation, which funds research projects focused on the genetics of dog diseases and clinical studies. The club annually awards over \$170,000 in scholarships to veterinary students and veterinary technical students and has reunited thousands of dogs with their owners through its Companion Animal Recovery program.

The American Kennel Club has been a part of communities of the United States since 1884 and continues to be a model for teaching responsible breeding, care, and ownership of dogs. So we congratulate the American Kennel Club on its 125th anniversary.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I simply want to stand and join with Mr. PRICE of North Carolina in honoring the American Kennel Club for its service on behalf of the study, the responsible breeding and ownership of dogs.

I do want to add that in addition to Mr. PRICE, who is the lead sponsor, this resolution has enjoyed the support of over 50 Members of Congress. As others have noted here, there's been a long and illustrious history of the AKC in the United States, and they sanction and regulate the events of its 609 member clubs as well as monitor over 400 licensed and sanctioned clubs located throughout the United States that hold events pursuant to AKC rules and regulations. And as has been noted, the American Kennel Club sanctioned or regulated nearly 23,000 individual events across the country last year.

Moreover, in promoting canine health and well-being, the American

Kennel Club has implemented a variety of kennel inspector training initiatives, with AKC-employed kennel inspectors conducting over 5,200 inspections each year. This is all great work that needs to be done and is proudly done by the AKC, an organization that funds research projects focused on the genetics of canine disease and to which the AKC has donated over \$22 million since 1995.

So, in closing, I would simply ask Members on both sides of the aisle to support Mr. PRICE and his resolution.

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 160, honoring the American Kennel Club on its 125th anniversary.

As someone who is proud to have three loveable four-legged members of my own family, Chavo, Baloo, and Pippin, I was eager to be an original cosponsor of this resolution. The American Kennel Club provides invaluable services to dog owners and breeders across the country. For the past one hundred and twenty-five years, this organization has been counted upon to promote best practices for training, regulation, inspection, and registration.

Most Americans know the club for its annual dog shows, but it does much more. The American Kennel Club awards nearly \$170,000 in scholarship money per year to veterinary students and has donated nearly \$22 million to the Canine Health Foundation. Younger owners also learn proper skills for treatment and care of their dogs through the National Junior Organization.

Every dog owner knows the bond that can develop between a family and its four-legged member. The American Kennel Club has worked to cultivate and encourage this relationship. The individuals of the AKC have selflessly worked to achieve high standards in each club function and for this they are to be commended.

I want to thank the bill sponsor, Representative PRICE and my fellow co-sponsors for their strong support of the American Kennel Club.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of our 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 concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 160, 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. LYNCH. 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.

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 5 o'clock and 19 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.

Notes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 779, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 942, by the yeas and nays;

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

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF YOUTH RUNAWAY PREVENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 779, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

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. 779, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 341, nays 0, not voting 93, as follows:

[Roll No. 969]

YEAS—341

Ackerman  
Aderholt  
Adler (NJ)  
Akin  
Altmire  
Andrews  
Arcuri  
Baca  
Bachmann  
Bachus  
Baird  
Baldwin  
Barrow  
Bartlett  
Bean  
Becerra  
Berkley  
Berry  
Biggert  
Bilbray  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (GA)  
Bishop (NY)  
Blackburn  
Blumenauer  
Bocchieri  
Boehner  
Boozman  
Boren  
Boswell  
Boyd  
Brady (PA)  
Brady (TX)  
Bright  
Broun (GA)  
Brown (SC)  
Brown, Corrine  
Brown-Waite,  
Ginny

Buchanan  
Burgess  
Burton (IN)  
Butterfield  
Buyer  
Calvert  
Camp  
Campbell  
Cantor  
Cao  
Capito  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cardoza  
Carnahan  
Carson (IN)  
Carter  
Cassidy  
Castle  
Castor (FL)  
Chaffetz  
Chandler  
Clarke  
Cleaver  
Coffman (CO)  
Cohen  
Cole  
Conaway  
Connolly (VA)  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costello  
Courtney  
Crenshaw  
Cuellar  
Culberson  
Cummings  
Dahlkemper  
Davis (CA)

Davis (KY)  
Davis (TN)  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delahunt  
Dent  
Diaz-Balart, L.  
Diaz-Balart, M.  
Dicks  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Donnelly (IN)  
Doyle  
Dreier  
Driehaus  
Duncan  
Edwards (MD)  
Ehlers  
Ellison  
Ellsworth  
Emerson  
Engel  
Etheridge  
Fallin  
Farr  
Fattah  
Filner  
Flake  
Fleming  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Foster  
Foxo  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Fudge  
Gallegly  
Garamendi  
Garrett (NJ)

Giffords  
Gingrey (GA)  
Gonzalez  
Gordon (TN)  
Granger  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Griffith  
Hall (NY)  
Hall (TX)  
Halvorson  
Hare  
Harman  
Harper  
Hastings (FL)  
Hastings (WA)  
Heinrich  
Heller  
Hensarling  
Herger  
Herseth Sandlin  
Hill  
Himes  
Hirono  
Holden  
Holt  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Hunter  
Inglis  
Insee  
Israel  
Issa  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson-Lee  
(TX)  
Jenkins  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Johnson, Sam  
Jones  
Kagen  
Kanjorski  
Kaptur  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilpatrick (MI)  
Kilroy  
Kind  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kingston  
Kirk  
Kissell  
Kline (MN)  
Kosmas  
Kratovil  
Kucinich  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Larsen (WA)  
Latham  
LaTourette  
Latta  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (NY)  
Levin  
Lewis (CA)  
Linder  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Lofgren, Zoe  
Lowey  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lujan  
Lummis

Lungren, Daniel  
E.  
Lynch  
Manzullo  
Markey (CO)  
Markey (MA)  
Marshall  
Massa  
Matheson  
Matsui  
McCarthy (CA)  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McCotter  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McHenry  
McIntyre  
McKeon  
McMahon  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McNerney  
Meek (FL)  
Melancon  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Miller (NC)  
Miller, Gary  
Minnick  
Mitchell  
Mollohan  
Moore (KS)  
Moore (WI)  
Murphy (CT)  
Murphy (NY)  
Murphy, Tim  
Nadler (NY)  
Napolitano  
Nunes  
Nye  
Oberstar  
Obey  
Olson  
Olver  
Ortiz  
Owens  
Pallone  
Pastor (AZ)  
Payne  
Pence  
Perlmutter  
Perriello  
Peters  
Peterson  
Petri  
Pingree (ME)  
Pitts  
Platts  
Poe (TX)  
Polis (CO)  
Pomeroy  
Posey  
Price (GA)  
Price (NC)  
Putnam  
Quigley  
Rahall  
Rangel  
Rehberg  
Reichert  
Reyes  
Rodriguez  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)

Rogers (MI)  
Rooney  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothman (NJ)  
Roybal-Allard  
Royce  
Ruppersberger  
Ryan (OH)  
Ryan (WI)  
Salazar  
Sánchez, Linda  
T.  
Sarbanes  
Scalise  
Schakowsky  
Schauer  
Schiff  
Schmidt  
Schock  
Schrader  
Schwartz  
Scott (GA)  
Scott (VA)  
Sensenbrenner  
Serrano  
Sessions  
Shadegg  
Shea-Porter  
Sherman  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (TX)  
Snyder  
Space  
Speier  
Spratt  
Stearns  
Stupak  
Sullivan  
Sutton  
Tanner  
Teague  
Terry  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiahrt  
Tierney  
Titus  
Tonko  
Towns  
Tsongas  
Turner  
Upton  
Van Hollen  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walden  
Walz  
Waters  
Watson  
Watt  
Waxman  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Wilson (OH)  
Wittman  
Woolsey  
Wu  
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—93

Abercrombie  
Alexander  
Austria  
Barrett (SC)  
Barton (TX)  
Berman  
Bishop (UT)  
Blunt  
Bonner  
Bono Mack  
Boucher  
Boustany  
Braley (IA)  
Carney  
Childers  
Chu  
Clay  
Clyburn  
Coble  
Costa

Crowley  
Davis (AL)  
Davis (IL)  
Deal (GA)  
DeLauro  
Edwards (TX)  
Eshoo  
Frank (MA)  
Gerlach  
Gohmert  
Goodlatte  
Graves  
Grayson  
Grijalva  
Guthrie  
Gutierrez  
Higgins  
Hinches  
Hinojosa  
Hodes

Hoekstra  
Johnson (IL)  
Jordan (OH)  
Kirkpatrick (AZ)  
Klein (FL)  
Langevin  
Larson (CT)  
Lewis (GA)  
Loeb sack  
Mack  
Maffei  
Maloney  
Marchant  
McCarthy (NY)  
Meeks (NY)  
Mica  
Michaud  
Miller, George  
Moran (KS)  
Moran (VA)

Murphy, Patrick  
Murtha  
Myrick  
Neal (MA)  
Neugebauer  
Pascrell  
Paul  
Paulsen  
Radanovich  
Richardson  
Rohrabacher  
Rush

Sanchez, Loretta  
Sestak  
Shuler  
Simpson  
Skelton  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (WA)  
Souder  
Stark  
Taylor  
Thompson (CA)  
Tiberi

Wamp  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Weiner  
Welch  
Wexler  
Wilson (SC)  
Wolf  
Young (AK)  
Young (FL)

Gingrey (GA)  
Gonzalez  
Gordon (TN)  
Granger  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Griffith  
Hall (NY)  
Hall (TX)  
Halvorson  
Hare  
Harman  
Harper  
Hastings (FL)  
Hastings (WA)  
Heinrich  
Heller  
Hensarling  
Herger  
Herseth Sandlin  
Hill  
Himes  
Hirono  
Holden  
Holt  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Hunter  
Inglis  
Inslee  
Israel  
Issa  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson-Lee  
(TX)

Lungren, Daniel  
E.  
Lynch  
Manzullo  
Markey (CO)  
Markey (MA)  
Marshall  
Massa  
Matheson  
Matsui  
McCarthy (CA)  
McCauley  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McCotter  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McHenry  
McIntyre  
McKeon  
McMahon  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McNerney  
Meek (FL)  
Melancon  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Miller (NC)  
Miller, Gary  
Miller, George  
Minnick  
Mitchell  
Mollohan  
Moore (KS)  
Moore (WI)  
Murphy (CT)  
Murphy (NY)  
Murphy, Tim  
Nadler (NY)  
Napolitano  
Nunes  
Oberstar  
Obey  
Olson  
Olver  
Ortiz  
Owens  
Pallone  
Pastor (AZ)  
Payne  
Pence  
Perlmutter  
Perrillo  
Peters  
Peterson  
Petri  
Pingree (ME)  
Pitts  
Platts  
Poe (TX)  
Polis (CO)  
Pomeroy  
Posey  
Price (GA)  
Price (NC)  
Putnam  
Quigley  
Rahall  
Rangel  
Rehberg  
Reichert  
Reyes  
Richardson  
Rodriguez  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)

Rogers (KY)  
Rogers (MI)  
Rooney  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothman (NJ)  
Roybal-Allard  
Royce  
Ruppersberger  
Ryan (OH)  
Ryan (WI)  
Salazar  
Salazar  
Sánchez, Linda  
T.  
Sarbanes  
Scalise  
Schakowsky  
Schauer  
Schiff  
Schmidt  
Schock  
Schrader  
Schwartz  
Scott (GA)  
Scott (VA)  
Sensenbrenner  
Serrano  
Sessions  
Shadegg  
Shea-Porter  
Sherman  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (TX)  
Snyder  
Space  
Speier  
Spratt  
Nye  
Stearns  
Stupak  
Sullivan  
Sutton  
Tanner  
Teague  
Terry  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiahrt  
Tierney  
Titus  
Tonko  
Towns  
Tsongas  
Turner  
Upton  
Van Hollen  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walden  
Walz  
Waters  
Watson  
Watt  
Waxman  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Wilson (OH)  
Wittman  
Woolsey  
Wu  
Yarmuth

Myrick  
Neal (MA)  
Neugebauer  
Pascrell  
Paul  
Paulsen  
Radanovich  
Rohrabacher  
Rush  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sestak

Shuler  
Simpson  
Skelton  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (WA)  
Souder  
Stark  
Taylor  
Thompson (CA)  
Tiberi  
Wamp

Wasserman  
Schultz  
Weiner  
Welch  
Wexler  
Wilson (SC)  
Wolf  
Young (AK)  
Young (FL)

□ 1858

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title was amended so as to read: "A resolution recognizing the importance of youth runaway prevention and at-risk youth programs."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMENDING THE REAL SALT LAKE SOCCER CLUB

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 942, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

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. 942.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 347, nays 0, not voting 87, as follows:

[Roll No. 970]  
YEAS—347

Ackerman  
Aderholt  
Adler (NJ)  
Akin  
Altmire  
Andrews  
Arcuri  
Baca  
Bachmann  
Bachus  
Baird  
Baldwin  
Barrow  
Bartlett  
Bean  
Becerra  
Berkley  
Berry  
Biggert  
Billray  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (GA)  
Bishop (NY)  
Blackburn  
Blumenauer  
Boccieri  
Boehner  
Boozman  
Boren  
Boswell  
Boyd  
Brady (PA)  
Brady (TX)  
Bright  
Broun (GA)  
Brown (SC)  
Brown, Corrine  
Brown-Waite,  
Ginny  
Buchanan

Burgess  
Burton (IN)  
Butterfield  
Buyer  
Calvert  
Camp  
Campbell  
Cantor  
Cao  
Capito  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cardoza  
Carnahan  
Carson (IN)  
Carter  
Cassidy  
Castle  
Castor (FL)  
Chaffetz  
Chandler  
Clarke  
Cleaver  
Coffman (CO)  
Cohen  
Cole  
Conaway  
Connolly (VA)  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Costello  
Courtney  
Crenshaw  
Cuellar  
Culberson  
Cummings  
Dahlkemper  
Davis (CA)  
Davis (KY)

Davis (TN)  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delahunt  
DeLauro  
Dent  
Diaz-Balart, L.  
Diaz-Balart, M.  
Dicks  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Donnelly (IN)  
Doyle  
Dreier  
Driehaus  
Duncan  
Edwards (MD)  
Ehlers  
Ellison  
Ellsworth  
Emerson  
Engel  
Etheridge  
Fallin  
Farr  
Fattah  
Finer  
Flake  
Fleming  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Foster  
Fox  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Fudge  
Gallegly  
Garamendi  
Garrett (NJ)  
Giffords

Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latham  
LaTourette  
Latta  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (NY)  
Levin  
Lewis (CA)  
Lewis (GA)  
Linder  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Lofgren, Zoe  
Lowey  
Lujan  
Lummis

Abercrombie  
Alexander  
Austria  
Barrett (SC)  
Barton (TX)  
Berman  
Bishop (UT)  
Blunt  
Bonner  
Bono Mack  
Boucher  
Boustany  
Braley (IA)  
Carney  
Childers  
Chu  
Clay  
Clyburn  
Coble

NOT VOTING—87

Crowley  
Davis (AL)  
Davis (IL)  
Deal (GA)  
Edwards (TX)  
Eshoo  
Frank (MA)  
Gerlach  
Gohmert  
Goodlatte  
Graves  
Grayson  
Grijalva  
Guthrie  
Gutierrez  
Higgins  
Hinchev  
Hinojosa  
Hodes

Hoekstra  
Johnson (IL)  
Jordan (OH)  
Kirkpatrick (AZ)  
Klein (FL)  
Langevin  
Loeback  
Mack  
Maffei  
Maloney  
Marchant  
McCarthy (NY)  
Meeks (NY)  
Mica  
Michaud  
Moran (KS)  
Moran (VA)  
Murphy, Patrick  
Murtha

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1906

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. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I regret missing floor votes on Monday, December 14, 2009 due to travel. If I was present, I would have voted: "Yea" on rollcall 969, agreeing to H. Res. 779—Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month; "yea" on rollcall 970, agreeing H. Res. 942—Commending the Real Salt Lake soccer club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MICA: Madam Speaker, delays to US Airways flight 859 caused me to be unavoidably detained, and I was unable to vote on rollcalls 969 and 970. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each of these measures.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 648

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name from H. Res. 648.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain 1-minute requests.

KC-X COMPETITION

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

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, America's workers and America's industries have never shied away from competition. Our readiness to compete is a part of who we are. It is a driver that has been fundamental to our Nation's success.

However, competition must be fair if it is to serve us well. This evening, I

rise to draw attention to a fundamentally unfair competition that our Department of Defense seems intent on pursuing: the competition for the Air Force's KC-X tanker program.

One of the proposals for this solicitation will be based on an Airbus A330 aircraft. This aircraft received \$5.7 billion in government subsidies that the World Trade Organization has ruled to be in violation of the rules that the WTO nations have agreed to. In total, Airbus platforms have received over \$15 billion that the WTO has found to be illegal, agreeing with the complaint filed by the U.S. Government in 2004. These subsidies have contributed to a 40 percent decline in U.S. market share for commercial aircraft and the loss of thousands of jobs. Lockheed and McDonnell Douglas are no longer in the business.

In spite of this record, the Department of Defense stubbornly refuses to include any provision in the tanker solicitation that accounts for these subsidies. This simply isn't right.

#### THE AIR REFUELING TANKER

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, over the past several months, Airbus and their congressional allies have been pushing the Pentagon to change the requirements for the air refueling tanker so that the French company will win the contract. Just last month, the Airbus team sent the Department of Defense a clear ultimatum: If you don't change your requirements, we won't bid. The Air Force needs an air refueling tanker that meets the needs of the warfighter, not the needs of the French.

Airbus is gambling that the threat of not having a competition will force the Air Force to change their requirements, the very same requirements that were determined by the Air Force to meet the needs of the warfighter. To change them to meet the needs of the competition does not serve the interests of our fighting men and women or the Nation.

If Airbus chooses not to offer the tanker in a bid that the Air Force needs, then that's their choice, and then the decision will be an easy one for the Pentagon. After 7 years of trying to recapitalize the KC-135 tanker fleet, we know what it takes to ensure that the warfighter gets the tanker they need and the taxpayer gets the protections we need, even in a sole-source award.

Our military and American workers shouldn't have to wait any longer for the tanker they both deserve: an American tanker built by American workers at an American company.

#### WTO AIRBUS TANKER RULING

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

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, after 23 straight months of job losses, we must do more to preserve and to create American jobs, and we must ensure a fair and a level playing field for U.S. manufacturers.

The World Trade Organization recently found that Airbus has been receiving illegal subsidies that violate global rules and stifle real competition in the aerospace industry. We should not reward these illegal trade practices. As such, the Pentagon should take into account this ruling when considering bids for the next generation air refueling tanker contract.

Awarding this contract to Airbus means the loss of at least 14,000 American jobs to Europe. In today's economy, we cannot afford any more job loss. We cannot continue to allow our foreign competitors an unfair economic advantage nor can we let our domestic defense manufacturing base erode as we have.

I strongly urge the Department of Defense to consider these billions of dollars in illegal European subsidies. When bidding the tanker contract, it is time to put our workers, American workers, and our security first.

#### SHAKE-A-LEG MIAMI

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the noble work of a wonderful south Florida organization, Shake-A-Leg Miami. Founded in 1982 by Harry Horgan, Shake-A-Leg Miami helps children and adults who have physical, developmental, and economic challenges. How does it do that? Through the joy of sailing.

Harry, who was paralyzed in a tragic automobile accident at the age of 22, did not let his disability keep him from his lifelong love of sailing. With optimism and determination, Harry created Shake-A-Leg Miami. Its programs have made a difference in the lives of over 10,000 individuals. For the past 25 years, Shake-A-Leg has been instrumental in empowering individuals so that they can reach their highest potential for an independent life.

My youngest daughter volunteered at Shake-A-Leg, and the experience for both participants and volunteers is life-changing. Shake-A-Leg is a remarkable organization whose contributions have made the lives of countless children more fulfilling. I am honored to have such a fine organization in my congressional district.

#### UNFAIR AIRBUS COMPETITION

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

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, we cannot allow a great injustice to the American worker, to the American warfighter and to the American taxpayer, which would happen if a contract for the Air Force tanker goes to the Airbus contractor without taking into consideration these massive illegal subsidies that the Airbus competitor has received.

We have decided and we have determined, the U.S. Government, that Airbus has received multibillion dollars of illegal subsidies, which have allowed them to develop a tanker with which they now have to bid against an American contractor, the Boeing Company.

We are calling upon the administration to do the right thing, which is in the contracting process, and figure into the respective bids the amount of the illegal subsidies that the Airbus company has received. And they can do that by having the countervailing duty section of the U.S. Department of Trade Representative determine the amount of that illegal subsidy. When that illegal subsidy is added to the Airbus bid, the right thing will happen, and we will have American jobs.

□ 1915

#### WHITE HOUSE TRESPASSERS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, in a purported letter to the editor, Alicia Church states, "I don't understand why the White House is so upset about two party crashers . . . Is it appropriate and politically correct to call them party crashers just because they trespassed?"

"Does that make them criminals? Isn't that discrimination? Shouldn't they be rewarded for such bold and brave behavior? Maybe they were just trying to feed their family? Isn't it more appropriate to call them undocumented guests? Just because they weren't officially invited guests doesn't mean they should be treated like criminals.

"Maybe they should get free health care, free housing, free legal services, and free White House green cards so next time they can enter legally. And they should be able to bring all of their relatives and family members, too.

"How can anyone be mad at them just because they crossed over some arbitrary man-made border? They were only doing things that regularly invited guests didn't want to do, like hang out with Vice President BIDEN. How can the White House punish these poor, oppressed, undocumented visitors?"

Madam Speaker, how ironic; the government panics about two White House trespassers while the thousands who illegally trespass across our borders are completely ignored.

And that's just the way it is.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF  
EDWARD JOSEPH KELLY III

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise with a very sad duty today. As the chairwoman of the Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection Committee on Homeland Security, I rise to pay tribute to the late Edward Joseph Kelly III, who passed away this month.

He was born October 1, 1942, in New York. He joined the Navy and served his country and graduated from the University of Scranton in 1967, and he retired as vice president and controller of Emery Worldwide in 2000.

He truly is an American hero, for after 9/11 he could not sit still. In response to that horrific tragedy, Mr. Kelly left retirement to join the Department of Homeland Security, signing on as the first general manager of the air cargo security for the Federal Transportation Security Administration, whose mission is securing the Nation's transportation network.

Air cargo industry officials have indicated and gone on record to say he transformed the industry. If future airline passengers feel safe about what is carried in the belly of a cargo plane, then they should credit Mr. Kelly. Officials who worked with him said that he was an impeccable professional. He loved this country. Yes, a Navy man. And the president of the Cargo Security Alliance said that he was front and center on this work.

Madam Speaker, his contributions were immeasurable. He is a great American hero. I pay tribute to this distinguished American, Edward Joseph Kelly III. Thank you, and may you rest in peace.

Madam Speaker, I wish to take this time to commemorate the life of a great American, and an outstanding public servant—Edward Joseph Kelly III, who died Saturday at Inova Alexandria Hospital of Legionnaires' pneumonia.

He was born Oct. 1, 1942, in New York, the third child and oldest son of the late Edward and Jessie Cobane Kelly. Mr. Kelly completed service in the Navy before graduating from the University of Scranton in 1967, and retired as vice president and controller of Emery Worldwide in 2000.

In response to 9/11, Mr. Kelly left retirement to join the Department of Homeland Security, signing on as the first general manager of air cargo security for the Federal Transportation Security Administration, whose mission is securing the Nation's transportation network.

Air cargo industry officials have gone on record saying he had transformed their industry. If future airline passengers feel secure that the commercial cargo in the belly of their flight will not blow up or poison them, they should credit Mr. Kelly, officials said. Walt Beadling, president of the Cargo Security Alliance, a trade group, told reporters "He's been front and center in this work of implementing the plan to secure air cargo." Acting TSA administrator Gale D. Rossides wrote in an e-mail to employees, "Ed's contributions to TSA are immeasurable."

He was responsible for implementing a Federal law that requires screening of all cargo transported by flights originating in the United States by next August. The voluntary system established by Mr. Kelly and his team shifted screening responsibility to shippers before cargo reach airports. TSA certifies shippers and their facilities.

His friendships span the globe. He and his wife, Ann, enjoyed a network of family and friends on many continents and most loved returning home to Lake Ariel and Ireland. He loved the sea and spent his early retirement years traveling by boat from San Francisco, to Newport, R.I. On this trip, he and Ann bravely cruised the Pacific coasts of California, Mexico and Central America, passed through the Panama Canal into the Atlantic and crossed the Caribbean Sea.

He is survived by his wife and three sons, Edward IV and wife, Sasithorn, Bangkok, Thailand; Packy and wife, Robyn, Redwood Shores, Calif.; and Daniel and wife, Crissy, Fairfield, Conn.; three sisters, Maureen Kelly Dufour, Kathleen Kelly Hoban and Rosemary Kelly Morgan; three grandchildren, Devin, Mairead and Catherine; several nieces and nephews.

That is why I stand here today—to offer my condolences to Mr. Kelly's family, and gratitude for his public service.

DEBT CEILING

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is a darn good thing that the credit reporting agencies don't factor in each American's share of the national debt when they calculate an individual's credit scores. If the agencies did, there would be quite a few otherwise-eligible borrowers who couldn't get a mortgage or a car loan.

Think about that. I wonder why they don't include the national debt? Perhaps it's because no one seems to think it's real. Madam Speaker, it is real.

Last year, America spent \$250 billion in interest payments alone, \$250 billion. That's \$250 billion a year we cannot invest in America's future. Yet, in spite of this situation, Congress is preparing to increase the debt again by another \$1.8 trillion. Attaching it to a must-pass Defense bill holds our troops hostage. And it might be convenient politics, but our country deserves much better.

Congress should use the TARP returns to pay down the debt and redirect the failed stimulus money to tax reforms that actually work. Wouldn't that be unique?

GLOBAL WARMING

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, coal miners used to keep a canary with them to let them know when the air was getting dangerous. Today, we have

much more sophisticated measurements, but the concept is still the same: The canary is dying.

Over 200 peer-reviewed studies have concluded that global warming is real and potentially catastrophic. No scientific peer-reviewed studies have found the opposite. None. But some of my colleagues have seized on a few illegally hacked e-mails to convince themselves that the little bird is fine. Well, that must be comforting, except it ignores the nasty case of asthma from increased emissions and the tiny bits of soot that thicken the canary's blood and boost harmful inflammation.

Watching my colleagues hold the canary like Monty Python's dead parrot would be funny if it were just an imaginary bird, but it's not a canary we're killing with increased emissions. It's our children.

And that's the way it will always be.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, breast cancer mammograms have been in the news with concern for Federal Government guidelines on who should have a mammogram and at what age.

More relevant is the fact that breast cancer is the most common cancer among American women next to skin cancers. The American Cancer Society estimates that 40,170 women will die from breast cancer in 2009.

As daunting as that figure is, there is another figure that tells the story. At this time, there are more than 2.5 million breast cancer survivors in the United States.

Death rates from breast cancer have been declining since about 1990. The decreases are believed to be the result of earlier detection through screening and increased awareness, as well as improved treatment.

Guidelines are simply that. Every woman should talk to her physician about her past history and current health to determine the frequency of mammogram exams.

This disease touches us all. I doubt there is anyone here who doesn't have a relative who has suffered from breast cancer. In this season of giving, encourage your loved ones to talk to their physicians and have screening tests as often as they suggest. It will save lives.

WHITE HOUSE CONSIDERS  
BUSINESSES THE ENEMY

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, the White House considers business owners the opposition, but don't take my word for it. In his autobiography,

Mr. Obama wrote that when he worked in the business world, he felt like a “spy behind enemy lines.”

So it's no surprise that as President, he has appointed fewer people with business backgrounds to Cabinet positions than any other President in over a century, according to an analysis by J.P. Morgan. Maybe that explains why the President favors government control of the health care, energy, automobile, banking, insurance, and student loan industries.

Perhaps the administration has forgotten that without employers, there would be no employees, and that small businesses generate 65 percent of the new jobs in America. It is the private sector, not the government, that makes America productive and prosperous. Business owners are our friends, not the enemy.

#### RUNAWAY SPENDING

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

Mr. INGLIS. Madam Speaker, this week follows a surreal week last week. Last week, we did an omnibus bill that spends \$446.8 billion. That's on top of the \$634.2 billion from other discretionary spending. Those are increases of 7.6 percent over 2009 levels and 16.8 percent over 2008 levels. This is on top of the mandatory spending programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

That is why this week the surrealness will continue as the majority will find it necessary to increase the debt limit from \$12 trillion, which is 20 percent of GDP. They will raise it by another \$2 trillion.

Madam Speaker, we must stop the runaway train. We must stop the runaway spending.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SACRIFICE OF OUR NAVY SEALS AND THE INJUSTICE CURRENTLY OCCURRING

(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, I rise today to recognize the valor, sacrifice, and contribution of the United States Navy SEALs and to bring attention to a great injustice.

Our SEALs routinely defend our Nation in some of the most dangerous places in the world, sacrificing their lives for their mission and our country; yet recently, three of our SEALs have been forced to defend their honor.

The alleged mastermind of the brutal murder of four American security contractors claims that these SEALs punched him in the stomach while he was being detained under supervision. Despite reports that he was armed at the time, he was captured without the SEALs firing a shot. Because of the accusation, these SEALs opted to have a

court martial rather than a nonjudicial punishment that would have essentially been an admission of guilt.

Rather than a trial, we should be giving these guys a medal. I am pleased that these men will have the opportunity to defend their honor and confident that justice will be served. At this time, we must not waste the time and resources of our Armed Forces on political correctness and facts based on hearsay of terrorists and other people who wish our country harm.

#### GIVING A VOICE TO TEA PARTY ACTIVIST

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

Mr. McCAUL. Madam Speaker, tonight I want to give a voice to one of my constituents by the name of Jennifer Heiden. She is a TEA party activist. She wrote me a letter. She said, “My name is Jennifer Heiden. I am a wife, a daughter, a mother, a sister, business professional, and grassroots leader.

“We are dismayed at this Congress and its proposed health care legislation. You stress accountability and transparency, but fail to disclose to the American people that its 20-year costs are in the \$4.9 trillion price range once you cut through the budget gimmicks. You avoid town halls and citizen gatherings since you found that we had questions you could not or would not answer. And you draft bills in secret and give no one sufficient time to read them or understand them.

“The majority of Americans do not want this bill, and you know it. Do what this country elected you to do. Scrap this legislation and give us health care reform that will help—not hurt—this country and its citizens.”

#### WE MUST STOP UNNECESSARY SPENDING

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise once again to remind this body that we must stop the unbridled spending that continues to raise our deficit.

We have been reminded by Moody's that we are in jeopardy of losing our AAA rating by 2013 if we do not get our spending under control. Today, Bar-ron's echoed the same warning.

Our debt ceiling currently is \$12 trillion. It is my understanding we are going to be asked to raise it an additional \$2 trillion this week. Enough is enough. We must stop this unnecessary spending and stop it now before it is too late. We cannot spend our way into prosperity. I fear the results.

□ 1930

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO COACH BOBBY BOWDEN

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

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to Bobby Bowden, who will coach his last game on January 1. Coach Bowden will retire following the Gator Bowl, ending an amazing career as one of college football's most successful coaches.

Many of us may not realize that Bobby Bowden was an outstanding football player in his own right. He graduated from Woodlawn High School in Birmingham, and he achieved his dream of playing quarterback for the University of Alabama before transferring to Howard College, now Samford University.

After college, Bowden worked his way up to becoming head coach for 4 years at Samford, and he later was head coach for 6 years at West Virginia, but it's his 34 years as head coach at Florida State for which he will most be remembered.

In 1976, he took the reins of his Seminoles team that had gone winless the previous season. From that unlikely beginning, he built one of the powerhouses of modern college football. During his 34 years at the helm of Florida State, he led his teams to 31 bowl games, including the past 28 years in a row, during which he once went 14 consecutive bowl games without a loss. He was named coach of the year six times, and is already a member of college football's hall of fame. From 1987 to 2000, Bowden's Florida State teams compiled a streak of 14 consecutive years in the season-ending top 5. During that time, he coached two Heisman Trophy winners, and his Seminoles played in five national championship games, winning two.

It was in the beginning of that streak in the late 1980s that I first encountered Coach Bowden. As he did with so many, he left upon me an indelible impression. As a walk-on on the Seminole football team, I had the good fortune to see firsthand Coach Bowden's rare skill on the practice field, but it was his kindness and generosity away from football that I will most remember.

While serious about winning, with the results to prove it, what most stands out about Bobby Bowden is his love of people. Known for his down-to-Earth colloquialisms and disarming Southern drawl, he can charm even the most intense personality. He is never at a loss for words, and sportswriters across the country will surely miss his quick wit and accessibility.

On the Seminole practice squad, I occupied, perhaps, the lowest possible position on the team, yet Coach Bowden treated me and every player with respect. When you crossed paths with

him, he never failed to ask about your schoolwork, your family, your hometown or about some other personal facts about you that he somehow remembered. I used to think that this was just coincidence or somehow related just to me, but what you quickly learn in spending time around Bobby Bowden is that he is like that with everyone, not just on the team or on campus but anywhere he goes in the country, whether it be to an alumni meeting, to a business luncheon, or to a church service. He has that rare ability to make a personal connection with everyone he meets. It is why the National Citizenship Award, presented annually by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, now bears his name.

So, for all of his success as a football coach, the true legacy of Bobby Bowden is the impact he has on people and on the lives he has touched. Just as much as his coaching record, the relationships that he built and the friends he made during his 80-plus years and counting will long be remembered. My best wishes and congratulations go out to Bobby and Ann Bowden as they now embark on this next chapter of their lives together.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE IN IRAN

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 whole world has been watching what has taken place in Copenhagen, Denmark last week and this week. All the talk is about climate change and how man is affecting the climate, but what we need in this world is a climate change in Iran. That's right. We need to change the atmosphere in Iran with what has taken place with the little man from the desert, Ahmadinejad.

Last week and even this week, thousands of students—and here is a photograph of some of them—have taken to the streets to protest the regime of Ahmadinejad and how oppressive it is. They are complaining in this peaceful protest against the tyranny against the people of Iran. Not only Ahmadinejad, but they are protesting the radical mullahs and the Iranian military.

You see, these young people want what everybody throughout the world wants—freedom. Somewhere down in the way that we are made there is this spark; there is this flame of freedom. The people in Iran don't have that, so the young people have taken to the streets—the sons of Iran, the daughters of democracy—and they are protesting the oppressive government. They are protesting the fraudulent elections that got Ahmadinejad elected last summer. They are protesting the fact that they have no freedom in their own country. They have suffered the consequences for these protests. They have been beaten. They have been teargassed. They have been hauled off to jail.

The press has been oppressed as well. In fact, what has occurred is that the Internet has been closed, and cell phones have been blocked—all in the name of preventing young people and others from protesting this oppressive regime.

We all remember this past summer how numerous students were murdered in the streets just because they complained to their government about what was taking place. Already 80 of those protesters, political prisoners, have been tried by the star chamber—in secret, away from anybody in a public trial—and 80 of them have received sentences in an Iranian prison of 15 years or more, and 5 of them have received a sentence of the death penalty.

Why? What is their crime?

Their crime is objecting to the oppression of their own government, and for that, they are punished. Of course, others have been shot in the streets just because they have taken to the streets to protest their government.

You know, the students aren't the only ones who have been arrested. Journalists have been arrested. Clerics, who call themselves "reform clerics," and other people—all for the same reason—objecting to their government. They object to what has taken place.

By blocking the cell phones and Internet access, the government had hoped to keep the word from getting out to the rest of the world about this pollution, about this horrible climate in Iran, but the word has gotten out—photographs such as this one here. Here is another one of a young Iranian student having been beaten for taking to the streets to protest his government last week. This one also escaped the controlled press of the Iranian Government.

You know, Iran violates its own constitution by not allowing its people to protest and to lawfully assemble. They are standing for basic human rights. That's right—the right to peaceably assemble and to object to your government and what it's doing to you. It's the right of free speech—a basic human right. It's the right of a free press, which is a right we take for granted in this country.

So we need a regime change in Iran. The way to do that is to help these young people and the people who want to change their regime. We must support them. This country should support them in any way that we can.

Yes, President Ahmadinejad is the pollution of the world, and we need a change of climate in Iran. The students are sending a message to Iran's rogue government that you can beat us, you can arrest us, you can imprison us, but you will not stop us, and you will not intimidate us because we are not going away.

Good for them. We should be proud of those students. We should support them. We should have a climate change in Iran.

And that's just the way it is.

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

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

#### THE LOSS OF AMERICA'S HEROES AND OF AMERICA'S ECONOMY

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

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF UNITED STATES MARINE CORPORAL XHACOB LATORRE

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, before I address the issue which has brought me to the floor tonight, I want to recognize the ultimate sacrifice made by a young man from my district in the service of the United States Marine Corps.

I am sad to report that my office received news last week that Marine Corporal Xhacob LaTorre, from Waterbury, Connecticut died due to wounds received in combat in the Helmand province of Afghanistan. Corporal LaTorre's fatal injuries were the result of a roadside bomb.

I speak for myself and for my constituents in expressing my appreciation for this young man's service in the defense of his country. Corporal LaTorre, who would have turned 22 last weekend, is one of America's heroes. I send my prayers and my condolences to his family; to his wife, Frances; to his son; and to his brother, Corporal Daniel LaTorre, on this tragic loss. We will never forget the sacrifice he has made for us.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. I ask those in this Chamber this evening to join me in a brief moment of silence. Thank you.

THE AMERICAN ECONOMY IS BEING SENT OVERSEAS

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I have come to the floor tonight to speak about an issue important to my home State. As you can see by the 1-minute speeches given here earlier tonight to this entire Nation, Connecticut pioneered America's shipbuilding and aerospace industries. Shops which were once bustling with workers are now silent. When those shops went away, thousands of good-paying jobs for hardworking people in my State went away with them. We just learned recently that Connecticut will lose another 1,000 jobs when a major defense supplier shuts two of its facilities and moves its operations to Singapore and Japan.

At this moment, 158,000 people in my State and almost 16 million across this country are out of work—many of those as a result of the transfer of military manufacturing jobs overseas. At the same time, the Department of Defense and other Federal agencies have created thousands of waivers of our domestic sourcing legislation, like the

Buy American Act, which has resulted in billions of taxpayer dollars being sent to overseas companies.

Now, in working with a group of Members who is dedicated to shoring up the rules that require the government to purchase domestically, I've been drafting legislation which will seek to address the growing number of loopholes that allow companies to take taxpayer dollars overseas. My legislation would begin to reorient and to build up our domestic manufacturing and construction base, which has been hit so hard in recent times, by using taxpayer dollars to do it. Taxpayer dollars are already going to buy, too often, overseas products.

We don't seek to interfere with the decisions of private businesses. We do, however, seek to make it clear that the U.S. Government values American-made products and that taxpayer money shouldn't be shipped off to a foreign country to contribute to the bottom line of that foreign company when American businesses can produce the same high-quality goods right here at home.

I believe strongly in international trade, and I accept the necessity of an interdependent global economy. However, what we are discussing here is not just economics, and it is not simply a race to find the lowest price. It is about national security. It is especially about national security with regard to the Department of Defense. A stable supply of domestically manufactured defense products is imperative to this Nation's long-term safety and common defense. We have a real opportunity here to both reinvigorate our domestic capacity for manufacturing while enhancing our national security.

With that in mind, I, along with a group of Members, am crafting legislation which will seek to assist firms that are victims of the loopholes in our current Buy American and Buy America regime. This legislation will target assistance to suppliers that manufacture or that could manufacture products that Federal agencies have deemed nonavailable from domestic sources, which is a misleading designation. Under current law, an agency can determine that an item is nonavailable in sufficient quantity or quality in the United States and then can just waive the Buy American restrictions. Therefore, the assistance in my legislation will target firms that make these nonavailable items right here in the United States but that might not have the capacity right now to meet the agency's needs.

These firms will use this assistance to increase their capacity so that they can be the suppliers to the American Government rather than ceding that ground to foreign firms. It will also assist suppliers that manufacture an item which is currently being bought through the Buy American provisions. If that firm is in danger of going out of business, then let's step up and help it stay in business because the only place

that we are left to go after that firm folds is to a foreign supplier.

Madam Speaker, my colleagues came to this House floor earlier tonight to talk about the major Federal tanker contract which is going to a foreign supplier—Airbus. It is just one example. It is a major example of a growing trend in defense work going overseas. We have had enough. It is time for us as a Congress to deem this unacceptable, to strengthen the Buy American provisions, and to bring our taxpayer dollars back home.

□ 1945

#### THE LEANES FAMILY—MILITARY FAMILY OF THE YEAR

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 have the distinct privilege of representing many of this Nation's wonderful military families. The Third District of North Carolina is home to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

Every year, the National Military Family Association honors the top families from each of the seven uniformed services: Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. One family is chosen from these seven as the National Military Family of the Year.

This year I am very pleased to say that the Leanes family from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, is not only this year's Marine Corps Family of the Year but also the National Military Family of the Year.

Sergeant Dennis Leanes and his wife, Kristy, are dedicated and committed to serving this country as well as their community. The Leanes' six children, Jordan, Syvannah, Bethany, Marissa, Emily and Karianne are following their parents' example in giving back to their community as well.

In 2006, after 8 years of working in a civilian job, Dennis' love for his country led him to re-enlist in the Marine Corps, take a pay cut and uproot his family. The Leanes embraced life in the Camp Lejeune community and incorporated volunteering in their daily lives.

Dennis and Kristy run Scout meetings, coach sports teams, lead family readiness meetings and help their neighbors in any way they can. Kristy also dedicates a major portion of her time to home schooling all six of the Leanes children.

Jordan fixes bicycles and donates them to charity, Syvannah organized a wonderful "Wounded Warrior Thank You" project at church. Bethany volunteers her babysitting services for moms whose husbands are deployed. The three younger children, Marissa,

Emily and Karianne, help out by baking cookies and bread for various projects and are quick to share with their neighbors.

Dennis and Kristy have taught their children by example what it means to be brave and strong. They have taught their children the importance of volunteering and what it means to serve your neighbor and community. Our military families need to know that the Members of Congress and the people of this Nation appreciate them and all they do for our country.

May God continue to bless our troops, their families, and this great Nation.

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

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

#### FINANCIAL REFORM

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

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I could not resist coming to you and speaking to you about my experience when we passed the financial reform bill last Friday.

You know, Wall Street has provided an unparalleled life-style for Americans. The speculation and the brilliance and genius of futures and credit default swaps and derivatives have provided us with a life-style where every bride can have a diamond ring and every handsome groom can have a gold band. We can have two cars, one a gas-guzzling SUV, lobster dinners, McMansions, Madam Speaker, with six bedrooms, five fireplaces, 4½ baths but, of course, not enough closet space for all the shoes and designer clothes that we have.

Last fall, all of this balloon spending came to a crash. And it was amazing to me, Madam Speaker, that when we tried to rein in Wall Street and some of the speculation, that there was tremendous resistance from both parties with developing a Consumer Financial Protection Agency, putting together an assessment from all of these "too big to fail" companies to pay for an orderly dissolution of the mess that they created. I can tell you, Madam Speaker, it was amazing to me.

This bill that we passed, for those who have asked the question, what is government for, this bill demonstrates better than anything that I have seen what the purpose of government is, and that is to regulate unfettered greed and avarice that can bring our country and, indeed, the world to financial brink.

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.)

**CONDEMNING THE ARREST OF JORGE LUIS GARCIA PEREZ "ANTUNEZ" AND YRIS PEREZ AGUILERA**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, Senator BOB MENENDEZ gave an important speech last Thursday, December 10, opposing concessions to the dictatorship of Cuba.

In his speech Senator MENENDEZ read out loud an open letter which had been sent by one of Cuba's true heroes—a giant of the resistance to the Cuban tyranny—Jorge Luis Garcia Perez "Antunez," here photographed with his wife, Yris Perez Aguilera, a letter to the titular Cuban dictator, Raul Castro, on Tuesday, December 8.

"Mr. Raul Castro," Antunez wrote, "for months now my wife Yris Tamara Perez Aguilera and I have been kept in extrajudicial house arrest by your political police. Mr. Dictator, let me ask you some questions that may help clarify some doubts for those fellow countrymen of mine who may at some point have had hope your government would reduce the repression or even carry out democratic openings.

"What do you feel when you incite or allow people who call themselves men to beat and drag through the streets women like Damaris Moya Portieles, Maria Diaz Rondon, Ana Alfonso Arteaga, Sara Marta Fonseca, Yris Perez and now more recently the blogger Yoani Sanchez?

"How can you sleep after your subordinates cruelly beat, more than once, Idania Yanez Contreras while she was pregnant?

"How can you and your government talk about the battle of ideas, when ideas constantly face repression with beatings and arrests and years of imprisonment?

"Maybe your followers will not dare respond, but I who am in the long list of those who do not fear you, will answer:

"You act like that because you are a cruel man, insensitive to the pain and suffering of others; because, loyal to your anti-democratic and dictatorial vocation, you are convinced that dictatorships such as yours can only sustain themselves by fear and torture, and that even the most minimal of openings can end the only thing that interests you: staying in power.

"And finally, speaking of my case in particular, I will respond to you without the need to first ask of you the motives for such focused repression against my person."

Antunez, by the way, Madam Speaker, now 45 years old, was a political prisoner for 17 years until 2007.

He continued to write, "Your government and its lackey-repressive forces cannot forgive my two great and only crimes. First, that for almost two decades of torture and cruelties during my unjust and severe imprisonment, you were not able to break my dignity and my position as a political prisoner. Second, because despite all the violence and harassment—and above all the risk of returning to prison—I have decided to not abandon my country, where I will continue fighting for a change I believe to be as necessary as it is inevitable."

Signed, in the City of Placetas, by Jorge Luis Garcia Perez "Antunez", Tuesday, December 8.

On Friday, December 11, Antunez and his wife, Yris Perez Aguilera, she is a heroine, were violently arrested. The doctrine of Fidel Castro's hero Adolf Hitler was again devoutly followed: "The very first essential for success is a perpetually constant and regular employment of violence."

"This is kidnapping," yelled Yris. "Long live human rights," shouted Antunez as they were being beaten and taken away by the Castros' political police on Friday.

I condemn the brutal arrest of these two heroes by the Castros' cowardly thugs. The days of the Castros' racist totalitarian tyranny in Cuba are coming to an end. Those who have collaborated with the violence and brutality of the racist regime will face justice and eternal shame. Antunez, Yris Perez Aguilera, her brother, Mario Perez Aguilera, Oscar Elias Biscet, Darsi Ferrer and many other heroic political prisoners of Cuba will be elected the leaders of free Cuba. That change is as necessary as it is inevitable. Because of heroes like Antunez and Yris Perez Aguilera, the day of freedom in Cuba is approaching.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman 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.)

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MEMORY WALK**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the success of the Miami-Dade Memory Walk sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association.

This event called on volunteers of all ages to be champions in the fight against the terrible disease of Alzheimer's, which impacts more than 5 million Americans and their families. Over 2,200 people participated in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk in my home county of Miami-Dade, and their efforts raised over \$130,000 for research into a cure.

I was encouraged by the wonderful outpouring of support and participation from our community in South Florida. I know from countless personal stories, as well as from my own family, just how devastating this disease of Alzheimer's is.

My mom, Amanda Ros, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's over a year ago. While I am blessed to have tremendous family support during this difficult time for her, I recognize how important it is to have organizations, such as the Alzheimer's Association, that can step in and provide families with guidance on how to care for their loved one.

Tony Friguls is another individual who knows this terrible disease all too well. He participated in the Memory Walk in support of his wife of 37 years, Maria, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's 4 years ago at the age of 55. Since that day, her life, Tony's life and the lives of their children, grandchildren and, indeed, their entire family, has never been the same. It has changed forever.

For Tony and his wife, there was no more hope to reach retirement, to travel, to enjoy life. Instead, they were both forced to retire from their jobs in order to cope with the new daily challenges of Alzheimer's. Determined to help his wife, Tony made a decision to help raise community awareness for this disease. His team for the Alzheimer's Memory Walk, Baba's Bunch, included over 400 members. He is also involved in an essay-writing contest in public schools to raise student awareness about Alzheimer's.

Today, Tony's wife is 59 years old. She can hardly speak. She cannot even sign her own name, and she is not who she used to be.

He continues the fight against Alzheimer's in honor of his wife and all of those who suffer and cope with this terrible disease. Unfortunately, as we all know, Alzheimer's has no survivors. It destroys brain cells. It causes memory changes, erratic behaviors and loss of body functions. It slowly and painfully takes away a person's identity, a person's ability to connect with others, to think, to eat, to talk, to walk, to find your way home. There is no treatment, no cure, no way to stop the progression of Alzheimer's disease.

This disease is widespread and growing. Every 70 seconds, Madam Speaker, someone new develops Alzheimer's, and it is not only the person diagnosed that is impacted, but also their family members. One in eight people aged 65 and older has Alzheimer's, an even higher number of those aged 85 and

older, and 87 percent of that time it is the family members who are the primary caregivers.

The emotional stress of care giving is so high, and about one-third of caregivers develop symptoms of depression. Care giving also takes a financial toll, with many individuals having to quit work, reduce their work hours, or take time off because of their responsibilities.

Madam Speaker, we must continue the fight against this devastating disease before it claims more lives, more lives of our mothers, our fathers, our sisters, our brothers and our spouses. I again encourage all in our community to show solidarity in the fight we must win against Alzheimer's.

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

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

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. ING-LIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. INGLIS. Madam Speaker, the report by the chief actuary of Medicare is in and, as we thought, it shows real problems with the idea of expanding Medicare coverage to lower age groups. This summer, I had an opportunity to do a bunch of town hall meetings, and in those meetings we discussed the fact that what we're talking about really, in the public option, is adding more people to something like the SS Medicare which is already sinking in the harbor. But now over in the other body, there is specifically a proposal to literally add more people to the sinking SS Medicare in the harbor.

And so in the last several days, the chief actuary has provided a report that really should stop us in our tracks and cause us to realize that that's no solution, to add people to a program that is already unsustainable.

What that chief actuary of Medicare reports—and there are several items in his report, obviously, but one of them is the report cautions that savings needed to extend the trust fund cannot simultaneously be used to extend other health insurance coverage. In other words, if you're going to save money, you can't simultaneously expand coverage under the program. It seems fairly obvious to the folks I was talking to in town hall meetings. Unfortunately here in Washington, it seems not to be comprehended. We seem to think that here in Washington we can continue to add people to a program even though the people that are currently on the program have it on a trajectory that can't be sustained.

The actuary also points out that actually the Senate bill would increase

the cost of health care; would not decrease the cost of health care. In fact, total spending on health care would increase by \$234 billion between 2010 and 2019. Also, total Federal expenditures on health care would increase \$365.8 billion during that period. The bill would extend coverage to 33 million Americans by 2019 but would still leave 24 million people uninsured, 5 million of which may be illegal immigrants. And the number of people with employer-sponsored health care would drop by 5 million by 2019.

What the chief actuary is telling us is that the solution that's being proposed is not a solution. In order to solve the challenge of Medicare, you have to figure out some way to change the underlying behavior. You have to figure out a way to get the patient invested in their care and caring how much it costs. That's what we've got to do for Medicare, Medicaid and for private insurance.

There are some very creative things going on in the private sector that are toward this end, to have this objective of changing the underlying behavior. What we're discussing here in the Congress under the majority here in the House and the apparent majority over in the Senate is not something that will change behavior. What it will do is simply add more people to a program that is already unsustainable. So rather than saving money, as the President suggests it will, actually what will happen, as the chief actuary says, is the costs rise; not everybody gets covered. It's clearly not a solution.

So what we have to do is scrap the current plans and go back to something that might actually work: by getting a change in behavior, by figuring out how to get people covered, by figuring out how to do medical malpractice reform and by getting 50-State competition among private insurance companies. Those, Madam Speaker, are the solutions we want to see in this country. We must stop this false solution that's being offered now.

#### THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS HOUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure again to be the anchor for the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order Hour. I want to thank our chairwoman, BARBARA LEE, for talking with us the last week or two about jobs and how important jobs is going to be for this nation.

I would at this time like to welcome and ask our Chair, the Honorable BARBARA LEE from California, to please now join me. She has directed us in so many different ways over this year, I am just especially pleased to be a part of this caucus.

Ms. LEE. Thank you very much.

Let me take a moment to thank Congresswoman FUDGE for really consistently raising the alarm and setting forth what the agenda is every Monday night of the Congressional Black Caucus, which is an agenda that speaks not only to the issues in communities of color in the Congressional Black Caucus but issues which really will allow for the American Dream to be real for all.

So thank you, Congresswoman FUDGE, and I know you come from a State where the unemployment rate is critical. People are suffering, housing foreclosure rates are off the scale, and especially in the African American community. Communities of color have been hardest hit, I know, in Ohio. So thank you so much for your leadership.

Let me just talk for a few minutes about our economy. We all know that the economic security of all Americans is extremely fragile. Communities of color, especially the African American community and Latino communities, have been disproportionately hit by this recession. Last week, we released a letter which we forwarded to President Obama, Speaker PELOSI and Chairman MILLER which outlined our priorities as members of the Congressional Black Caucus. We are continuing to work with House leaders and the administration to ensure that our priorities for job creation and economic growth are included in a jobs package which should be finalized hopefully before Congress adjourns this year.

After the release of our letter, it was interesting to read some of the bloggers, some of the pundits. They actually argued that targeted relief was unneeded. And what we propose is not based on race. I just want to be clear on that. It's based on need. We want to ensure that our resources are targeted to areas of greatest hardship.

For example, here are some of the facts regarding the African American community that are indisputable:

The unemployment rate for African Americans is nearly twice that of whites. 49.4 percent of African Americans 16 to 19 years of age were unemployed in November.

Nearly 28 percent of African Americans received food aid compared to 15 percent of Latinos and 8 percent of whites.

Recent African American college graduates are unemployed at higher rates than their white counterparts and African American workers remain unemployed an average of 5 weeks longer than the rest of Americans.

More than 24 percent of African Americans are living below the poverty line and African Americans are 55 percent more likely to be unemployed than white Americans.

African Americans have 2.3 times the infant mortality rate as non-Hispanic whites. They are four times as likely to die as infants due to complications related to low birthweight as compared to non-Hispanic white infants.

Additionally, African Americans have shorter life spans.

The Congressional Black Caucus in its continued role as the Conscience of the Congress is morally obligated to address these systemic inequalities. Moreover, as members who represent so many constituents who are disproportionately suffering, we have an obligation as policymakers to write legislation to address these moral gaps. That is why I convened a task force to develop targeted proposals to address the acutely unemployed and the crisis in our communities and throughout the country and also to spur job creation for the chronically unemployed who happen to be black and Latino, many are white, and many are Asian Pacific Islanders. This task force is chaired by Congressman EMANUEL CLEAVER.

We must maintain support for vital extensions of unemployment insurance and the COBRA health insurance subsidies as millions of Americans continue to face job loss and extended periods of unemployment. We also must continue to invest in education and job training programs that fully support housing initiatives like the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program to bring some stability to our hardest hit communities.

We must 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 the legislature to keep up with increases in the cost of living. We need to ensure access to early education, guarantee a high quality public education for every American student, and make sure that every working family has access to the affordable, quality child care that they need so that they can get to their jobs. Also, we need to reconnect with our disconnected youth and the formerly incarcerated individuals with increased support for job training and education for a new wave of environmentally friendly and economically green jobs which are going to be competitive but also which will require skills and the knowledge and the qualifications to be able to be eligible for these jobs. That's why we suggested a strong training program for these jobs. And we must remove Federal barriers to provide for a second chance.

Last week, President Obama delivered a speech that was another sober reminder of the important work we must do and we must continue to work to grow our economy and create jobs. And we agree with the President that support for small businesses, infrastructure investment and green jobs is essential. We also believe that as Members of Congress we must do more.

In order to do this, the Congressional Black Caucus has outlined four areas of focus laid out in our letter. They are: Direct job creation and training; infrastructure; small businesses; and State

and local relief. These areas are essential to create real and meaningful economic opportunities to provide pathways out of poverty and opportunities for all.

The Congressional Black Caucus remains committed to working with President Obama and our congressional leadership—Speaker PELOSI and Chairman MILLER—to address the real economic crisis gripping our nation. We will not shy away from the fight for targeted relief for the chronically unemployed. In our letter, we suggested that there be a requirement that the amounts appropriated shall allocate no less than 10 percent for assistance in qualified areas of economic hardship, provided that for the purpose of these sections “qualified areas of economic hardship” means any census tract or block numbering area where 20 percent or more of the population is at or below the Federal poverty line. The term “poverty line” means the official poverty line defined by the Office of Management and Budget.

So let me be clear. What we propose is not based on race. It is based on need. We are asking for no more or no less than what Wall Street got. When there was a crisis on Wall Street, the Nation responded with a sense of urgency. We're asking for that same sense of urgency to the economic crisis that is gripping the hardest hit communities in America. There was no problem when that money was targeted to Wall Street. We're asking for the same targeted help for communities under the gun. It would be a tragedy if the economy recovers and we leave communities of color behind. We know money is going to be spent for jobs. The question is, where will the money be spent? And we want to make sure that we leave no community behind.

We will certainly become stronger as a nation if we ensure that a jobs bill recognizes these huge disparities. I believe strongly that it is our moral obligation to tackle poverty and unemployment and that in the richest country in the world, we simply have no excuse not to do so.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that the members of the Congressional Black Caucus are committed to continuing to work together with our President and our congressional leaders to fix our economy and to create jobs that address the true depth of this recession. There is no question that by our collective efforts, we can make a real difference in the lives of all Americans.

Thank you, Congresswoman FUDGE, for your leadership and for giving me a few minutes to speak tonight.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you so much, Madam Chair. I want to thank you for your call to action.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. I would ask, Madam Speaker, that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material for the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I would now like to yield to my friend and colleague from Wisconsin, Representative MOORE.

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Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Well, thank you, gentlelady from Ohio for yielding. And I can tell you that I found the remarks of our Chair very, very compelling, and I guess I would agree with her. But I want to add that while a couple of the categories of the Congressional Black Caucus include infrastructure jobs and providing funds for local programs, and while I believe that there is a general call for these types of spending to stimulate our economy, I've heard on both sides of the aisle calls for moneys to be used for infrastructure improvements.

I would say, with a qualification, that we need to make sure the funds for infrastructure projects go directly to cities and counties and allow those governments the flexibility to determine where the greatest infrastructure needs are for their communities. I think that while the Recovery Act saved between 600,000 and 1.6 million jobs, we ought to learn from some of the mistakes that were made there, and I think that the Congressional Black Caucus, in its wisdom, has pointed out that we need to target our initiatives more and not just give the moneys to those States that don't necessarily target those funds, and make sure that it gets to the cities and States to work on infrastructure programs that are needed.

The other qualification that I would give, and I think that the Chair raised it in her comments, is that we need to make sure that the infrastructure projects include those people—that they target them to those communities that are in need. And with that, I would say that we need to target, we need to create programs for pre-apprenticeship programs so that all of the moneys don't go to those, all of it doesn't go to those laborers and those folks who are typically building within our communities, those people who already have some of the skill sets and education that can transition them into the new energy-related initiatives, but that we ought to look at pre-apprenticeship programs so that we can expose individuals with low skill sets to other workers with family-supporting jobs by working alongside with them nearby and on the same projects.

From those experienced workers, the pre-apprentice participants can learn a pathway on how to move forward and develop those skill sets that will move them up the career ladder, and at the same time, provide them with sustainable income. To help enforce this, lady from Ohio, I believe that contractors could be required to include a certain percentage of pre-apprenticeship participants in their so-called Federal

floor participation of women and minority workers that is already required by executive order.

The reality is that we cannot afford to wait while the unemployment rate for minorities continues to rise. Unemployment, reemployment is a lagging indicator, and we can't wait until we reduce these numbers. The unemployment rate among black males is currently 15.6 percent. And by April of 2009, the gap between black and white men grew to a 13-year high of 7 percent. The time is now. And I urge my colleagues to consider all proposals that present the American people with a jobs bill that not only creates jobs, but sets up training programs and education programs that will help dislocated workers gain new skills that will lead to sustainable employment.

Now, Madam Chairman, lady from Ohio, I have in fact, mentioned that we need to work toward helping women and minorities get into these infrastructure jobs and the new energy-related jobs. And there has been feedback that we ought not target this specifically toward a particular race, or perhaps toward a particular gender. But when you look at the framework that the Congressional Black Caucus has laid out, that we need to target it toward those census tracks where there is a dearth of persons who have these kinds of jobs, or who are unemployed, we will find, much to many people's amazement, that there's a great deal of poverty among minorities, and there certainly is a great deal of poverty among women who find themselves increasingly heading households and providing the greatest source of income.

I thought it was very interesting that Maria Shriver recently did a study that really elucidated the fact that women were providing a greater and greater amount of the family income. And so this is something that I think the Congressional Black Caucus is raising in a very timely manner. And with that I would yield back to the gentlelady from Ohio.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you very, very much. At this time I want to—we've got obviously a lot of Members here tonight. I thank you all so much for being here. What I'd like to do just briefly is to have Representative JACKSON-LEE just introduce some points, and I'd like at that point for Representative ELLISON from Minnesota to join us in a brief discussion. Representative JACKSON-LEE from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Thank you very much to the distinguished convener, Congresswoman FUDGE from Ohio. I'm delighted to join the chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, who has been just superb on gathering us together on what is an enormous crisis. I'm going to take the liberty of mixing a number of issues that I think are crucial to the topic that addresses this question of dealing with homelessness and hunger and joblessness. So I want to let the American people know that when the Congress-

sional Black Caucus set out its multipoint plan, a letter that was sent to President Obama, interestingly enough, the broadness of our concepts dealt with the most deprived and devastated communities.

Those communities are American Indians, Native Americans. Those communities are Hispanics, Latinos, African Americans, women. And I evidence this by the article in The Washington Post on Saturday—it was referred to in our recent caucus by one of my colleagues, "Missing More Than a Meal." And it cites the families, since they've been publicly noted, of Christina Koch, it cites the family of Anajyha Wright Mitchell, and it cites—these are children who are suffering because parents don't have work.

It cites the family, I guess Christina Koch is here noted. And the quote that I think is most potent says, "This more nuanced picture is emerging as the problem has become more widespread. With the economy faltering, the number of youngsters living in homes without enough food soared in 2008 from 13 million to nearly 17 million" children in America. If we can imagine—17 million children are going to bed or waking up or going to school hungry because these breadwinners, single parents, have no jobs.

And so my message today is that this is not a, if you will, an opportunity to do good legislative work. This is a crisis of insurmountable definition. This is at a pinnacle. This is the mountain top, and there must be nothing that stops us from focusing on the necessities of getting work. Let me lay out two or three points that I think are interwoven into this circumstance and the arguments that I think call for immediate action.

My focus has been in training, and I have, I think, a unique perspective to work with those who may be on unemployment. You say, well, they're on unemployment, leave them alone. Well, unemployment is at different levels. If you happen to have been a person who had a part-time job, you know the level of your unemployment. What I'd like to do is to get those people out of those cyclical jobs, one job after another, and put them in training, where they keep their unemployment and they get a stipend so that the electricity can be turned on, the food can be bought. And when they come out on the other end, one, they've been kept out of the unemployment lines for a year, and they come out as a nurses aid or a technician of some sort to get them eligible for these jobs. I think that is imperative.

This weekend, I met with a nonprofit that has about \$22 million in weatherization dollars. I gathered small businesses who had never heard of the opportunities for weatherization, which would create jobs in our community. We also had the General Services Administration, and I think it's important to note that that is such a complexity of getting jobs to small busi-

nesses. What happens is they have what they call GSA lists. I believe the Federal Government should be the great job maker, and therefore, we should make easy the ability for small businesses to access opportunities. So I want to see legislation that demystifies the GSA list. I want to see legislation that tells the Federal Government that they cannot have one narrow way of presenting jobs to America, which is on the Web site.

If you have a job fair and you have the Federal Government there, they don't bring anybody to hire someone on the spot. They tell you to go to the Web site. Well, some people are homeless, are qualified, but they're in a predicament. Many people don't have access to the Web site. So these are simple administrative changes. Let me just add this on the Small Business Finance and Investment Act that the President has talked about.

One of the things in the meeting that I had over the weekend, my friends, on weatherization—and I know they meant well. They came to the meeting, and we had had a pre-meeting, and they came to the meeting, 30 or 40 or 50 people in the room, and they said, Here's the criteria: Your bank account must be secure, and must be, if you will, flourishing. They said that you must have Department of Energy experience, Congressman PAYNE. You must already have had that experience. Some of my people in Texas, no disrespect, DOE? They thought it was the Department of Education. Then they said that you must have, no disrespect to them, you must have past experience. Well, weatherization, these dollars are to build capacity. These dollars are to get small businesses so that they can build capacity, so they can become weatherizers in the future.

So we need to eliminate all these barriers of being able to work under Federal dollars. They're taxpayers dollars. Don't tell them to have Department of Energy experience. Tell them do they know how to put a window in? Do they have enough money to pay workers? And so this is, I think, a way of simplifying. I'm going to yield to the gentleman on these two points if I might. This idea of giving money to States is an abomination. Those of us who have diversity in state leadership, different from the majority party here, see that money going, and we never see it again in the hands of our constituents. That is a crisis.

And then I know that we are on jobs, but let me tell you that this issue is, as I yield to the gentleman, we now have a health care bill that is making its way through the Senate. In that bill, there is a provision about promoting jobs in the health profession, scholarships for doctors and nurses and physicians' assistants. I want to ask the question: How much longer do we have to wait for the distinguished Senator from Connecticut to block health care over and over again and block jobs? And so I'm calling today for reconciliation. If that is a procedure that can

get us moving so that people can have jobs and good health care, I believe they're intertwined together. And with that I would say, this is a time for a fight, a real fight.

And I'd be happy to engage the gentleman from Minnesota on some of the very points that he has raised. And I am delighted to be part of his legislation, which is a magnificent comprehensive jobs effort. And I hope he'll join me in the training aspect as well.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I salute my colleagues with the Congressional Black Caucus for tackling one of the most important issues of the day facing not just African Americans and Latino Americans, but all Americans. Let me share with you that in my District, which covers parts of the Nation's fourth largest city, Houston, TX, our unemployment rate stands at nearly 9 percent. While this rate is more than a full percentage point below the national average, we know at least anecdotally, the unemployment rates for African Americans and Latinos in Houston are much higher.

Yet, this "jobs disparity" is not limited to Houston, data from the Department of Labor indicates that African Americans throughout the Nation today, in the era of President Obama, are still the last hired and the first fired. Specifically, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the unemployment rate for African American men, 20 and older, was 16.5 percent as of October of this year, and 12.4 percent for African American women at the same age level.

Historically, experts have suggested that the anecdote to unemployment is education. However, Labor Department statistics appear to indicate that education, alone, does not level the playing field. In fact, higher education amongst African Americans may strangely enough even make it more difficult to obtain a job. For the first 10 months of this year, as the recession has dragged on, unemployment for least educated workers was the same for African-Americans and the general population. However, in 2009, the unemployment rate for African American college graduates 25 and older has been nearly twice that of their Caucasian American male counterparts, 8.4 percent compared with 4.4 percent. According to a New York Times article published on December 1, even African American college graduates with degrees from Ivy League schools such as Yale, my alma mater, are finding themselves in the ranks of the unemployed.

In addition to the racial dimension of this "jobs disparity," the recent economic downturn has focused a spotlight on a widening gap between employment rates amongst men and women, particularly in the African American community. It has been reported that since the Nation's slowdown has been most pronounced in the manual labor sectors, men with the lowest levels of education have suffered the brunt of the unemployment crisis. CNN commentators recently described our current economic condition as a "man-cession."

According to a recent Bureau of Labor Statistics report, the unemployment rate for African American men aged 20 and older was 4.1 percent higher than the unemployment rate for African American women of the same age group, which was 12.4 percent. This gender unemployment gap among African Americans mirrors a similar gap between Caucasian and

Latino Americans, thus demonstrating a nationwide trend.

Friends, we are in a battle for the hearts and souls of America, literally and figuratively. To win this battle, we must take bold action, like passing health care reform legislation in both chambers of Congress. Madam Speaker, I concur with the assessment that the health reform legislation voted out of this chamber last month in fact a "jobs bill."

As evidence of this, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that last month's slight dip in the unemployment rate was caused by the fact that for the third straight month, hospitals reported solid payroll additions, with 6,800 new jobs created. In the first 11 months of this year, the healthcare sector created 249,700 new jobs, an average of 22,700 new health care jobs each month, according to BLS' preliminary data. Since the start of the recession in December 2007, overall 7.9 million people in America have lost their jobs, while the healthcare sector has created 613,000 jobs.

In an article published in HealthLeaders Media, it was reported that the healthcare sector—from hospitals, to physicians' offices, to residential mental health homes, kidney dialysis centers, and blood and organ banks—grew by 21,000 payroll additions in November and 613,000 payroll additions since the start of the recession in December 2007. The home healthcare services sector reported 7,300 payroll additions in November, BLS preliminary data show.

Recognizing this Madam Speaker, I am working with health care and labor leaders to craft a jobs bill that create innovative new re-training programs in partnership with our Historically Black Colleges and Universities like Texas Southern University in my District or Howard University, here in Washington, DC. These training programs would focus on re-tooling workers for jobs in the growth sectors such as health, biotech, and information technology. In addition to funding for job training, I propose that we provide stipends to those who are unemployed and who participate in training programs to assist them in caring for their families. Along with this, my jobs bill would allow unemployed workers participating in job retraining to continue receiving unemployment benefits.

As a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I am also working with the DOJ to incorporate into my jobs legislation a measure that would assist ex-offenders who are returning to the job market with strikes against them. In addition to eliminating any barriers for ex-offenders, I am also studying how we can encourage States to suspend criminal prosecution of fathers and other parents who are delinquent in child support so long as they are making good faith efforts to find jobs in this difficult employment market.

Madam Speaker, I also propose that we task the Department of Labor to expand its definition of the unemployed to cover not only those currently receiving unemployment compensation, but also those who have run out of unemployment insurance, known as the long term unemployed. I suspect that if we had accurate data that captured the entire unemployment picture, we would see jobless figures of upwards of 25–30 percent.

In addition, Madam Speaker, I also plan to propose we offer assistance to the underemployed, including thousands of lawyers and other professionals who work as part-timers or

temp workers. Many of these professionals split their time between working for others and operating their own small firms. Furthermore, it has been noted that while larger firms are enjoying the benefit of government funded bailouts, our African American law firms, accounting firms, investment banking firms and media outlets are being left out of the funds directed at stimulating Wall Street. As Comcast and NBC Universal and other firms seek government permission to merge, I intend to work with these companies to ensure that our African American businesses are included, not left out of the deal flow.

Another jobs initiative would focus on creating apprentice and internship programs managed by cities and nonprofits like the Urban League. This is a take off of a Department of Labor that was very successful in the 1970s, which helped our Nation rebound from its last recession.

Madam Speaker, during the 1930s–40s, the FDR administration developed the Work Progress Administration, WPA. The WPA created thousands of jobs and helped lift our Nation from depression. I am drafting legislation that would create a WPA for the 21st century. This concept involves providing stimulus dollars to several Federal agencies such as Interior, Transportation, and HHS to fund large-scale projects.

Under my legislation, the new WPA would include modern-day infrastructure and other projects including making broadband wireless Internet service available for all Americans, not just in wealthier suburban and downtown districts. In addition, we should create high-speed rail and environmentally friendly highways and byways.

Finally, I plan that we work with HHS and the Energy Department to build new Green Hospitals across the country. This project would ensure that our Nation's healthcare facilities are themselves healthy.

Madam Speaker, many of our unemployed constituents in Houston and around the Nation are asking us a simple question: how long, how long before I can find a job? I say to them, not long . . . help is on the way. With the introduction and passage of jobs legislation offered by myself and the rest of the Congressional Black Caucus, help for the unemployed and underemployed, help for small businesses, is on the way.

I appreciate the leadership of the Congressional Black Caucus on this issue and dedicate to my constituents in the 18th Congressional District of Texas that it can count on me to work with my colleagues to deliver in this time of great need. How long, not long, with the help of the Almighty and hard work of my colleagues, help is on the way.

Mr. ELLISON. Let me just say that I just want to tell a story. You know, I was home this weekend, and I was walking along one of the trails that we have in Minneapolis. You know, we've got a lot of parks in Minneapolis. It was cold, and I wanted to get my legs stretched from working so hard last week, so I was walking a long one of our many trails. And I decided to sit down at a park bench, and it looked like a pretty old-looking park bench. You could tell the rust was there.

And when I sat down I noticed that it was sturdy. And we sat there talking to a few friends. But when I got up to

leave, I noticed that there was a little plaque about the size of this phone, and it said on it, WPA, 1934. For 75 years that park bench had been sitting there. For 75 years, that thing has been giving comfort to people who are just walking by. But 75 years ago we had a job crisis then. And our country, our Congress, responded to the needs of unemployed Americans.

□ 2130

We need to respond to the needs of Americans today as people are putting pressure on food shelves, as people don't have money for heat, for lights, as folks who had two and three jobs that were part time now have lost them; now they have no lifeline. We've got to respond to a generation of Americans looking for work today. And where there's extra hurt, there needs to be extra help.

And that means that the Congressional Black Caucus—and other caucuses as well—are focusing on a targeted-jobs bill calling for jobs now, calling attention to an appalling condition where people are unemployed at rates of 25, 30 percent in some communities.

I just want to ask the gentlelady—and I'll ask any of my colleagues. I like the dialogue. I'm not going to give a 20-minute speech.

I will ask the gentlelady, what have you heard as you were standing in the grocery store line? What have you heard when you were walking around your parks in places like Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Ohio, Cleveland? What have you heard? What have you gone through? And what are your folks telling you? Don't give me a bunch of stats. Tell me what your people are feeling. I'd like to know that.

I yield back to the gentlelady.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you very much.

Does the gentlelady from Wisconsin or Texas or California wish to respond?

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. I just want to mention to the gentleman from Minnesota, we're neighbors in the Midwest, and of course you know there have been hundreds of thousands of manufacturing jobs that have been lost in the Midwest over the last 30 years. But since 2008, we have lost more jobs during 2008 than in any—for the last 70 years that these data and statistics have been collected. And so that, I think, is really telling about the attrition of jobs.

I hear people often talking about how horrific the 10.4 percent unemployment rate is. If there were a 10.4 percent unemployment rate within the confines of the city of Milwaukee, we would be dancing in the street with delight.

We have a researcher named Marc Levine from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee who has kept data of the discouraged workers—those people who are not officially unemployed because they're no longer standing there, discouraged workers. And among white men in my community, we have a 17 percent unemployment rate. And

we have a 40 to 50 percent unemployment rate among white men, and of course a staggering statistic, about 30 percent among Hispanic men. But about 17 percent among white men in our community. So it's really a crisis of gargantuan proportions.

Mr. ELLISON. Will the gentlelady yield?

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Yes.

Mr. ELLISON. Have you are ever talked to somebody who's been unemployed for 12 months, 18 months? What does that do to their psyche? What does that do to their spirit? What does that do to their level of joy?

Can anybody answer the question for me?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. If the gentleman will yield.

Mr. ELLISON. I will yield.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. You are right. And statistics, of course, help to lay the framework for how devastating it is for so many of us who are listening may not have the broadness of it because our constituency goes across all lines.

And what I'll tell you is that people are more and more going to places where there are mass feasts and feeding. And when you go among those people, you hear the stories of mothers and fathers who have lost work. There are now more families coming into these broad feasts or open feeding that we've had. I just participated in one yesterday in my district. And you see the families with little children who you know are dependent—and you made a very good point. I heard it on this floor. These people may have had two and three jobs. That's the kind of person we're looking at when we see these parents whose children are now going to bed hungry, 17 million across America. And what they're saying is that not only can they not make ends meet, but they can't find the ends for the means.

So we have to bypass State governments to get funds directly into the hands of these individuals by way of work. They want work. We've got to break down the attitudes about not building capacity and small businesses, because they could hire these very mothers to do minimum work on weatherization. They could be skilled. We have to pass the health care bill that gives us the kind of work that is available for these mothers.

And I will conclude on this. Do you know, Congresswoman FUDGE, because you're from this area, there is some, I want to call it silliness—and I ask deference for any disrespect that using the word "silly" on this floor might suggest. But we put a tax on steel that China is bringing in and, okay, that's by America. Then we have black businesses who are in the business of transporting pipe or giving pipe to various companies—and when I say "pipe," giving steel to various companies, steel pipe known as oil company tubular goods, pipes. And can you believe that these small businesses that have work-

ers and truck drivers, minority companies that transport this steel, cannot buy any steel from American companies.

So what I would say to the gentlemen, Yes, I hear the pain in our houses of worship. I hear the pain in grocery stores, and I hear the pain when we go to these mass feedings that more people are coming to now in more numbers than I have ever seen before. It just re-emphasizes the fact: Are we going to answer the pain, the call that is being made upon us? And I would hope the Congressional Black Caucus will be front and center on doing that.

Ms. FUDGE. We have been joined by another one of our colleagues, LAURA RICHARDSON from California. I'd like to yield to the Congresslady.

Ms. RICHARDSON. I thank the gentlelady for yielding. I especially want to thank our chairwoman, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, and Congresswoman FUDGE, who's been leading, really, this delegation on an hourly basis weeks on end whether the issues are popular or not.

Tonight I'd like to talk about small business and the impacts of unemployment and what it means to our country and really where the jobs are in this country and why we must address small business.

The unemployment crisis is hurting every region of our country—not just one State, east coast, west coast. It's everywhere. In the district that I represent, unemployment is ranging anywhere between 15 and 21 percent. That's well above the national unemployment rate, and clearly we can no longer stand by idly waiting for someone, even if it's in our other body, to act.

The American people need jobs now. They've already asked it, they've already helped to fund it, but unfortunately the jobs have not been seen on Main Street and on the side streets where many of our constituents live. So let's talk a little bit about small business and why they're so important in this equation.

There are 26.8 million small businesses in the United States accounting for more than 99.7 percent of all employer firms. Those are regular people like you and me who are trying to survive who didn't get a bailout 6 months ago.

Small businesses employ just over half of all of our private sector employees. And likewise, in the second largest district in this United States—which is California, where I'm from—small businesses are an integral part of our economy comprising 90 percent of all of the businesses in our State. More than 50 percent of the employees in California work for small businesses, and there's an estimated 3.7 million small businesses in California.

So why would you ask that I would even talk about that? Let's talk about women and how women are impacted with small business.

Privately held, women-owned businesses in California, where I'm from,

generate more than \$406 billion in sales and employ over 2.8 million people. And when you look at those particular figures and then you break it down to minorities, minorities even further own 4.1 million firms and generate \$694 billion and employ 4.8 million people.

So what is the problem and what is it that I brought to the CBC to contribute in terms of a proposal of what we could do to help? We could help small businesses, and we already have the current framework to do so. It's called the SBA. But unfortunately, as with many government agencies, just because something exists doesn't mean it should stay that way. We can always work to make it better.

So when we consider the SBA that was really established in 1953, there are changes that have to occur. And the one that I'd like to talk about tonight is not all of the wonderful training, not all of counseling—all of that we desperately need—but there's a program today that can change and it can be done now. That's our section 8 services.

Section 8 was established to include access to business development opportunities for businesses within that particular financial area, but there's a problem with it. As far back as 1992, magazines and other individuals have highlighted the problems with the section 8 program. The problem is, instead of creating multimillion-dollar business success stories, the section 8 program consistently graduates companies before they're ready to flourish. It gives them a short period of time—7 years, 9 years—to begin to utilize contracts, and then it throws them out without an umbrella or without a safety net.

I would say if we could do a safety net for some of these other Wall Street firms and financial industries, why aren't we holding our hands out to small business?

This has led to a surprising result that many of us have seen, that companies who were able and who were succeeding with the section 8 program, when they were then bumped out, of course, what were the results?

In 1991, SBA studied 645 former 8(a) companies that were doing fine, but prior to them being kicked off, after that point, 42 percent fell through. We can stop that, and we can change it today by four simple proposals that I have for you.

I propose that we reform and modernize the section 8 program to help more small disadvantaged business enterprises, DBEs, to remain in business and to hire more workers—we were talking about over 4 million workers—by doing the following:

One, extend at least 2 years the 9-year program in which section 8(a) certifies businesses to participate.

Number two, we can reinstate those who already did their 7 or 9 years, and they're kind of at the brink, and with a couple more years of help, they could be back on a level ground. We should extend their time as well.

And then thirdly, we should create a new program that's kind of in the middle ground, not of a major company that's bringing in billions of dollars, but clearly a small business that's hiring 10 people, 20 people in your neighborhood. We need for them to exist.

And finally, we should consider that under this program, eligible companies who are able to participate, we should really grow that revenue, because what was \$100,000 yesterday that somebody made is not nearly enough in terms of keeping a viable company going.

So, in closing, what I'd like to say to our Chair, Ms. BARBARA LEE, and also Ms. FUDGE from Ohio, I applaud the efforts that we've taken. The American people want to know what we're doing. What we're doing is caucuses like the CBC are coming together. We're meeting. We're talking about direct jobs. We're talking about keeping teachers and police officers employed. We're talking about helping small business owners stay alive. That's what we're doing, and we're bringing those proposals to the Speaker, to the President of the United States, and we're asking them to act now.

We're ready to vote. We're ready to do our part. But we need to make sure that these dollars go to the American people, which is where they started from.

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, my good friend and colleague, Representative RICHARDSON from California, did bring up some interesting points, and I can assure you that the passion she showed today is the same passion that the rest of this caucus has, and that is why, in fact, our caucus did indeed send a letter to the Speaker of the House to talk about our jobs initiatives, what we believe should be in a jobs bill.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS OF  
THE 111TH UNITED STATES CONGRESS,

*Washington, DC, December 9, 2009.*

HON. BARACK OBAMA,  
*President of the United States,  
The White House,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA: As you work with House and Senate Leadership to structure the jobs package, we respectfully request that you include and prioritize the following proposals in the legislation:

DIRECT JOB CREATION AND TRAINING

Utilize language that states that the \$139.3 billion of unobligated funds authorized for expenditure by the Troubled Asset Relief Program should be reprogrammed to be used to create jobs for United States citizens.

Reauthorize language from the Humphrey Hawkins Act, Public Law 95-523, with a new provision establishing a "Green Jobs and Training Trust Fund." The trust fund would be funded by a financial transaction tax similar to that proposed by Congressman DeFazio. If the targets established in the Economic Reports mandated in Title I are not met, funds would automatically be disbursed from two separate trust funds to a list of: (1) training programs enumerated in the bill; and (2) a direct public sector jobs program. The training programs would include, amongst other programs:

The Department of Labor's Green Construction Careers Demonstration Program (not yet authorized).

The Department of Energy's Labor's Efficiency and Renewable Energy Worker Training Program (EEREWTP) (authorized in the Green Jobs Act of 2007)—specifically, the Pathways Out of Poverty Demonstration Program.

The Department of Energy's Weatherization Program.

The Job Corps Program.

Grant programs that promote state and local hiring of police, firemen, and other public servants.

Additional programs identified by the Secretary of Labor that: (1) promote energy efficiency consistent with the EEREWTP Program or promote clean energy creation; and (2) provide sustainable employment in the public or private sector.

The government would provide grants to states and municipalities to set up "Green Corps," "Urban Corps," and/or a form of expanded Americorps. These jobs would be low human capital jobs where the ratio of government spending to job creation would be very low. Some activities these individuals would engage in include:

- Home and public building weatherization;
- Greening of public spaces;
- Municipal waste and recycling;
- Public building solar installation and maintenance;

- Forestry; and
- Tutoring or mentoring.

Utilize language throughout the bill that will provide a 10 percent for areas with high levels of poverty such as: Of the amounts appropriated in this [section] the following projects or programs, shall allocate at least 10 percent for assistance in qualified areas of economic hardship: Provided, that for the purposes of this [Title/Section], in general, the term "qualified area of economic hardship" means any census tract or block numbering area, where 20% or more of the population is at or below the federal poverty line. The term "poverty line" means the official poverty line defined by the Office of Management and Budget.

JOB CREATION AND TRAINING

Increase funding for Youthbuild and the 2010 Youth Summer Jobs Program, to allow for the employment of 5 million teens, with a requirement that of the amounts appropriated in this [section] the following projects or programs, shall allocate no less than 10 percent for assistance in qualified areas of economic hardship: Provided, that for the purposes of this [Title/Section], in general, the term "qualified area of economic hardship" means any census tract or block numbering area, where 20% or more of the population is at or below the federal poverty line. The term "poverty line" means the official poverty line defined by the Office of Management and Budget.

Creation of a federal assistance program through the Department of Labor to prepare economically disadvantaged unskilled adults or adults needing retraining for full-time jobs, for a period of 12 to 24 months in public agencies or not-for-profit organizations. The intent is to impart a marketable skill that will allow participants to move to an unsubsidized.

Fully fund the Green Jobs Act, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program, as authorized by the Energy and Independence Security Act, of the amounts appropriated in this [section] the following projects or programs, shall allocate no less than 10 percent for assistance in qualified areas of economic hardship: Provided, that for the purposes of this [Title/Section], in general, the term "qualified area of economic hardship" means any census tract or block numbering area, where 20% or more of the population is at or below the federal poverty line. The term "poverty line" means the

official poverty line defined by the Office of Management and Budget.

Increase funding for the National Service Corps programs with an emphasis on current college students and recent college graduates.

Direct funding to career colleges, technical, and trade schools, community colleges, and universities to train Americans in high-growth industries and healthcare professions, particularly focused on entry-level training and nursing programs, which allow participants to be able to continue to collect unemployment benefits through the period of training and/or allow them to receive a livable wage stipend during the period of training, with a requirement that of the amounts appropriated in this [section] the following projects or programs, shall allocate no less than 10 percent for assistance in qualified areas of economic hardship: Provided, that for the purposes of this [Title/Section], In general, the term "qualified area of economic hardship" means any census tract or block numbering area, where 20% or more of the population is at or below the federal poverty line. The term "poverty line" means the official poverty line defined by the Office of Management and Budget.

Increase funding for High Growth Industries and/or grants for job creation in occupations identified by the Department of Labor as "the "fastest growing occupations and occupations projected to have the largest numerical increases in employment between 2006 and 2016," with a requirement that of the amounts appropriated in this [section] the following projects or programs, shall allocate no less than 10 percent for assistance in qualified areas of economic hardship: Provided, that for the purposes of this [Title/Section], In general, the term "qualified area of economic hardship" means any census tract or block numbering area, where 20% or more of the population is at or below the federal poverty line. The term "poverty line" means the official poverty line defined by the Office of Management and Budget.

Increase funding for Employment and Training Administration, Training and Employment Services, with a requirement to that of the amounts appropriated in this [section] the following projects or programs, shall allocate no less than 10 percent for assistance in qualified areas of economic hardship: Provided, that for the purposes of this [Title/Section], In general, the term "qualified area of economic hardship" means any census tract or block numbering area, where 20% or more of the population is at or below the federal poverty line. The term "poverty line" means the official poverty line defined by the Office of Management and Budget.

Increase funding for Welfare to Work program.

Increase funding for the Second Chance Act (replaced and expanded Prisoner Reentry Initiative) and include language that eliminates or mitigates the bar on ex-offenders from receiving Federal financial aid programs, job-related training, public benefits, and public housing.

Increase funding for pre-apprenticeship programs and the National Apprenticeship programs through the Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, with a requirement to that of the amounts appropriated in this [section] the following projects or programs, shall allocate no less than 10 percent for assistance in qualified areas of economic hardship: Provided, that for the purposes of this [Title/Section], In general, the term "qualified area of economic hardship" means any census tract or block numbering area, where 20% or more of the population is at or below the federal poverty line. The term "poverty line" means the official poverty line defined by the Office of Management and Budget. Language modification to allow for Americans to continue

to collect unemployment benefits and/or TANF benefits while in an authorized job training program for up to 12 months.

Expand the Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) under the Older Americans Act to provide job training and employment for older job seekers by lowering it to age 50, eliminate requirement of unemployment—allowing participants to be underemployed, and changing the cap to 35 weekly hour cap employment allowing.

#### INFRASTRUCTURE

Provide for Hope VI, green projects through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.

Rehabilitation of housing through Neighborhood Stabilization Fund which provides for additional construction jobs.

Funding for the Department of Transportation-Federal Highway Administration to allow state and local agencies to move forward on infrastructure projects, of the amounts appropriated in this [section] the following projects or programs, shall allocate no less than 10 percent for assistance in qualified areas of economic hardship: Provided, that for the purposes of this [Title/Section], In general, the term "qualified area of economic hardship" means any census tract or block numbering area, where 20% or more of the population is at or below the federal poverty line. The term "poverty line" means the official poverty line defined by the Office of Management and Budget.

Discretionary funding for Clean Energy technology and manufacturing through the Department of Energy, with a requirement that of the amounts appropriated in this [section] the following projects or programs, shall allocate no less than 10 percent for assistance in qualified areas of economic hardship: Provided, that for the purposes of this [Title/Section], In general, the term "qualified area of economic hardship" means any census tract or block numbering area, where 20% or more of the population is at or below the federal poverty line. The term "poverty line" means the official poverty line defined by the Office of Management and Budget.

#### SMALL BUSINESS

Language modification to allow the Community Development Financial Initiatives Fund to access capital markets via the Department of Treasury Guaranteed Bond Issuance program.

Expand and expedite the Small Business Administrations Community Express Loan program by reducing the interest rate to 1 percent, particularly focused on areas where local unemployment rates exceed the state and/or high rates of long-term unemployed.

Long-term extension of Build America Bonds, to result in liquidity and a lower interest rate.

Reform and modernize the Section (8) program to assist more small and disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE) remain in business and hire more workers by doing the following:

Extend by at least 2 years the 9-year period in which Section 8(a) certified businesses can participate in the program.

Reform the Section 8(a) program to permit reinstatement of companies who were graduated from the program after nine years.

Reform the Section 8 program to create a new program for small businesses that did not qualify for admission to the 8(a) program or were graduated from the program before the 9 year period expired because their financial resources exceeded maximum limits. Under this new program, an eligible company would be permitted to participate for a period of 7 years or until its financial resources exceeded 300 percent of the maximum amount allowable under Section 8(a).

Language modification to the Workforce Investment Act performance measures in entrepreneurial training to allow for micro-

enterprises to receive Self Employment Training and Technical Assistance from Workforce Investment Boards with a "successful/positive outcome" in order to support and spur further growth of small businesses/microenterprises.

Language to support an appropriation to support payment of Black Farmers claims.

#### STATE/LOCAL FISCAL RELIEF

With each provision, we would urge you to direct funding through the federal agencies directly to localities: county/city/municipality/college/university or nonprofit organizations, rather than through the state, to be quickly disbursed and used by most economically depressed communities.

Our Nation has suffered substantial unemployment and underemployment over a prolonged period which has imposed significant economic and social costs, particularly in communities of color. We appreciate your attention to these prescriptive measures and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

REP. BARBARA LEE,  
*Chairwoman, Congressional Black Caucus.*

REP. EMANUEL CLEAVER,  
*Chairman, CBC Taskforce on Economic Recovery.*

Ms. FUDGE. At this time, I'd like to bring up a colleague, DONALD PAYNE from New Jersey. Representative PAYNE has joined us many evenings, and it's a pleasure to yield some time to him this evening.

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you very much.

Let me certainly begin by thanking the gentlelady from California, our distinguished Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, for anchoring this evening's Special Order on job creation. And Ms. LEE continues her diligence in addressing issues that confront our Nation in general, but in particular, the African American community, which has been a laudable effort, and let me again commend her for her diligence.

Let me also commend the gentlelady from Cleveland who comes to us, Representative FUDGE, as a former mayor, and I look at her as the mayor of the CBC.

□ 2045

Why would I call her the mayor of the CBC? Well, because a mayor has to have hands on. The mayor has to deal with all the issues. The mayor has to listen to see what's going on in education and jobs. The mayor is concerned about health care. And it's where the rubber meets the road. And you need someone who has the understanding and the perseverance. And so I would like to commend you again for the outstanding work that you do.

To the Chair of this important job creations committee, Congressman EMANUEL CLEAVER from Kansas City, he does an outstanding job in this.

Since the time is relatively late, we have several more Members, it's a good thing to do, when you have too many, therefore I will cut my remarks short. But let me just say in November we approved a historic bill to reform our

health insurance system to expand access to affordable quality health care for nearly every American. The Affordable Health Care for Americans Act offers security and stability to all Americans, reduces costs and improves our choice.

Let me say that you cannot hold a secure job if the fundamentals are not there for everyone to be able to benefit. And one of the great provisions in the health bill is that there will be an emphasis on job creation because of the expanded health care that will be provided.

After a White House jobs summit on December 3 and a trip to Pennsylvania to meet with citizens of this country who have been affected by this economy, on December 8, as you know, President Obama announced steps that he believed should be at the heart of our efforts to put Americans back to work, to get businesses hiring again. I commend the President's focus on small businesses, infrastructure, and clean energy to provide an influx of jobs in this economy, as well as his emphasis to not just create jobs in the short run, but to also shift America away from consumption-driven growth to a focus on enhancing the competitiveness of American businesses, encouraging investment and promoting exports.

I would, however, push further and urge the President and my colleagues in Congress to expand our focus to address the portion of our population who were already in vulnerable economic positions before the onset of this recession. Prior to December, 2007, the African American unemployment rate was 8.9 percent. In this economy, it has climbed to a disproportionate 15.6 percent.

Madam Speaker, in the great State of New Jersey, unemployment has reached 9.7 percent. However, the largest concentration of unemployed falls in the cities of Trenton and Newark, New Jersey, where I live, where a large portion of our State's minorities live, and the unemployment rate surpasses 14 percent. While New Jersey reached its highest level of unemployment in 34 years, Newark, a part of my district, has experienced the same rate of over 14 percent since 1994.

These startling facts call attention to the need to not simply restore our Nation to its pre-recession state, but to create a stronger, more inclusive plan to address the intersection of unemployment and poverty, and develop long-term strategies to confront this.

Madam Speaker, I believe that the key to our strategy is education. I urge the development of a multipronged approach not only aimed at creating new jobs but infused with education and job training. We must work diligently and deliberately to harness the skills of all people. The absence of this particular focus will cause severe and lasting damage to generations of Americans, particularly of color.

And so therefore, as I just shorten my remarks, I think that education,

training, and expansion of current programs like the Job Corps, where we have an infrastructure, where we can have intensive training, where we can have health care, where we can go on to have GEDs, would be one way to create jobs and train people.

I have much more, and I would hope that we can have the remainder put in the RECORD. But I will yield back the balance of my time in deference to my colleagues.

Madam Speaker, let me begin by thanking the gentlelady from California, our distinguished Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, for anchoring this evening's Special Order on job creation. Her continued diligence in addressing issues that confront our nation, in general, but in particular the African Americans communities and she has been laudable, and let me commend you again for your diligence.

Let me congratulate the gentlelady from Cleveland, Representative FUDGE, who comes to the Congress as a former major and knows well of everyday problems, where the rubber meets the road. Let me also congratulate Representative EMANUEL CLEAVER from Kansas City for his leadership as Chairman of the CBC jobs task force.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join the other Members tonight to talk about job creation, specifically in the African American community.

In November, we approved a historic bill to reform the health insurance system to expand access to affordable, quality health care to nearly every American. The Affordable Health Care for America Act offers security and stability to all Americans, reduces costs, improves coverage and preserves our choice of doctors, hospitals and health plans, BUT holding a secure job is the foundation of many of the provisions decided upon in the bill. That being said, in addition to the nation's 10 percent unemployment rate, it is clear why the President has placed strong emphasis on job creation in the past few days. After a White House Job Summit on December 3rd and a trip to Pennsylvania to meet with citizens of this country who have been affected by this economy, on December 8th, as you know, President Obama announced steps that he believes should be at the heart of our efforts to help put Americans back to work and get businesses hiring again. I commend the President's focus on small businesses, infrastructure, and clean energy to provide an influx of jobs in this economy, as well as his emphasis to not just create jobs in the short run, but to also shift America away from consumption-driven growth to a focus on enhancing the competitiveness of America's businesses, encouraging investment, and promoting exports.

I would, however, push further and urge the President and my colleagues in Congress to expand our focus to address the portion of our population who were already in vulnerable economic

positions before the onset of this recession. Prior to December 2007, the African American unemployment rate was 8.9 percent. In this economy, it has climbed to a disproportionate 15.6 percent.

Madam Speaker, in the great state of New Jersey, unemployment has reached 9.7 percent; however, the largest concentration of unemployment falls in the cities of Trenton and Newark, where a large portion of the state's minorities live and unemployment has surpassed 14 percent. While NJ has reached its highest level of unemployment in 34 years, Newark—part of my district—has experienced the same rate of 14.3 percent as recent as 1994.

These startling facts call attention to the need, to not simply restore our nation to its state pre-recession, but to create a stronger, more inclusive plan to address the intersection of unemployment and poverty and develop long-term strategies.

Madam Speaker, I believe that the key to this strategy is education! I urge the development of a multipronged approach, not only aimed at creating new jobs but infused with education and job training. We must work diligently and deliberately to harness the skills of all people! The absence of this particular focus will cause severe and lasting damage to generations of Americans, particularly those of color, and the future of our workforce.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to develop policies that will expand our focus to offer additional support for communities that have long been affected by high unemployment rates.

With that, thank you once again, Congresswoman LEE for the outstanding work that you are doing.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you so much. And I want to commend Representative PAYNE, not just for his words, but the fact that he is indeed the historian of our caucus. And it's just always a pleasure to have him put things in perspective for us. Thank you so much.

At this time, I would like to yield to our friend and colleague from Georgia, DAVID SCOTT, Representative SCOTT.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Thank you so much, Ms. FUDGE. I just want to say how proud we all are of you and your leadership that you are providing on the floor for this hour, that you have been going forward with all of this year. And I certainly want to single out for special praise our distinguished chairlady of the Congressional Black Caucus. The good Lord has surely brought us the right person at the right time to lead this caucus in a very serious sea of turbulent waters. And so, Ms. BARBARA LEE, I just want to personally thank you for that leadership as we go forward.

Let me start at the very beginning, because I think that we need to understand what we are referencing when we

use the words “targeting” and “focus.” Let me just say clearly, yes, we are the Congressional Black Caucus. But we are talking about targeting and focusing our efforts on the basis of need, no more, no less, than what they did for Wall Street. You all may remember, I serve on the Financial Services Committee, and it was Secretary Paulson, the Republican Secretary of the Treasury, who rushed over here to Capitol Hill with just two pieces of paper, two pieces of paper. And said that the sky is falling down on Wall Street, and we needed to target and focus \$700 billion or \$800 billion he said, on Wall Street.

And then he went on to say, not only targeted to Wall Street, but targeted to specifically 12 to 15 bank and financial houses. Targeted, because that was where the source of the problem he felt. And he analyzed that source of the problem by saying it's because the credit markets are frozen. There is no lending. And we have to move.

Well, we sent him back, and we said, well, we can't do that; we have to have something more moving. And he came back and said, Well, let's target it to troubled asset relief, or TARP, so that we can relieve these troubled assets with these financial institutions. Again, targeted. The point I'm trying to make is that we know the value of targeting where the problem is.

All we are simply saying here is we have troubled assets. What more troubled assets in our financial institution can we have than the job and our homes? And it is more troubled assets than the 12 or 15 houses to unfreeze the credit, which we did, and which we moved to. We must do the same here. We are advocating strongly that we take the remaining \$200 billion of this TARP money and focus it on where these troubled assets are now, jobs, and to saving our homes. This is what the American people want and need.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me just say, we have a soaring economy. But we must understand that it, too, is targeted. We have roughly 300 million people in this country. Eighty percent of those are targeted at the bottom one-third of the economic wealth stream of our economy. That means roughly 80 percent of that 300 billion, that is 270 million people, are targeted there.

And I bring that point up because, simply, our economy runs on mass consumption. Stores require spending. And it means that you need as many people going in that store buying that carton of milk or going into that auto dealership buying that car as possible. That is why this effort now—we've taken \$700 billion, we've targeted the top; we need to take this \$200 billion and target it at the bottom, and target it for jobs, and target it related to housing because they are so interconnected.

The most immediate thing we can do is what, again, we in the Congressional Black Caucus, 10 of us stood firm on the Financial Services Committee and said, no, no. No more. You're going to have to respond to this. If we did no

more than anchor our movement in terms of providing moneys and target it into those areas that have high foreclosure, high closed and abandoned buildings and homes, and target money into those communities to fix up those homes, get them back on the market, that will save the housing prices and stop them from falling but will also create jobs in the most meaningful way for the very people we are trying to target it for. We need to also target money to help people who are losing their jobs to stay in their homes.

And secondly, we've got to target jobs to those people who no matter what you say about a rising tide lifts all boats, it doesn't. Many people are left behind. And nowhere is that more specific than in the African American community of African American males.

I will just recall in my closing to you this evening, we realized this, and we put the Manpower Training Act, and we targeted that. We realized this point, and we put forth what was known as the opportunities and industrialization centers into these communities where we paid for the salaries and the training, and for the individuals to go on to the jobs so that they not only are trained for the jobs that are existing, but they are actually placed in those jobs. There are new jobs coming, and they've got to be trained for them.

Madam Chairwoman, I just want to thank you again. I appreciate this opportunity, and again, I'm very proud of my colleagues and what we are doing. Thank you.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you very, very much, Representative SCOTT. We so much appreciate your thoughtfulness, quite frankly, and showing a real difference between what is happening on Wall Street and Main Street.

I would like to now, Madam Speaker, yield to our chair, our Chairman RANGEL, to give us some words of wisdom which I'm sure he is going to do this evening.

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

Mr. RANGEL. Once again, I want to thank Judge Congresswoman FUDGE for taking the time out as well as our leader, BARBARA LEE, for showing the depth of commitment that we in the Congressional Black Caucus have not only for our communities, which traditionally, historically have borne the blunt of historic economic setbacks, but for the entire country, because in my experience, it appears as though our great Nation's national security is at stake.

We can talk about the terrorists, we can talk about those that are out to destroy our way of life, but we can destroy our own way of life because what made America great is not the bankers. It is those people that thought in this great country that they could aspire, that they could work hard and there would be no limits on what they can achieve.

But unemployment is more than a statistic. Loss of a job means more

than losing your house and losing your health care. It also means losing your dignity. And I cannot foresee how it's possible to have an economic recovery and have a jobless state of the economy. It seems to me that more important than the exchange of stock showing that America is willing to take risk is, what does America think about its hope, its future for its children? It seems to me that what makes America so great is what we think we can achieve. And whether you talk about current unemployment, you have to consider those people who had no hope before the setback. What happens to a person that is not included in the statistic? What happens to a person that knows there's no job at the unemployment office? What happens to a person that has given up hope?

Even if the so-called economy recovers, where will their will be to exercise the skill that perhaps has been lost? And how do you regain hope once that is lost.

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And so what I hope that we understand as a Nation is that it is not just those who are suffering out there, who are losing sometimes their family as well as their jobs, but it happens to be something that's going to affect the well-off, because the more we expand those people who have no money to spend, the more our small business people have no reason to be in existence.

And so we can talk about the stock market, but the world is not turning on our stock market; it's turning on the will of the American people. Internationally, if we begin to look, as we have in so many communities, as a developing nation, not having the will, not having the resources, not being able to feed our children, not being able to provide health care for our children, what is the difference in a mother or father's heart whether you are in a developing country, whether it's in the Middle East, whether it's in Africa; the love for your children has to be the same no matter what country you're in. If you can't feed your child, if you can't educate your child, if you can't point out how great your country is in terms of opportunity, then what makes us different as a great nation from those who are trying to achieve economic leverage?

And so, even though the hour is late, and I am late in getting here, make no mistake about it that you will be hearing from the Congressional Black Caucus every day, whether it's going to be on the floor, whether it's going to be in our districts, because there is something that brings us here more than just our conscience; it's that most of us know exactly what unemployment and the pain of unemployment is, the loss of dignity of unemployment. And then we have our families, and then we have our communities.

And so we really believe that for those people that believe that we don't

understand, before this Congress ends, the President and this Congress, we truly understand that this is a threat to our national security, and as Americans, as patriots, and as those who advocate a strong economy and a strong workforce, we will be glad to let you know that we will be doing all and everything that we can, and we've got to get the job done.

Thank you so much for yielding me this time.

Madam Speaker, the recent November jobs report offers encouraging signs that the Recovery Act is indeed working and that the economy has started to grow. Over the last three months, job losses have come down to the lowest level in two years. But the report is also a sobering reminder of the need to continue to advance policies that stimulate job creation and support the needs of American families and businesses that are struggling.

Nearly 16 million Americans are jobless, up 558,000 from last month. Unemployment is more than just a number—it's a measure of suffering. It's that many more children living in poverty. It's that many more families subsisting off of food stamps, which now feed 1 in every 8 Americans and nearly 1 in every 4 children.

An economic recovery plan focused on salvaging Wall Street, credit-frozen banks, and slumping American automakers—while all right and good—is not a meaningful recovery if it does not help struggling families.

That's why the Obama Administration, in addition to all of its great work in turning this economy around, hosted a jobs summit last week aimed at putting Americans back to work, and I am looking forward to working with the President to do just that. President Obama's Recovery Act has already resulted in as many as 1.6 million Americans gaining jobs.

But unemployment remains at crisis levels. In New York City, the jobless rate for people 16 and over has increased over the past year by 73.7 percent. Half of the city's residents who are near poverty report experiencing three or more hardships at once, including falling behind on rent, not filling a prescription, or being unable to purchase enough food. The President's efforts to stave off depression and economic collapse have helped, but millions of Americans are saying, "Tell that to my landlord." Rebounding economic statistics mean little when so many Americans are still struggling economically.

Over the course of the next few weeks, creating jobs will be my first and foremost priority. I look forward to working with the President and my colleagues in Congress, including members of the Congress Black Caucus.

African American and Latino families are among those that suffer the most from a recession because they are disproportionately impacted by a weak economy and do not have the safety net enjoyed by others. The unemployment rate for all African-Americans is about 50 percent higher than the nation as a whole, and more than 1 in 4 low-income Latinos in New York reported losing their jobs in the past year. We must offer fresh and bold solutions to cultivate an economy that works for us all. Not just the wealthy. Not just the politically connected. But all of us.

Not only is America hurting; so are our kids. New York City has 200,000 disconnected

youth on its streets, kids ages 16 to 24 not in school and without employment. New York houses more kids in state prisons than it does on college campuses. Nowadays, it isn't just high school dropouts who are out of work. Americans from all economic groups are falling prey to a shrinking workforce, whether it's the hospital worker laid off after toiling at the same job for decades, or the college graduate having a tough time finding a job. In fact, Black college graduates are having a tougher time finding employment than their White counterparts, both those with and without a degree. We are all vulnerable, and we all deserve a helping hand in pulling through these difficult times.

There can be no excess of good ideas to combat this crisis sweeping our nation. One thing we can do, and do immediately, is extend unemployment insurance. It is urgent that we provide out-of-work Americans with instant relief. Additionally, the White House has committed itself to expanding green job opportunities through the Recovery through Retrofit program. These are good green jobs that can't be outsourced.

We must enact aggressive measures aimed at employing our young people at this critical time. The Administration is launching its "Educate to Innovate" campaign to improve participation and performance in the sciences through partnerships with foundations, nonprofits, and science and engineering societies. National service programs must be well funded, and we must develop an ambitious strategy to urge our youth to participate in them.

In the House, I am working with my Democratic colleagues on a jobs package that would include additional funding for infrastructure projects, like highway construction and renovation, bonds for building schools, and the expansion of the successful Build America Bonds program, already funding several infrastructure projects across the country. These projects are designed to put Americans immediately to work, all while making America safer and stronger.

In an effort to boost small business creation and tackle credit-freeze, we are anticipating expanding small business loans, providing fixes for community banks, and extending small business and bonus depreciation provisions from the stimulus package. Even the creation of green empowerment zones—those areas where at least 50 percent of the population has an unemployment rate higher than the state average—would provide tax incentives to businesses that hire individuals who live and work in those areas that are most suffering.

We are in the midst of a national emergency, but as a unified people, looking after each other, we will get through this stronger and far more prosperous.

Ms. FUDGE. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We so much appreciate your being with us.

Now I would like to yield to the person who has really gotten me through most of this year, our representative from the Virgin Islands, DONNA CHRISTENSEN.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Congresswoman FUDGE. And thank you for the great job you're doing in pulling us together every week.

We had a press conference last week—and I agree with AL GREEN when

he said we shouldn't even have to call it, not when unemployment in our communities is over 15 percent, even over 30 percent in some, and 50 percent when we look at young African American males, not when our CBC foundation can tell us about the lack of jobs for black males who have not completed high school or who have just completed high school compared to other people with similar educational levels.

The stark gaps in unemployment for African Americans, American Indians, Latinos, and Asians cry out for a remedy, one that responds to those who are most in need and at risk. If no one else will answer tonight, the Congressional Black Caucus is answering, and we will answer every day until we turn the unemployment rates and every other inequity in our communities around.

I've had the opportunity, on a small scale, to see what can happen with programs like these because we don't have to go through the State and the local distribution. We will soon graduate 26 formerly unemployed men and women who knew nothing about solar water heaters who can now build them from scratch and install them. They have an opportunity, through the ARRA, the program created by our government, our utility, and a not-for-profit to put their training to work in real jobs. And what these young men have told us is please continue these programs and expand them for us. That is what we are here to say on behalf of them and the millions of others who need work today.

I want to just say that the same thing applies to health care jobs; they are needed in all of our communities on every level. This is a job industry that is growing and will continue to grow as we pass health care reform. There is a great opportunity for our communities in health care to create jobs.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Rev. EMANUEL CLEAVER, Congressman, and our Chair, BARBARA LEE, for being so aggressive in working and moving the Congressional Black Caucus and using us to move our caucus towards the creation of these jobs, and to thank our President for making job creation a central part of his agenda. We are his strongest allies and supporters and advocates. And advocating, as we do for our community, we are working to ensure that the benefits of his Presidency reach everyone in this Nation.

Democrats don't plan to go home until we do something meaningful to create jobs. The Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa season must be one of hope for everyone. That is our commitment as Democrats and as the Congressional Black Caucus; our commitment is to make sure that these benefits extend to everyone, especially those who are suffering most, especially those in the African American community and other communities of color, not just for a few, not just for some, but for everyone living in this country.

I yield back.

I am pleased to join our Chairwoman BARBARA LEE, Congresswoman FUDGE who does such a great job of organizing these special orders every week and my other CBC colleagues to speak to the critical importance of creating jobs for the American people, as we Democrats are poised to do, but particularly in the hardest hit African American communities who when America sneezes gets pneumonia, when a breeze blows elsewhere we get a hurricane, and when surf is high for everyone else we get a tsunami.

We had a press conference last week, that as Congressman AL GREEN said and I agree, we should not have had to call.

Not when the unemployment in African American communities is over 15 percent, even over 30 percent in some areas and higher in some age groups. Not when the projections are as they always have been that joblessness will continue longest for us—especially for African American males.

Not when the CBC foundation issued issues a very telling report that has clearly demonstrated the severe gaps in employment for black male high school graduates or who have not finished high school even in unskilled jobs compared to every other group with the same educational levels.

And not when universities and others across our country have reported studies that clearly demonstrate racial bias in hiring and all of this is only the tip of the iceberg.

The stark gaps in employment for African Americans and Latinos cry out for a remedy—one that responds to those who are most at need and at risk and, if no one else will answer, we the Congressional Black Caucus is answering today and every day until we turn around the unemployment rates and every other inequity in our communities.

There is just no way that we will stand by and let our community be left behind as the country recovers from the recession and the focus turns, as it must, to job creation. And, we are determined that our community will not be left behind as we turn the page to a new green economy and as we embark on a reform of our healthcare system. Both will require massive training programs and a major expansion of our workforce on every level. This is an opportunity that we cannot afford to let pass us by—we won't!

I have had the opportunity to see on a small scale what can happen with programs funded thru ARRA because in my district—the US Virgin Islands—state and local are treated as one entity, so I do not have to depend on the state to distribute funds at the local level.

We will soon graduate 26 formerly unemployed men and women who knew nothing about solar water heaters soon who can now build and install several models from scratch. They are now in their practicum installing them in government youth and senior facilities. I was so impressed as they explained things I will never understand. They have an opportunity now with a program created by government our utility and a not for profit to put their training to work in real jobs.

But what the student-trainees we met with Paul Larsen, Dean Doctrine and Kahlil Simone—begged us was that we continue this program and provide them with even greater opportunities.

This is what we—on their behalf and on behalf of millions of others—are asking this Congress and our President to do now.

And the same applies to health care jobs. They are needed in all of our communities. Community health workers, allied health techs and nurse techs will be needed to meet the demand of the newly insured, they will be the key to eliminating health disparities in our communities, and open a door to even more opportunities. Right now the Department of labor has 200 million dollars available for training for healthcare jobs out of the ARRA, we need to continue and expand that going forward in the jobs bill this body will pass and we need to ensure that the communities that suffer the greatest disparities are targeted with these programs for job creation in this industry where the demand will only continue to grow.

Health care provides a great opportunity for the now un- or under-employed to lift themselves out of poverty, to improve the health of their communities and to raise our nation's standing for all of the health indicators for which—like infant and maternal mortality as well as general health status we lag behind everyone of our industrialized global partners.

I would like to thank the Jobs Taskforce led by our colleague, Reverend EMANUEL CLEAVER, and our Chair BARBARA LEE for aggressively moving to ensure that communities like ours which are distressed and the people who live there will not continue to be marginalized by post racial wannabees.

As was said at the press conference in response to those who would make this a racial issue—if it is, it is not because we made it so. It is made so by the fact that the communities with the highest unemployment and the highest rates of poverty are African American, American Indian and other communities of color.

And for those who want to make this a fight between the CBC and the President—nothing could be further from the truth!

The White House unfortunately has too many advisors to whom the distress and misery in our communities are if not invisible, are not clearly seen and definitely not felt!

It is our responsibility to be the advisors and the advocates on the other side, on the side of those who have felt and borne the brunt of every hard time, every recession or depression long before and a whole lot longer than anyone else in this country.

We are our President's allies, supporters and strongest advocates. In advocating, as we do for our community, we are working to ensure that the benefits of his presidency reaches every corner of this nation, and that his presidency surpasses every other through the prism, not just of history, but of what happens today to improve the lives of those most in need.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, we thank you for, once again, allowing the caucus to come and share with you our views. I want to thank all of the members of the caucus who came tonight. I think it was a very, very interesting and dynamic discussion.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, the Nation's unemployment rate is alarming—over 10 percent of our citizens are unemployed. However, African Americans have been hit harder by the recession. Nearly 15.6 percent of African Americans are unemployed. My congressional district has an even higher unemployment rate, of 17.1 percent, and is one of the poorest communities in the country. Many parts of the Greater Cleveland area suffer from abject pov-

erty and unemployment. Nearly one in every four Cuyahoga County residents lives below the poverty line. These unemployment rates demonstrate that Americans need and deserve a more concerted federal effort to reduce poverty and create jobs. We must do more to help curb our Nation's problem and create jobs for our people.

One reason I came to Congress was to help struggling Americans in my district. My number one priority is to promote policies that create jobs and spur economic development. I have consistently advocated for such policies this year.

In the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, Representative LOEBSACK and I introduced the sectors amendment, which helps individuals and businesses by bringing together multiple stakeholders with a common interest in developing and implementing workforce development strategies that contribute to local and regional growth. The purpose of Sectors is to prepare individuals for jobs that are available in their communities now. Sector approaches draw upon the expertise of many partners who improve worker training, retention, and advancement by developing cross-firm skill standards. It promotes career development, job redefinitions, and shared training, while supporting 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, including job attainment, increased wages, and greater job security.

As we work to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable health care, I authored an important provision in the Affordable Health Care Reform Act. This provision requires the Advisory Committee on Health Workforce Evaluation and Assessment, established by the bill, to monitor the adequacy of the health care workforce and report workforce shortages. This will ensure the creation of job opportunities, where necessary, for constituents of the Eleventh Congressional District of Ohio. My provision will guarantee a rapid response to shortages in the health care workforce, such as Health Information Technology, nursing, primary care physicians, pediatrics and other specialists.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides \$19 billion for the U.S. to take the lead in health information technology. It establishes standards for a nationwide electronic exchange and health information to improve quality and coordination of care by 2010. Earlier this year, I introduced the Health Information Technology Public Utility Act. This bill will assist all health facilities transition to computerized health records. Ursuline College, an all-women's school in my district has created a curriculum responding to this need. Sister Diana Stano, President of Ursuline, has a health IT program that facilitates the expansion of my district's health information technology workforce. This program is more important at a school like Ursuline, because nearly 30 percent of the population is comprised of students from lower socio-economic groups or first generation college students. These students will now have an opportunity to move straight from training to sustainable employment.

Currently I am working with Chairman TOWNS and Representative PATRICK MURPHY on legislation that will not only assist students

with private education loans but also create jobs following college. The proposal allows college graduates to swap a portion of their private student loan debt for a federally subsidized loan with a lower interest rate. As a result of the conversion, the federal government would earn \$9 billion for school construction, improvements for primary and secondary education facilities and institutions of higher education.

We must provide financial support for students to complete trade certifications or college degrees. Education is the only way to end the cycle of poverty.

We must encourage innovation in lending so small business and those in minority communities have access to capital.

We must aggressively advocate for loan modifications to reduce foreclosures and keep Americans in their homes.

In short, we need a concerted effort from the Federal government to expand access to the critical services and resources for minority communities. The exaggerated rate of Black unemployment is problematic for the entire Nation. These families, and those in disproportionately affected regions, need a solid pathway out of poverty.

By re-training workers in expanding industries, instead of those that are shrinking we can move people out of poverty.

Targeted assistance to Americans disproportionately suffering from the recession is crucial to reducing the unemployment rate for all.

#### PREVENTIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to speak about a very important issue, it's about breast cancer and my expressed disappointment and disagreement with the recent set of recommendations issued by the United States Preventive Services Task Force, this simple little 12-page study that, quite frankly, has angered millions of women across the United States. I highly recommend people to take the 15 minutes that it will take to read this report and see just how flawed it really is.

As most Americans know, especially women, breast cancer represents a major health threat both in this country and across the world. Breast cancer is one of the most frequently diagnosed forms of cancer for women, and it ranks second only to lung cancer in terms of cancer-related deaths.

In 2008, an estimated 250,000 cases of breast cancer were diagnosed in the United States, and 40,000 women lost their lives to this terrible disease. These 40,000 deaths represent, however, a significant reduction in mortalities compared to 20 years ago. In fact, since 1990, the mortality rate for breast cancer has decreased approximately 30 percent. Medical experts attribute this dramatic decrease to both improved

treatment methods and to the widespread and regular use of early detection techniques such as mammograms.

Despite these positive gains and despite the thousands of lives that breast cancer screening has saved during the past two decades, the United States Preventive Services Task Force recently issued new recommendations advocating, get this, against routine mammograms for women younger than 50, biannual mammograms for women 50 to 75, no mammograms at all for women older than 75, and actually recommended against teaching women the proper and important method of self breast examinations; they don't want medical experts to show them how to do a self breast exam.

In coming to these conclusions, the Task Force—which, by the way, did not include a single expert in mammography or oncology—reasoned that the physical and psychological harms associated with breast cancer screening outweigh the benefits for women younger than 50 years of age. The task force then explained that the harms it was concerned about included unnecessary tests and biopsies, and the general inconvenience, stress, and—get this—anxiety caused by potentially false positive screening results.

Personally, I was appalled and shocked to think that we might have a little bit of anxiety thinking that we might have felt something in a self breast cancer exam or that a mammography might have showed a shadow that was a little inconclusive and that we might need follow up, that we might have anxiety with that. And since for most of us it will be a false positive, we really don't need to have that anxiety. I was appalled because, yeah, you have a little anxiety, but think of the joy that you have realizing it was a false positive. And think about the relief that you have knowing that you now have the ability to fight a disease when you find it at its earliest and most preventable stage.

My concern is what these recommendations will do for women who should be receiving annual breast exams both now and in the future. Because what the government report is essentially telling women is that they should forgo proven methods of detecting breast cancer because in the aggregate screening methods don't save enough lives to outweigh the discomfort, inconvenience, and yes, the report talks about the cost.

Quite frankly, this is not just bad advice, this is awful advice. And I believe it will result in countless unnecessary and preventable deaths for women who do not avail themselves of screening techniques that could and would detect breast cancer at its earliest and most treatable stages and, yes, save lives.

For example, the task force downplayed the importance of self breast examinations. In doing so, the task force reasons that having a medical professional demonstrate the proper method of self-examination is insignificant

to the cancer detection, and that too many women would suffer, again, anxiety from false positive results. But the report ignored a very important question; how many women have had their lives saved because of a simple self breast exam?

Perhaps the anxiety for those who don't understand what they have uncovered is less important than the one person who actually finds something and saves his or her own life because, yes, men also get breast cancer.

I also oppose the task force's recommendations because they represent an unfortunate and dangerous step back in the fight for health care equality for women. I was in the State legislature in Ohio for 4 years, and I uncovered this. It was through my insistence that insurance companies in Ohio pay the true cost for mammograms for women in Ohio. Recommendations like this task force's will serve to weaken State mandates like Ohio's, and they will ultimately lead to a rationing of preventative care across the country.

For example, according to language in the health care bill just passed by the House, the task force's recommendations could give the Secretary of Health and Human Services the power to exclude mammograms and other breast cancer screening techniques from any government-run health care plan or exchange. If you read pages 1317 and 1318 of the bill, you will see that the language in there suggests a slippery slope where this could occur.

Now, yes, it talks about testing and demonstration projects, but it says, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall ensure that a subsidy or reward is provided only if a government task force recommendation is rated as A or B. Well, this task force only graded breast cancer screening for women 40 to 49, as a C, so this bill may not require the Federal Government to cover the cost of preventative care.

The Federal Government may not be required to cover annual screenings for women 50 and older. And the task force recommends that screening should be done biannually for this age group, and not for women over 75 at all. But the Senate bill is even more alarming. Comparable provisions were also included in the Senate proposed health care bill until an amendment was adopted last week.

For example, 2713 of the bill requires that private insurers cover only preventative services that receive a rating of A or B from the task force. Section 4105 of the bill granted the Secretary of Health and Human Services the ability to modify any government coverage of preventative services if consistent with recommendations of the task force. In fact, there were more than a dozen occasions in the Senate bill when recommendations from the task force would influence the availability of health care.

□ 2115

Now, not surprisingly, the Obama administration and the Secretary of

Health and Human Services have attempted to deflect the public outcry about this task force's recommendations, stating that the task force does not set Federal policy, that it does not determine what services are covered by the Federal Government. They also have claimed that the Federal Government's policy concerning breast cancer screening coverage will not change as a result of the task force's recommendations. Insurance companies have made similar promises, assuring their customers that they will continue to pay for annual mammograms as well, but it begs the question:

For how long?

The language contained in the House and the Senate bill speaks for itself, and it speaks loud and clear. There is simply no guarantee that the administration, that the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and that the insurance companies won't change their positions in the future, and there is no guarantee that mammograms will continue to be covered.

Fortunately, the task force's recommendations have been strongly rejected by a litany of respected medical organizations, including, notably, the American Cancer Society and the American College of Radiology. The recommendations also run contrary to positions taken by the American Medical Association, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the National Cancer Institute. I have some of these publications here, and in a little while, I will read from them.

Right now, I am really hopeful that women ignore this task force's recommendation. It is for their health and for their safety, and it is also for the health and the safety of their families. I would also hope that, as we debate this health care bill, that we ensure that we do not look at cost and then look at treatment and decide that cost outweighs treatment. Yes, there is a limited amount of money out there, but nobody's health should be put on the line because of the dollars that are involved.

So I hope that women tonight will listen to their doctors—not to the government, not to the insurance companies, and certainly not to this task force—and will make the right decisions for all of their health care. There simply is no room for a government bureaucrat in a woman's decision to screen for breast cancer.

Right now, I have my good friend from Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, Congressman GLENN THOMPSON, who wants to weigh in on this.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentlelady from Ohio for yielding and for hosting this Special Order this evening on what is truly such an important topic. I don't think there is anyone here in this Chamber or anyone across the United States who, through family or friends, has not been touched by breast cancer in their families or within their networks of friends.

I came here in January. Prior to that, I had worked in health care for 28 years, in rehabilitation services. I was a rehabilitation professional, working, actually, as a rehab services manager for most of that time. During that time, I had my staff. They were wonderful, caring, compassionate individuals who were true professionals. I worked with just a tremendous number of women who were breast cancer survivors postmastectomy. I was developing innovative rehabilitation techniques and exercises, and I really tried to touch the lives of people who were facing this devastating disease.

You had talked about these recommendations that were put out, and I'm sure you're going to go into detail on this, but I pulled a document, and it was one of those that you referenced.

Truly, when I think of cancer, I think of an organization such as the American Cancer Society, which just offers their expertise. Their researchers do just a tremendous job on awareness and on prevention and on treatment all across the board. In their 2009 Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Facts and Figures, just go to page 35. It talks about what their recommendations are. It is very specifically that mammographies begin at age 40, and it's annually. Those are not dated recommendations. Those are not dated screening guidelines. Those are 2009.

You know, breast cancer, as the gentlelady mentioned, is the second leading cause of death in American women. In 2008, there were over 40,000 deaths in this country. Certainly, breast cancer also touches the lives of men in much smaller numbers, but it does have a presence. In the United States, women get breast cancer more than any other type of cancer except for skin cancer. Breast cancer is only second to lung cancer as the cause of death in women. Breast cancer does occur in men, but as I said before, the numbers of cases are certainly small.

Now, age and health history certainly can have an effect on the risk of developing breast cancer. Anything increases your chance of getting a disease. It's called a "risk factor." Having a risk factor does not mean that you will get the cancer, but not having risk factors does not mean that you will not get the cancer.

People who think they may be at risk certainly need to talk to their doctors as the relationship between the patient and the physician is just so important. We've talked about that relationship so many times in this health care debate. One of my biggest fears isn't the cost of health care. Really, my biggest fear is when the government or a bureaucrat becomes a wedge between the decisionmaking relationship of the patient and the physician. Certainly, when it comes to risk factors, touching base and communicating with one's physician is so important. People who think they may be at risk should discuss this with their doctors, and they should discuss all of the risk factors that are present.

Cancer prevention is certainly very important. Cancer prevention is an action taken to lower the chance of getting cancer. By preventing cancer, the number of new cases of cancer in a group or in a population is lowered. Hopefully, this will lower the number of deaths caused by cancer. To prevent new cancers from starting, scientists look at risk factors and protective factors. That's where the value of these regular screenings comes in. Anything that increases your chance of developing cancer is called a "cancer risk factor," and anything that decreases your chance of developing cancer is called a "cancer protective factor."

Now, some factors for cancer can be avoided, but many cannot. For example, smoking and inheriting certain genes are risk factors for certain types of cancer, but only smoking can be avoided. As for regular exercise and a healthy diet, neither of those really fit well into the lifestyle one has while working in Congress. I've found, since January, neither a healthy diet nor exercise, but both of those can be protective factors for some types of cancers. Avoiding risk factors and increasing protective factors may lower your risk, but it does not mean that you will not get cancer. Different ways to prevent cancer are being studied, including changing one's lifestyle, eating habits, avoiding things known to cause cancer, taking medication to treat a precancerous condition or to keep cancer from starting.

Certainly, breast cancer screenings have been shown to reduce breast cancer mortality. In the United States, death rates from breast cancer in women have been declining since 1990. I think that's a track record we can be very proud of, and it's a trend line that is just so important. Most of that has been due, in large part, to early detection by mammography screening and by improvements in treatment.

When you look at those trends, I find appalling the recommendations we've recently seen come out to not just move up the age of when mammographies would begin but the fact that they would go to every 2 years versus an annual basis. Currently, 61 percent of breast cancers are diagnosed at a localized stage for which the 5-year survival rate is 98 percent. Again, within the United States, I think that's a statistic we can be very proud of. Further reductions in breast cancer deaths are possible by not spreading out but, rather, increasing mammography screening rates and by providing timely access to high-quality follow-ups and treatment.

Despite the relatively high prevalence of mammography screenings in the United States and within the document I made reference to previously—this is from 2006—I think that we've seen actual improvements in terms of access to screenings. Nationwide, for women 40 years of age and older, 61.2 percent have had mammography and clinical breast exams. Ages 40 to 64 is

59.7 percent; 65 years of age and older is 64.6 percent. These are good numbers. They could be better. We could improve upon them. I don't think we can improve upon them by following those recommendations that were just recently put out.

Recent studies suggest that many women are initiating mammographies later than recommended or are not having mammographies at all or are not having them at the recommended intervals or are not receiving appropriate and timely follow-ups of positive screening results. These indicators of inadequate screenings are associated with a more advanced tumor size and stage at diagnosis.

In accordance with the American Cancer Society screening guidelines, it is important for women aged 40 and older to receive mammography screenings on an annual basis at an accredited mammography screening facility. For women with increased risks of breast cancer, the society recommends annual screenings using MRIs, or magnetic resonance imaging, in addition to the mammograms.

I am very appreciative of my good friend from Ohio for, once again, taking the leadership on this very important topic and for allowing me to join in with you tonight.

I yield back.

Mrs. SCHMIDT. I thank you very much. This whole report concerns me on a multitude of levels.

A few weeks ago, I and a group of women got together, and we held a press conference. At the press conference, when it was my turn to speak, I actually had a reporter who questioned what we were saying because we were not "professionals" in the field.

I held up the report, and I said, Have you read it?

Well, he hadn't read it. So I handed it to him and suggested that he read it; but you know, I'm not a professional. I don't have a medical background. I'm just a woman, and I'm a woman concerned about my friends who have had to undergo the fear of having breast cancer. With treatment and especially with early diagnosis, they are living very, very normal lives. I could go on and on.

I have a friend who was 41. She missed her first mammography at the age of 40. She went, and she had a very, very small tumor, and she had it out. That was 4 years ago. She has a little girl. She's going to live to be a ripe old age. Thank God she was able to have that mammography, because there is no breast cancer in her family. So, according to this report, she shouldn't have had it until age 50 because she's not at risk, but ah, indeed, 75 percent of people who get breast cancer do not have risk factors for cancer. Only 25 percent do.

I want to read right now the report from the American College of Radiology. It's dated November 24, 2009. I want to read it because they're the scientists; they're the professionals—I'm

not. I think that what you will see in this is an unraveling of the inconsistencies of this report.

It says that several sections of the Senate health care reform legislation contain language stipulating that insurance entities, such as private insurers, Medicare and Medicaid, would only be required to cover services receiving a specific rate from the United States preventative service task force. Presently, this would exclude mammography services for the majority of women 40 to 49. It would only require coverage of biannual—that's every other year—coverage for women 50 to 74, and it would exclude coverage for those women 74 years of age and older. While the USPSTF recommendations may result in cost savings, a great many women will die unnecessarily from breast cancer as a result.

These are not my words. These are the words of the American College of Radiology.

It goes on to read that this is not a political argument. It is a matter of life and death. Congress needs to act to specifically protect annual mammography coverage for women ages 40 and older and for high-risk women under 40 as recommended by their physician, said James T. Thrall, M.D., FACR, Chair of the American College of Radiology Board of Chancellors.

If the cost-cutting USPSTF mammography recommendations are not excluded from health care reform legislation, the government or private insurers would be permitted to refuse women coverage for this lifesaving exam, turning back the clock on two decades of advances against the Nation's second leading cancer killer.

These aren't my words. This is the American College of Radiology. They go on.

The federally funded and staffed task force includes representatives from major health insurers, but it does not include a single radiologist, oncologist, breast surgeon or any other clinician with demonstrative expertise in breast cancer diagnosis or treatment.

□ 2130

Despite demonstrations by their own analysis that screening annually beginning at age 40 saves most lives and most years of life, the task force recommended against mammography screening for women 40 to 49 years of age, annual mammograms for women between 50 and 74—in favor of only every other year—and all breast cancer screening in women over 74. These recommendations run counter to even the task forces own data and are out of touch with the long-proven policies of the American Cancer Society, the ACR, and other experts in the field.

I have to digress for a moment because my very, very dear friend, her mother is 90. Her mother did a self-breast exam and noticed a lump, had a mammography. They did a lumpectomy. That was a few months ago.

My very dear friend lost her father a couple of years ago. All she has is her mother and her brothers and sisters. She is delighted to know that her mother has a long life ahead of her and at least isn't at risk for this disease. But, again, according to what these recommendations are, she wouldn't have gotten a mammography and wouldn't have gotten a lumpectomy.

I will go back to the American College of Radiology's report that strongly urges those in Congress to exclude the USPSTF guidelines from health care legislation and make changes to the task force membership, an operating process that will guard against such unacceptable recommendations moving forward without any input from experts in breast cancer diagnosis and treatment, said W. Phil Evans MD, FACR, president of the Society of Breast Imaging, SBI.

This states that since the onset of regular mammography screening in 1990, the mortality rate from breast cancer, which has been unchanged for the preceding 50 years, has decreased by 30 percent. Ignoring direct scientific evidence from large clinical trials, the task force based their recommendations to reduce breast cancer screening on conflicting computer models—conflicting computer models—and the unsupported and discredited idea that the parameters of mammography screening change abruptly at the age of 50.

In truth, there are no data to support this premise.

Let me continue, that allowing a small number of people with no demonstrative expertise in the subject matter to make recommendations regarding diagnosis of a disease which kills more than 40,000 women a year makes no scientific sense and is a mistake that many women will pay for with their lives—these are not my words. This is the American College of Radiology's words—and that lawmakers need to require that the task force includes experts from the field on which they are making recommendations and that its recommendations be submitted for comment and review to outside stakeholders in similar fashion to rules enacted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said Thrall.

Before I continue with this, I just want to say that if we are going to base health care on any task force's grading system of an "A" or a "B," my fear is what kind of experts are going to be doing the grading and what kinds of outcomes are going to be there, because clearly, according to the American College of Radiology, this report is not true science.

Let me continue, that it is well known that mammography has reduced the breast cancer death rate in the United States by 30 percent since 1990, hardly a small benefit. Based on data on the performance of screening mammography as it is currently practiced in the United States, one invasive cancer is found for every 556 mammograms performed in women in their forties.

I want to repeat that, because, you know, this report says that for women under the age of 50 they are going to have anxiety and fear—"Oh, my gosh, I might have breast cancer"—so why put them through it. Well, for 556 people that's true, but that one in 556 does have breast cancer. That one in 556 has the right to know it, know it in its earliest stages and get treated appropriately.

Let me continue, that mammography only every other year in women 50 to 74 would miss 19 to 33 percent of cancers that could be detected by annual screening.

Let me digress, that's my age group. I am in my fifties. So I am not supposed to have this every year, this mammography? I am supposed to have it every other year? But that means my chances for finding early detection and living a long time would be decreased instead of helped.

Then it continues that starting at age 50 would sacrifice 3 years of life per 1,000 women screened that could have been saved had screening started at the age of 40.

Okay. I don't want to be that one life in 1,000 and neither does any other woman in America, but let me continue.

Eighty-five percent of all abnormal mammograms would require only additional images to clarify whether cancer may be present or not. Only 2 percent of women who receive screening mammograms eventually require a biopsy, but the task force data showed that the rate of biopsy is actually lower among younger women.

The issue of overdiagnosis is controversial. By the task force's own admission, it is difficult to quantify and is less of a factor among younger women who have had many years of life expectancy.

Weighing the significance, documented benefits of annual mammography screening against possible anxiety and the need for additional imaging or biopsy, it is difficult to understand how the task force reached its recommendations.

Again, these aren't my words. These are the American College of Radiology, that these new recommendations have created a great deal of confusion among women, a situation that might have been avoided by consulting those of us in the field who actually care for women who are seeking detection, diagnosis, and treatment of breast cancer. The unfortunate result may be decreased utilization of this lifesaving tool.

I urge insurers and Congress not to compound the problem by allowing the possibility of denying coverage to women who seek routine annual mammography starting at the age of 40 and continue for as long as they are in good health, said Carol H. Lee, MD, Chair of the ACR Breast Imaging Commission. The task force is a panel funded and staffed by the Health and Human Services Agency for Health Care Research and Quality.

The Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 gave the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services the authority to consider the USPSTF recommendations in Medicare coverage determinations. Private insurers may also incorporate the task force recommendations as a cost-saving measure.

I want to repeat that, because I think that's the most chilling revelation that I have uncovered in this whole breast cancer debate. The Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 gave the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services the authority to consider this task force's recommendation in Medicare coverage determinations. Private insurers may also incorporate the USPSTF recommendations as a cost-saving measure.

I am quite alarmed, and I think most Americans are as well.

I have been joined by my colleague from Wyoming, Ms. CYNTHIA LUMMIS.

Mrs. LUMMIS. I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for bringing this issue to our attention once again this evening. You know, many of us have anecdotal information about friends, relatives, colleagues who have experienced the diagnosis of breast cancer in their forties simply because they went in to receive a routine mammogram.

That was certainly the case with my sister-in-law who, in her forties, went in for a routine mammogram, had none of the genetic or typical markers that reveal the need to have mammograms, but, of course, since they were regularly recommended for women in their thirties and forties, she went in for her annual mammogram and was diagnosed with a very aggressive form of breast cancer. She was diagnosed, had her mastectomy, and began her chemotherapy all within the period of 30 days.

Without that routine mammogram, that aggressive breast cancer would have had an opportunity to spread in a way that would have caused or exacerbated the chance that that cancer would not have been treatable and would not have saved her life.

In fact, we learned during the health care debate in the House that in the United States both men and women have better rates of survivability for cancer in the United States than they do in Canada or in Europe. That is because cancer is routinely screened for and it is rapidly addressed following diagnosis. In fact, the opportunity in the United States to receive treatment quickly following diagnosis is directly related to the current health care system in the United States.

As the gentlewoman from Ohio indicated, there are opportunities, due to the findings of this panel, for insurers to use it as a basis to decide not to provide covered health care insurance for breast cancer mammography screening for women in their forties.

I believe that that is an indicator of how serious this issue is, and I want to

particularly thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for calling it to our attention this evening.

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Thank you so much, and I hope that your sister is doing well.

Mrs. LUMMIS. She is doing very well. She is cancer free. And I would indicate, also, that it is, of course, just another example. But I am from Wyoming. One of our Senator's wives, Bobbi Barrasso, was also diagnosed with breast cancer in her forties as a result of a mammogram and is also doing well.

You look at our tiny little congressional delegation that consists of one Member of the House and two Senators, and of those three people, two have examples of breast cancer within their own families that was diagnosed in women in their forties due to a routine mammogram. That gives, even though anecdotal, a couple of examples that are repeated all over the country by people who may be tuning in tonight on C-SPAN. Many of you know women who have been diagnosed and successfully treated for breast cancer in the United States.

Part of the reason the prognosis has improved so dramatically in the United States for this very serious and, unfortunately, very common form of cancer is the fact that following routine screening, we have the opportunity to receive aggressive treatment in a health care system that, while in need of reform, is not in need of the kind of reform that would increase the period of time between when we are diagnosed and when we are treated.

We know, from around the world, from systems of government in Europe and in Canada that have the form of health care that was being advocated in this body by the majority party and a form which, in fact, passed this body and is now being debated in the Senate, that, indeed, when you add more government to the health care system, you do add time lags between diagnosis and treatment. And that is something that we should be trying to encourage our colleagues to prevent and prevent especially because of the United States' superior record when compared to other nations around the world with regard to breast cancer.

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Thank you so much.

I want to continue to show that while I am not a medical professional and my dear colleague from Wyoming is not a medical professional, we are not just speaking from the heart and from our soul. We are also speaking from an intelligent position.

The Washington Post had an article by Otis W. Brawley. Who is Otis W. Brawley? Well, he is the writer, is the chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society.

Now I am not going to read this whole article that was in The Washington Post on November 19, but let me read some of the things from it.

□ 2145

Studying cancer deaths among women in their forties reveals some

important trends. Death rates were dropping slightly in the 1970s, thanks to better awareness and better treatment. In 1983, the American Cancer Society began recommending that all women get screened beginning at the age of 40. By 1990, death rates began a steep decline that continues today. While some of that drop is due to improvements in treatment, conservative estimates are that about half is due to mammography. Without mammography, many women would not be candidates for breast-conserving therapy. You cannot treat a tumor until you find it, and we know that mammography has led to finding tumors when they're smaller and far more treatable.

We think the task force may underestimate mammography's lifesaving value.

It goes on.

In the end he wraps up by saying, In the meantime the American Cancer Society continues to recommend annual screening using mammography and clinical breast examination for all women beginning at the age of 40. The test is far from perfect, but it's the best way we have to find tumors early. How many lives are enough to make routine screening worth it? How many mothers, sisters, aunts, grandmothers, daughters and friends are we willing to lose to breast cancer while the debate goes on about the limitations of mammography? Turning back the clock will add up to too many lives lost, and too many women finding their tumors later, when treatment options are limited. Our medical staff and volunteers overwhelmingly believe the benefits of screening women ages 40 to 49 outweighs its limitations. Let's not behave as though we lack a tool with proven benefits to women.

Again, these are not my words; these are the words a medical professional has written in the Washington Post. I could go on, because the American Medical News, I pulled this off line. I just want to read some of the things that it says in here.

It says, Taking its concern a step further, the American College of Radiology asked that the recommendations be rescinded to prevent the possibility of the new guidelines influencing policymakers as they shape health system reform legislation.

This was printed on November 30. This article goes on to say:

Washington, D.C. radiologist Rachel Brem dismissed the potential harm when compared to the value of detecting cancer. "Virtually all my patients would prefer the small anxiety of a false-positive with the possibility to diagnose an early breast cancer."

Oh, yes, Mr. Speaker, we women would prefer to have a little anxiety and find it early, find it, treat it appropriately, and live to a ripe old age.

It goes on to say, Researchers of one study found that annual mammography screening for women ages 50 to 79 resulted in an 8 percent median increase in breast cancer mortality re-

duction. For screening every 2 years, it was 7 percent. So we lose a percent if we wait every 2 years. For screening that begins at age 40 and continues to age 69, researchers found a 3 percent median breast cancer mortality reduction with either annual or biennial screening. Researchers concluded that greater mortality reductions could be achieved by stopping screening at an older age than by initiating screening at an earlier age. No recommendations were made for women 75 and older because, the task force said, there is insufficient evidence to assess the additional benefits and harms. But early detection is partially credited for the steadily falling breast cancer rate among women younger than 50, according to the American Cancer Society.

It goes on to say that they, too, debunk the findings of this study.

I also went through and looked at some of what was being said in my own hometown. On the editorial page on November 18, Krista Ramsey, I want to read this because it really has the sentiment of my heart:

Tell us why we shouldn't feel betrayed.

After decades of memorizing breast cancer's warning signs, training ourselves to do monthly self-exams, and guilting ourselves into annual mammograms, we women are now being told the exams are useless and mammograms unreliable.

A Federal task force has reversed a decades-long campaign that trained women to make screenings a cornerstone of their self-care. It now recommends against routine mammograms for women in their forties, longer intervals between them for older women, and ditching the self-exams.

Intended or not, yanking away the tools we relied on to keep ourselves safe from this disease shakes the confidence that we can keep ourselves safe. And fear and confusion have always been breast cancer's best friend.

Now we are left to reconcile two utterly conflicting messages—the task force cautioning against the test the American Cancer Society still calls lifesaving.

As so often happens with debates over medical care, women can't help but feel like pawns. Experts told us to get smart about this disease and we did our homework. They told us to face it straight on—have the tests, entertain the thought it could happen to us—and we didn't flinch.

For decades, we have walked against breast cancer, run against it, shopped and marched against it. We devoted a whole month to raising our awareness, nagging other females we loved to schedule mammograms. We pinned on looped ribbons, we donned hot pink—and nobody looks good in hot pink.

Now it seems the message is sit back, don't worry and wait. The millions we raised for research on prevention went for this?

The dueling medical experts are going to be the ones to feel the pinch if

they think they can, just like that, back women off of mammograms. And they should be very careful about warning against screenings because the results could make us worry our pretty little heads.

It's not that we shouldn't be disabused of reassuring but faulty medical advice. It's not that women have had a long history of being talked down to, and all around, when it comes to matters of their health. Still, our skepticism can kill us.

It's well known that we women take better care of others than ourselves. It doesn't take much for us to rationalize resetting our priorities—I'll get that tooth fixed after we pay off some bills, I'll schedule that test after we finish soccer season.

Leaving work for a mammogram has always been a hassle. Now we can justify waiting another year. And then, as our busy lives barrel on, that 1 year becomes 5. For many women, that 5-year gamble will do no harm. For some, it's a fatal bet. And nobody can say which one of us can afford to wait and which cannot.

How much less painful this would be if we all couldn't name women who needed a mammogram earlier than she got it. How many children wish their mom could have been diagnosed in time so she could see them graduate from high school? Do we suspect this whole debacle is more about saving on health care costs than sparing us anxiety? You bet we do.

Are we concerned that tightening the recommendations will, down the road, mean limiting our care? We're not stupid.

We're sophisticated enough to understand cancer is a wily opponent that doesn't follow anybody's rules. But we're savvy enough to know that when it comes to our health, we only get the care we demand.

Tell us the truth. Tell us what you don't know. Put our lives before cost savings. Bring us fully into this discussion. And imagine that women who will be undiagnosed or wrongly diagnosed by your miscalculations is your daughter, your mother or your wife.

I have now been joined by my very good friend, Dr. BURGESS from Texas, and yield you as much time as you need.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the gentle lady for yielding. I thank you so much for taking the initiative to do this hour tonight. I think it is extremely important and extremely timely. Last month when the United States preventive service task force came out up with their guidelines, I went home from Congress to my desk and there was a copy of OB-GYN News that had just been delivered the week before these task force guidelines came out. This was the current state of the art, the current state of thinking just prior to these task force recommendations being made.

In the article, and I am quoting here, the most effective method for women

to avoid death from breast cancer is to have regular mammographic screening, said Dr. Blake Cady at a breast cancer symposium sponsored by the American Society of Clinical Oncology. Interestingly, in their article they cite some statistics, and I'll be honest, these are statistics that I knew but I had forgotten. The rates of cancer deaths in the current study, 25 percent of them occurred in women who had regular screenings. Seventy-five percent occurred in women who did not. That's a 3-to-1 risk ratio of dying from breast cancer between those who were screened and those who were unscreened. In fact, they go on to say that amongst women who were unscreened, the 56 percent mortality is the same overall mortality we used to see in breast cancer up until 1970 prior to the onset of widespread mammographic screening.

Another piece of information I wanted to share tonight is from the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology from their president, Gerald F. Joseph, who wrote to me December 4 of this year:

As you know, the American College of OB-GYN expressed concern about the new breast cancer screening guidelines in a letter to the United States preventive service task force in May where we raised concerns that the C recommendation against routine screening mammography in women ages 40 to 49 would be misunderstood by clinicians, by patients, misunderstood by policymakers and insurers and ultimately this could prevent women in that age group from receiving important services. Immediately following the release of the new guidelines, the American College of OB-GYN instructed fellows of the college that it would continue to recommend routine screening for women in this age group.

Here is probably the most critical point of Dr. Joseph's letter. In his last paragraph, This is especially critical right now as we caution Congress against giving the United States preventive service task force authority over women's health in health care reform.

Today, these guidelines are simply that, they are just guidelines. Any doctor or patient is free to take them or disregard them, however it is their wish. Once this bill, as the gentlelady correctly pointed out, becomes law, no longer will that be an optional exercise. Those will be the mandated screening guidelines that will be established in law. And I will tell you as a physician, if an insurance company decides they're not going to cover something, the patient isn't going to get it done. It is just as simple as that. This is a step backward, as Dr. Cady pointed out. It is going back prior to 1970 when we had that 56 percent mortality prior to the institution of regular screenings. We don't need to do that. We don't need to do that as a country. We have the information, we need to act on the information, we need to

keep patients involved in their own health care. I cannot tell you the number of people who came to me ultimately who had a diagnosis of breast cancer who found the cancer themselves. I didn't find it on a clinical exam. They found it on a breast self-exam. It wasn't detected on a mammogram. It may have occurred in that 2-year period between screens, but the patient found it herself. The earlier diagnosis was made possible by the patient's involvement in her own care. And to say that we are unnecessarily alarming patients by teaching them to be involved in their own care I think does women a great disservice.

So I thank the gentlelady for bringing this to the floor of the Congress tonight. I am going to submit the letter from the American College of OB-GYN president for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and I thank you for providing this very valuable service for women tonight on the House floor.

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF  
OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS,  
*Ponchatoula, LA, December 4, 2009.*  
Hon. MICHAEL BURGESS, M.D.FACOG,  
*Cannon House Office Building,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR DR. BURGESS: On behalf of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), representing over 53,000 physicians and partners in women's health, thank you for your remarks at the December 2nd Breast Cancer Screening Recommendations hearing held by the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health. Your opening statement and questions to the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) panel highlighted both the importance of the doctor-patient relationship in making medical decisions, and the flaws in the USPSTF recommendations process.

Once again, your medical knowledge and expertise are proving invaluable to Congress' development of good health policy.

As you know, ACOG expressed concern about the new breast cancer screening guidelines in a letter to the USPSTF in May, where we raised concerns that the C recommendation against routine screening mammography in women ages 40-49 would be misunderstood by clinicians, patients, policymakers, and insurers and that ultimately, this could prevent women in that age group from receiving important mammography services. Immediately following the release of the new guidelines, ACOG instructed its Fellows that the College would continue to recommend routine screening for women in this age group.

Your questions to the panel effectively highlighted the flaws in the process by which the USPSTF makes recommendations. Lack of transparency and public input are part of the problem; there is no formal mechanism for the public to comment on proposed guidelines, and comments that the Task Force receives from experts are not often taken seriously. We also appreciate your comment that the USPSTF is comprised mostly of primary care doctors and includes only a limited number of ob/gyns and other specialists. This point is especially critical right now, as we caution Congress against giving the USPSTF authority over women's health in health care reform.

Thank you again for your remarks and for always standing up for women's health.

Sincerely,

GERALD F. JOSEPH, M.D.,  
*President, ACOG.*

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Thank you so much because you are the medical expert in the field and I'm so glad that you came here to share your testimony this evening, my good friend from Texas. Because as we continue with this health care debate, the one underlying theme that I think the American public has is, will this interfere with their health. And I think what we're seeing from this task force's recommendations is that when the government takes over the health care, it has the potential ability to do just that—interfere with our health. This task force had a flawed document, it was driven to say that the risks for women were anxiety, but it also said in the report that costs outweighed, were looked at in looking at when you should have the mammographies and when you shouldn't have the mammographies. This report clearly was driven by the fact that it costs money to have good health care, no matter where you are.

□ 2200

And so it showed if you eliminate mammography for women under the age of 50, you eliminate a whole lot of cost. And for 556 women, that is okay. But that unlucky one that's after 556, she's the one that is going to be missed.

And so as we debate health care in this country, we should never put a price on it, and we should never allow government to interfere with our lives, especially when it comes to the care of our health and our family.

So I hope that we take what's out there in the bills in the House, in the Senate, and we delete them and we start over with a commonsense approach to solving the problems with health care in this country because quite frankly, we have the best health care in the world. It needs tweaking, but what we're doing right now potentially would change it and change it in a fashion that I don't think any American wants.

My good friend from Texas, if you don't have anything more to say, I think we will yield back our time.

I yield back our time, Mr. Speaker.

#### HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my privilege to be recognized and address you here on the floor of the House and pick up—I think, transition from the discussion that has taken place in the previous hour by the gentlelady from Ohio—and I appreciate the presentation that's been made here—and to fit the breast cancer issue in with the larger health care debate is what I will seek to do, Mr. Speaker.

And that is this: that the question about how breast cancer is treated and how it's tested fits back into the broader question of what happens if we end

up with a national health care act. What happens if we end up with socialized medicine? Do we get more of this or less of this? Do we get more government agencies that are laying out guidelines that are, as I believe—and I agree with the gentlelady from Wyoming and with the doctor from Texas—that do we get more government guidelines that cut down on the costs of the tests but raise the costs in lives? And do we get that in breast cancer, and do we get that on nearly every other aspect of health care?

This debate has gone on and on here on health care, and it reached its crescendo during the month of August in the aftermath of the cap-and-trade bill, the bill that no one read, not one single person read, not one Member of Congress read. I know that no one read the bill—I don't have to ask everyone here—because the bill was not available. When the bill was passed, it was not available in a form that resembled final form.

And I remember Congressman LOUIE GOHMERT come to the floor, Mr. Speaker, and raising the question, parliamentary inquiry, Is there a bill in the well? Is there a copy of the final bill, the one that we're debating and the one that we're voting on? But it's not in the well. Not an integrated bill, not with the amendments that were included in that.

And so the final question he asked after a series of them, Can we message a bill that doesn't exist to the United States Senate? Apparently that is what we could do, and that is what happened. That bill, cap-and-trade, sits over there now before the United States Senate, as does a national health care bill. And they are, of course, taking it up and debating it and fitting it around some of these things that they're doing. And it looks like this is the week that the United States Senate turns the focus on their national health care act.

Now, we have taken this argument, policy-by-policy, ideology-by-ideology through this House, but it comes down to this just as a refresher, Mr. Speaker, what brought this all about: increasing costs in health care in the United States and, around the world, a growing focus on health care.

But I think that a lot of it emerged during the Democrat primary for President when Hillary Clinton looked at one point like she would win the nomination. She's the one that led the argument and led the meetings—both open and closed door—for what a lot of America still remembers as HillaryCare back in 1993, 1994, in that era. And since Hillary Clinton knew a lot about health care and that was the centerpiece of her campaign, she brought that to the debate and used that in the primary campaign.

And as the contest for the nomination on the Democrat side for the President shook down to one of two people, Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton, the pressure that Hillary brought

into that campaign to raise the issue of health care made it a central issue in the Democrat primary. And it forced, in my opinion, Barack Obama—then-Senator Obama—to run a health care agenda of his own, something to match up to and counteract with and seek to win the debate on the Democrat side of the primary voting aisle. And I believe that the urgency that America has is not reflected exactly off of the data that's out there and the economics of it and the need.

But it's more reflected because there was a political gain to be had in the nomination process for President, especially on the Democrat side, and as that debate emerged, and Barack Obama was successful in winning the nomination and then ultimately the presidency, he carried that mantle of health care reform through the entire process—inspired by Hillary Clinton, I believe—and pushed to a high level of a priority, which I'm convinced, Mr. Speaker, that they believe that it is the highest priority in America. They have made it that. They must believe that, and I'm not challenging that approach. I'm just suggesting that because it was a primary issue in the nominating process for President on the Democrat side, it gained some momentum that it wouldn't have had if we were going to step back and look at the health care issue.

And so it became something that the President, when he was elected, saw as a mandate, a mandate to go in and pass some kind of a national health care act.

Well, you would think that you could go right down through the logic line and flip the toggle switches and get down to something that makes sense. And the principles that were laid out by Barack Obama as a candidate—and later as a President—came down to this. Health care costs too much money. The economy is in a mess, and it's in a downward spiral. We have to fix the economy—this is the President's philosophy, and we can't fix the economy unless we first fix health care that costs too much money. That's the rationale. It's threaded through a number of his speeches.

It never seemed rational to me. I couldn't follow the logic of "the economy's in a mess; we have to fix health care to straighten out the economy; we spend too much on health care, therefore we're going to fix it." I can get maybe that far, but then the rationale on my side of the aisle, among Republicans, would be, Well, if we spend too much money on health care, where are we spending it that we don't need to?

The President concludes it's a half-trillion dollars in Medicare, which would inappropriately punish many of the senior citizens in America—some of whom are being led by AARP, who will apparently make more money selling insurance if a bill is passed than they will serving their membership if it's not passed. So they have come out to support this bill.

But the President said, We're spending too much money; let's spend more. And he wants to keep the bill down under \$900,000 but the doc fix throws another \$243 billion, is the original number, at this and it takes it over a trillion. And if you look at some of the other numbers, if you evaluate this as JUDD GREGG did, Senator JUDD GREGG from New Hampshire, that they're doing the math on this bill in this fashion: 5½ or so years of expenses, 10 years of tax increase and income. So it shows up to only be a number that at some place around or a little bit under a trillion dollars, Mr. Speaker, in extra costs.

JUDD GREGG says it's \$2½ trillion once you take an objective look at the math and at the accounting. If you look at actually 10 years of expenses and 10 years of revenue, it is about a \$2½ trillion dollar bill.

□ 2210

So if the President's statement is that we spend too much money on health care, about 14½, and some will even say 16 or more percent of our GDP on health care, we spend too much money on health care, therefore we have to solve the problem by spending a lot more. This diabolical, Orwellian logic is something that the American people are still breathlessly amazed that a President and leaders in this country can get by with such statements. Health care costs too much money, so we will spend 1 or 2 or maybe even approaching \$3 trillion more, that will solve the problem, Mr. Speaker. If we spend too much money, let's spend a lot more.

Another one of the points is there are too many uninsured in America. Now, over the last 3 or so years, there has been an intentional effort to conflate the two words of "health care" and "health insurance," and the effort has been on the part of the people on the left to blur the subject matter of the difference between health care and health insurance. They will say we have too many people that don't have health care in America. But they don't take into account that what health care really means is, do you get treated by doctors and nurses in clinics, hospitals and emergency rooms or don't you? If you get sick or get injured, can you get treatment? The answer to that is yes, everywhere. That's essentially what the law says.

So, according to statute and practice, the health care providers provide everyone access to health care. What we don't have are everybody in America that has their own personal insurance policy. And a lot of people on this side of the aisle have conflated the two terms and said, "people don't have health care" when they really mean, "people don't own their own health insurance policy." And so it has been morphed and blended into this idea that somehow there is a right, and some would even argue that within the Constitution there is some kind of a

right that everyone would own their own health insurance policy.

And so they set about to grant or provide a health insurance policy to every American, legal or illegally, lawfully present or not, people that will take care of their own responsibilities and people even that have refused to take care of their own responsibilities, and impose a health insurance policy on them all. And if they are not willing to write a check and pay for the premium or go to work for somebody that will do that or sign up for Medicaid, or, of course, those that are eligible for Medicare, if they are not willing to do that, the IRS will come in and audit them and levy a fine for not having health insurance.

And if this gets bad enough, you can end up in jail for the first time in the history of this country. The Federal Government is putting together a product called a health insurance exchange and approved health insurance policies or the public option, government-run health insurance plan, and if you fail to buy a policy within the statutory guidelines, those that are approved by the Health Choices Administration Commissioner, the czar, the IRS can come in and levy a fee against you, and eventually one could go to jail for tax evasion technically, but not buying a government-imposed health insurance policy actually. It would be the first time in the history of America that the government has produced a product, compelled its citizens to buy the product, and if they refused or failed to, then levy a fine, eventually lock them up in jail. It is the equivalent of debtors' prison for not buying the government-approved version of health insurance. It will be the first time in America.

And the President has said, and this is out of the House version, Mr. Speaker, and I understand the Senate has tweaked that a little bit and maybe taken the jail time out, so now they just put a lien on your house and sell your house. Never fear, though. There is a special way you can get a cheap mortgage in America that has been set up to take care of those people. The government has their fingers in everything.

This has been the most giant leap into socialism that we've had ever since the preparations for the transition that began on the 20th of January of this year. And the President has said, we have too many uninsured. And when you go through the list, they use the number 47 million uninsured. So from that 47 million, I begin to subtract the numbers of people who are eligible under their own employer but just don't opt in, or opt out; and those who are eligible under a government program like Medicaid, and subtract from that number those who are unlawfully present in the United States, where if ICE or the Department of Homeland Security had to deliver them their health insurance policy, they would be compelled to deport them to a

foreign country, or those who are lawfully present in the United States but by law are barred for 5 years from having public benefits, and we keep subtracting out of that list those who make over \$75,000 a year and don't have their own health insurance. And now with that list, we take the 47 million and we subtract all those in that list that I talked about, those eligible under their employer without it, those eligible for the government, those that make over \$75,000 a year, and those who are ineligible because they are illegal aliens or immigrants, and now that 47 million magically becomes 12.1 million, Mr. Speaker; and this 12.1 million Americans without affordable options for health insurance now isn't this massive number that tells us we have a national problem. What it really is, is less than 4 percent of the American population. And we are down to 4 percent of the American population, and the proposal is to change 100 percent of America's health insurance program and America's health care delivery, all of that to try to reduce this number of less than 4 percent down to something that may approach 2 percent after it takes over 100 percent of the program.

With the insurance competition that the President has called for, he said, well, the insurance companies are greedy. He always has to have a straw man to kick over. The insurance companies are greedy. Was it today or yesterday he said, the fat cat bankers, and then sat down and had a meeting with them today. Somebody has to be demonized before we can move forward here. We can't just simply have people with divergent interests that can be brought together that are altruistic and want to engage in the economy and help people. We have 1,300 health insurance companies in America and about 100,000 different policy varieties that can be purchased in the various 50 States, and that isn't exactly that many different companies and policies available to every American because we don't allow Americans, at this point, to buy health insurance across State lines.

It is an easy fix, we tweak that here, John Shadegg's bill that's been out here for about 4 or more years to allow people to buy health insurance across State lines, and magically all 1,300 companies compete against each other, unless they happen to be the same company that's operating in different States, and when that happens, and magically these 100,000 policy varieties become available to everybody in the United States.

And so the idea the President proposes of creating a government-run health insurance company and government-approved health insurance policies to produce more competition for the health insurance companies, if you want more competition, just let people buy insurance across State lines. Magically you've got 1,300 companies competing, 100,000 policies to choose from, and it is far more effective from a com-

petition standpoint than it is to put the government involved and have the government limit, write, regulate and control every health insurance policy in America. And when the President says, Don't worry, if you like your health insurance policy you get to keep it, have you noticed that he hasn't said that in a long time? It has been weeks and weeks, at least by my recollection, that the President has reiterated, if you like your health insurance policy, you get to keep it. The truth is, get ready to lose it. If you have a policy today, under the House version of the bill or anything that I understand under the Senate version of the bill, that policy would have to be cancelled some time between 2011, by 2011 or 2013. It would be cancelled, and there would be a new policy that would have to be issued that met the Federal guidelines. There is no policy in America that the President of the United States with confidence can look at and point to and say, you, Joe the plumber, or you, Sally the doctor, are going to be able to keep the health insurance policy that you have, that you love, that you paid for, because the government may decide that it doesn't have the right benefits to it, it doesn't have the right mandates, and maybe it doesn't cover all the things that they think government should cover.

And so that is just some of the basis for this, Mr. Speaker. There is so much more. And as this debate ensues down on the Senate side of the aisle, right down through those doors, straight across through the Capitol, we are watching a dramatic, and I think a titanic, colossal clash taking place in the Senate right now, and I mean in this period this week. As this unfolds, we need the American people to rise up. We need the American people to speak up. We need the American people to pick up their telephones. We need them to come to this Capitol building. We need them to fill up the Senate. We need them to surround this place and stand here and call out for freedom, call out for liberty, call out for the rights that are in the Constitution and not somebody else's idea of transferring wealth across America and putting it into the pockets of others and taking away the benefits of the people that have been industrious and have been personally responsible.

We take care of everybody in America. Jimmy Carter once said that the people that work should live better than those that don't. I caught that. When he said that, it seemed a little odd to hear that from him. And I don't know that he really ever lived by it, but he said it, and I believe that as well.

□ 2220

This bill is another class level, or it's another take from the rich and give to the poor. It's a class-envy bill. It's born out of spite and born out of class envy and it's driven by ideology and it's driven by the idea of socialized medicine.

Today I was asked to answer a series of questions that were requested by a publication here on the Hill, and it was, What is the biggest problem Republicans have? Mr. Speaker, my answer is fighting off Marxists and socialists that masquerade as liberals and progressives. That's the biggest problem Republicans have now. This is a Marxist and socialist agenda, and that's one of the reasons why the Blue Dogs have gone underground and become groundhogs. The shadow of socialism has pushed them underground. And they're not out here fighting for truth, justice, the American way and a balanced budget and personal responsibility and constitutionalism. They seem to have disappeared from the scene. But 40 or so of them will get a pass from the Speaker of the House and be able to vote "no" on this bill if it comes back to this House because there are enough votes stacked up on the Democrat side that about that many will get a pass.

I see that my good friend, Dr. BURGESS, who took a small hiatus from the previous Special Order, is here with a brain full of information, Mr. Speaker, for you to absorb and pass along to our colleagues.

I would be very happy to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas, Dr. BURGESS.

Mr. BURGESS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The gentleman has done an excellent job at delineating where we've been, what's been happening, and perhaps where we're going. You know, this summer was truly a remarkable time in this country when the beauty of participatory democracy was on display literally from sea to shining sea, from border to border. I certainly felt it in my district. I know it was felt in a number of congressional districts. We've seen the results of that.

The gentleman is quite correct, the Blue Dogs, who were so active during the summer months leading up to the August recess, have really been under enormous pressure by their leadership on their side. And now we've seen, in the past several days, I think by my count, four retirements from that group. I don't know whether we will be seeing more, but it certainly is something that you cannot fail to notice.

Now, the gentleman from Iowa has correctly identified this to be a fight about ideology. You will notice through the discussions going on in the other body right now, there is really very little that's going on about health care, *per se*. There is very little talked about as far as health care policy. It is all a question about, well, let's get the numbers right. Let's get the Congressional Budget Office. Let's get the actuaries over at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Let's get these numbers right so we can then present this to the American people and stay within the President's prescription of delivering health care for all for under \$1 trillion.

Now, we know that to be a fantasy. The gentleman outlined the reasons why that is a fantasy. There are a number of things that have been taken out of this bill that will have to be added back at some point in the future, but this has become a fight about ideology just as the energy bill has been a fight about ideology. Cap-and-trade is no longer about the number of molecules of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This is about ideology. This is about holding the United States to \$3 trillion in ransom to the rest of the world and, oh, by the way, you've got to give up your ability to be in charge of our own future. You've got to give up your sovereignty along the way to Copenhagen. This is a fight about ideology.

The Financial Services bill that we passed on the floor of this House last week had nothing to do to prevent future problems with meltdowns in the financial industry. If it had, we would have seen something that would actually have made a difference. Instead, we got big carve-outs for big companies. The smaller community banks are still going to have to pay into a fund to bail out the big guys if they get in trouble again in the future. In fact, we've institutionalized the failure of those institutions who are too big to fail by this bill that we passed last week.

But again, it's not about what you know about financial policy; it's about ideology. That is where we are today over in the other body with this health care debate. Nobody is really interested in whether or not there is the right vaccine policy involved. No one is really interested in what the United States Preventive Services Task Force does. It's all about control of every facet of your life. And if we can control your health care, we can control more about you than we've ever been able to control in the past.

That is why it is so important that this be stopped. It's not because we want to prevent anyone from having health insurance. It's not that we want to prevent anyone from having health care, but we want to prevent this type of power grab that is going on at the level of the Federal Government over the lives of honest American citizens.

If we lose, if we are not successful in stopping this, ultimately it's not a Democratic win or a Republican loss. Ultimately, it's the American people who will lose in this transaction. It is transactional politics at its worst, and we've all seen that on display.

One year ago, we were faced, on our side, with the very stark realization that we had lost the White House, lost 20 seats in the House, lost a number of seats in the Senate, and in fact, when the eventual Senator from Minnesota was seated, the Democrats had a proverbial unstoppable majority of 60 votes over on the Senate side. This all happened very early in the calendar year 2009.

I would have thought, facing that kind of harsh reality, that many of

these things that we've talked about tonight—energy policy, health care policy, financial services policy—many of those things would have already been done; after all, what was to stop them? Were Republicans going to be able to stop much of anything? No. We didn't have the leadership, the money, or the ideas to put a stop to much of anything. In fact, I still believe to this day, had the President put health care ahead of the pork barrel spending that was present in the stimulus bill that they passed in February, if the President pushed health care to the front of that agenda, that would have been done in February. It would be the law of the land today, and there would have been nothing that anyone could have done to stop it. But they didn't. They didn't.

In fact, I still puzzle over why cap-and-trade was suddenly thrown into the mix at the end of June, sort of all at once. We passed it out of committee a month before and it sort of languished there. Everyone was uncomfortable about it, but it was never coming to the floor, after all, so we really didn't need to worry about it. Then suddenly, the last week of June, boom, here it is and it's going to pass, and Democrats' arms were twisted and hair was pulled and eyes were gouged in order to get this thing passed.

I don't know if the gentleman from Iowa recalls, but there was the instance where a Democratic Member from Florida sold his vote for \$30 million here on the floor of this House. The Democrats were going to usher in a new era of transparency. That was about as transparently transactional as I have ever seen on the floor of the House, but they got the bill passed.

And then what happened? We went home for 4th of July recess, marched in that 4th of July parade right behind the American Legion, just in front of the Cub Scouts. And from both sides of the parade route, people were yelling at their Member of Congress, What in the world were you thinking? Next time, read the bill. On and on it went along the parade route. By the end of the 4th of July parades, Members of Congress, both sides, Republicans and Democrats, were saying, Oh, my God, what have we done? What are we up against?

So we came back in July and said, We're not so anxious to pass this health care bill. In fact, the Blue Dogs, to their credit, ground things to a halt, starting about the 15th of July, when we finally got the bill—and remember, we got this 1,000-page bill and we were supposed to pass it before the August recess and go home and deal with the consequences, but not so fast. The Blue Dogs did slow things down. We did not have a bill passed by the August recess.

And then, it was a beautiful thing to watch, the participatory democracy that we saw again across this country came to bear and brought pressure to every Member of Congress, whether

conservative, liberal, Republican, Democrat. Every Member of Congress heard from their constituents.

Now, to be sure, the Speaker of the House labeled these individuals as Astroturf or rent-a-mob, but I've got to tell you, I had 2,000 people show up for a town hall in Denton, Texas, on a hot Saturday morning in August, and these were my friends and neighbors, a town where I grew up. I know most of the people in the town. And it was not an imported crowd to give grief to the poor Member of Congress. These were people who were legitimately concerned.

Just as the gentleman from Iowa accurately points out, we're trying to fix a problem for less than 5 percent of the American population and disrupt what 65, 70, or 73 percent of the American population sees as something that is working relatively well for them. Sure, they're concerned about costs for the future. Sure, they're concerned about what happens if they lose their job to their employer-sponsored insurance. But by and large, those that have insurance do want to keep it. That's why we don't hear that brought up anymore.

□ 2230

I thought we'd come back in September and hit the reset button—the pause, the replay. No. We hit the fast-forward button, and we pushed this thing through. Don't check the weather. We're going to fly anyway. The Speaker pushed it through in the early part of November, again, purely on a party-line vote, and now it's over in the Senate.

The people are asking, Well, what are you going to do to fix this? Sixty percent of the people do not want this to happen. So, Mr. Member of Congress, what are you going to do to stop this?

I do have to say that I am, once again, going to ask, going to call on, going to cajole, going to plead with Americans across the country who are looking at this happening right now: It's not hard to figure out who your Senators are as every State has got two. Most of the time, if you go to a search engine of choice and type in "Who is my United States Senator for the State of Iowa or Texas?" it will come back, and it will tell you. You can go to Senate.gov and can put the name of your State in, and it will tell you who your Senators are. It will, in fact, tell you how to contact them. It will give you their Washington telephone numbers and their phone numbers back home in the State. Your Senators need to hear from you in these coming days that are immediately ahead of us.

You know, if you think back to the days in May of 2005, there were a couple of Senators who decided they were going to do something that fundamentally would have changed the way this country dealt with problems surrounding immigration. The American people rose up as one and said, Not so

fast. Not so fast. We have a voice in this. We have a say in this. They stopped the Senate cold in its tracks.

The Senate, true to form, decided maybe that was a misnomer. Maybe they didn't really mean "not so fast." So they tried again. Once again, they heard "not so fast." Their switchboards shut down. Their servers crashed because of the volumes of information that were coming in, telling them "not so fast."

Well, I would submit to the gentleman from Iowa that he and I are going to be hard-pressed to stop this thing on the floor of the Senate in the days ahead. It is going to require participatory democracy on a level that we saw this summer, and then some, in order to bring this thing back to the realm of where, perhaps, we can actually deal with the problems that we're required to deal with.

Remember, it's all about ideology right now. It's about a hard left turn that has been taken by the administration and by the Democratic leadership in the House and in the Senate. That's where they want to go with this thing. If that's okay with you, stay silent. Have a nice Christmas. We'll see you next year. If that's not okay with you, if you feel like the gentleman from Iowa and I feel about this, your Senators do need to hear from you. Your Members in the other body need to hear from you. They need to hear from you straightaway.

I've got some other ideas which I'll be happy to share with the gentleman, but I've taken up enough of his time, and I'll yield back the time to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman from Texas. He had me paying attention to those ideas.

From that standpoint on the immigration debate—and that's one that I've been engaged in for a long time—the effort that went out across this Nation to shut down the switchboard and to shut down the servers of the United States Senate sent a message. Yet, as the gentleman from Texas said, about 3 months later, they decided to try it again. They just didn't believe what the American people had told them, and they took another run at it.

On the immigration side of this, this was a bipartisan effort. It had the President of the United States—then President Bush—and significant numbers on the Republican and on the Democrat sides of the aisle. There were more Democrats than Republicans significantly, but this was a bipartisan effort, and it was something that was strategically driven by the White House. It still failed in the face of that effort because the American people rose up.

There isn't any reason, Mr. Speaker, for anybody to believe that the American people can't kill this socialized medicine bill. If they can kill comprehensive amnesty and do so twice in 1 year and do so in the United States

Senate, as difficult as it may seem and as determined as the President seems to be, this scenario is doable.

They have learned a few things, too, over there, down that hallway in the United States Senate and off into their office buildings on the side. They've learned how to shut their phones off, and they've learned how to shut down their fax machines, and they've learned how to, essentially, plug their ears and wait for the noise of the American people to settle down, and then we'll try to pass something.

I'm suggesting this, that the Senators need to have a personal experience. They and their staffs need to have a personal experience—a respectful, polite and nonthreatening personal experience. Especially if you're a Senator, you probably have your finger on the political barometer, and have a real sense of what the public's mood is. You can run a poll, and you can hire a pollster to find out where the American people are or you can make a lot of phone calls and can send out emails and can send out letters. You can listen to people or you can put the data together, but you also have to measure the intensity. The intensity is the other part.

If we have an issue out here that I'm ambivalent about—and I really haven't found that issue yet, Mr. Speaker, on which I am. Hypothetically, if I'm ambivalent about an issue and if, on the one hand, I'm for it and if, on the other hand, I'm against it and if half of the public is for it and if half of them is against it, how would one decide then which side of the issue to come down on?

You have to pay attention to the people who have intensity. I pay attention to the people in this Congress who come in who have intensity—to people like Dr. BURGESS who have intensity and to the people who have been elected to this Congress who are vocal and aggressive and who know what they believe because they've lived it. I pay attention to that level of intensity.

As to the level of intensity that needs to come from the American people, this is the week. This is the week for that intensity. So, if you're ambivalent, fine. You can sit home and send an email. If you care, you can make a phone call. If you care more, you can go down to your Senators' district offices. If you care more yet, you can come to Washington, D.C. At 1:30 tomorrow, there will be a large gathering in the park just north of the Senate Chamber. From there, we are going to see how much the American people care.

They've been called to rally to defend their liberty a number of times this year. We saw it on April 15 in a big way. We saw it on September 12 in a big way. We saw it here on November 5 and on November 7. On November 5, there were 20,000 to 50,000 or more people here outside this Capitol building, who came here and said, Don't take my liberty. Let me own my own health insurance policy. Don't tell me the

standards by which I can buy it. Let me have my own freedom, my own liberty. I don't need government-run health care in America.

That was the message. Of that whole group of people who was there—tens of thousands—any one of them would have fit just perfectly at my own church picnic. They are salt-of-the-Earth, American, liberty-loving, constitutionalist, fiscally responsible, family people from across America. They are the people who are this American family who don't want to see a socialized America. They understand we are a unique people and that we are not social democracy Europe.

The socialists, for the most part, stayed in Europe. Freedom-loving people came here. There is a certain vitality in Americans which is unique to the rest of the world. It was hard to get here. You had to take a chance and maybe be an indentured servant; but earn your way across the Atlantic, and you could settle in and maybe drive a stake in Iowa and homestead 160 acres. One of my great-grandparents was an indentured servant who worked in a stable in Baltimore for 7 years before he got his passage worked off. These were people with a dream, who just wanted to have a start because we had economic opportunity. We had liberty, and they could shape their own lives.

So we got the vitality from every donor civilization in the world. As for everybody who sends people here—every country—whatever would be the particular characteristics of their cultures, there is always that skim off the top, the cream off the top, which is the vitality of a culture, the vitality of a civilization.

One of the reasons America has such vitality is that we skimmed the cream, and they came here. They arrived in America with almost unlimited natural resources, low-income or no taxation, no regulation, manifest destiny, a Protestant work ethic—and Catholics got with it pretty good—and with a foundation rooted in Christian morality and work ethic. That giant petri dish created this teeming America that settled the continent from sea to shining sea in the blink of a historical eye.

We are not anybody else in the world. We are a unique people. We live in the unchallenged greatest nation on Earth, that the Earth has ever seen. I'm watching it be torn apart by people who don't understand what I've just said, by people who get out of bed every day and look around. They see these beautiful marble pillars of American exceptionalism, and they can't wait to get out their jackhammers and chisel away at those pillars of American exceptionalism, which are the foundation that made this a great nation.

So now we've seen eight huge entities nationalized, most of it under this administration but not all of it. There are three large investment banks; Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, General Motors, Chrysler, AIG, all of that was

nationalized. According to a Wall Street Journal article, one-third of the private sector profits have been nationalized, mostly by this administration, without an exit strategy.

□ 2240

Right away they set up the payroll czar to go in and tell the banks and the other institutions that they are paying too much to their executives. Now we have BARNEY FRANK's Financial Services bill, which is about ideology, as the gentleman from Texas said, as much as socialized medicine is about ideology and not about a practical application. In that bill it looks like they are going to be able to regulate all the financial institutions they take an interest in—with a little carve-out there—and tell those institutions what they are going to pay their people probably right on down to the person that scrubs the floor at night.

This freedom in this country has been dramatically diminished by the Pelosi Congress and the Obama presidency. This liberty that America needs to maintain our vitality is being quashed by the socialization, the nationalization of our economy, and the intentional creation of a dependency class of people that are designed to be the political base that will support those who will continue to do class-ency politics, share the wealth, so to speak.

By the way, that "share the wealth" phrase that came out of President Obama's mouth as a candidate in speaking to Joe the Plumber is in the mission statement of ACORN.

I am happy yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BURGESS. Well, I think the gentleman has summed things up very well. I cannot be nearly as eloquent as he is, delineating the history and what created greatness in this country. All I know is the people who seem to be making the decisions today are the people who have never held a job in the private sector. For those of us who signed more paychecks on the front than on the back, it is a startling thing to watch as we see, once again, the administration is going to lurch forward with a jobs-creation strategy when a jobs-creation strategy exists right before our eyes.

It's the small businessmen and women in America who have the capabilities of creating those jobs that we desire. What's happened to them today? They are scared to death. They are scared to death of this 8 percent payroll tax that we are going to slap on them for health care. They don't know what we are going to do in energy.

This Financial Services bill, they are going to be another several weeks trying to figure out what we just did to them last Friday night, late. Is it any wonder why small businesses across this country are holding back. They know about taking risk. That's what brought them to where they are now.

But when so many things are in flux, tax policy, health care, energy, finan-

cial service regulation, when so many things were in flux, what's in it for them to go out on a limb and go out and hire that extra one or two people that they might hire.

The problem is, not those one or two jobs in that one business, it's the vast number of jobs across the greater and broader economy that that one or two job hold-back that small business is making right now—that's where the jobs are. That's why this has been a jobless recovery, and why it will remain a jobless recovery until Congress, until Congress and the administration, stop making the environment and the prospects for the future seem so threatening that small businesses again feel comfortable in taking on the role of being the leader of job creation.

We don't need another Federal program to stimulate jobs. We just need to get out of the way.

I just have to reference an exchange I had with the Secretary of the Treasury a few weeks ago on our Joint Economic Committee when I asked him that very question. Wouldn't it be better if we, instead of making it a more challenging economic environment, brought some stability for small businesses in America, allowed them the freedom to do what they have done every time in the past with every other recession, which is create the jobs which provided the prosperity which allowed us to get out of the recession? Wouldn't it be better to do that?

The Secretary of the Treasury looked at me and said, That is the same broad economic philosophy that brought this country to the brink of ruin. Mr. Secretary, I just described market capitalism to you, and I am just a simple country doctor. You are the Secretary of the Treasury, you are supposed to know this stuff.

I was dumbfounded by the Secretary's response, the Secretary not understanding what it is that made this country great in the first place, has no clue, then, about how to do, how to set the tone and set the environment so this country can, indeed, recover from this economic downturn.

Of course, very famously, in that exchange earlier the other gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) had encouraged the Secretary to resign for the sake of our jobs. I said I didn't think he should resign; I didn't think he ever should have been hired in the first place. It was a mistake a year ago. It was apparently a mistake today. Not only does he not know how to fill out his tax form, he doesn't know what creates jobs and wealth in economy and what makes this country great.

I appreciate the gentleman from Iowa letting me be here. I appreciate him doing this hour. I think it is so important to set the tone. These next couple of days are going to be extremely important in this country and the American people do need to be engaged. They do need to be paying attention. They do need to be responding to the cues that are being given to them by the gentleman in the other body.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Texas.

It strikes me that the Secretary of the Treasury, I believe, is a natural-born citizen, not a naturalized citizen. Had he been a naturalized citizen, he would have had to pass the test. There are flash cards that are made available by USCIS, United States Citizenship Immigration Services. It's a stack of these glossy flash cards to train with so you can learn to pass a naturalization test.

In these flash cards it will be, for example on one side, when was the Declaration of Independence signed? Flip it over to the other side, July 4, 1776.

Who is the Father of our country? Flip it over. George Washington.

What is the economic system of the United States? Flip it over. Free enterprise capitalism.

You can't even be naturalized as a citizen of the United States unless you can pass that test. Apparently the Secretary of the Treasury says that free enterprise capitalism is what brought us to the brink of ruin.

It's an astonishing, breathtaking thing. It's no wonder we can't get this economy sorted out. I sent a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury after a hearing that we had, a joint hearing between Financial Services and the Department of Agriculture to deal with derivatives and credit default swaps. His question was this, that President Obama has been elected at least in part because he criticized President Bush for not having an exit strategy in Iraq.

Now, here is a list of the companies that have been nationalized by this administration and initiated in the previous administration, to be fair. I would like to know with each of these companies, Mr. Secretary, what is your exit strategy? How do you go about divesting the taxpayers' investment in these companies that were formerly private and get them, they are now managed and controlled, with influence control, if not majority control, how do you get them back into the private sector so that they can be allowed to succeed and fail?

It was a long time getting the answer back, and it took a long time to analyze the answer, but it boiled down to well, there really isn't a plan, but the Secretary will know when the time is right and take those steps when it's appropriate. That, I think, Mr. Speaker, tells us what's going on here.

If the Secretary of the Treasury believes that free enterprise capitalism brought us to the brink of ruin, I can't believe that he would be willing then to divest the Federal Government from the private sector, of their shares of investment in these formerly private-sector companies. That is, it is the socialization of our economy.

The 33 and so percent, as The Wall Street Journal said of the private-sector profits, and if they take on this health care industry, that's going to be another, another one-sixth of our economy. If that, if that goes on, that's

going to take us up to or greater than half of the private sector that we had in the past.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we understand that there are a couple of different sectors to the economy. One of them is the private sector. It's the growth sector. It's where people produce goods and services that have value. There are about three different levels of the value that an economy needs to produce. First, the economy needs to produce things that people must have for survival. I mean, we have talked about it for more than 50 years and called it food, clothing, and shelter, the things that are necessary for the survival of mankind; you have to have food, clothing and shelter. They come from generally out of the Earth, one way or another. So that's the number one level of our economy, those necessities for survival.

The second level, and that's private sector. Government produces hardly anything that's necessary for survival. They regulate, and they slow down the actual efficient production of those things that we need for survival.

The second level, those things that improve our efficiency, technology, for example, information technology, industrial technology, that caused us to be more efficient. Those efficiencies help us produce more of the necessities of life. The second part of the economy that's gotten the most important value is the second level that produces the efficiencies in our economy.

The third level of the private-sector economy is the disposable income. That's the income that we use to go do the things that we enjoy, to give our life relaxation and travel on vacation, do those things, or we buy the things that we don't have to have, not necessities, but the extras in life.

Those three levels, all private sector, all rooted back in, if you chase them back, you cannot go on vacation, and you can pass up buying that fancy pair of shoes or that nice car or the cabin at the lake or the boat or whatever it might be, and then those are eliminating the things that are not necessities of life.

□ 2250

And you can actually sacrifice some of the things out of the second level of our economy that help with our efficiency, but when get down to the necessities, it's life itself. All of this is rooted in the private sector. The other side of this economy, the public sector of the economy, is where government comes in and they decide that they're going to redistribute wealth and they're going to provide services that they think that people need, and for some degree people have decided they would like to have government provide some of those services. But government regulates, government slows down and intimidates private sector commerce, and once you get to a certain place over the things that are necessary for

government. For example, we build roads with user fees and less so with general fund tax fees. So if you drive on the road, you pay the tax for your gallon of gas that goes in the tank and you help build the road. That's a user fee. But things that government provides that are necessary, military, for example, Department of Defense, that provides our safety and our security. Without it, we can't function. We can't have legitimate forms of government. Government provides other things that are legitimate; the judicial branch of government, for example, so that we can have law and order. And law enforcement, while I'm on the subject matter.

As we look down through government, the list becomes less and less of a necessity and more and more of a redistribution of wealth. At a certain point when your safety and security are there and they're secured and a line goes across to providing government services so we don't have to worry about them ourselves, every time we pay a tax dollar, we also give up a measure of our liberty, a measure of our freedom, because government makes the decision and the people that are producing in the private sector make less of a decision.

So I'll say these two sectors of the economy, the private sector, from which all new wealth emanates, and the public sector—when I'm in a crankier mood, I call it the parasitic sector—of government, the sector of government that sucks the lifeblood out of the private sector economy. The public sector—the parasitic sector—is growing and it's growing by leaps and bounds, by the trillions of dollars, and there are less and less decisions made by capital which always is rational and more and more decisions made by government. We had a car czar that had neither made a car nor sold one. I don't even know that he owned one. He's not with us anymore. But we have a government of people that haven't written out paychecks, that have not started a business, have not operated a business. If they've operated in the private sector, they started in up near the top of a department and never saw the inner workings of the bottom of what small business is like that we've got to have to grow us into the larger businesses.

We need to have the underpinnings of American exceptionalism put back underneath us again. We've got to refurbish those beautiful marble pillars of American exceptionalism. We've got to promote liberty and encourage the freedom that's necessary; and people have to be willing to take risks. Capital has got to be able to make a rational decision but capital also has to know—that's investors' money, Mr. Speaker—has to know that they will also, if they fail, they're going to lose their investment, and someone else will pick up a bargain and build it on what was left of the company that went under. I've stared that in the eye. I went through the eighties with my

construction company. We had our ups and downs. I know what it's like to live with a knot in my gut for 3½ years, to hold the company together. And we succeeded. Others around me did not. Some people got drug down and the load was heavy. And others succeeded significantly beyond a level where I did; and I'm glad that everybody had the opportunity to do that. And if the government comes in and then appoints an overseer, which is what the Barney Frank Financial Services bill does, and they go in and look at capital investments and business management and they decide who's going to make how much money with another regulator for our financial institutions, we have given up a big piece of our liberty, a big piece of our freedom.

But what we're focused on, Mr. Speaker, we're focused on this week, this national health care act, this socialized medicine act that barely passed out of the House of Representatives, that is down there now being debated in the United States Senate, and the issues as set before the Senate seem to be a couple of big ones:

One of them is the pro-life amendment. Here it was the Stupak amendment where 64 Democrats had the opportunity to vote, to put up a pro-life vote that they didn't believe that the taxpayers of America should be compelled to fund abortions through money that is extracted from them unwillingly. So, therefore, the Stupak amendment came up, and 64 Democrats voted for it. Sixty-four Democrats and, I believe, every Republican are on record saying I am pro-life and I don't believe, or at least we should not compel American taxpayers to fund abortion when they're funding a socialized medicine program. That was what the Stupak amendment actually was. Even though it made exceptions for rape and incest, even though it doesn't fit with the tenets of the Catholic Church, it was a subject that was raised and pushed through here.

Now with the Stupak amendment passing, now these 64 Democrats have cover. Now if a bill comes back down this hallway through the center of the Capitol, it's had that language, not necessarily stripped out. When Senator BEN NELSON offered similar and some said identical language to the Stupak pro-life amendment, it was defeated in the Senate. And so the Senate bill doesn't have a pro-life amendment in it. And if it comes back to this House, we will see, I think, a conference committee that is appointed and stacked by Speaker PELOSI and HARRY REID and I think they are likely to strip the Stupak amendment out and drop it back in here to the House; and what I think will happen will be some of those 64 Democrats that said, I'm pro-life, here's my vote for the Stupak amendment, I think they'll roll over and they'll say, I voted for the Stupak amendment, but on balance I think this bill is good, even though we're going to compel Americans to fund

abortions in the United States. That's what they're set up to do and that's the dynamics; and we need people in the Senate to kill this bill, so that this scenario doesn't play out here in the House.

Another piece is this public option, the public option that seems to be, or the government option that seems to be rejected by the Senate, but the liberals in the House insist that there be a government health care option; so they're trying to configure a way that they can define something that isn't necessarily a government option that can come to conference and be merged together. And right now the staff in the House and the staff in the Senate are merging these two bills, trying to get ready to drop something on and give America a Christmas that will be the least merry of anything in my lifetime. It will be something that dramatically erodes the liberty in America.

But those are the two big issues: Is it going to be a pro-life bill? And is it going to have in it a government option? I suggest that they will put together and construct a scenario by which they will be trying to compel taxpayers to fund abortions and compel taxpayers to buy government insurance because, as the gentleman from Texas said, it is about ideology, it's not about policy, it's not about producing the best result because if they did that, if they were for that, they would be for reforming medical malpractice abuse in America, lawsuit abuse reform, they would be for selling insurance across State lines, providing full deductibility for everybody's health insurance, transparency in billing.

The list of things that we can do that are constructive, that don't cost money, is long indeed. But tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, and every day this week until somebody loses their nerve, the United States Senate needs to be jammed, it needs to be filled up with people that come here respectfully and politely and follow the rules and follow the law. But give the Senators and their staff in Washington, D.C., in their district offices at home and their offices here a personal experience. It needs to happen this way, Mr. Speaker—the American people need to let these Senators know that there will be a reckoning if their liberty is taken from them and this socialized medicine bill is imposed upon them. I don't want to see it, I don't want to see it for my children, I don't want to see it for my grandchildren. I don't want to see it for America's destiny. I don't want to see America's destiny, the vitality of America's destiny stripped away piece by piece as we leap off the abyss into socialism and embrace the European version of a social democracy and more, a managed economy, managed health care, very limited freedom. The only budget that they didn't grow was the Department of Defense budget. Everything else has to have a 10 percent or more up. The idea that you can borrow from your grandchildren that have

not yet been born and compel them to pay debts today and spend money without any sense of responsibility, believing that that grows the economy, when we've established that even the Secretary of the Treasury believes that free enterprise capitalism is what brought this economy to the brink of ruin.

□ 2300

Mr. Speaker, we need new people with clear thought and a respect for America and the strength of America. We need the right people in charge in this country, because, as I have often said, you don't take a poodle to a coon hunt. You want to take a registered coonhound along. He's got it in his blood, he understands it. You can train a poodle to bark treed, but his heart's not in it. These people won't even bark treed, and we need the right people in charge. And tomorrow we're going to see the American people step up to this Capitol, and they're going to demand that we preserve their liberty.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your attention, and I yield back the balance of my time.

#### 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. 3288. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4165. An act to extend through December 31, 2010, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits.

H.R. 4217. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4218. An act to amend titles II and XVI of the Social Security Act to prohibit retroactive payments to individuals during periods for which such individuals are prisoners, fugitive felons, and probation or parole violators.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ABERCROMBIE (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and until 3 p.m. on December 15.

Mrs. BONO MACK (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of flight delays.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. MACK (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of flight delays.

Mr. WOLF (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of a dental emergency.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of a death in the family.

#### 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 Mr. ALTMIRE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. ALTMIRE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MASSA, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. INGLIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, December 21.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, December 21.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today and December 15.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, December 15, 16, 17 and 18.

(The following Member (at her request) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, for 5 minutes, today.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 1 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 15, 2009, at 9 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:

5026. A letter from the Regulatory Liaison, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — McGovern Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program and Food for Progress Program (RIN: 0551-AA78) received November 20, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5027. A letter from the Managing Associate General Counsel, Government Accountability Office, transmitting a report entitled "Farm Storage Facility Loan and Sugar Storage Facility Loan Programs"; to the Committee on Agriculture.

5028. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Race to the Top Fund Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

(CFDA) Number: 84.395A [Docket ID: ED-2009-OESE-006] (RIN: 1810-AB07) received November 17, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

5029. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans and Designation of Areas for Air Quality Implementation Plans; Tennessee; Clean Air Interstate Rule [EPA-R04-OAR-2009-0765; FRL-8984-6] received November 23, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5030. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Georgia; Revisions to State Implementation Plan [EPA-R04-OAR-2006-0649-200918; FRL-8984-7] received November 23, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5031. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; Indiana; Chicago and Evansville Non-attainment Areas; Determination of Attainment of the Fine Particle Standards [EPA-R05-OAR-2009-0664; FRL-8985-2] received November 23, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5032. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; North Carolina; Clean Air Interstate Rule [EPA-R04-OAR-2009-0454; FRL-9086-2] received November 23, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5033. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Finding of Failure to Submit State Implementation Plans Required for the 1997 Particulate Matter Less Than 2.5 Micrometer (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) [EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0670; FRL-8985-6] received November 23, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5034. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana [EPA-R05-OAR-2009-0771; FRL-8980-4] received November 17, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5035. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland, Ohio and West Virginia; Determinations of Attainment for the 1997 Fine Particulate Matter Standard [EPA-R03-OAR-2009-0199; EPA-R03-OAR-2009-0547; FRL-8982-6], pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5036. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Transportation Conformity Regulations [EPA-R03-OAR-2009-0674; FRL-8983-1] received November 17, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5037. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of the Clean Air Act, Section 112(1), Authority for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Perchloroethylene Air Emission Standards for Dry Cleaning Facilities; Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection [EPA-R01-OAR-2009-0031; A-1-FRL-8974-5] received November 17, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5038. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fuel Economy Regulations for Automobiles; Technical Amendments and Corrections [EPA-HQ-OAR-2005-0169; FRL-8982-1] (RIN: 2060-A036) received November 17, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5039. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Area Sources; Asphalt Processing and Asphalt Roofing Manufacturing [EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0027; FRL-8983-6] (RIN: 2060-A094) received November 17, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5040. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Area Source Standards for Paints and Allied Products Manufacturing [EPA-HQ-OAR-2008-0053; FRL-8983-5] received November 17, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5041. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 09-60, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5042. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5043. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of State, transmitting the 2009 annual report on the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, pursuant to Public Law 106-309, section 304; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5044. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5045. A letter from the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting submission of Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) 2009 Annual Report, pursuant to Public Law 89-448 Public Law 101-576; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5046. A letter from the President, African Development Foundation, transmitting a letter fulfilling the annual requirements

contained in the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, covering the period October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act), section 5(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5047. A letter from the Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting in accordance with the requirements of the Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-289), the Board's FY 2009 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5048. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2009 Performance and Accountability reports for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Federal Housing Administration, and the Government National Mortgage Association; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5049. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General for Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's FY 2009 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5050. A letter from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting a copy of the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2009; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5051. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's fiscal year 2009 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5052. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting a list of the four audit reports issued during fiscal year 2009 regarding the Agency and the Thrift Savings Plan, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 8439(b); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5053. A letter from the Chairman, Holocaust Memorial Museum, transmitting the Museum's FY 2009 Report on Audit and Investigative Activities, pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5054. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting a report entitled "Job Simulations: Trying Out for a Federal Job"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5055. A letter from the Deputy Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Records Management; Revision [FDMS Docket NARA-08-0004] (RIN: 3095-AB16) received November 17, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5056. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's 2009 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5057. A letter from the General Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5058. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's FY 2009 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5059. A letter from the Acting President, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's annual Man-

agement Report for FY 2009, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5060. A letter from the Acting Director, Trade and Development Agency, transmitting the Agency's Performance and Accountability Report including audited financial statements for fiscal year 2009; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5061. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. International Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2009; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5062. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Regulations; Areas of the National Park System (RIN: 1024-AD73) received November 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5063. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Regulations; Areas of the National Park System (RIN: 1024-AD82) received November 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

5064. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's decision not to appeal the decision of the district court in the case of the United States v. Lori Drew, No. CR 08-582-GW (C.D. Cal.), WL 2872855, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 530D; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5065. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting advising of the proceedings in the case of United States v. Robert Solomon, No. 5:09-CR-04024-DEO (N.D. Iowa), pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 530D; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5066. A letter from the Corporation Agent, Legion of Valor of the United States of America, Inc., transmitting a copy of the Legion's annual audit as of April 30, 2009, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 1101(28) and 1103; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5067. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Corporation Model DC-10-10 and DC-10-10F Airplanes, Model DC-10-15 Airplanes, Model DC-10-30 and DC-10-30F (KC-10A and KDC-10) Airplanes, Model DC-10-40 and DC-10-40F Airplanes, Model MD-10-10F and MD-10-30F Airplanes, and Model MD-11 and MD-11F Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-1071; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-160-AD; Amendment 39-16100; AD 2008-06-21 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 24, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5068. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model DHC-8-102, DHC-8-103, DHC-8-106, DHC-8-201, DHC-8-202, DHC-8-301, DHC-8-311, and DHC-8-315 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-1072; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-169-AD; Amendment 39-16099; AD 2008-09-21 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 24, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5069. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Corporation AE 3007A1/1, AE 3007A1/3, AE 3007A1, AE 3007A1E, AE 3007A1P, AE 3007A3, AE 3007C, and AE 3007C1 Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0246; Directorate Identifier 2009-NE-04-

AD; Amendment 39-16091; AD 2009-24-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 24, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5070. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company (GE) CF34-8E Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0821; Directorate Identifier 2008-NE-20-AD; Amendment 39-16094; AD 2009-24-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 24, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5071. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F.28 Mark 0070, 0100, 1000, 2000, 3000, and 4000 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-1070; Directorate Identifier 2009-NM-180-AD; Amendment 39-16089; AD 2008-06-20 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 24, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5072. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; SOCATA Model TBM 700 Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2009-0557; Directorate Identifier 2009-CE-031-AD; Amendment 39-16086; AD 2009-23-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 24, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5073. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Construction and Development Point Source Category [EPA-HQ-OW-2008-0465; FRL 9086-4] (RIN: 2040-AE91) received November 23, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5074. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Employee Stock Purchase Plans under Internal Revenue Code Section 423 [TD 9471] (RIN: 1545-BH68) received November 18, 2009, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

5075. A letter from the Acting Chair, Social Security Advisory Board, transmitting a report entitled "The Unsustainable Cost of Health Care"; jointly to the Committees on Education and Labor and 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:

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 1517. A bill to allow certain U.S. customs and Border Protection employees who serve under an overseas limited appointment for at least 2 years, and whose service is rated fully successful or higher throughout that time, to be converted to a permanent appointment in the competitive service; with an amendment (Rept. 111-373 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. WAXMAN: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1084. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to prescribe a standard to preclude commercials from being broadcast at louder volumes than the program material they accompany; with an amendment (Rept. 111-374). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. WAXMAN: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1147. A bill to implement the recommendations of the Federal Communications Commission report to the Congress regarding low-power FM service; with an amendment (Rept. 111-375). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

## DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform discharged from further consideration H.R. 1517 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

## 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. MORAN of Virginia (for himself, Mr. INGLIS, and Mr. DELAHUNT):  
H.R. 4301. A bill to support the democratic aspirations of the Iranian people by enhancing their ability to access the Internet and communications services; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ABERCROMBIE (for himself and Mrs. LOWEY):  
H.R. 4302. A bill to increase loan limits for small business concerns, to provide for low interest refinancing for small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. ELLISON (for himself and Mr. DELAHUNT):

H.R. 4303. A bill to enhance United States sanctions against Iran by targeting Iranian governmental officials, prohibiting Federal procurement contracts with persons that provide censorship or surveillance technology to the Government of Iran, providing humanitarian and people-to-people assistance to the Iranian people, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Oversight and Government Reform, and Financial Services, 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. ISSA:

H.R. 4304. A bill to designate certain Federal lands in San Diego County, California, as wilderness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MEEK of Florida:

H.R. 4305. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide the energy tax credit for transformers designed to use soybean-based electrical transformer fluid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MEEK of Florida (for himself, Mr. TIBERI, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, and Mr. HERGER):

H.R. 4306. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 15-year recovery period for qualified lease-

hold improvement property, qualified restaurant property, and qualified retail improvement property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TEAGUE:

H.R. 4307. A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Artesia, New Mexico, as the "Alejandro Renteria Ruiz Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PRICE of Georgia:

H.J. Res. 63. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to limit the number of years Representatives and Senators may serve; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KILLDEE (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. BACHUS, and Mr. DINGELL):

H. Res. 969. A resolution congratulating Flint native, University of Alabama Sophomore and running back Mark Ingram on winning the 2009 Heisman Trophy and honoring both his athletic and academic achievements; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 13: Mr. GRIFFITH.  
H.R. 442: Mr. HEINRICH and Mr. GALLEGLY.  
H.R. 537: Mr. HIGGINS.  
H.R. 558: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 571: Mr. KLEIN of Florida.  
H.R. 600: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.  
H.R. 745: Mr. MCNERNEY.  
H.R. 930: Mr. CALVERT.  
H.R. 1020: Mr. FATTAH and Ms. TSONGAS.  
H.R. 1067: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 1079: Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 1177: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.

H.R. 1203: Mr. BOUCHER, Mrs. EMERSON, and Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 1210: Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 1521: Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. SHULER, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 1721: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 1806: Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. SHIMKUS.

H.R. 1826: Mr. WATT.  
H.R. 1879: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 1964: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.  
H.R. 2135: Mr. CHILDERS.

H.R. 2161: Mr. HEINRICH.  
H.R. 2324: Mr. SIREs and Ms. SUTTON.

H.R. 2342: Mr. STUPAK.  
H.R. 2387: Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. TERRY, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. LINDER, Ms. FOX, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. COBLE, Mr. KINGSTON, and Mr. CARTER.

H.R. 2450: Mr. GRIJALVA and Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 2528: Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 2546: Mr. RAHALL.  
H.R. 2578: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 2866: Mr. HIMES.  
H.R. 2906: Mr. PITTS.  
H.R. 2923: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. BACA.  
H.R. 3010: Ms. WOOLSEY and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H.R. 3050: Mr. PITTS.  
H.R. 3078: Mr. HALL of Texas.

H.R. 3339: Mr. WU.  
H.R. 3359: Ms. SPEIER and Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 3380: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. CAS-  
TOR of Florida, Ms. SUTTON Mr. ROTHMAN of  
New Jersey, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. SIMPSON.

H.R. 3421: Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE  
of Texas, and Mr. BOSWELL.

H.R. 3578: Mr. PETERSON.  
H.R. 3592: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 3662: Mr. SCHIFF.  
H.R. 3691: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 3731: Ms. SUTTON and Mr. KLEIN of  
Florida.

H.R. 3746: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of Cali-  
fornia.

H.R. 3758: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania  
and Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 4034: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.  
H.R. 4140: Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. SABLAN, and  
Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 4179: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
H.R. 4196: Mr. STARK, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. CHU,  
and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 4202: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr.  
KUCINICH.

H.R. 4233: Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. COBLE, Mr.  
BARTON of Texas, and Mr. REHBERG.

H.R. 4247: Mr. HARE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr.  
ELLISON, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 4255: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. GRAVES, Mr.  
ADLER of New Jersey, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr.  
MORAN of Kansas, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. BURTON  
of Indiana, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 4262: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr.  
JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. WOLF, and Mr.  
SCHOCK.

H.R. 4263: Ms. BERKLEY.  
H. Con. Res. 22: Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. TERRY,  
Mr. BARTLETT, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. GALLEGLY,  
Mr. BUYER, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. CARTER, and  
Mr. PENCE.

H. Con. Res. 157: Mr. TIAHRT.  
H. Con. Res. 200: Mrs. MYRICK and Mr. LIN-  
DER.

H. Con. Res. 220: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BUR-  
TON of Indiana, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KENNEDY,  
and Mr. TIERNEY.

H. Res. 252: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of Cali-  
fornia.

H. Res. 713: Mr. FATTAH, Ms. WASSERMAN  
SCHULTZ, and Ms. CHU.

H. Res. 748: Mr. GOODLATTE.  
H. Res. 857: Mr. HEINRICH.

H. Res. 874: Mr. PITTS.  
H. Res. 898: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. SCHOCK, and  
Mr. ELLISON.

H. Res. 932: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ABER-  
CROMBIE, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H. Res. 951: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. HERGER, Mr.  
DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr.  
MC CARTHY of California, and Mr. FORBES.

H. Res. 958: Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. GORDON of  
Tennessee, and Mr. PENCE.

H. Res. 959: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.  
H. Res. 966: Mr. KING of Iowa.

H. Res. 967: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr.  
ELLISON, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.