

subcommittee level. In the coming weeks, the Committee will continue its work to produce fiscal year 2011 appropriations that meet Americans' highest priority needs within this fiscally responsible framework.

In the two fiscal year 2011 appropriations bills that have passed the House thus far—Transportation/HUD and Military Construction/VA—the Committee has made some significant cuts below the Administration's request. Among these reductions, the Committee cut \$500 million below last year and \$1.36 billion below the request for ill-defined or duplicative programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Transportation. The Committee also cut \$545 million below the request for military construction projects due to bid savings and ill-defined plans for the realignment of forces to Guam.

In recent years, the Appropriations Committee has also eliminated or cut hundreds of wasteful and duplicative programs. Last year alone, the Committee terminated 60 programs and significantly cut funding for another 660 programs.

Since 2007, the Appropriations Committee has strengthened contract oversight and independent audits to make programs across federal agencies more effective and efficient. As an example, the Committee has led an initiative to double enforcement capacity to end improper payments, fraud and other abuses at the Social Security Administration and the Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services. These efforts are projected to save more than \$48 billion over the next 10 years.

Furthermore, the Appropriations Committee has ended unnecessary no-bid contracts and strengthened competition, management and oversight in government contracts across the federal government.

Most notably, the Committee has worked to impose discipline and strengthen accountability for Department of Defense, (DOD), contracted services. From 1997 to 2007, DOD contracted service costs grew 143 percent from \$125 billion to \$299 billion. Yet, DOD had no system of accountability for contract services, and couldn't even identify the number of its contractors. At the Committee's direction over the past three years, the Pentagon is now implementing reform efforts to strengthen contracting and clarify rules prescribing when outsourcing is and is not appropriate. The Army can now identify the number of its contractors (213,000) and is working to bring in house inherently governmental functions. The Defense Department estimates that these actions will result in a \$4.5 billion savings by 2015. Last year, the President followed the Appropriations Committee's lead and announced government-wide contracting reforms based on the Committee's direction to DOD over the past 3 years.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS' OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 2010*

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the budget enforcement resolution for fiscal year 2011 passed by the House of Represent-

atives on July 1, 2010, as Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs I am submitting "findings that identify changes in law that help achieve deficit reduction by reducing waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, promoting efficiency and reform of government, and controlling spending within Government programs" the Committee may authorize.

Under Democratic leadership, the Committee has undertaken an active and far-reaching oversight agenda that has, among other accomplishments, identified ways to save millions of taxpayer dollars within the Department of Veterans Affairs through improvements in the operation and management of veterans' benefits and health care programs. Working closely with the VA's Office of Inspector General, we have pushed the VA to more effectively utilize the generous and robust budgets provided by this Congress under your leadership.

Since the beginning of the 110th Congress, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has been striving to revolutionize the manner in which the VA provides benefits to veterans. By mandating greater efficiency and a veteran-first attitude, we have sought to change the perception of the VA as being the veterans' adversary to standing as the veterans' advocate.

To further this effort, we are continuing to work toward major reforms in the VA's claims processing system and the VA's acquisition and procurement system. I am confident that when these reforms take place, taxpayers will realize major cost-savings by providing greater efficiency, fairness, and accountability. The Committee is also working toward integrating the VA's Post 9/11 G.I. Bill benefits and improving and streamlining the application process.

These efforts will, in the months ahead, result in assisting the House in working toward its goal of making government more responsive and effective while saving taxpayer dollars and reducing our deficit.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
CAROLE A. SLIWA

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 2010*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Carole A. Sliwa who lived her life with great energy, joy and with love for her family, friends and community.

Mrs. Sliwa was the devoted wife of Theodore "Ted" Sliwa for 56 years. Since childhood, her faith and her family served as her strength and her foundation. She remained very close to her extended family members, especially her brother Daniel and his wife, Patty; her sister, the late Patricia, and her brother-in-law, Donald. In addition, Mrs. Sliwa was a cherished friend to many people throughout the Greater Cleveland community.

Mrs. Sliwa's enthusiasm for local arts programs never wavered, and she shared her artistic gifts with many. Her beautiful paintings are displayed in the homes of numerous friends and relatives. Mrs. Sliwa's lifelong commitment to and passion for the arts is also reflected in her membership and leadership in

several community art centers, including the Ohio Artist Color Society, the Friendship Center of Bay Village, the Lakewood Art League, and the Art Mart of Brecksville.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mrs. Carole A. Sliwa. I offer my condolences to her devoted husband and to her entire family and many friends. Mrs. Sliwa lived her life with great joy and love. Her devotion to family and friends, and her passion for the arts, will be treasured and remembered always.

—FINDINGS PURSUANT TO THE  
HOUSE BUDGET RESOLUTION

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 2010*

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I submit the following.

HEALTH CARE/MEDICARE

Congress spent the first part of this session enacting landmark health reform legislation that substantially reforms and strengthens the Medicare program. As a result of this legislation, CBO estimates net deficit reduction of \$143 billion from 2010 to 2019, and deficit reduction of more than \$1 trillion in the next decade. In addition, the Medicare Actuary estimates that the Medicare changes enacted in health reform will extend the life of the Part A Trust Fund by 12 years—the largest extension in history. Finally, as a result of the new law, national health expenditures per insured person will fall by \$1,400 by 2019.

The health reform law also includes extensive provisions to aggressively reduce fraud, waste, and abuse in government health programs. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) establishes new authorities to enhance fraud-fighting when providers first enroll in the program and during the pre- and post-payment periods.

During the Medicare provider enrollment period, ACA strengthens provider screening and disclosure requirements and allows the Secretary to impose a moratorium on new providers in areas of significant risk. These tools will help keep fraudulent providers out of government programs before they have a chance to act. In the pre-payment period, ACA directs the Secretary to establish a program of increased oversight for new providers and allows for the suspension of payment, if deemed appropriate, to a provider or supplier. For the post-payment and enforcement period, ACA establishes new penalties for the submission of false data or false claims and increases funding for proven fraud-fighting programs used by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the Department of Justice.

Taken together, these provisions reduce fraud, waste, and abuse by improving payment accuracy, promoting efficiency, and controlling spending within Medicare and other government programs.

The Committee's efforts to achieve deficit reduction, prevent fraud, promote efficiency, and control spending within government programs extend beyond the ACA. The Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-192) included two provisions that address these goals. First, this law clarifies the 3-day payment window for inpatient admissions to ensure that all services related to the hospital admission are included in the bundled payment. Absent this provision, hospitals would likely have unbundled hospital payments driving up Medicare spending. Second,