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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBSTER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 1, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL WEBSTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, 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 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

GREAT THINGS HAPPENING IN CHATTANOOGA

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take this moment to bring your attention to some exciting developments from my hometown of Chattanooga, Tennessee. For those of you who haven't heard, Chattanooga has undergone incredible transformation over the past several years; and, now, the story of our progress is making news across the globe.

A few decades ago, Chattanooga's economy was dwindling. Legacy companies were closing. Local manufacturers were folding in the face of global competition. We were even said to have the dirtiest air in America.

Today, Chattanooga is a place that has attracted more than \$4 billion in new investment during the recent recession. It is a place that has the fastest residential Internet service in the United States, and Chattanooga is a place that one national publication called the region with "the greatest economic growth potential" in America.

In August, the buzz about Chattanooga brought an economic and social development think tank to our city for a firsthand look. The group—called the Intelligent Community Forum—studies 21st-century growth within the global community. It looks at cities that are leveraging 21st-century infrastructure to create jobs and foster innovation. After spending a few days in Chattanooga, the Intelligent Community Forum confirmed something we have known for a long while: big things are happening in our community.

What the Intelligent Community Forum saw during its trip to Chattanooga, and has learned about us since, recently led them to name our community as one of the seven smartest cities in the world. We are now running for the number one spot.

The awards for top designation go to cities that are using information and communications technology to move every sector of their community ahead. These cities are leaders, and to be counted among them means you are growing in ways the rest of the world is not.

The Intelligent Community Forum is saying Chattanooga is a place to watch. What they see in our community is what I want to talk to you about today.

The same Chattanooga that once lagged behind the rest of the Nation is moving ahead. We're receiving praise from all sides for generating growth in an adverse economy and for maintaining an outstanding quality of life in the process. Chattanooga now offers the fastest residential Internet service in the United States and is one of only a handful of cities in the world that runs at 1,000 megabits per second. And the Electric Power Board, our city's local electric utility, has installed a fiber-optic network that uses smart meters to process real-time information and adjust transmissions according to the needs of individual homes. All 170,000 homes in EPB's service area benefit from this technology.

But Chattanooga's strides in broadband and digital inclusion are just part of the picture. Chattanooga was one of the first cities to come out of the recession, thanks in part to a strong business community. Coordinated efforts between nonprofit organizations are driving small-company formation. The Chattanooga-area chamber of commerce runs one of America's largest business incubators, with 60 companies employing more than 500 people under one roof.

These are just a few examples of the way Chattanooga is setting itself apart from the rest of the world. Every leap we make ahead underscores the forces that are fueling our progress: vision and collaboration. These are exactly the qualities the Intelligent Community Forum looks at in a number one city.

I would like to congratulate Chattanooga for the recognition it is earning, and I hope you will join me in supporting our quest to become the Most Intelligent Community for 2011. Great things are happening in Chattanooga right now; and, Mr. Speaker, a lot more are expected to come.

□ 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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HONORING PEACE CORPS ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps and the nearly quarter million people who have served in the Peace Corps in the name of peace.

Fifty years ago, John F. Kennedy signed the executive order creating the Peace Corps, and the significance of this executive order reverberated around the world. At that moment in our history, America was in the throes of a Cold War, and the international community viewed our great Nation with increasing cynicism.

Amidst this global tension, the Peace Corps showed the world the enduring values of peace, commitment to national service, and an optimism that had been eclipsed in the Cold War and World War II.

Under the masterful direction of Sargent Shriver, the Peace Corps' ranks swelled to 15,000 volunteers in 44 developing countries within the first 5 years of existence.

I was one of those early recruits. Right after college, I found myself in Peace Corps training and ended up in a poor barrio in Medellin, Colombia. I saw the grinding cycles of poverty that left so many men, women, and children without hope. I committed then to work to end the culture of poverty. It is in no small part because of that experience in the Peace Corps that I am standing here today in the well of the United States Congress.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FARR. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to join in congratulating my friend for his extraordinary service in the Peace Corps. He not only served at that time, but he continues to share that experience with us today; and as we focus on countries that are dealing with difficulty all around the world, the expansion of the Peace Corps is something that has been very important and recognizing the 50th anniversary is something that I am happy to join my colleague in doing.

Mr. FARR. Thank you, Mr. DREIER, and I appreciate your support as well.

Over the past 50 years, through war and conflict, the Peace Corps has shown the world the hopeful, uplifting side of America that reflects our fundamental ideas of peace, service and grass-roots development. That great legacy continues today. At this moment, 8,655 volunteers are serving in 76 developing countries around the world.

□ 1010

I am proud to say that 25 of those volunteers are from my district. Among them is Gabe LaHue, who was the valedictorian at Aptos High

School. He then went on to study plant sciences at Cornell. Just 4 months after graduating summa cum laude from college, Gabe entered into the Peace Corps in Paraguay to serve in an agricultural role there. Right now, Gabe is working shoulder to shoulder with community members in eastern Paraguay on rural agricultural development. Like many Peace Corps volunteers, Gabe's service ripples out far beyond one single project. He also helped to start a composting initiative, teaches English, and is working to set a library up and get it running.

There are others, like Ashley Burke from Marina, who is teaching English at an orphanage in Rwanda; and there is James Staples from Pacific, who is working on sustainable rural tourism in Guatemala.

Gabe, Ashley, and James are powerful ambassadors who have committed 2 years of their lives to serving America's best values abroad. The American taxpayers reap a huge return on their investment in this remarkable program. To date, more than 20 countries have requested Peace Corps volunteers, and other countries want an increase in the number of volunteers allocated to them.

The Peace Corps is able to build this goodwill on a shoestring budget. Dollar for dollar, Peace Corps volunteers are one of our most effective ambassadors of international development and diplomacy. In fact, the Peace Corps amounts to, roughly, 1 percent of our total Federal budget. For the cost of sending one soldier to Afghanistan, the Peace Corps can send 13 volunteers to developing countries to serve U.S. interests in the name of peace. In the midst of our tight budget climate, the Peace Corps is one of the most low-cost, high-return tools in our foreign policy toolbox.

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps, I am proud to join my fellow returned Peace Corps volunteers, who are TOM PETRI, MIKE HONDA and JOHN GARAMENDI—all Members of Congress—to introduce a bipartisan bill to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia to recognize the founding of the Peace Corps, which will be at no expense to the U.S. taxpayer.

This bill, which passed the House by voice vote last Congress, commemorates the creation of a unique form of public service that promotes peace through people-to-people diplomacy and cross-cultural understanding, and it doesn't cost the taxpayers a single penny. I urge my congressional colleagues to honor America's commitment to peace by supporting the swift passage of this timely legislation.

So today, as we mark a significant milestone in America's history, I urge each of you to join me in honoring your constituents who have served in and who are supporting the Peace Corps funding so that we can usher in the next generation of Americans who want to serve this country in the name of peace.

SECURE ACT INTRODUCTION

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

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, currently, U.S. families spend about \$1 billion per day on imported oil. We import about 1.6 billion barrels from politically unstable nations with a corresponding instability in prices, which influences our dollars, our economy, and sometimes our soldiers having to look at defending these areas.

We are currently losing 220,000 barrels per day in domestic production because of the administration's moratorium on Gulf of Mexico oil rigs. This also means the government is losing almost \$1.4 billion in revenue that we so sorely need. Keep in mind that each one cent increase in the price of gasoline costs American families \$1 billion per year. That's money that is not going into our economy. Because 60 percent of our oil comes from foreign countries, it is money that is going into other economies.

Now, while this moratorium is taking place, at least 12 rigs have already departed from the gulf, some not to return, as they move these rigs to operate in other countries, which can cost \$1 million a day. Four more are considering leaving. That's 6,000 jobs in jeopardy. Currently, more than 30 drilling rigs in the Gulf of Mexico are idle; and even though the administration is now allowing just one of those rigs to move forward with exploration, all other exploration is still off limits with something of a permitorium, as they're looking at their permits all over again.

That is why yesterday I introduced the Safe Exploration Coming from Underwater Reserves of Energy Act, or the SECURE Act. This bill allows all of those Gulf of Mexico drilling permits to move safely forward, those which have already been approved by regulators. Keep in mind, all of these have been reviewed thoroughly. It takes a lot of time to do that, and they all follow strict regulations. There are no shortcuts on safety, and there is no bypassing environmental regulations. Quite frankly, I trust our environmental regulations to protect the environment more so than those of other countries.

What we have from the lost production of the domestic oil industry means we are increasingly dependent on those unstable foreign regimes to meet our needs, which puts our economy at risk should another spike in oil prices occur like the one we have now. Add to this and punctuate this with the recent unrest in Libya, Egypt, Bahrain, Yemen, and whatever country may come next, which helps point out a lot of our vulnerability: the vulnerability of what happens if the Suez Canal is closed down even for a short period of time; the vulnerability that comes if Libyan oil production declines; the vulnerability that comes with Iran and its use of oil revenue to put pressure on other nations to support their efforts to develop

nuclear weapons, their threats to Israel and their threats to dominate the Middle East.

The cost of an arms race in the Middle East and an arms race in the world with new nuclear weapons far surpasses anything we can imagine—as are the revenues we can get from oil.

So I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, the SECURE Act, so we can secure our own energy future, so we can lower gas prices, so we can create thousands of jobs right here at home: from drilling on these rigs, from developing the pipe, from building the rigs, from so many other supply chains of what we have in this Nation to do this, and above all, so we keep our domestic oil at home rather than pay for our own dollars to go to other nations.

We can drill for our oil and our own jobs, and we can boost our own economy; or we can continue to be dependent on unstable nations, rising prices and, sadly, paying for both sides of the war on terror. It is a sobering thought for Americans to think that every time they go to put gasoline in their tanks they're funding both sides of the war on terror.

That alone should be enough to make us change our approach. That alone should be enough to say let's use our oil and our resources instead of propping up the economies of other nations. That alone should be something that motivates us to make sure we are working on these issues. Hopefully, that means we can melt this moratorium on our own domestic oil production.

The choice is ours. I hope all of my colleagues will choose to support jobs of the United States of America as opposed to supporting those dollars that are just going to other countries.

EAT THE FUTURE OR LOSE THE FUTURE

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, by recklessly slashing more than \$60 billion from the budget, the Republican majority is trying to assume the mantle of fiscal responsibility. Yes, fiscal. Sometimes we in politics have problems with pronouncements, and sometimes we have problems with concepts. There are two "fiscals." There is the "fiscal" dealing with dollars, F-I-S-C-A-L, and there is the "physical," P-H-Y-S-I-C-A-L. They are trying to assume the mantle of fiscal responsibility.

Within the \$60 billion, there are certainly some cuts that should be made that would be cost effective, and there are other cuts that weren't made that should have been made from the Defense Department, farm subsidies and other places. Many of the programs that were cut or that were severely underfunded are programs that have a significant financial return. In fact, many of these underfunded or elimi-

nated programs actually save the government far more money than they cost.

Penny wise and pound foolish.

So the Republican claims that they are saving the Federal Government more than \$60 billion is simply untrue. Yes, they are eliminating \$60 billion from the budget, but in reality they are increasing the deficit in other areas that do not appear in the budget—or certainly not this year.

As Paul Krugman would say: Eat the future or lose the future. They're not concerned about the future. It's about today; and if it's the future, it's the 2012 election.

The problem is that the Republicans' so-called "budget hawks" fail to look at this holistically. The only costs they see are numbers on a page that they want to hold up as talking points.

□ 1020

This slide shows some of the cuts. The Food and Drug Administration received funding \$241 million below 2010 and \$400 million below the administration's 2011 budget request. That's the Food and Drug Administration. Remember thalidomide babies? Remember Fen-Phen? Remember the problems with meat, chicken, poultry, and spinach?

Food Safety and Inspection Service: It makes cuts of \$88 million below the 2010 funding levels and \$107 million below the administration's 2011 budget request.

The National Institutes of Health: Cuts appropriations for the NIH by \$1.6 billion below FY 2010 and \$2.5 billion below the President's budget. You know the National Institutes of Health—they're trying to find cures for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's and diabetes and cancer. Oh, let's cut them by \$1.6 billion.

Clean drinking water: The Republican bill slashes the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund by 56 percent. EPA: The bill includes an undesignated \$300 million rescission to EPA.

Medicare: Cuts appropriations for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services by \$458 million below fiscal year 2010 and \$634 million below the President's budget request.

However, what they failed to consider are the benefits associated with these costs, many of which generally exceed the cost. And by failing to consider money saved, the Republicans are increasing the deficit and increasing cost.

Nowhere is this failure in fiscal policy more apparent than when it comes to the physical health of the American people. The Republican's continuing resolution will increase the deficit dramatically as a result of unseen health care costs associated with the degradation of the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat.

Now the physical impact of the Republican cuts. The FDA: \$241 million. The Republican majority is working to

undo this historic improvement and reduce food safety by cutting FDA's food safety programs by about \$241 million. In the United States, an estimated 76 million people get sick each year with food-borne illnesses and 5,000 die, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. All of the medical costs and economic losses associated with food-borne illnesses add up to a staggering price of \$152 billion, says the Pew Charitable Trusts. By slashing funding from the FDA's food safety programs, more and more people will get sick, and the \$152 billion annual pricetag is going to climb even higher. That doesn't sound like a responsible physical or fiscal policy to me.

Clean water: Although more than 70 percent of the Earth is covered in water, only about 1 percent of all the water on the planet is safe to drink. H.R. 1 will reduce that 1 percent by allowing major corporations and developers to pump toxins into our water, and by failing to invest in the necessary infrastructure to maintain, treat, and deliver safe drinking water. It reduces the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund by 56 percent, a program that leverages significant private finances by providing low and no-interest loans to States to fund drinking water infrastructure improvement projects.

Leaking pipes and deteriorating mains lead to costly bacteria contamination and cause chronic health problems to thousands of Americans.

As you can see, the physical health of our Nation is being threatened, not just the fiscal health. We need to be concerned about the physical health of our children and be concerned about how the long-term effects of this will be.

A TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN STEVE HORN

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the week before last, just before we adjourned, we got the sad news of the passing of our good friend and former colleague Congressman Steve Horn.

Steve Horn was without a doubt one of the most intelligent and accomplished Members to ever serve in this body, and at the same time, Mr. Speaker, he was one of the kindest and most decent Members. He got his bachelor's degree from Stanford University, his master's from Harvard, and went back and got his Ph.D. at Stanford University. He served in strategic intelligence in the early 1950s in the U.S. Army Reserve, and then he got involved in public service in a big way. He served in the Eisenhower administration, and he went on to become legislative assistant to California Senator Tom Kuchel.

From that point forward, he dedicated himself to public service, and he expanded that greatly. He got into education, and for nearly two decades,

from 1970 to 1988, he served as president of the California State University at Long Beach. During that period of time, he was named one of the 100 most effective college presidents in the country.

Mr. Speaker, then he joined us here as a Member of Congress, serving for five terms. He was an individual who spent a great deal of time and effort focusing on issues. In fact, one of the great stories about Steve Horn I heard from his former staff member, who I'm happy to say when he left came to work for me, Alisa Do, who was his legislative assistant, now my legislative director—she told me of how they would often be looking for Congressman Horn. There were votes taking place here in the House, and he was over in the Library of Congress, didn't have a pager with him—we didn't have BlackBerry's at the time. And yet he was over there in the library studying, trying to get more and more information and develop his knowledge.

He also was someone who never hesitated to go against the grain. He served on the Government Operations Committee—government reform was a priority for him—and Transportation. He represented the Long Beach area, and he understood that 40 percent of the goods going to and from the consumers and workers of the United States go through the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, and he was always dedicated to ensuring that that was a very high priority. And he had this great focus on reforming and improving the operations of the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, he was an institutionalist. He loved this body, understanding that the deliberative nature of service here and of our work is very important and can't be forgotten.

Steve leaves his wonderful wife, Nini—they were married for 57 years—two children, and one grandchild. And I've got to say that I miss his advice, counsel, friendship, and camaraderie.

I would now like to, in the spirit of bipartisanship, yield to my friend from Manhattan (Mrs. MALONEY), who served with him on the Government Reform Committee.

Mrs. MALONEY. I thank the gentleman.

I rise in tribute to Representative Steve Horn. He was a thoughtful, dedicated, honorable man who built his record on bipartisan cooperation and commitment to good government.

He was a legislator's legislator. He was deeply committed to doing the right thing, writing the right bill, getting it passed. And he was also a very good friend of mine. He came with his wife and visited me in my home in New York. I went to visit him in his district, the district that he loved and was totally dedicated to.

During his 10 years of service here in the House of Representatives we worked together on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee. He chaired the Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and

Technology for 6 years, and I was the ranking member with him. So not only was he dedicated to running government better, saving taxpayers money, but he also legislated and passed many important bills.

He helped me pass a bill that I authored, the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act, which we worked on together for roughly 7 years—it took us that long to pass it. A book has been written about that process and the bill, and what it has done to help in problem-solving now as we confront delicate issues going forward.

□ 1030

The first hearing on the Debbie Smith bill, which has been called the most important anti-rape bill in the history of our country, was in his committee where Debbie Smith testified about her rape, the fact that no one was reacting to it. And this whole effort, including that hearing that he chaired, was made into a movie called "A Life Interrupted" and how DNA has been used to put rapists behind bars.

He was a dedicated, wonderful person. He also chaired the Arts Caucus and worked hard for its funding.

In a time when we talk about bipartisanship, Steve Horn was the real deal: a bipartisan problem-solver. He wanted to get the problems solved. He wanted to help this country, help his community. He was devoted to his wife and two children and grandchild. He was just a great guy.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my friend for her very thoughtful contribution.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that our thoughts and prayers are with Nini and their wonderful family.

FOOD SECURITY IS NATIONAL SECURITY

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, at the end of January, the United Nations reported that the cost of basic food commodities—basic grains, vegetable oils, sugar—were at their highest levels since the U.N. created this index in 1990.

Two weeks ago, World Bank President Robert Zoellick announced that the Bank's food price index shows food prices are now 29 percent higher than they were a year ago. Zoellick warned the G-20 to put food first when they next meet.

The World Bank estimates that these recent food price spikes have pushed about 44 million people into extreme poverty. That's under \$1.25 a day.

This is a global security crisis.

The lack of food security contributes to political instability. Food was a primary reason people first took to the streets in Tunisia. Food and poverty were right at the top of the list in the squares of Egypt right next to the call for political freedom.

In 2007 to 2008, the last global food crisis, there were major food riots in nearly 40 countries. In May 2008, my fellow cochair of the House Hunger Caucus, Congresswoman JO ANN EMERSON, and I were briefed by the GAO about the lack of coordination and continuity in U.S. food and development programs. We started calling for a comprehensive approach to address global hunger and food insecurity.

Now, thanks in large part to the efforts and leadership of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and USAID Director Raj Shah, the U.S. Government responded to that call and, over a 2-year period of time, initiated a comprehensive, government-wide approach to reduce global hunger and increase nutrition and food security—not because it feels good, not even because it's the right and moral thing to do, but because it's in our national security and economic interest to make countries' food secure, more productive, healthier, and more stable.

This strategy is known as the Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative. It includes our bilateral programs and efforts with other governments and multilateral institutions. To be successful, everyone has to pitch in.

Feed the Future is the signature program of the U.S. strategy. It works with small farmers and governments to increase agricultural production and strengthen local and regional markets in order to reduce hunger and grow economies.

Other key elements include the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program that brings kids to school and keeps them there by making sure that they get at least one nutritious meal each day at school. This program has proven to be especially effective in convincing families to send their daughters to school.

And finally, there is our Food for Peace Program, which provides food to millions of women, children, and men caught in life-threatening situations brought on by natural disasters, war, and internal conflict. This program provides U.S.-grown commodities and locally purchased foods that literally keep people trying to survive in the world's most dangerous situations alive.

Mr. Speaker, I have never heard anyone say that they would like to see more hunger in the world, that they would like to see children too weak from hunger to be able to learn, or young girls forced to work long hours because they no longer are being fed at school. But that's exactly what the budget cuts that passed the House 1 week ago would do.

The House cut \$800 million out of the food aid budget and over 40 percent from the development assistance, which is where Feed the Future is funded. If these shortsighted and, quite frankly, callous cuts are allowed to stand, we would literally be taking the food out of the mouths of over 2 million children. We would be depriving

over 18 million people the food that keeps them alive in Haiti, Darfur, Afghanistan, Guatemala, Ethiopia, Kenya, and elsewhere. We would be turning our backs on countries where we made commitments to help boost the production of their own small farmers so they could finally free themselves of having to depend on U.S. and international food aid to feed their own people.

Enough, Mr. Speaker, enough.

This isn't a question of charity. It's an issue of national security, of what happens when desperate people can't find or afford food, and the anger that comes from people who see no future for their children except poverty and death.

I ask President Obama to stand up for his programs and fight for them. I ask the White House to hold a global summit on hunger, nutrition, and food security. I ask the media to wake up and grasp the consequences of these shortsighted cuts. And I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to fund these programs so they can be successful. It really is a matter of life and death.

[From the New York Times, Feb. 24, 2011.]

THE FOOD CRISIS

Food prices are soaring to record levels, threatening many developing countries with mass hunger and political instability. Finance ministers of the Group of 20 leading economies discussed the problem at a meeting in Paris last week, but for all of their expressed concern, most are already breaking their promises to help.

After the last sharp price spike in 2008, the G-20 promised to invest \$22 billion over three years to help vulnerable countries boost food production. To date, the World Bank fund that is supposed to administer this money has received less than \$400 million.

Food prices are now higher than their 2008 peak, driven by rising demand in developing countries and volatile weather, including drought in Russia and Ukraine and a dry spell in North China that threatens the crop of the world's largest wheat producer. The World Bank says the spike has pushed 44 million people into extreme poverty just since June.

In 2008, 30 countries had food riots. That has not happened, at least not yet. Sub-Saharan Africa, in particular, has benefited from improved agricultural productivity. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization warns that Mozambique, Uganda, Mali, Niger and Somalia are extremely vulnerable to instability because of rising prices, along with Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in Asia, and Haiti, Guatemala, Bolivia and Honduras in Latin America.

Misguided government policies could make matters worse. Some countries are stockpiling food. When India did that last year, food ended up rotting in storages. Others are imposing agricultural export bans, which discourages investment in production. The world's wealthier nations must press them to rethink these policies and back that up with real help.

The Obama administration has proposed worthy initiatives, but even when Democrats controlled Congress it had a hard time getting the money. The administration pledged \$3.5 billion to the G-20 effort. So far, it has delivered only \$66.6 million to the World Bank fund.

It is now asking for \$408 million for the fund—part of a \$1.64 billion request for its

Feed the Future initiative, which aims to bolster poor countries' food production capabilities. Congressional Republicans are determined to hack as much as they can out of foreign aid. The continuing resolution passed by the House cuts \$800 million out of the food aid budget—bringing it down to about \$1 billion, roughly where it was in 2001.

The White House needs to push back hard. This isn't a question of charity. It is an issue of life or death for millions of people. And the hard truth is that if the United States doesn't keep its word, no one else will.

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, last week Secretary of Defense Gates spoke at West Point, and I would like to quote one comment from his speech:

"In my opinion, any future Defense Secretary who advises the President to again send a big American land army into Asia or into the Middle East or Africa should 'have his head examined,' as General MacArthur so delicately put it" years ago.

Again, this is Secretary Gates. I have great respect for Secretary Gates. I think he is one of the true outstanding Secretaries of Defense this country has ever had.

Mr. Speaker, the reason I'm here today, I bring a photograph of a flag-draped coffin—it's called a transfer case—being escorted off a plane at Dover Air Force Base.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to bring our troops home. They have been in Afghanistan for over 10 years. I would also say it is time that this Congress met its constitutional responsibility to debate war and whether we should be there or bring our troops home.

In recent weeks, I was very concerned to hear our government and military leaders saying that it could be 2014 before we start significantly downsizing our troops in Afghanistan. Mr. Speaker, that brings to my mind trips to Walter Reed in Bethesda. So I will ask this question:

How many more young men and women must lose their legs, their lives for a corrupt government that history has proven will never be changed? Why should they be dying and losing their legs for Karzai, who doesn't even know that we're his friends? It makes no sense.

I will quote a highly decorated retired military general who has been advising me on Afghanistan for the past year:

"What is the end state we are looking to achieve? What are the measures of effectiveness? What is our exit strategy? Same old questions, no answers. What do we say to the mother and father, the wife of the last marine killed to support a corrupt government and corrupt leader in a war that can't be won?"

Mr. Speaker, these are words from a general that fought in Vietnam for this

country, that reached the highest he could in the branch of service where he served.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I represent the Third District of North Carolina, the home of Camp Lejeune Marine Base. Recently, I was with a marine who has served this Nation for years. He shares my concern about getting out of Afghanistan. So I asked this marine if he would write me a letter, and this is what he wrote:

"Congressman JONES, I am writing this letter to express my concern over the current Afghanistan war. I am a retired Marine officer with 31-plus years of active duty. I retired in 2004 due to service limitations or I am sure I would have been on my third or fourth deployment by now to a war that has gone on for too long."

I will quote end, Mr. Speaker, of his letter to me:

"The Afghanistan war has no end state for us. I urge you to make contact with all of the current and newly elected men and women to Congress and ask them to end this war and bring our young men and women home. If any of my comments will assist in this effort, you are welcome to use them and my name."

His name is Dennis G. Adams, Lieutenant Colonel, Retired, United States Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, before I close, I want to remind those on the floor of the House today that I hope, if you haven't had the chance, that you will go to Walter Reed in Bethesda to see the young men and women that will never walk again, to see the young men and women that maybe will not ever think properly again because of PTSD and TBI.

And I want to remember the young soldier, 22 years old, a private in the United States Army, who before I walked in the room, the escort, Major Mack, said to me: This soldier has no body parts below his waist. They've all been blown away.

□ 1040

So, Mr. Speaker, it's time for the Congress to meet its responsibility and demand a debate on the floor of the House about bringing our troops home from Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, as I always do, as I look at this beautiful photograph of a soldier who gave his life for this country and the escort team, God, please bless our men and women in uniform. God, please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. God, please hold in Your loving arms the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

God bless the House and Senate that we will do what is right in Your eyes for today's generation and tomorrow's generation. I ask God to give wisdom, strength, and courage to President Obama that he will do what is right in the eyes of God.

And three times I will ask, God, please, God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

RECENT FISCAL HISTORY

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, first I want to congratulate the gentleman from North Carolina for the remarks he just made. He is a Republican and I am a Democrat, but I will tell you this: We are friends, and we work together. And he is one of the most conscientious Members of this House, who follows his conscience and his moral values in making decisions. He gave a very moving and important speech on the floor today. I thank the gentleman, Mr. JONES, from North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, when I come to the floor to speak about our country's recent fiscal history, I am often told there is no point in looking back. But Majority Leader CANTOR got it entirely right when he wrote this: "The future will not be won by repeating the mistakes of the past." The future will not be won by repeating the mistakes of the past. Unfortunately, however, we are proceeding on a path that shows little inclination to live by those words.

Once again, our Republican colleagues are using the language of fiscal responsibility, but pursuing policies of fiscal irresponsibility. Our colleagues across the aisle trumpet the \$100 billion in domestic discretionary spending they voted to cut from our budget. However, their actions belie those words. Their very first action in this new Congress was to approve policies, a rule package, that would provide for borrowing an additional \$5 trillion, unpaid for. Their budget policy would give us the worst of both worlds.

On the one hand, they failed to take on the real fiscal challenges. And, very frankly, there is blame to share across this Chamber, Republicans and Democrats, for failing to take on those challenges. But the policies they're pursuing would even make our situation worse. On the other hand, the cuts they do make are taken out of vital investments that would grow our economy and create jobs. As I will mention later on, some 700,000 to 800,000 jobs over the next 18 months, it is projected, would be cost by the adoption of their policies. This combination is not new. It is a repeat of Republican fiscal policy in the past.

Let's look at the evidence. First of all on deficits, what this chart shows is everything below this line is a deficit. Everything above this line is a surplus. Obviously, what you want is the deficit going down into surplus. What you don't want is going from surplus into deficit. You will notice that the Reagan administration, Reagan-Bush, are noted in this first red quadrant, and the Clinton administration going from deep debt to surplus, then the Bush administration going from surplus into deep debt. And the Obama administration trying to get out of the extraordinarily tanking, receding economic status, invested in bringing us out, and now we see us coming out.

It shows how the fiscally responsible policies adopted under President Clinton took us into surplus. It unfortunately shows that when we reversed those policies in 2001, we then went back into deep deficits. We all know how those predictions that Republicans made when we adopted this economic program, for which none of the Republicans in the House or the Senate voted for, they said economic catastrophe would occur. That was their analysis. That was their economic prediction. In fact, exactly the opposite happened, and we created 22 million new jobs for Americans. This deficit chart also shows how our record surplus was squandered during the Bush administration.

The second chart I want to show you talks about government spending. We have to cut spending. We all know that. We all talk about it. But let's look at who actually did cut government spending.

Again, government spending was up and down, but at a rate higher than it was under the Clinton administration where spending, as a percentage of our gross domestic product, almost without exception, went down. So when we talk about spending, we have a record of restraining and cutting spending. In fact, that was a partnership, frankly, because Republicans agreed to make compromises with the Democratic President.

However, when they controlled the Presidency, the House, and the Senate, you will see that spending went up sharply once again. Again we see government spending as a percentage of the economy rising under President Bush, and after the emergency measures needed to respond to the recession, starting to come down after the recession was ameliorated.

Real median wages. I want to show this chart as well. Because, after all, these are nice statistics, but what does it do for people? What is the impact on them? Real median wages sort of stuck. And I will end with this and complete the rest of my statement later, Mr. Speaker. But you will see that median wages under President Clinton's administration went up, and then they were flat. And they are going up again now under President Obama. Too slowly to be sure.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue these remarks, because if we do not learn from the past, if we repeat the failed policies of yesterday, our people will not be well served.

 IMPROVING THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

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

Mr. QUAYLE. Mr. Speaker, a little more than a week ago this House passed a continuing resolution with \$100 billion in spending cuts. Not only was this an important step towards reining in our Nation's paralyzing defi-

cits, it also sent a clear signal to job creators that House Republicans are determined to foster an economic environment where certainty and confidence can return to the marketplace.

When a young family looks for a new neighborhood, they examine a variety of factors. They might ask about how safe it is. They might want to know about the school system or whether their neighbors are friendly. The broader question being: What is the environment like?

Job creators take a similar approach when they decide whether it's safe to invest capital, expand their businesses, and hire new workers in America. Just as a family is not going to choose a neighborhood with overflowing sewers and a high crime rate, a business owner is not going to expand and invest in an economic environment marred by debt-fueled uncertainty that will increase the costs to run their business. After all, deficits are just deferred tax payments that eventually come due.

We must ensure that America is the most attractive and safest place to start a business, take risks, and invest capital. It is essential that we send a clear signal to American businesses that both parties are committed to removing the barriers to job growth and economic development.

□ 1050

Republicans believe—and I would argue the American public believes—that cutting spending is a crucial step in that process.

Yesterday, Mark Zandi released a study which argued that the Republican spending cut plan would cost jobs. I am sure Mr. Zandi is a nice enough person, but in recent years, he hasn't seen a spending increase he didn't like. He was the Democrats' go-to guy when they were looking for an economist to endorse the stimulus, and he even endorsed a second stimulus package after the initial \$1 trillion package was signed into law. So before my Democrat colleagues start touting Mr. Zandi's report, I suggest they look at his record on the so-called stimulus.

By merely debating spending cuts for the past few weeks, this body engaged in a process that many feared was obsolete. Some have said Republicans are trying to cut too much, others, that we are not cutting enough; and, indeed, we still have a long way to go to get our deficits and debt under control.

But what no one can dispute, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that we are serious about cutting spending. In addition to the \$100 billion in cuts Republicans have offered over the next year, we have also made clear that our upcoming budget will include serious, commonsense entitlement reforms.

All of these efforts have one goal in mind: producing an environment conducive to economic growth and job creation. House Republicans are doing what we were sent here to do, and that's precisely what our job creators need: clarity and decisive leadership

from their government, not mixed messages and delayed action.

MILLIONS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE RISING UP IN PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, across the world we witness millions of ordinary people rising up in public assemblies, many at risk to their own lives speaking out for a better life for all. From Madison to Misurata, from Cairo to Columbus, courageous people are taking a stand for justice for the many, not just the few.

Another giant rally is planned today in Columbus, Ohio, where Republican Governor John Kasich, the son of public workers, is systematically attacking the hard-earned collective bargaining rights of our State public workers, policemen, firefighters, teachers and other public sector workers. He even called an Ohio policeman an idiot and was forced to apologize. That is his priority, not job creation, not education, not economic development, but attacking workers. That is why thousands of people will converge on the State's capital again today to call him out on his extreme right-wing agenda.

The public outcry started in Wisconsin, given its long history of progressivism. Americans have begun to rise up to prevent more harm being done to our way of life, more attacks on our jobs, more threats to the standard of living of our middle class, more cuts in wages and benefits of hard-working families. The movement is spreading, just as the democracy movement is spreading across Northern Africa and the Middle East.

Just as we watch freedom rising in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and beyond, we watched the spectacle of America's Governors trying to dictate to citizens who earn, on average, \$24,000 and aren't even eligible for Social Security, but receive about \$900 a month in average public employee retirement benefits, that they should sacrifice even more to balance State budgets.

No, they don't deserve to be made scapegoats for their States' budget problems, and they don't deserve to be put on the front lines of the battle to save workers' rights; but they are there, nonetheless, and they deserve our support. We are all Wisconsinites. We are all Buckeyes. We are all Hoosiers. We have to stand together united for America, for the good of many, not just the few.

If John Kasich wants to look for scapegoats, perhaps he should draw upon his experience with Lehman Brothers. Maybe he should look into his Rolodex for some of his cronies from Wall Street who helped bankroll his campaign. Because the real culprits who have caused the real deep, economic harm to our Nation are watching gleefully on the sidelines as our friends and neighbors try to protect their livelihoods.

Wall Street's greed caused the financial crisis. That greed triggered lower State and local revenues with the devaluation of housing and rampant foreclosures. Yet the Wall Street titans who stole our home equity, our annuities, our pension accounts remain scot free of any real attention or prosecution.

I have a message to our Governors: blame Wall Street, not Main Street. When six megabanks control two-thirds of the banking system of our country, when corporate profits are at record highs, yet ordinary workers are being asked to empty their pockets to balance State budgets, something is really out of kilter in America. When GE and Exxon don't pay taxes and Wall Street executives walk away with huge bonuses while home foreclosures increase, what's seriously out of balance in America is the distribution of political power in this country.

In Ohio, the brothers and sisters of the heroes of 9/11, our firefighters and police, are being asked to give away their rights as free American citizens at the bargaining table for wages and benefits. Our Governor wants to abolish middle class prevailing wages, same in Wisconsin. Any nation that loses labor rights loses democracy.

What's at stake in our Nation is more than wages. What's at stake is liberty for all and opportunity for all. Governor Walker, it wasn't the firefighters in Madison that robbed Main Street and stole our home equity. You might ask your friends, the Koch brothers, about that.

Governor Kasich, it wasn't the teachers in Ohio who financed the shipping of our jobs offshore through NAFTA. You voted for it, and your buddies on Wall Street rammed it through Congress.

And, Governor Daniels, it wasn't your public sector workers that created the biggest financial bubble in U.S. history and then jumped ship when it burst, letting everyone else go down. That was created by the policies of George W. Bush, where you served as director of the OMB while the Federal budget deficit exploded.

I salute America's workers who are fighting for the middle class and our way of life. The whole world is watching.

After the American people win their battles in Madison, in Columbus, in Indianapolis, I hope they take the fight to Wall Street and get our money back. That's who has it.

BORDER WAR CONTINUES—NO END IN SIGHT

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the border war continues, and there is no end in sight. This week, President Calderon of Mexico is coming back to Washington D.C. He is going to meet with our President. It will be inter-

esting to see if he continues to blame America for his problems.

You remember the last time he was here, he stood here on the House floor and dressed us down as Members of the United States House of Representatives, blaming us for his problems, blaming us for the corruption, blaming us for the drugs that are in Mexico, blaming us for the violence in Mexico, blaming the folks in Arizona for trying to protect their own border. I wonder if he will continue the blame game.

The problem is the situation is worse, not only on the border, but in Mexico. Corruption along the border with Mexican law enforcement continues, even though the Mexican military is doing a fairly good job of reining in the drug cartels.

And he blames the United States for the guns that are in Mexico. You must remember, Mr. Speaker, just some of the guns that go to Mexico are from the United States. Guns from all over the world end up in Mexico. There are a lot of reasons for that. One of those is Mexico doesn't protect its borders any better than we do.

People throughout the world know if you can get to Mexico by any means, whether you want to bring contraband, drugs, guns or people, you can eventually get into the United States. Mexico, like the United States, doesn't have operational control of the mutual border between the United States.

Even the General Accountability Office, who are the people who keep up with statistics, made this report recently, that on the United States border with Mexico, only 44 percent of the border is under the control of the United States and only 15 percent is airtight.

So who controls the other 56 percent of the U.S. border with Mexico? If it's not the United States, it's not Mexico, who controls it? We don't know. Probably the outlaws, the drug cartels. They are the ones that have operational control of both sides of the border because the situation on the border continues to get worse.

Mexico doesn't protect its border from people going into Mexico from any direction, and the United States doesn't protect its border adequately to keep drugs and violence from coming into the United States.

□ 1100

Unfortunately, this is continuing to get worse. Last year, 65 Americans were killed in Mexico, and to my knowledge, none of those cases was solved. You see, Mexico has a terrible record of solving crimes not only against Americans, but against Mexican nationals. Over 3,000 people were killed in Juarez last year. That's more people than were killed in Afghanistan last year. It is a serious, violent situation.

And will it continue to come across the border? Some say, oh, it won't come to America. Let me give you one statistic. The 16 border counties in

Texas that border Mexico, on any given day, about 35 percent to 40 percent of the people they have in their jails are foreign nationals charged with crimes in the United States. These are not immigration violations. These are crimes, some of them violent crimes—35 percent to 40 percent. So the crime is already pouring over because people can go back and forth across the U.S.-Mexican border at will because there are parts of the border that no one controls.

In fact, the situation is so bad this year that the Texas Department of Public Safety today has made a statement telling young people about spring break. And here is what they say: "Various crime problems exist in many popular resort areas of Mexico such as Acapulco and Cancun, and crimes against U.S. citizens often go unpunished."

"The safety message is simple: avoid traveling to Mexico during spring break and stay alive." So, we are even being warned not to let your kids go to Mexico during spring break because it is not safe.

So what do we do about this? Well, there was raids recently this week because of an ICE agent that was killed in Mexico. Raids were made in the United States, and 676 drug cartel members were arrested, \$12 million was seized, lots of drugs and lots of guns. And it's a point that we need to understand as citizens, that the drug cartels operate in Mexico, but they operate in the United States as well. They bring those drugs to other gang members throughout the cities of America, and they sell those wares here in the United States. So the crime does occur on both sides of the border. And we need to understand that.

It is important that we deal in reality and understand that the border is a war zone. A Texas Ranger once told me, he said, "Congressman POE, after dark on the Texas-Mexican border, it gets western." Those days need to end. We need to put the National Guard on the border and secure the border. It will protect the United States and Mexico. And that's just the way it is.

WE STAND WITH OHIO WORKERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, today people from across Ohio are gathering at the Statehouse in Columbus. They are gathering to speak up for workers and the middle class in this country. Last Tuesday, I went to Columbus and joined our brothers and sisters in our fight to protect the right of public employees to have a voice at the negotiating table. And as we gathered to oppose Senate bill 5, that backward effort of Governor Kasich and his Republican friends in the State legislature to eliminate collective bargaining, I was struck by the weight of the moment and by the weight of this fight. But I

was inspired, too—inspired to see thousands of people from across the State coming together to protest the radical measures that the Republicans were proposing.

Though we can't be there today physically, we are there with those who gather at the Statehouse, and we stand with them from our place here in our Nation's capital. Last week, we were there shoulder to shoulder, people in common purpose, standing up for working families, standing together in the fight for the promise of the middle class.

The unfair, backward-thinking attack on Ohio's firefighters, police, teachers, nurses, and other dedicated public employees must be stopped. And I'm proud to be standing with Ohioans that are fair-minded as we fight for progress, not for a return to old ways. Instead of pursuing this draconian measure attacking Ohio's working families, lawmakers at every level of government should be focused on the critical priority of getting people back to work instead of engaging in attacks on those who have chosen to teach our children, protect our communities, and keep us safe.

Everyone should be working to strengthen our economy and create jobs. That, in turn, would generate the revenue we need to fairly compensate our public employees with the wages and the benefits which they have been promised and they have earned. The focus of all officials, as I said, across all levels of government, should be on creating jobs, not taking more from our workers. It was not our workers who drove the economy off the cliff. It was not our workers in Ohio. It was not the workers in Wisconsin. But it seems that the Republicans just can't stop themselves. Similar efforts to disempower working families and the middle class are occurring right here in Washington.

It is not just collective bargaining for public employees that they're after. Two weeks ago, Republicans tried to pass a measure in Congress to prohibit the paying of prevailing wages and to stop local project labor agreements, which would put a hard hit on our trades people. They even tried to eliminate the National Labor Relations Board, the very board that exists as a referee to make sure that our workers get a fair shake.

Yet they have not offered any job creation bills. And at the same time they are not creating jobs, they are defunding programs that have real benefits: their refusal to expand the trade adjustment assistance that helped workers who were displaced because of the trade policies that they pursued; the refusal of some to extend unemployment benefits to those who are out of a job through no fault of their own. At the same time they are working to not create jobs, they are also giving no assistance to those who are left without a job. It's issues like these that make it so important that we keep our heads up in Ohio.

And to all of those who are out there in Ohio and across the country fighting this fight, it's an important fight, and what you do matters. It's important that we speak up and be heard so that the issues that matter to us so very deeply are well sounded. We have to stand together and work together and fight forward.

Using the deficit as an excuse, there are those who are trying to convince the American people that a more fair economy would result in a much less efficient economy. But fairness and efficiency are not mutually exclusive. Using the deficit as an excuse to give a disproportionate hit to workers or unions is not the way to go.

I would hope that the Republicans, both at the State level as well as here in Congress, would join with us to focus on what we really need to do, and that is to create jobs. And I would hope that they would stop the misguided attack on workers and the middle class.

THE IMPERIAL PRESIDENT

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to challenge this body, and I hope that my message is well received. This Nation was founded on the rules of the Constitution, not the opinions of Republicans and Democrats. Our decisions are judged in the light of the traditions of the past and the precedent that it sets for the future and the future generation.

Mr. Speaker, according to our Constitution, a President cannot pick and choose which parts of the law he prefers. The executive branch does not write the law nor choose the law. It enforces the law. The basic function of every President is to enforce the law. Every executive branch agency has its foundation in a short and clear statement from the Constitution stating this: He—that means the President—shall take care that the law be faithfully executed.

A President can petition for laws to be changed. He can complain about a law. He can encourage passage of new law. But he cannot just ignore the law or write new law. Only the courts can throw out a law, and only Congress can write a law. The President and the Department of Justice cannot unilaterally decide not to enforce the Defense of Marriage Act.

For decades, the Congress has been donating their constitutional powers to the executive branch by giving increased rulemaking authority to the different agencies. Our agencies now write rules that look more like legislation than regulation. We have allowed people to serve in "Cabinet lite" level positions without Senate approval. We have exponentially increased the budget for White House staff. And now the President wants to set a new precedent that he alone can determine which

laws he likes and he does not like. With this action, the President has invented a retroactive veto on all previous Presidents and all previous congressional acts.

It is ultimately ironic that the executive branch states that several lower courts have rejected the Defense of Marriage Act as unconstitutional, so they are accepting the lower court rulings over a higher court. In the past year, the health care law was ruled unconstitutional, but the Federal Government is pressing forward. The administration was instructed by the courts to lift the drilling moratorium in the gulf, but they stalled.

□ 1110

It is apparent that this administration is bent on placing its political preferences ahead of the courts, ahead of the legislative branch, and the majority of the American people.

Both parties need to understand the precedent that's being set by the President's choosing to not enforce the Defense of Marriage Act. My Democrat friends should imagine for a moment, what if when a Republican President takes the oath and he instructs HHS and all other agencies not to enforce ObamaCare, though it's the law of the land, because some lower court rejected it? They would be outraged, rightfully so, because currently it is the law of the land. A President cannot just unilaterally throw it aside.

Before this conversation is spun as a partisan issue, let me remind everyone, though, that the Defense of Marriage Act passed the House and the Senate by a wide bipartisan majority and was signed into law by a Democrat President. This is not only a slap in the face to our constitutional system; it is a slap to Republicans and Democrats who expressed the will of their districts and States on an issue that has been settled in law.

The people spoke through Congress, and one person, even a President, cannot undermine the will of the people. At least not in the America that I grew up in.

I do not think we will fully understand the implications of this action if we allow it to stand. We must not act partisan now and regret it later. This is not the way to deal with the gay marriage debate, for the President to just sweep it aside and say, "I will not enforce the law."

Many in this Chamber are well aware of my traditional view of marriage and my Biblical world view. I am unashamed of my personal faith in Jesus Christ. I believe that words have meaning, though, and that the meaning of marriage is the union of a man and a woman. The Defense of Marriage Act codified that definition in law, representing the belief of a majority of Americans.

This issue is well beyond faith, though, or a social issue or even a political issue. Marriage is now not only the center of a national debate, it's

now the center of a constitutional debate.

Weeks ago some members of the press suggested that Republicans would ignore the budget and focus on social issues. I find it ironic now that the President has submitted a budget that will raise the national debt to \$26 trillion, by his own numbers, and he has decided to change the national debate from fiscal issues to social issues and gay marriage.

As a Congress, we cannot demand of the executive branch, which is a co-equal branch of government. But I believe we must require the executive branch to fulfill its oath of office and constitutional requirement to faithfully execute the laws of the United States.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong opposition to attempts by the Republican Governor of Ohio to undermine collective bargaining for Ohio's public employees.

Ohio Senate bill 5 is a measure currently under consideration by the Ohio General Assembly that would strip State workers of collective bargaining rights. I firmly support the right of public employees to collectively negotiate. Who are we as a Nation when we tell our firefighters and our police officers and other public protectors that they should have no say in their working conditions? Does a teacher's experience or education have no economic value? Ohio's proposed legislation is less about fiscal responsibility than an overt political attack on public workers who speak with a collective voice.

As labor battles erupt in State capitals around the Nation, a majority of Americans say they oppose efforts to weaken the collective bargaining rights of public employee unions. According to the latest New York Times/CBS News poll, Americans are against cutting the pay or benefits of public workers to reduce State budget deficits.

We shouldn't forget, Mr. Speaker, the benefits that collective bargaining offers. For almost 28 years, collective bargaining has reduced labor strife, it has reduced the likelihood of strikes, improved training and productivity among public employees, created a sense of job security, and it is fair. It is fair to all working people.

The repeal of collective bargaining will do nothing to balance the budget. Nine percent of the State's budget is for State employees. So just as an example, if we fired every State employee in Ohio, it would save us only \$2 billion, leaving the State without vital services, and there would still be a \$6 billion deficit. Since this does not address the budget deficit, it is clear that anti-worker forces are using this to harm middle-income workers and to kill jobs.

I would like to share a observation with you that was from a former President of the United States, and I quote: "Republicans stand foursquare for the American home—but not for housing. They are strong for labor—but they are stronger for restricting labor's rights. They favor minimum wage—the smaller the minimum wage, the better. They endorse educational opportunity for all—but they won't spend money for teachers or for schools. They think modern medical care and hospitals are fine—for people who can afford them. That is the philosophy of the masters of the Republican Party."

These are the words of President Harry Truman, and they were spoken in 1948. These words ring as true today as they did in 1948. We have made too many advances over the past generations, and Americans should not be forced to choose between a job and their rights.

We cannot and should not return to the days when public workers had limited rights to bargain. The middle class was created and has been sustained by collective bargaining and other labor protections. The public sector is about working families. Rolling back these rights will hurt the middle-income wage earners of this country and will hurt America.

Ohio needs jobs, not a partisan victory. I urge members of the Ohio General Assembly to deliberate with care and avoid rushing to adopt a measure that weakens our middle class, weakens our State, and costs us jobs.

HIGH-SPEED RAIL FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, I rise today as the ranking member on the Transportation Subcommittee on Railroads. I have been on this committee for over 19 years. I serve on Transportation because it's one of the most bipartisan committees in the House.

I have got to tell you I am very, very disappointed with Florida Governor Rick Scott. Last week, the Governor told Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood that the State of Florida can do without the \$2.5 billion for Federal highway rail funding. That's \$2.5 billion, and 90 percent of the project is funded with Federal tax dollars. That's money that Floridians sent to Washington that we are sending back to Florida, gasoline tax money, not money from any foreign source, by the way.

In addition, it didn't just happen. We worked on it, bipartisan, for years. In fact, in 1980 Bob Graham appointed me to a committee to work on high-speed rail in Florida. Over 30 years we worked on it. And let me just tell you 90 percent of the funding would put over 60,000 Floridians to work. It's 90 percent of the funding. Is the other 10 percent there? Absolutely. The private

sector has indicated that they would put the 10 percent there.

□ 1120

I have model trains in front of me today. We have over eight companies committed to high-speed rail. In fact, we started the rail system in Florida in this country, the Florida Flagler. In this country, we started the rail system, and now we are the cabooses; and they don't use cabooses anymore.

But all of our partners, the Chinese, the French, eight different countries want to be our partners. They have indicated that they would put up the 10 percent because they want to have the first right of refusal to go from Orlando to Miami. And everybody knows that's the money maker. Well, why is the first portion that the State of Florida applied for and the legislature in Florida came to the Congress and asked us to be partners, why was that first leg the first leg? Because all of the environmental issues have been resolved. In other words, we could put rail in Florida tomorrow if this contract went out.

Florida has 12 percent unemployment—12 percent—and in my area 15 percent. The Governor says that he's not a politician—and I agree with him—but he says he's a businessman. What businessman would walk away from 90 percent funding? So, 90 percent funding, and you're a businessman? Well, he's concerned about Florida being left with the 10 percent. Well, if you're a businessman, then you know attorneys. They can write it any way you want to make sure that we can protect the people of Florida. So that's not the issue. Money is not the issue. Liability is not the issue.

This is the worst kind of politics I've seen since I've been elected. It's a sad state of affairs. The Governor says let's get to work. I agree with you, Mr. Governor, but you have to be working on something. You have to have some projects. Infrastructure is what put America to work.

What projects do you have, Mr. Governor, in your budget? You say: Well, I want this money. I think it would be better used for ports. What's in your budget? Ports. Florida has 14 ports. We compete with other States. So what is in your budget that is going to put Floridians to work? You come and say: I want another lane on I-4. Well, anybody who lives in Orlando or visits Orlando knows another lane will not help us. We have eight lanes.

I just returned Monday from Salt Lake City, Utah, where we lost the money. A few years ago, money for Orlando went to Salt Lake City, Utah, and they run trains every day, move 40,000 people a day by rail. That's Salt Lake City, Utah. And so the money that we have appropriated this Friday will go to some other State. It will go to New York or California or Salt Lake City, Utah, or some other place. We are going to have rail in this country.

What happens when failure is not an option? We must make sure that we

work together to put Floridians to work.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to others in the second person.

RESPECTING THE AMERICAN WORKER

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, a few years back towards the end of my grandfather's life—he was a steelworker for about 40 years—and towards the end of his life, he couldn't drive anymore. I had the pleasure one day of taking him shopping. In Ohio, and where I come from in Niles, shopping is an art form; so we had to go to a certain place for the meat and a certain place for the cheese and a certain place for something that was on sale somewhere else. So I got to spend the day with my grandpa. We had to go and get something, and he said we should go to a certain store.

I said: Well, Grandpa, Giant Eagle is right here. We can just go right here.

He said: We can't go there.

I said: Why not? It's right here.

He said: The meat cutters are on strike and we can't cross the picket line.

He didn't go to Giant Eagle out of respect for the worker, out of respect for the situation that those workers were in at that grocery store.

And the issue that we are talking about in Ohio and in Wisconsin is an issue of respect for the average worker in the United States of America. And for us to somehow try to obscure the issue and blame workers, firefighters who go into burning buildings while we are all running out of them, police officers who we call up when we are in trouble, or teachers who we ask in many instances to spend more time with our kids than we do, somehow push the blame of the major financial meltdown that happened because of Wall Street recklessness, blame the teachers for that and ask them to go out and get rid of their right to stick together and determine what size of classroom, how many kids are in their classroom is ridiculous.

And at the same time, in Ohio, we have the top person who works for the current administration get a \$40,000 pay increase from what the last Governor was paying, and the secretaries and the people in the mail room get a cut. And the firefighters and the police and the teachers get a cut.

While all of this is going on in Ohio, they want to cut the estate tax for the wealthiest people who live in the State of Ohio and ask the teacher to make the sacrifice. This is disrespectful and unfair to the workers in the State of Ohio.

If we want to have a 21st century America where we compete with the globe, where we compete as 300 million people, compete with 1.3 billion people in China, over a billion people in India, and we are going to tell our teachers that they can't be treated with respect, how are we going to get good teachers to come into the teaching profession when they are going to be the foil for all of the problems we have in our country?

When we ask them to take our kids who have lice, who haven't eaten today, who are hungry, who have a domestic violence issue in their family—these children all go before our teachers—and we are going to say that they don't have a right to bargain, a right to come together to say what size their class is? We are going to pull their pensions from them? This is not right. This is not right, and we need to get back to where we were when my grandfather was around.

We realize the world is different and we have to compete globally, but the issue is: Are we going to respect work in the United States of America? Are we going to respect the workers in the United States of America? While all these fat cats have gotten off scot free, we turn around and tell the workers in Ohio and Wisconsin and Indiana and the Big 10 Conference: You've got to take the hit.

It is unfair and it is disrespectful and it is not an American value.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 28 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor Alisa Lasater Wailoo, Capitol Hill Methodist Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Ever-Present God, we know You by many names, but most striking, You know us and each person we represent by name and with love. Thank You.

God who heals, we pray for the full restoration of Representative GIFFORDS

and for the personal struggles of each person here. Remind us that You have the power and desire to heal each wound we carry into this Chamber.

Uniting God, give us the wisdom to understand how to work together for the plight of Your people in need. Save us from ourselves and surprise us with shared solutions for the problems Your children face.

God of all, we represent not only those who have our ear, but those who have no voice. So let us not raise our hands to vote without bowing our hearts to Your will. Through Your love that changes the world, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee 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.

THANKING PAT KELLY FOR HER 54 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

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

Mr. BOEHNER. What helps make the People's House so special is its people. Every day, the staff members here give their time and energy not just doing the job, but fulfilling the mission of keeping this body closest to the American people.

Members come and go, but some dedicated public servants connect the House's history to its future. Pat Kelly is a shining example of this.

Like many Americans, Pat joined the family business right out of college.

She went to work for her mother, Congresswoman Edna Kelly, who was the first woman to represent Brooklyn. Pat went on to serve as a legislative assistant for other members of the New York delegation and the Rules Committee.

For more than 30 years now, Pat has had a bird's-eye view of the House as editor of the Daily Digest of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The Digest serves as the "table of contents" for each day's proceedings on the House floor and in all of the committees. And Pat's job is a daily feat of precision—and patience—that requires pulling together information from dozens of offices. And I know all of Pat's colleagues admire her thoughtfulness and attention to detail.

Today she is retiring after 54 years of service to this institution. And it's clear that Pat has not merely recorded the House's history—she's been a rich part of it, too.

When the House paid tribute to Edna Kelly in 1998, Pat was quoted as saying of her mother that she was a great person to emulate. Well, let the same be said of Pat, and may all current and future public servants be inspired by her example.

Pat, we're sorry to see you go. On behalf of all the Members of the House and staff, thank you for the dedication to this institution, and thank you for your service.

HONORING PAT KELLY

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the Speaker of the House to honor a committed public servant, a woman of this House, a key thread in the fabric of the congressional staff, who retires today after 54 years of service: Pat Kelly. Fifty-four years of service.

Since arriving as a committee staffer in 1957, Pat Kelly has worked behind the scenes on behalf of the American people—never asking for recognition, never looking for the limelight.

The daughter of Congresswoman Edna Kelly, Pat said she came to Washington because, in her words, "I just felt the urge to do something." And for more than half a century, she did far more than her fair share.

Pat Kelly has served in many roles on Capitol Hill. In all, she helped Members to do their jobs and worked tirelessly on issues important to her and critical to our country's future.

Few issues played a larger role for her than the fight for women's rights. In 1962, she helped her mother pass the first equal pay bill and watched with pride as President John F. Kennedy signed it into law.

As a legislative aide to former Congresswoman Martha Griffiths, Pat fought for the Equal Rights Amendment—continuing the march for equality, advancing the cause of justice for all women. Thank you, Pat. We're all in your debt.

Through it all, whether the legislation succeeded or failed, she stood by a simple mantra: "It's important for women to be involved."

For the past 22 years she has served as editor of the House Daily Digest, tracking committee activities and getting the word out on what's happening on Capitol Hill. In that role she has noted, "I've been through the turnover to Republicans and back to Democrats, and tried to help each and every one of them do their jobs."

Helping others do their jobs, working in a bipartisan way—this was the essence of Pat Kelly's career and service.

Pat Kelly's 54 years serving the House of Representatives is a reflection of her own dedication to Congress and the country, and represents the commitment, devotion to duty, and passion for service of all of our congressional staffers.

Thank you, Pat, for giving so much to the House, for all of your work, and for fulfilling your promise to "do something" for all Americans.

Yes, I join the Speaker in saying you will be missed. We are sorry that you are leaving. We wish you much success and, with deep gratitude, send you our love and best wishes.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 78

In the Senate of the United States, February 28, 2011.

Whereas James A. McClure served in the United States Navy during World War II;

Whereas James A. McClure served the state of Idaho as a prosecuting attorney, a city attorney, a member of the Idaho state Senate, and as a member of the United States House of Representatives;

Whereas James A. McClure served the people of Idaho with distinction for 18 years in the United States Senate;

Whereas James A. McClure served the Senate as Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in the Ninety-seventh through Ninety-ninth Congresses and Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference in the Ninety-seventh and Ninety-eighth Congresses;

Whereas James A. McClure served his caucus as a founding member and Chairman of the Senate Steering Committee in the Ninety-fourth through Ninety-sixth and Ninety-ninth through One Hundredth Congresses: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable James Albertus McClure, former member of the United States Senate.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable James Albertus McClure.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following title in which

the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 8. Concurrent resolution recognizing women serving in the United States Armed Forces.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

□ 1210

REPEAL 1099 RULE

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, one of the many egregious and punitive parts of ObamaCare is the burdensome 1099 rule, a paperwork regulation that forces millions of businesses to file a 1099 tax form each time they spend over \$600 per vendor. The National Association for the Self-Employed reports that those companies with 10 or fewer employees, their paperwork burden is going to jump from an average of two per year to roughly 27 per year, a whopping 1,250 percent paperwork increase.

Main Street mom-and-pop shops don't need the added costs of more regulatory requirements at a time when their efforts are rightly focused on just staying in business. It's jobs we are protecting. It's time to repeal the 1099 rule right now.

THE TIME TO GOVERN IS NOW

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the time to govern is now. The reckless continuing resolution that Republicans passed 2 weeks ago is an abject failure of leadership. In the race for ever-increasing and arbitrary cuts, they demonstrated on a party-line vote that they know the cost of everything and the value of nothing.

Moody's Analytics said their approach would cost 700,000 jobs. The Economic Policy Institute said it would cost 800,000 jobs. Goldman Sachs said it would lower economic growth by 2 percent and increase unemployment by 1 percent. Even the conservative Club for Growth called it a mistake, stating, "Cutting spending is important, but economic growth is even more important."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of us, Republicans and Democrats, negotiate in good faith, in a bipartisan manner to pass a fiscally responsible CR that reduces deficits without sacrificing economic growth, that prioritizes investments in our economy that support American competitiveness without

costing jobs. Let's pass a continuing resolution that strengthens the economy and creates jobs for all Americans.

INCREASE DOMESTIC OIL PRODUCTION

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

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday the top front-page story in USA Today said gas will soon hit \$5 a gallon. If it does, it will really slow our recovery, and some think it could lead to another recession. It will really hurt the already hurting small towns and rural areas because their people on average have to drive farther distances to go to work.

Environmentalists want gas to go much higher so people will drive less; but if gas goes to \$5 a gallon or even higher, it will hurt a lot of poor and lower-income and working people. I know most environmentalists come from very wealthy or upper-income families, and I know they will say we don't have enough oil to drill our way out of this problem; but if we would at least start producing a little more oil, it would be harder for other countries to keep raising their prices.

President Clinton vetoed drilling in ANWR in the mid-nineties, stopping a million more barrels a day from being produced here. When environmental radicals stop more domestic oil production, it helps foreign energy producers, but it really hurts middle- and lower-income Americans.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, Congress should be focusing on creating jobs, helping middle class families, and lowering the deficit with intelligent spending cuts—and I say with "intelligent" spending cuts. But instead, we're headed towards a devastating government shutdown.

Policy experts from across the political spectrum all agree the Republican budget will result in more job losses, I state more job losses, and more suffering of our families. Senator MCCAIN's chief economic adviser estimates that the Republican budget will lead to 700,000 jobs being lost. Even Wall Street firms like Goldman Sachs say the budget plan will cause our economy to shrink by 2 percent.

In my district, teachers, police officers, firefighters who are set to lose their jobs deserve better. I say they deserve better. The time to play politics with our budget is over. I urge my Republican friends to break free from the extremists in their party. Let's work together. Let's work together on a real plan to create jobs and strengthen our economy.

HONORING FRANK BUCKLES

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Frank Buckles, the sole surviving U.S. World War I veteran who passed away on Sunday at the age of 110 in his hometown of Charles Town, West Virginia. Inspired by his love of his country and a desire to serve, Frank entered the Army at the age of 16. He served in England and France during the war, first as a car and ambulance driver, and later as an escort for returning German POWs.

During World War II, he was held as a prisoner of war in the Philippines for 39 months. He has been recognized as a true American patriot and awarded numerous medals. I have met Frank on several occasions. He was a constituent of my district, and I was always inspired by his sense of humility and hope.

He represents the very best of this country: service, determination, and patriotism. He has lived through some of the most historic events in our American history, from the Great Depression to two world wars, to the invention of the Internet, reminding us of the immense progress, yet change, that we have seen in this Nation.

For years, Frank had dedicated his life to ensuring his fellow doughboys received proper national recognition. I hope this Congress will honor the legacy of Frank Buckles and the legacy of all those who fought in the War to End All Wars by paying tribute to them with a national memorial. Let Frank's legacy remind us of the service and sacrifice all veterans make in the name of protecting America and all for which she stands.

Our thoughts and prayers go to the Buckles family.

GOP SPENDING PLAN

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. So be it. That's what Republicans are saying to 700,000 American workers who will be needless casualties of their gutting and slashing funding bill.

So be it. That's the Republican attitude to a government shutdown if they don't force more cuts, destroying more jobs.

So be it. That's the Republican message to one out of every eleven Americans struggling to find work.

The GOP continuing resolution does nothing to create jobs. In fact, it takes a step backward, weakening our economic recovery. Of course, I shouldn't be surprised. Over the last 8 weeks since the Republicans took over control of the House, they haven't created a single job. What's worse, they haven't even put a single jobs bill on the House floor.

So while Republicans say so be it, I say stop the war on working families and show me the jobs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair must remind all Members not to wear communicative badges while under recognition.

JOB, JOB, JOB

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Jobs, jobs, jobs. That's what people back home want—jobs. Everybody I know wants a job. People stand in line, they want a job. And so now we are at this crucial deadline, and the Republicans want to shut down the government because their strategy for this year is just to gut everything, everything, anything, 700,000 jobs, 800,000 jobs, depends who you are talking to. If you are talking to the Moody's person, it's 700,000. If you're talking to the Economic Institute, it's 800,000.

So while they concentrate on eliminating jobs, I believe most of us here, Democrats, are working hard to understand what's an investment, how do we help people to get their next job? Where do they get their education? Where do they get their training? How about building the high-speed rail, for example, in California, to create jobs? I think Republicans need to get back to work.

□ 1220

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

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

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, while today we are debating how we can address public needs with fewer and fewer public dollars, I am here to bring good news on how this Congress, this past Congress, invested our tax dollars to help save jobs.

The new General Motors, which I proudly represent, recently announced a new financial milestone: four consecutive quarters of profitability. That's not only good for GM and its shareholders but also for its employees, the majority of whom will receive profit sharing of over \$4,000 each.

What that shows is that when this Congress works with our President to invest in U.S. manufacturing, that helps all of us to "make it in America."

GETTING BACK TO BUSINESS

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with serious concerns about the lack of a true jobs plan from the Republican majority as we seek to tackle our spending challenges.

And as the race continues to find the next deepest cut, just who are the real losers? It seems to be the hardest hit. It's middle class families, our children, our seniors, our students, and women. This war on working families must end. Our people are our greatest asset.

In order to move our country out of this recession, we must invest in their success. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are moving forward with yet another dangerous spending bill, one that continues to give rewards to the most successful among us and literally guts the initiatives most meaningful to middle class families.

The work of reducing our deficit and controlling spending is, no doubt, hard. The fact of the matter is that we have to cut spending, but we have to do it responsibly.

As we seek to make a compromise this week, let's remember that we cannot cut what makes us competitive and what helps us innovate, succeed in the global economy and, ultimately, create jobs.

AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR EVERYBODY

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, the richest 1 percent of Americans now control one-third of our Nation's income, 120 percent more than they did 30 years ago.

CEOs now earn hundreds of times what the average worker does. Wall Street profits are up 720 percent since 2007, and corporate taxes are at their lowest point since the fifties. All things considered, the wealthiest Americans are doing pretty well, much better than the rest of the country, in fact.

So you would think that after all these gains, the super rich—a handful of Americans who control fully a third of our economy—would understandably be asked to help as we try to bring our fiscal house back into order. But the Republican spending plan does none of this. It puts the burden of cuts solely on the shoulders of working families, those already struggling to make ends meet and provide for their families. The Republican plan spares the richest Americans from even the slightest inconvenience.

They have proposed to slash the budgets for programs that help seniors heat their homes, help low-income women find a doctor, and help millions of American students access job training or affordable college or health care. This is a reckless plan. We need to reject it and instead work to create an economy that works for everybody, and not just a wealthy few.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, there are smart cuts and there are dumb cuts. The majority's continuing resolution, the reception it has received, suggests that it's full of dumb cuts. It has been rejected by pretty much everybody. Outright rejection to concerned hilarity is how it's been greeted by investment banks, by economists, by people who think about this stuff.

But there is something worse than a dumb cut, and that's a counterproductive cut. In a misguided effort to reduce the number of abortions in this country, the Republican majority zeroed out title X funding for Planned Parenthood.

I have a Planned Parenthood office down the hall from my congressional office in Bridgeport. I see women coming through there mainly to learn about birth control, to be responsible about their reproductive lives, to be tested for STDs.

Remember, 3 percent of Planned Parenthood's activities is abortion. There are estimates that zeroing out title X, which the majority has done, will cause 400,000 more abortions in this country. That's counterproductive, it's wrong, and I would urge this House to reject a very bad idea.

A TIME FOR HOPE, NOT FEAR

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the people of various Arab countries that have risen up to throw off the yoke of tyranny that has oppressed them for too long. Mr. Speaker, now is the time for us to let our idealism trump our cynicism; a time for hope, not fear.

I understand that there are people who are worried about the realpolitik of how developments might lead to changes in the world, but most Americans, Mr. Speaker, have deep and abiding sympathy for any who have democratic aspirations across the world.

We support, as a country, the aspirations of all people to be heard in their government. The only just government is one that governs by the consent of the governed. For too long, Mr. Speaker, too many Arabs and too many people across the world have suffered under unresponsive and tyrannical leaders; and now is a time for hope, to change that and create a new Middle East that better supports democratic values.

BRINGING JOBS BACK

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I recently surveyed my constituents and asked them what they thought I should spend my time on in 2011. No surprise, they said jobs; create jobs.

Fifteen million Americans without work today, and what does the Republican continuing resolution do? It is going to add another 700,000 jobs lost in America, by Mark Zandi, the fine economist who was the adviser to JOHN MCCAIN when he was running for President, 700,000 jobs.

So why would they do this? You've got to scratch your head. The reason why they want to do this is because they only win if the economy is down, if there are more jobs lost. So their whole approach is not to be Americans but to be Republicans.

I say: Republicans, join us in being Americans first. Let's create a job-seeking engine. Let's create jobs in this country, not take them away.

HONORING PAT KELLY

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

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, a democracy is not beautiful edifices or beautiful buildings or even words written on paper. A democracy's foundation is the people. Today we pay tribute to the retirement of Pat Kelly, someone who has really helped our democracy thrive.

For 54 years, she has been one of the people that, anonymously and without much fanfare, has made sure that this democracy, whose very foundation is the longest continually maintained journal in the world, kept running. She did it as a proud daughter of Brooklyn, and she comes from a truly patriotic family.

Her mother was a Member of Congress, as the Speaker and minority leader have pointed out. Her grandfather, William Kelly, was the Postmaster General of Brooklyn. I was proud to kind of make quasi-association with Pat when I was in the city council and I got some funds to fix up Kelly Playground, where so many of us enjoyed Brooklyn.

You know, it really is true that many of us as Members of Congress blithely come through here. We cast our votes. We give our speeches. And it's easy for us to forget that this democracy is not about us. It's about the participation of citizenry and, of course, the hard work of so many people that make this institution so grand.

Pat Kelly is such a person. She is an institution unto herself. She will be missed around here, but I can tell you she will not be forgotten. We will remember her for her charm, her smile, her grace, and the way with which she did her job.

So to her family, the entire Kelly family, from all of the people from her home borough of Brooklyn, I want to say to her, congratulations on her retirement. She will be missed.

WILL WE CONTINUE TO GROW OUR ECONOMY?

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, a 2-week extension to fund the government may prevent a shutdown, but it will not change the fact that a serious choice lies before this Congress.

Will 2011 be a year in which we continue to grow our economy, a year that builds on the over 1 million private sector jobs created in 2010, or will it be remembered as the year extremists ignored the warnings of world-class economists at Moody's Analytics and Goldman Sachs and allowed our economy to shrink by over 700,000 jobs?

Will 2011 be a year in which we prepare America's children to compete in a global economy, or will it be the year that right-wing extremists and Congress defied common sense, cutting Pell Grants, blaming teachers for the deficit, and punishing struggling school districts across America for a financial crisis they did not cause?

In 2 weeks, these choices will once again come before this Congress. I implore the Republican leadership to seize this opportunity, not for partisan gain but for America's gain. Let's reduce the deficit in a way that does not jeopardize our recovery and make 2011 a year we move forward instead of backwards.

□ 1230

DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, when I returned to Illinois last week, I talked to my constituents, and the refrain I heard over and over was their frustration and concern about the pain they're feeling at the gas pump. And it's not just hurting them. It is threatening to damage our economy. It's already a weak economy, and it is damaging it even worse.

At this moment, the average cost of a gallon of gas in my home State of Illinois is over \$3.50—more than 10 cents higher than the national average. These prices are unseasonably high, hitting Illinoisans and Americans hard in their already-thinned pocketbooks and threatening our economy's tenuous recovery.

It's clear that Congress must act to protect our constituents from even higher gas prices by expanding our Nation's domestic energy production. More energy production here at home would not only reduce the cost of gas, putting money back in the wallets of every American; it would also create the kind of good-paying jobs that so many people need and will help get our economy running again.

Creating jobs, saving our constituents money, and helping the economy should be bipartisan goals, and we can

achieve them by expanding American energy production. I hope we come together to accomplish these goals in the weeks and months ahead.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AMENDMENTS, 2011

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 115 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 115

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 44) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2011, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which time I yield myself such time as I may consume.

During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 115 provides a closed rule for consideration of H.J. Res. 44. This bill would fund the government through March 18 and reduce federal spending by \$4 billion over the remainder of the fiscal year. The measure cuts \$2.7 billion in earmarks from Energy and Water, Labor-HHS, Transportation-HUD, Homeland Security, and Legislative Branch appropriations, but most importantly, this measure averts a government shutdown and allows the Senate time to continue to consider H.R. 1, the bill that we successfully passed in this Chamber just 1 week ago.

Mr. Speaker, on that bill, we had roughly 50 hours of debate from both sides of the aisle, debate that ran late into the night that allowed the House to work its will for the first time in a long time. And the end result was that continuing resolution, H.R. 1, that now sits idly in the Senate.

This resolution today, this rule today, which I urge Members to strongly support, will allow for the 2-week extension of Federal funding to allow the

Senate time to seriously consider this bill, again, H.R. 1, the first bill in a long time on which the House has had a chance to work its will.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, in 4 days, the Federal Government will run out of money. We must ask ourselves, how did we get into this dire situation where we are 4 days away from critical Federal services being closed and our Federal Government being unable to meet its obligations.

Today we are racing the clock to avoid this shutdown in large part because we have squandered the past 2 weeks debating H.R. 1, a ridiculous spending bill that contained some cuts so extreme it had no realistic chance of ever being passed into law and left other areas of the budget that both sides have generally agreed need to be cut untouched. H.R. 1 also had every bit of social legislation from the Republican majority, including gutting the ability of EPA to protect our air and our water and defunding Planned Parenthood and family planning, so that it had a threat of a Presidential veto and faces no realistic prospects of passage in the Senate.

So rather than working with Democrats in the House and Senate to craft a real long-term CR that would preserve the gains of our economy and invest in our future, Republicans have squandered the past few weeks to pass their out-of-touch and unrealistic spending bill that would prove devastating to our economy, our safety, our health, and, yes, our values.

Their draconian spending bill would destroy 700,000 jobs, according to Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's and former adviser to Senator JOHN MCCAIN. And as Goldman Sachs said, their long-term CR would "stall the economic recovery and reduce U.S. economic growth." In fact, just this morning more than 300 economists from across the country warned against the massive GOP spending bill, stating that, "as economists, we believe it is shortsighted to make budget cuts that eliminate necessary investments in our human capital, our infrastructure, and the next generation of scientific and technological advances. These cuts threaten our economy's long-term economic competitiveness."

Mr. Speaker, today's continuing resolution meets our shared goal of preventing a Federal Government shutdown, but at what cost? And for how long? We are committed to reducing the deficit beginning with an aggressive attack on waste, fraud, and abuse. Every Member in this body owes it to our constituents to responsibly cut spending and balance the budget without sacrificing jobs or weakening our economy.

Time and time again, the Republican leadership has told us that they want to proceed in an open and transparent fashion, and yet here we are again, fac-

ing another closed rule, shutting down amendments from both sides and stifling the legislative process and good cost-cutting ideas from both sides of the aisle. In fact, yesterday in the Rules Committee, my colleagues took a party-line vote to block an amendment from the top ranking member on the Appropriations Committee, Mr. DICKS. Mr. DICKS' amendment would have cut more funds than the Republican bill and, at the same time, restored funds for education programs.

In the spirit of the urgent need for cost-cutting and balancing the deficit, I think this body should consider ideas from both sides of the table and allow a rule that allows for discussion of the Dicks amendment and other ideas to cut costs even further than this CR allows.

This CR may succeed in keeping the government open from March 5 through March 18, which I think we all agree is necessary. But we also all know that 2 weeks is not nearly enough time to negotiate a long-term solution to the enormous spending challenges we face, especially when the Constitution guarantees the President 10 of those days to decide whether to sign or veto the bill.

The other side had discussed, at the end of last session, the need to have stability with regard to what kind of taxes people and businesses can expect over time. And at the end of last session, we passed a bill that set predictability for 2 years so people and businesses know what their taxes will be. Well, the other side of that coin is we need predictability and stability around appropriations and the general activities of government. It is stifling to the economy and stifling to job creation for people to be uncertain as to whether the largest enterprise in our country, the Federal Government, will or won't be solvent in 4 days' time.

This is my third year in Congress and already the fourth time I've managed a rule on a short-term CR. The shortened timeline set out by this CR sets the stage for a devastating shutdown crisis every 2 weeks that will bring legislating to a standstill, impede hopes of long-term economic growth, and create enormous overhang on the markets because of this great uncertainty that is of our own creation.

□ 1240

We are also undermining, through this CR, Mr. Speaker, investments in our own future. Take the cuts to literacy programs, for example.

Building an excellent public education system that ensures that each and every child has an opportunity to succeed is the most important investment we can make in our Nation's future and developing our human capital which helps keep America competitive. This is an investment that I have spent much of my life to support and achieve—on the State Board of Education, as a founder of a charter school, and now here in Congress.

What we see now, however, from the proposed short-term CR is the elimination of the Striving Readers Fund, which supports literacy for students from preschool through 12th grade. With American students' reading scores stagnating for the past 30 years, this proposal makes no sense.

Striving Readers is the only targeted Federal literacy funding for preschool through 12th grade. And particularly at a time of State and local budgets cuts, these resources are more important than ever.

Now, we can agree that Striving Readers should be improved. In fact, I am working, along with Congressman YARMUTH, to provide the LEARN Act, which would ensure that teachers and students have innovative strategies and data-backed tools to improve reading and writing. The administration's proposal would build on the progress of the Striving Readers program.

President Obama said in his State of the Union address: It's not just about how we cut, but what we cut. Republicans have mistakenly claimed that the administration also wants to eliminate Striving Readers, but they neglect to mention that the administration's 2012 budget proposes instead to revise, improve Striving Readers. The goal is not to reduce and eliminate Federal support for literacy; it is to consolidate and make more efficient Federal support for literacy, to strengthen literacy performance expectations, scale up innovative methods of teaching reading, writing, and language arts.

In fact, nearly all States, 44, have applied for the first \$10 million in the Striving Readers allocation that was available and have developed State literacy plans as a result. My home State of Colorado has been awarded \$150,000 for these important projects.

Literacy is the foundation of learning. It is the gateway to other content areas that are increasingly important in the global society, like science and math. Destroying the foundation of literacy is cutting off our Nation's own legs. Education is an investment in our future. By pulling the rug out from under our schools and children, Republicans seem willing to sacrifice our future prospects as a Nation. Education is how America can reclaim our edge in job creation, bring jobs back to our shores, become better business leaders, and provide a livable wage for working families.

We all agree that cuts must be made. But as the Romans said, caveat emptor, may the buyer beware. By agreeing to cuts in repeated short-term CRs, we run the risk of opening the door to a spending agenda that arbitrarily kills jobs, hurts our communities, completely undermines education reform, and we do nothing to promote the stability of the Federal Government that markets require to allow businesses to thrive and grow.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to

say to my friend, I could not agree with him more. We must ask ourselves: How did we get here? How did we get here? I have been on the job for 60 days, but the fiscal year began back on October 1 of 2010. How did we get here?

We got here because the work of the people's House didn't get done last year, and I regret that. Candidly, I'm not sure how. I hear so many folks talk about the partisanship in the Congress and the partisanship in Washington, DC, and people can't get things done because of the partisanship. But, of course, last year Democrats controlled the House, the Senate, and the Presidency. And yet we still sit here today without a budget, without the appropriations that the speaker knows we need for the government to continue its operations.

How did we get here? I don't know. But I know this: Nobody elected me in November to come up here and point the finger of blame. They elected me to work with my friend to clean up this mess. Irrespective of how we got here, we have to move forward.

I have to say, because I was at home for the past week with my constituents working through these very same issues we are talking about today, the question I got over and over and over again is: Rob, that is a great start, but let's do more. That's a great start, but let's do more.

You know, getting started is what is hard. It is hard to get started. Over and over again we have heard our friends on both sides of the aisle say: You know, this program, it can be fixed. It can be fixed.

I wonder if we will have a day here where we can start from a blank sheet, just a blank sheet, and say: What is it that is worth borrowing from our children for? What is it that is worth increasing our children's credit card balance for? What is it that is worth mortgaging our children's future for?

Let me just say to my friend, because I know he has a great passion for education, and it is a passion I very much respect, I have the great fortune of coming from the part of the world called Gwinnett County, Georgia. And Gwinnett County was the recipient of the Broad Prize for the single best urban education school district in America. We made it as a finalist 2 years ago, but last year we won. And we won in spite of Federal Government intervention—not because of it, in spite of it. We won because, as a community, we got together back in 1996 and said there is a better way. What can we do to enable our children to succeed better?

We were doing standardized testing in Gwinnett County before standardized testing was in vogue because we knew we had to have a way to measure. We knew we had to have a way to sort out what works and what doesn't. Well, folks, we need some of that standardized testing here on Capitol Hill: What works and what doesn't?

And there are a lot of things that aren't working. Not only do we need to

get the bad out of the budget, we've got to decide that we're going to choose between good and good, between good and good because every school group I spoke to over our district workweek is a school group from whose future we are borrowing, whose future we are mortgaging over and over and over again.

It has to be said that the House worked its will in an unprecedented fashion, an unprecedented fashion. Mr. Speaker, I don't say that lightly. I mean never, never before in modern times has the House worked its will on a continuing appropriations bill the way it did last week. Again, I don't care whose fault it is. I don't care why we couldn't get it done last October. I don't care why we couldn't get it done in November. I don't care why we couldn't get it done in December. What I care about is we have an opportunity to get it done, and we did that last week.

The House worked its will, and we had some winners and we had some losers. I voted for a number of amendments that failed. I didn't get everything that I wanted in that bill. I know my friend from Colorado didn't get everything he wanted in that bill, but the House worked its will, Mr. Speaker, with unprecedented openness, and H.R. 1 was the result.

Well, I asked my staff to call over to the Senate before I came down here. I wanted to find out exactly how much debate the Senate had been putting in on H.R. 1. Of course, we debated it for almost 50 hours. We went through the night on a couple of nights. We wanted to make sure that the entire House had an opportunity to be involved. My staff tells me, Mr. Speaker, not a moment. Not a moment.

I hear the sense of urgency from my friend from Colorado that we have to take action; this is no way to run a government. I think he is right. I think cleaning up this mess means passing a single continuing resolution that gets us through to the end of the fiscal year. For Pete's sake, the Appropriations Committee is already taking testimony to try to get us into the 2012 budget cycle. This is leftover work that simply didn't get done last Congress. Not one second has been spent on the Senate side, Mr. Speaker, from what my staff tells me. Not one second has been spent considering a bill on which the entire United States House of Representatives worked its will; a bill that was the only open process that this House has seen on a continuing resolution; a bill that allowed Members from both sides of the aisle to come down here to the House floor and represent their constituents back home by doing exactly what my friend from Colorado is suggesting—trying to make good cuts, trying to make those things, present those things on the House floor that make the most sense to folks back home.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we are where we are. No one wants the Senate to act ex-

peditiously on the work of the people's House more than I do. But given that not one moment has been dedicated to that, we have to come down here and fund the government one more time. It is the responsible thing to do. It is the responsible thing to do.

The better thing to do would be to act on H.R. 1, which the House passed last week with the support of Members in this body. But now, we have to come down here and extend for 2 weeks to give us time to finish those negotiations with the Senate side. And if that is not enough time, I suspect we will be back down here again. My friend from Colorado and I will be back down here in this well doing this same thing.

But it is no way to run the government, Mr. Speaker. It is no way to run the government. This is just what we have to do while we wait on the Senate to take up that bill on which the House worked its will last week.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. I yield myself 30 seconds.

The gentleman from Georgia said let us do more to save money, and yet this rule shuts down the process and doesn't allow amendments from the minority, including one by Mr. DICKS that saved over \$1 billion and would have reduced the deficit by over \$500 million. And yet again, through this closed rule, we are unable to do more, thanks to this restrictive rule by the Republican majority.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule and the underlying bill, House Joint Resolution 44.

This bill is just another part of the reckless Republican no-jobs agenda. Instead of focusing on creating jobs, Republicans are trying to cut nearly 1 million jobs across the country. Republicans have been in control of the House for now more than 2 months. They have been in control of the House for now more than 2 months, and they have failed to bring up a single bill to create a single job.

□ 1250

I mean, they haven't done just a poor job. They haven't done anything. This bill is just a mini-version of a larger Republican drive that America soundly rejected a week ago. I am absolutely against starting down a series of short-term cuts, of short-term CRs, that result in a bleed of the American middle class. This is death by 1,000 cuts—a slow bleed.

As Speaker BOEHNER stated earlier this week before the National Religious Broadcasters convention, "If they won't eat the whole loaf at one time," he said of the Democrats, "we'll make them eat it one slice at a time."

This is what this short-term CR is all about, one slice at a time, with the goal of shoving a whole loaf down the throats of the American people. The American people don't want the Republican layoffs. They want jobs.

Let's be clear. The bill before us today is just one more fight in this battle to keep American jobs. It's the

same job cuts that Republicans passed a week ago. This is just a 2-week version of it. The Republicans' reckless "so be it" attitude on spending destroys jobs that threaten America's economy. You don't have to take my word for it. All you have to do is read the report released by the chief economist at Moody's, Mark Zandi, if you want to know about the Republicans' "no jobs agenda" CR, which would cut 700,000 jobs by year's end if they make us eat one slice at a time and which would reduce economic growth.

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

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

Mr. ELLISON. Let me quote economist Mark Zandi directly: "While long-term government spending restraint is vital and laying out a credible path toward that restraint very desirable, too much cutting too soon would be counterproductive."

The economy is adding about 100,000 to 150,000 jobs a month; but until that number reaches about 200,000 on a monthly basis, "imposing additional government spending cuts before this has happened would be taking an unnecessary chance with the recovery."

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

Mr. Speaker, to put these cuts in perspective, because, again, we have to get started somewhere, there is not going to be a speaker who stands up here today who doesn't speak out in favor of fiscal restraint. The questions are: When do we start? How much do we do?

Compare the bill that's before us today, which is the continuing resolution to fund the government for 2 weeks and is adding about \$4 billion in cuts, to the bill we passed last week, which had \$100 billion of cuts in it. Now put that \$100 billion of cuts in perspective.

Let's take the average American family who has to go out and buy groceries. That family has a 31-day grocery bill. Knowing that you've got to go out and buy 31 days' worth of groceries, what we're asking of the American people is to cut 1 day out. We're going to tell you now that we're going to cut 1 day out, and we need you to stretch your 30-days' worth of groceries into 31.

Mr. Speaker, that doesn't seem that draconian. In fact, it doesn't seem draconian at all. It seems like what American families are doing over and over and over again in the recession that we've been battling.

When we talk about these jobs numbers, these are the same jobs numbers about which folks said, If only you'll put your children in debt to the tune of another \$1.5 trillion, we'll get unemployment down under 8 percent. It's the same economist who said, Well, it didn't work the first year, but what if we do it the second year? If we put you in debt to the tune of \$1.6 trillion, in addition to the 1.5, in addition to the 1.3 the year before, then we're going to

get unemployment back down under 8 percent.

Those jobs didn't materialize because the Federal Government can't create jobs. We can destroy jobs—we can and we do—but we can't create jobs. Our young entrepreneurs create those jobs. The business owners in our communities create those jobs. We destroy jobs, but we cannot create jobs. That is what this continuing resolution is a recognition of, Mr. Speaker: that the government can absolutely get out of the way. We're not going to hear today about the numbers of jobs that will be lost if the EPA continues to classify carbon dioxide as a pollutant and hamstring the American economy in a way that no other economy on this planet is hamstrung. We're not going to hear those jobs numbers. H.R. 1 would solve that, and we have to get started somewhere.

Mr. Speaker, I take no pride of authorship. I'm just a participant in H.R. 1 as it passed the House, as the House worked its will, as Democratic amendments passed and as Republican amendments passed. I wish we'd been governing the right way and that this had been done back on October 1. We passed that continuing resolution, and it's unclear to me why there was no open process there. We passed the second one in December and then the third one in December.

Again, the openness that this House has seen in this 112th Congress is absolutely unprecedented.

Now, I know my friend from Colorado is a strong supporter of CBO and of the work that CBO does. I couldn't agree with him more. Then when Mr. DICKS came before the committee last night with an amendment that would cut even more, as someone who believes we need to cut more, I was incredibly enthusiastic about that. My understanding was that CBO hadn't had a chance to score that amendment, that there was no scoring to be had, and so we couldn't tell whether or not this was going to cut or whether or not this was going to add or how the spend rates were going to sort themselves out, because it came at the very last minute.

Yet what didn't come at the last minute was the opportunity for the minority to offer a substitute. The Speaker reached out to the minority to say if you were interested in offering the same continuing resolution that you had offered before, which was going to freeze funding—and we've heard that a lot. Let's just freeze things. We don't want to cut anything, and we don't want to be draconian—the majority would have absolutely made that in order.

Again, the House could work its will, but my understanding is that that offer was turned down and that folks were not interested in offering that substitute. I would have been a proud "no" vote on that substitute, but I still believe, as the gentleman from Colorado said, openness in the process yields a better result.

This brings me full circle, Mr. Speaker, to H.R. 1, which is the single continuing resolution that has had more openness in the process than any other continuing resolution this House has ever considered. It led to the best process, and it led to the best outcome. This is the bill that sits in the United States Senate today, that could be acted on today, that would fund the government and provide the certainty that we need today through the end of the fiscal year, which is on September 30.

So when we're talking about certainty, and I absolutely believe that our economy needs certainty, it is the government that's creating the uncertainty. We are creating the uncertainty. We have historically created the uncertainty. We have an opportunity with H.R. 1 to eliminate that uncertainty for the rest of the fiscal year and to get back to doing what this House always should have been doing, which is considering appropriations bills under regular order.

Candidly, I hope my friends on the Democratic side of the aisle are throwing down that gauntlet today. I hope they're saying, You know, ROB, it's not easy to lead. It's not easy to move bills through regular order.

I want that opportunity to try. I want an opportunity to do it the right way. If we can move H.R. 1 through the Senate and onto the President's desk, we can then come together with the same kind of open process that we began 2 weeks ago to consider all of the appropriations bills and to make the priorities that this House chooses to make priorities, not the last Congress, not two Congresses ago, not President Obama in his first year, not President Bush in his last term—but this House today, together. What are our priorities?

As soon as we move this continuing resolution behind us, Mr. Speaker, we can begin to focus on those priorities, which is where the true work of the House is intended to be.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. I like the gentleman from Georgia. He's a nice guy. But I have to say that his story about what actually happened here is not exactly accurate.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is when the Democrats were in charge in the last Congress, we did have an omnibus appropriations bill, but it was the Senate Republicans who refused to provide the votes, because, as you know, you need a supermajority in the Senate.

Then he talked about how he was glad to be home last week. I was glad to be home last week too, and I got a lot of input, but we should have been working here and not moving up so perilously close to these deadlines where the government could actually

shut down. My fear is that we're just going to be kicking the can down the road every 2 weeks, every 2 weeks, facing another possible government shut-down. As the gentleman from Colorado said, that creates economic uncertainty and is not good for the economy.

□ 1300

Now, I just wanted to comment on the gentleman from Georgia. I was glad that I finally heard him use the word "jobs" and talk about jobs because that's the problem here. This H.R. 1 that he talks about we know is going to destroy jobs—various accounts, 700,000, 800,000 jobs that will be destroyed or will be eliminated, not just because the government isn't paying for the jobs, but because it doesn't invest in the future.

If you listened to what President Obama said in his State of the Union address, he said that the government has a role. The gentleman from Georgia says the government should get out of the way. Well, I don't agree with that. We need to make wise investments in our future, in our education programs—which this cuts—in our research and development for the future, in infrastructure so that we can have roads and highways and mass transit so that commerce can continue and we can grow the economy.

That is what's wrong with H.R. 1 and this larger bill that the Republicans have put forward. And, of course, the Senate can't take up the bill the way it is because they know it will destroy jobs and cripple the economy.

So what I ask of my Republican colleagues is go out there, sit down with the Senate Democrats, sit down with the House Democrats. Don't just say take it or leave this bill that we know has such draconian cuts and doesn't do anything to invest in America's future. We can't continue down this road. We've got to work together.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I associate myself with the gentleman from New Jersey's comments. We absolutely have to work together. It's a great source of pride for me that I've only been on the job 60 days and we've already seen more working together than this House has allowed in the past 4 years combined. Understand that. Understand that as we're working on this appropriations bill, as we're working through this appropriations process, that 2 weeks ago you saw more openness and working together in this Chamber—right here, right here in the people's House—more working together than you had seen in the previous 4 years combined.

Can we do more? I say to the gentleman from New Jersey, I think we can, and I look forward to being a partner and making that happen. But to say that what is sitting on the desk in the Senate is the product of take-it-or-leave-it legislating could not be further from the truth. It's the furthest from take-it-or-leave-it legislating that the

House has seen in 4 years. Arguably, it's the furthest thing from take-it-or-leave-it legislating that the House has seen on continuing appropriations bills in modern time.

So when we talk about where we are and where we're going, we have to ask that question of, why are we characterizing this as a process that's broken? Why are we characterizing H.R. 1 as something that doesn't work? Why isn't H.R. 1 the very best, the very best, given the makeup of this House, given our collective intellect and wisdom? Why isn't H.R. 1 the very best that we can do? Because when the process is open and everyone gets to participate, it ought to bring out our very best.

And I'll say to the gentleman from New Jersey, he has some of the lowest gas prices in the country. I enjoy traveling through his great State. Every time I go through, not only do I get full-service gasoline, I get it for the best prices in the country.

Gas prices are up 25 cents a gallon in Gwinnett County, where I come from; 25 cents a gallon in the past 10 days. We have economic crises in this country; we have economic challenges in this country; but spending more government resources is not the answer. We have about a \$15 trillion economy. Even with a \$3.5 trillion Federal budget, the Federal player is small, small—8.5 cents of every dollar in education in Georgia comes from the Federal Government. The rest comes from exactly where you expect it to come from, local communities and State governments. We have to get the government out of the way.

And if you're worried about uncertainty, as I am, if you share our concern about uncertainty, then let's pass H.R. 1. Let's be done. Let's be done with this 2 weeks, 4 weeks, 6 weeks, 12 weeks. Let's get us through the end of the year. Let's finish the job that we should have gotten done last year. Let's put it behind us, and let's start that new open process again. And it's one that I look forward to joining my colleagues in.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds to respond.

H.R. 1 cannot be looked at as a serious budget document. Now, it's not about the cuts—\$61 billion, \$70 billion, we can come to a number that we can agree. And by the way, you can't come to a serious number without making sure that defense is also on the table. But what we have with H.R. 1 is a bill that loads up every piece of the far-right social agenda in one bill, from restricting a woman's right to choose, to preventing government from protecting the air we breathe and the water we drink. So if we want to have a discussion about a serious budget document and serious cuts, that's one thing. If we want to have a far-right dream list, that's another.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr.

DICKS), the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, the CR disproportionately cuts education, especially literacy efforts. David Brooks, not known as a left-wing journalist, writes in the New York Times column today: "If you look across the country, you see education financing getting sliced often in the most thoughtless and destructive ways. In Washington, the Republicans who designed the cuts for this fiscal year seem to have done no serious policy evaluation."

Last night, I asked the Rules Committee to make in order an amendment restoring education cuts. The amendment cut \$1 billion from the Census in money that wasn't needed, applying most of that to offset education spending, and the remainder went to further reducing the deficit below the levels in the CR before us. The Rules Committee chose not to make that amendment in order, and therefore I oppose the rule.

But to talk to the gentleman, I spent 8 years on the staff of the other body, and this is my 35th year in the House of Representatives. Nobody ever gets everything they want: This is a process where the House passes a bill, it goes to the Senate, and then we have a conference committee or the Senate sends the bill back to us. Both sides meet and work out their differences. There is give and take, there is compromise, and that is the way this process works.

And I also want to say to the gentleman, and to your side, remember it was the Democratic Congress and the House Senate and Mr. Obama signing the \$41 billion cut from the Obama FY11 budget. It was the Democrats that did it. We had one Republican vote. And I just want to remind you, that was done in December in a lame duck session, which turned out to be a very effective lame duck session; and in that bill we made cuts across the board in all these areas.

So I want to make it clear we are also for deficit reduction, but what I am concerned about—and I know the gentleman is very sincere, I can tell that, I know you believe in every word that you are saying—but the biggest problem with that is what the effect will be on our economy. Mark Zandi of Moody's says, it will cost us 400,000 jobs in 2011, 700,000 jobs in 2012. Goldman Sachs, who I don't normally quote, they say that this could cut 1.5 to 2 percent of gross domestic product. That could mean the loss of 2.4 million jobs over the next 2 years. That's not what you want to do.

You're trying to reduce the deficit, and the way you reduce the deficit is put people back to work. You get them back to work, and they pay their taxes in and the deficit comes down, the unemployment rate comes down. If you do the wrong thing and make draconian cuts at the same time that the States are cutting \$125 billion from their budgets, the impact of those two things—\$61 billion and the \$125 billion—could have a very devastating effect on the economy and hurt a lot of

programs needlessly because it's going to be counterproductive. I just hope that you think about that.

There isn't any economic theory that I've ever heard of called "cut and grow."

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

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

Mr. DICKS. So, again, it was the Democratic Congress that cut the \$41 billion. And every reputable economist says what you did in H.R. 1 is going to have a negative effect on the economy. And so I hope you all think carefully about what you're about to do.

Again, it takes compromise. You've got to work with the other body to come up with a reasonable solution here, or we're going to have problems with a government shutdown. And you can say whatever you want, but we don't need the government shutting down when we're in two wars, a war in Afghanistan and a war in Iraq, and a global war on terror. We don't need to shut the government down.

□ 1310

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds only to say that's why we're here today, as the gentleman knows, so that there is no government shutdown. And I could not be more proud that we're here taking that responsibility exactly as seriously as it is.

It's very difficult to have a conversation about jobs when we have carbon regs coming down the pipe that will destroy jobs and we have financial regulations coming down the pipe that will destroy jobs and we have health care regs coming down the pipe that will destroy jobs over and over again. My folks are saying "enough."

With that, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the chairman of the Rules Committee, the gentleman that I give credit to for giving us the most open process on a continuing resolution that we've seen in modern times.

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WOODALL. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. That was a good process. I appreciate what you all did in having an open rule. I applaud Chairman ROGERS and Chairman DREIER. That is the right thing to do. It was appreciated on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. WOODALL. And we could not have done it without your support.

Mr. DICKS. I did my best to help.

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, let me just say, I was going to begin by saying that both my colleagues, Mr. ROGERS and Mr. DICKS, did an absolutely phenomenal job at taking on the responsibility that is thrust on them when we have an open amendment process.

The people who go through the greatest challenge are those who have to defend the bill and be here for hours and hours and hours. And as we all know, we had 162 amendments considered on the House floor during those days that led up to before adjournment week before last. And we worked into the morning on every occasion. That means after midnight. I mean, I guess we adjourned at 2 or 3 on some of those days. I was sound asleep then, I have to admit. But you guys were working very, very hard, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank them.

And I was pleased that those in the minority did recognize that doing what we did was unprecedented. Never before has a continuing resolution been considered under the process that we've had. At best, it's been a structured rule, which is what we had two decades ago, and both political parties had had usually a closed rule for the consideration of continuing resolutions up to that point. So I do believe that we have come together with, as Mr. WOODALL has said, a package that included amendments from both sides of the aisle as we proceed with this.

Now, I was tickled also to hear my friend talk about the fact that \$41 billion in cuts were made under Democratic leadership. The fact that both sides of the aisle are now talking about and bragging about ways to cut spending is, I think, a very encouraging sign, because that is the message. That's the message that Mr. WOODALL was just offering. The constant expansion of government is, in fact, counterproductive in our quest to create jobs and get the economy moving.

Now, we had this exchange last night in the Rules Committee—yesterday afternoon in the Rules Committee, Mr. Speaker, in which we were talking about Mark Zandi and the Goldman Sachs projections as far as bringing about spending reductions.

And I brought to the fore one of the most brilliant economists I know, John Taylor, who is at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University, former undersecretary of the Treasury for International Affairs, a very good personal friend of mine. His son used to work in our office. He's serving in the United States Marine Corps. And I've got to say, Mr. Speaker, that John Taylor, in responding to the Zandi quote, made it very clear that the notion of not bringing about spending reductions would in fact exacerbate the economic challenges that we have. And the bottom line is: The best way for us to get our economy growing is to ensure that people can keep more of their hard-earned money and to restrict the kind of control that the Federal Government has continued to thrust on individuals.

I'd be happy to yield to my friend if he would like to share one of those quotes.

Mr. DICKS. Let me just make a brief comment.

And I do applaud the gentleman from California as chairman of the Rules

Committee for giving, for working out that modified open rule.

Just let me, on the point about Mr. Taylor at Stanford, Stanford's a very good school. My son graduated from it, and I'm quite proud of that.

A letter signed by 300 of America's leading economists makes the argument that cutting investments this quickly will undermine growth. Among the original signers from Stanford alone: Kenneth Arrow, Martin Carnoy, Paul David, Mordecai Kurz, Roger Noll, and Gavin Wright.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, if I could reclaim my time, I would say to my friend I think what we've just shown is that the proverbial economists say on one hand, on the other hand.

The fact is not every economist agrees on this notion, but a statement has been made. And, in fact, my friend made it upstairs, and that is, he said when he was quoting Mark Zandi, that everyone, basically every economist—and that is what I inferred from the statement—came to this conclusion. And my point in actually referencing Professor Taylor is that there is disagreement on it.

I happen to come down on the side, personally, of Mr. Taylor. I think it's important for us, just because we want to all encourage individual initiative and responsibility, to do everything that we can to reduce the size and scope and reach of government—and that's what the goal of H.R. 1 is—so that we can get the economy growing. And I believe that more incentives by reducing that tax and regulatory burden will create jobs, because we do share that goal. I mean, I'm convinced that everyone wants to do that.

But this notion, I mean I've heard commentators saying that somehow that Republicans in saying that we might see a reduction in the number of Federal Government jobs, that we're not for job creation. We want people to have good, long-term jobs in the private sector, and that's our goal here.

This rule is a standard rule. I should say at the outset that we wanted to have this not a closed rule but a modified closed rule. And I know my friend was concerned that his amendment that he testified on behalf of in the Rules Committee wasn't made in order. But I will tell you that we did, from the very beginning, say to the minority leader, Ms. PELOSI, that she, when having introduced on February 18 her substitute proposal that basically kept spending at 2010 levels, that we would have made that in order and it would have made it a modified closed rule that we had offered, so we did do that.

We are where we are. Ensuring that we don't go through a government shutdown is something that Chairman ROGERS and I know Mr. DICKS and all of us in leadership positions, rank-and-file Members alike, want to avoid, and that's why we've got this 2-week package that's before us. I hope the Senate will act so that we can do that, and then do what we all want to make sure

happens, and that is have a negotiated agreement that will get to where we need to be.

So I thank my friend for his management of this rule just as he managed the last open rule.

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DREIER. And before I yield back, I guess I should yield to the ranking member.

Mr. DICKS. I just want to say one brief word.

I applaud these modified open rules. And on the regular bills on appropriations, we hope—Mr. ROGERS and I have been in contact, we're going to get these bills done in a timely way. And we want open rules, and we want to be able to have these unanimous consent agreements after the bills have been on the floor for a while in order to narrow the amendments and then to get these things done in a timely fashion. And I think that it's going to take the cooperation of all of the Members to be able to do that.

Mr. DREIER. If I could reclaim my time, I will say the gentleman is absolutely right, Mr. Speaker. We want to have something that we haven't had in the last couple of years, and that is an open amendment process when it comes to the regular appropriations bills. And Mr. ROGERS and I have been discussing that at length and will continue to.

And I believe that the best way to deal with this is for not leadership but for the floor managers to come together and work out an agreement on that.

Mr. POLIS. I yield myself 30 seconds to respond.

I join the gentleman from Washington in praising the gentleman from California, the chair of the Rules Committee, with regard to the modified open process that this body was able to undertake.

But again, with regard to this particular bill before us, what the gentleman from California said is that the Democrats would be allowed to offer an amendment that would spend more but not allowed to offer a substitute amendment that would spend less. The Democrats, in fact, don't have a desire to offer forward a substitute amendment that spends more. We do have a desire to offer a substitute amendment that Mr. DICKS came forward that does spend less. The rule doesn't allow for that.

With that, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

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

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker and ladies and gentlemen of the House, let's take the next 2 weeks to try to work together to do the right thing for the American people.

□ 1320

I believe that the right thing for the American people is to come up with a

budget plan that sensibly reduces spending but does not put American jobs at risk. What do I mean by this? What do we mean by this? Let me give you an example.

I think that a policy that says that oil companies, which made \$77 billion in profit last year alone, can drill on federally owned property that's offshore and not pay anything in royalties to the American taxpayer is wasteful, and we should stop it. I think provisions that say that there are tax loopholes for companies that outsource jobs out of our country are wasteful, and we should stop them. Let's get rid of those things from our budget.

But let's not follow the reckless plan of the majority that says in education, let's cut funding for 10,000 reading tutors and math coaches. In education, let's cut funding for 7,000 teachers of autistic children, children with a learning disability. In border security, let's cut funding that's used to pay the people who board ships and inspect containers that come into this country to make sure they don't have dirty bombs in them. In public safety, let's not cut funding that will lay off police officers and firefighters in towns around our country. In health care, let's not cancel hundreds, if not thousands of research grants, where our best researchers are working on cures for cancer, or dementia, or diabetes. These are reckless cuts.

The problem with the Republican plan is not just that it disrupts the United States Government; the problem with the Republican plan is it disrupts the United States economy. And this is why the leading economist for JOHN MCCAIN's Presidential campaign of 2 years ago says this plan the Republicans are offering will cost 700,000 jobs. That's why the largest investment bank in the country, in a nonpolitical way, says that this Republican plan will cut in half the economic growth the country is counting on for this year.

Let's not disrupt jobs in this country. Let's cut wasteful spending. Let's go after corporate welfare, not special education. Let's go after oil company giveaways, not Head Start. Let's get back to the business of debating job creation in the private sector in our country, not defunding Planned Parenthood.

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

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

Mr. ANDREWS. There are 15 million unemployed Americans as we meet here this afternoon. Let us resolve in the next 2 weeks to put their interests first, to sensibly reduce spending where we can, to invest in education and health care where we must, and get on with the people's business.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds just to invite my friend from New Jersey to join me on H.R. 25, the Fair Tax Act. Not only will it create jobs in this country, it's the

only bill in Congress that will eliminate every single corporate piece of welfare, loophole, tax exception, credit, so on and so on, because none of them need a nickel of it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. I yield 20 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

Mr. ANDREWS. I would ask the gentleman what the sales tax rate would be on his fair tax proposal on American families for buying something?

Mr. WOODALL. Given that it eliminates the payroll tax, which is the largest tax 80 percent of American families pay—

Mr. ANDREWS. What is the sales tax rate?

Mr. WOODALL. Twenty-three percent.

Mr. ANDREWS. Twenty-three percent on every purchase.

Mr. WOODALL. Less than what you're paying now.

Mr. POLIS. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON).

(Ms. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the rule on this continuing resolution that the Republicans have brought forward. Why? Number one, it's for 14 days. Can you imagine one of the most powerful economies in this country and we are talking about doing kind of in a pause mode for 14 days? That's not very responsible.

But let's get to the specifics of why I am opposed to this. This CR would slash \$340 million for construction jobs for projects of the Army Corps. Now, I just heard the previous speaker talk about private jobs. Are we prepared to say that this government, we don't think there should be any Federal Government jobs? So are you to tell me that in my district, where I have two ports, the largest ports in the Nation, that we don't need to do dredging, that we can just have ships run afoul? I mean, how are we going to continue our economy?

I support cuts. If you check my record, you will see that I have supported many of the initiatives that have been brought forward. But they need to be thoughtful, and they need to make sense. A few others that concern me greatly: A slash of \$20 million to the Department of Homeland Security. What are we thinking here? Haven't we learned anything from Hurricane Katrina or 9/11? That we would suggest a cut, \$103 million of FEMA State and local programs that would provide grants to avoid disasters and how we prepare for them. Cut \$129 million from higher education.

I would ask, what is this 14 days about? We have talked about that we are prepared, everyone's going to come here and make these cuts. Well, let's have a real civil discussion, and let's build upon last week, but let's not do it

on the backs of the American people. There is waste that can be addressed. And I look forward to supporting those initiatives. But this 14-day pause button is the wrong way, and I am opposed to it.

Mr. WOODALL. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this rule and to this bill. This CR is further proof that the majority does not care about the unemployment crisis. This really is a question of our morality as a Nation.

Are we going to eat a loaf of bread that is spotted with the mold of conservatism and so-called fiscal responsibility, or are we going to bring to our children a loaf of bread that is healthy, whole wheat, and good for America? This bill represents a loaf of bread. And I might point out the Speaker yesterday or a few days ago said something about, well, if they don't want to eat the whole loaf of bread at one time, then I am going to make them eat it one slice at a time. Well, every slice is speckled with mold of this old-fashioned, old way of thinking that got us into this problem that we are in now.

What we have done is given the keys to the car that they drove into the ditch back to them, and now we are forced to eat bread in that car, moldy bread in that car that is going nowhere but down.

Mark Zandi said 700,000 jobs would be lost if we do it the way that these Republicans who cannot drive, if we allow them to do that. And I am simply looking ahead for my children and for my grandchildren and my great-grandchildren. I cannot in good faith go along with this.

Mr. WOODALL. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. I would like to inquire if the other side has any remaining speakers.

Mr. WOODALL. I am the final speaker.

Mr. POLIS. I yield myself as much time as remains.

Mr. Speaker, we all share the goal of reducing the deficit. But if we are serious about deficit reduction, we need to look at defense as one of the line items. I am a member of the Spending Cuts and Deficit Reduction Working Group, and I have worked with my colleagues to identify more than \$70 billion in savings that could be used for deficit reduction.

If Republicans truly claim to be committed to deficit reduction, then why, as they cut millions from programs like Even Start and LEAP, do they spare defense spending? The short term CR carries forward the 2010 defense budget, but the policies, priorities, and levels proposed for 2010 no longer apply. Our current military expenditures support bloated troop levels and bases across Europe that quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, are relics of a bygone era.

Rather than fighting the demons of the past, we need to focus on the very real threats of the present and future.

□ 1330

Who are we fighting? The Nazis, the Soviets, the French? It's time for us to rethink our defense spending. It's clear that the current strategy is one that we cannot afford.

The expenditures in Afghanistan are \$100 billion. It's been estimated that there is only, at most, 100 al Qaeda operatives in Afghanistan. That's a spending level of \$1 billion per al Qaeda operative in Afghanistan. Most of al Qaeda's operations have moved across the border to Pakistan, and they have also gained a foothold in Yemen. Meanwhile, we are bogged down in a costly war with no clear end game.

Let's get serious about balancing the budget. Let's find savings in every agency, including the Department of Defense. Until we get serious about controlling defense spending, the largest component of the discretionary budget, we will never achieve our goals of reducing the deficit.

This CR claims to only cut earmarks, but in reality we are playing a shell game. This continuing resolution states that earmarks have no legal effect, which means that agencies have not been funding these programs. It means the Department of Homeland Security, for example, will have \$264 million less to prepare and respond to threats and disasters and protect our ports.

Two weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, Members from both sides of the aisle proposed amendments to enact even more cuts. My friend from New York (Mr. NADLER) proposed cutting funding to Afghanistan so that we could have a responsible withdrawal, saving \$90 billion. My friend from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) proposed a very reasonable cut to the Department of Defense's operation and maintenance budget so that we could get rid of funding for unneeded boards and commissions.

I have also heard from many of my Republican friends that we want to go back to 2008 levels. Well, my colleagues from California, Mr. STARK and Ms. LEE, proposed to do just that with the defense budget. Let's get real on deficit reduction and lead the way with real cuts that actually balance the budget.

The President is proposing real change for public education through funding for the Investing in Innovation and Early Learning Challenge funds. We see none of these solutions in the proposed CR. As we look to agree on a budget for the rest of the fiscal year, it's critical that we have meaningful resources for our public schools, particularly at a time when they are under increasing budget pressure from districts and State cutbacks. Education of our children in their youngest years is a research-proven return on investment.

We have no second or third chance with kids. They are only young once.

By ending literacy support for our children and restricting proven school improvements in repeated short-term CRs, we run the risk of opening the door to a spending agenda that eliminates jobs.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that we give the markets and businesses the predictability that they need with regard to the ongoing operations of government. A 2-week continuing resolution simply fails to do that. We will be back before this body, again, to do it again regardless of the outcome today. But I hope, Mr. Speaker, that we can work across the aisle to put together a real long-term solution to keep the Federal Government open.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia has 3¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, we are here today for one reason and one reason only, and that's to provide ample time for the Senate to consider H.R. 1, to keep the doors of the Federal Government open, to keep important services being dispensed, to keep the government of America on track for 2 more weeks while the Senate takes time.

I will associate myself with the gentleman from Colorado when he says we can't always get what we want. I sadly haven't gotten what I wanted so far, and I am prepared to get even less of what I want going forward. But I don't mind telling you I don't know how we are going to get to what any of us want if folks don't even start considering the bill.

This was our very best shot. It was our very best work product. Whether you love it or whether you hate it, it was the most openly produced work product in continuing resolution history. And there it sits, and there it sits, almost 10 days now with no advancement whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker, I hope these 2 weeks are enough. I recognize the caution that my friend from Colorado suggests that we may be back here one more time doing this again. I hope this is the last time that we will be here.

But I know this: I know we can't continue to mortgage our children's future while we wait. I know we can't fiddle while Rome burns. So we have passed, we have presented this continuing resolution with cuts there to prevent our children's future from continuing to be mortgaged.

As I spoke with school groups across the district last week—and I share my friend from Colorado's passion for education—I asked them to turn on C-SPAN this week, because I said it doesn't matter who stands up, whether they stand up on the left or the right, or whether they speak from the well or from the leadership table, they will tell you that the reason they are there

today is for you, is for you, the children. It's for your future that they are there on the floor of that House.

I believe that. I believe that in everyone's heart they are here to make sure that tomorrow's generation does better than today's generation. I would just say, Mr. Speaker, that if there are schoolchildren out there watching today, perhaps they will pick up the phone and they will give us a call and let us know exactly which one of us is on the right track, because I know it's all about them that we do what we do.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 241, nays 179, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 151]

YEAS—241

Adams	Davis (KY)	Herrera Beutler
Aderholt	Denham	Huizenga (MI)
Akin	Dent	Hultgren
Alexander	DesJarlais	Hunter
Altmire	Doid	Hurt
Amash	Dreier	Issa
Austria	Duffy	Jenkins
Bachmann	Duncan (SC)	Johnson (IL)
Bachus	Duncan (TN)	Johnson (OH)
Barletta	Ellmers	Johnson, Sam
Bartlett	Emerson	Jones
Barton (TX)	Farenthold	Jordan
Bass (NH)	Fincher	Kelly
Benishke	Fitzpatrick	King (IA)
Berg	Flake	King (NY)
Biggert	Fleischmann	Kingston
Bilbray	Fleming	Kinzinger (IL)
Bilirakis	Flores	Kissell
Bishop (UT)	Forbes	Kline
Black	Fortenberry	Labrador
Blackburn	Fox	Lamborn
Bono Mack	Franks (AZ)	Lance
Boren	Frelinghuysen	Landry
Boustany	Gallegly	Lankford
Brady (TX)	Gardner	Latham
Brooks	Garrett	LaTourette
Broun (GA)	Gerlach	Latta
Buchanan	Gibbs	Lewis (CA)
Buehson	Gibson	LoBiondo
Buerkle	Gingrey (GA)	Long
Burgess	Gohmert	Lucas
Burton (IN)	Goodlatte	Luetkemeyer
Calvert	Gosar	Lummis
Camp	Gowdy	Lungren, Daniel
Campbell	Granger	E.
Canseco	Graves (GA)	Mack
Cantor	Graves (MO)	Manzullo
Capito	Griffin (AR)	Marino
Cardoza	Griffith (VA)	McCarthy (CA)
Carter	Grimm	McCaul
Cassidy	Guinta	McClintock
Chabot	Guthrie	McCotter
Chaffetz	Hall	McHenry
Coble	Harper	McKeon
Coffman (CO)	Harris	McKinley
Cole	Hartzler	McMorris
Conaway	Hastings (WA)	Rodgers
Costa	Hayworth	Meehan
Cravaack	Heck	Mica
Crawford	Heller	Miller (FL)
Crenshaw	Hensarling	Miller (MI)
Culberson	Herger	Miller, Gary

Mulvaney	Rivera
Murphy (PA)	Roby
Myrick	Roe (TN)
Neugebauer	Rogers (AL)
Noem	Rogers (KY)
Nugent	Rogers (MI)
Nunes	Rohrabacher
Nunnelee	Rokita
Olson	Rooney
Palazzo	Ros-Lehtinen
Paul	Roskam
Paulsen	Ross (FL)
Pearce	Royce
Pence	Runyan
Peterson	Ryan (WI)
Petri	Scalise
Pitts	Schilling
Platts	Schmidt
Poe (TX)	Schock
Pompeo	Schweikert
Posey	Scott (SC)
Price (GA)	Scott, Austin
Quayle	Sensenbrenner
Reed	Sessions
Rehberg	Shimkus
Reichert	Shuler
Renacci	Shuster
Ribble	Simpson
Rigell	Smith (NE)

NAYS—179

Ackerman	Green, Gene
Andrews	Grijalva
Baca	Gutierrez
Baldwin	Hanabusa
Barrow	Hastings (FL)
Bass (CA)	Heinrich
Becerra	Higgins
Berkley	Himes
Berman	Hinchev
Bishop (GA)	Hirono
Bishop (NY)	Holden
Blumenauer	Holt
Boswell	Honda
Brady (PA)	Hoyer
Bralley (IA)	Inslee
Brown (FL)	Israel
Butterfield	Jackson (IL)
Capps	Jackson Lee
Capuano	(TX)
Carnahan	Johnson (GA)
Carney	Johnson, E. B.
Carson (IN)	Kaptur
Chandler	Keating
Chu	Kildee
Cicilline	Kind
Clarke (MI)	Kucinich
Clarke (NY)	Langevin
Clay	Larsen (WA)
Cleaver	Larson (CT)
Clyburn	Lee (CA)
Cohen	Levin
Connolly (VA)	Lipinski
Conyers	Loeback
Cooper	Lofgren, Zoe
Costello	Lowe
Courtney	Lujan
Critz	Lynch
Crowley	Maloney
Cuellar	Markey
Cummings	Mateson
Davis (CA)	Matsui
Davis (IL)	McCarthy (NY)
DeFazio	McCollum
DeLauro	McDermott
Deutch	McGovern
Dicks	McIntyre
Dingell	McNerney
Doggett	Meeks
Donnelly (IN)	Michaud
Doyle	Miller (NC)
Edwards	Miller, George
Ellison	Moore
Engel	Moran
Eshoo	Murphy (CT)
Farr	Nadler
Filner	Napolitano
Frank (MA)	Neal
Fudge	Olver
Garamendi	Owens
Gonzalez	Pallone
Green, Al	Pascrell

NOT VOTING—12

Bonner	Fattah
Castor (FL)	Giffords
DeGette	Hanna
Diaz-Balart	Hinojosa

Smith (NJ)	Smith (TX)
Southerland	Stearns
Stivers	Stutzman
Sullivan	Terry
Thompson (PA)	Thornberry
Tiberi	Tipton
Turner	Upton
Walberg	Walden
Walsh (IL)	Walsh (IL)
Webster	West
Westmoreland	Whitfield
Wilson (SC)	Wittman
Wolf	Womack
Woodall	Yoder
Young (AK)	Young (AK)
Young (IN)	Young (IN)

□ 1359

Messrs. BRADY of Pennsylvania, THOMPSON of Mississippi, RAHALL, DAVIS of Illinois, and PASCRELL changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 251, nays 170, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 152]

YEAS—251

Adams	Farenthold	Landry
Aderholt	Fincher	Lankford
Akin	Fitzpatrick	Latham
Alexander	Flake	LaTourette
Altmire	Fleischmann	Latta
Amash	Fleming	Lewis (CA)
Austria	Flores	LoBiondo
Bachmann	Forbes	Long
Bachus	Fortenberry	Lucas
Barletta	Fox	Luetkemeyer
Bartlett	Franks (AZ)	Lummis
Barton (TX)	Frelinghuysen	Lungren, Daniel
Bass (NH)	Gallegly	E.
Benishke	Gardner	Mack
Berg	Garrett	Manzullo
Biggert	Gerlach	Marino
Bilbray	Gibbs	Matheson
Bilirakis	Gibson	McCarthy (CA)
Bishop (UT)	Gingrey (GA)	McCaul
Black	Gohmert	McClintock
Blackburn	Goodlatte	McCotter
Bono Mack	Gosar	McHenry
Boren	Gowdy	McKeon
Boustany	Granger	McKinley
Brady (TX)	Graves (GA)	McMorris
Brooks	Graves (MO)	Rodgers
Broun (GA)	Griffin (AR)	McNerney
Buchanan	Griffith (VA)	Meehan
Buehson	Grimm	Mica
Buerkle	Guinta	Michaud
Burgess	Guthrie	Miller (FL)
Burton (IN)	Hall	Miller (MI)
Calvert	Harper	Miller, Gary
Camp	Harris	Mulvaney
Campbell	Hartzler	Murphy (CT)
Canseco	Hastings (WA)	Murphy (PA)
Cantor	Hayworth	Myrick
Capito	Heck	Neugebauer
Cardoza	Heller	Noem
Carter	Hensarling	Nugent
Cassidy	Herger	Nunes
Chabot	Herrera Beutler	Nunnelee
Chaffetz	Himes	Olson
Coble	Huelskamp	Palazzo
Coffman (CO)	Huizenga (MI)	Paul
Cole	Hultgren	Paulsen
Conaway	Hunter	Pearce
Cooper	Hurt	Pence
Costa	Issa	Peters
Cravaack	Jenkins	Peterson
Crawford	Johnson (IL)	Petri
Crenshaw	Johnson (OH)	Pitts
Culberson	Johnson, Sam	Platts
Davis (KY)	Jones	Poe (TX)
Denham	Jordan	Pompeo
Dent	Kelly	Posey
DesJarlais	King (IA)	Price (GA)
Diaz-Balart	King (NY)	Quayle
Dold	Kingston	Reed
Dreier	Kinzinger (IL)	Rehberg
Duffy	Kissell	Reichert
Duncan (SC)	Kline	Renacci
Duncan (TN)	Labrador	Ribble
Ellmers	Lamborn	Rigell
Emerson	Lance	Rivera

Roby	Scott (SC)	Tipton
Roe (TN)	Scott, Austin	Turner
Rogers (AL)	Sensenbrenner	Upton
Rogers (KY)	Sessions	Walberg
Rogers (MI)	Shimkus	Walden
Rohrabacher	Shuler	Walsh (IL)
Rokita	Shuster	Webster
Rooney	Simpson	West
Ros-Lehtinen	Smith (NE)	Westmoreland
Roskam	Smith (NJ)	Whitfield
Ross (AR)	Smith (TX)	Wilson (SC)
Ross (FL)	Southerland	Wittman
Royce	Stearns	Wolf
Runyan	Stivers	Womack
Ryan (WI)	Stutzman	Woodall
Scalise	Sullivan	Yoder
Schilling	Terry	Young (AK)
Schmidt	Thompson (PA)	Young (IN)
Schock	Thornberry	
Schweikert	Tiberi	

NAYS—170

Ackerman	Green, Al	Payne
Andrews	Green, Gene	Pelosi
Baca	Grijalva	Perlmutter
Baldwin	Gutierrez	Pingree (ME)
Barrow	Hanabusa	Polis
Bass (CA)	Hastings (FL)	Price (NC)
Becerra	Heinrich	Quigley
Berkley	Higgins	Rahall
Berman	Hinchee	Rangel
Bishop (GA)	Hirono	Reyes
Bishop (NY)	Holden	Richardson
Blumenauer	Holt	Richmond
Boswell	Honda	Rothman (NJ)
Brady (PA)	Hoyer	Royal-Allard
Braley (IA)	Insee	Ruppersberger
Brown (FL)	Israel	Rush
Butterfield	Jackson (IL)	Ryan (OH)
Capps	Jackson Lee	Sánchez, Linda
Capuano	(TX)	T.
Carnahan	Johnson (GA)	Sanchez, Loretta
Carney	Johnson, E. B.	Sarbanes
Carson (IN)	Kaptur	Schakowsky
Chandler	Keating	Schiff
Chu	Kildee	Schrader
Cicilline	Kind	Schwartz
Clarke (MI)	Kucinich	Scott (VA)
Clarke (NY)	Langevin	Scott, David
Clay	Larsen (WA)	Serrano
Cleaver	Larson (CT)	Sewell
Clyburn	Lee (CA)	Sherman
Cohen	Levin	Sires
Conyers	Lipinski	Slaughter
Costello	Loeback	Smith (WA)
Courtney	Lofgren, Zoe	Speier
Critz	Lowey	Stark
Crowley	Luján	Sutton
Cuellar	Lynch	Thompson (CA)
Cummings	Maloney	Thompson (MS)
Davis (CA)	Markey	Tierney
Davis (IL)	Matsui	Tonko
DeFazio	McCarthy (NY)	Towns
DeLauro	McCollum	Tsongas
Deutch	McDermott	Van Hollen
Dicks	McGovern	Velázquez
Dingell	McIntyre	Vislosky
Doggett	Meeks	Walz (MN)
Donnelly (IN)	Miller (NC)	Wasserman
Doyle	Miller, George	Schultz
Edwards	Moore	Waters
Ellison	Moran	Watt
Engel	Nadler	Waxman
Eshoo	Napolitano	Weiner
Farr	Neal	Welch
Filner	Olver	Wilson (FL)
Frank (MA)	Owens	Woolsey
Fudge	Pallone	Wu
Garamendi	Pascarell	Yarmuth
Gonzalez	Pastor (AZ)	

NOT VOTING—11

Bonner	Fattah	Lewis (GA)
Castor (FL)	Giffords	Marchant
Connolly (VA)	Hanna	Young (FL)
DeGette	Hinojosa	

□ 1405

Ms. WATERS changed her vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the rule, I call up

the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 44) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2011, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 44

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (Public Law 111-242) is further amended—

(1) by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting “March 18, 2011”; and

(2) by adding after section 166, as added by the Continuing Appropriations Amendments, 2011 (section 1 of Public Law 111-322), the following new sections:

“SEC. 167. The amounts described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 114 of this Act are designated as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism pursuant to section 3(c)(2) of H. Res. 5 (112th Congress) and as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

“SEC. 168. Any language specifying an earmark in an appropriations Act for fiscal year 2010, or in a committee report or joint explanatory statement accompanying such an Act, shall have no legal effect with respect to funds appropriated by this Act. For purposes of this section, the term ‘earmark’ means a congressional earmark or congressionally directed spending item, as defined in clause 9(e) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and paragraph 5(a) of rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

“SEC. 169. The first and third paragraphs under the heading ‘Rural Development Programs—Rural Utilities Service—Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program’ in Public Law 111-80 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

“SEC. 170. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Corps of Engineers-Civil—Investigations’ at a rate for operations of \$104,000,000.

“SEC. 171. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Corps of Engineers-Civil—Construction’ at a rate for operations of \$1,690,000,000: *Provided*, That all of the provisos under such heading in Public Law 111-85 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

“SEC. 172. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Corps of Engineers-Civil—Mississippi River and Tributaries’ at a rate for operations of \$260,000,000: *Provided*, That the proviso under such heading in Public Law 111-85 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

“SEC. 173. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Corps of Engineers-Civil—Operation and Maintenance’ at a rate for operations of \$2,361,000,000.

“SEC. 174. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Department of the Interior—Bureau of Reclamation—Water and Related Resources’ at a rate for operations of \$913,580,000: *Provided*, That the fifth proviso (regarding the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund) and seventh proviso (regarding the Milk River Project) under such heading in Public Law 111-85 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

“SEC. 175. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy’ at a rate for operations of \$1,950,370,000: *Provided*, That all of

the provisos under such heading in Public Law 111-85 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

“SEC. 176. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability’ at a rate for operations of \$158,910,000: *Provided*, That all of the provisos under such heading in Public Law 111-85 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

“SEC. 177. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy’ at a rate for operations of \$784,140,000: *Provided*, That the proviso under such heading in Public Law 111-85 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

“SEC. 178. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Fossil Energy Research and Development’ at a rate for operations of \$635,530,000: *Provided*, That the second proviso under such heading in Public Law 111-85 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

“SEC. 179. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Science’ at a rate for operations of \$4,826,820,000: *Provided*, That all of the provisos under such heading in Public Law 111-85 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

“SEC. 180. The last proviso under the heading ‘Department of Energy—Atomic Energy Defense Activities—National Nuclear Security Administration—Weapons Activities’ in Public Law 111-85 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

“SEC. 181. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Department of Energy—Atomic Energy Defense Activities—National Nuclear Security Administration—Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation’ at a rate for operations of \$2,136,460,000: *Provided*, That the proviso under such heading in Public Law 111-85 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

“SEC. 182. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Department of Energy—Atomic Energy Defense Activities—National Nuclear Security Administration—Office of the Administrator’ at a rate for operations of \$407,750,000: *Provided*, That the last proviso under such heading in Public Law 111-85 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

“SEC. 183. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Department of Energy—Environmental and Other Defense Activities—Defense Environmental Cleanup’ at a rate for operations of \$5,209,031,000, of which \$33,700,000 shall be transferred to the ‘Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund’: *Provided*, That the proviso under such heading in Public Law 111-85 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

“SEC. 184. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Department of Energy—Environmental and Other Defense Activities—Other Defense Activities’ at a rate for operations of \$844,470,000: *Provided*, That the proviso under such heading in Public Law 111-85 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

“SEC. 185. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Independent Agencies—Election Assistance Commission—Election Reform Programs’ at a rate for operations of \$0.

“SEC. 186. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Department of Homeland Security—Office of the Under Secretary for Management’ at a rate for operations of \$253,190,000.

“SEC. 187. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Department of

Homeland Security—U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Salaries and Expenses' at a rate for operations of \$8,063,913,000.

"SEC. 188. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Homeland Security—U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Construction and Facilities Management' at a rate for operations of \$276,370,000.

"SEC. 189. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Homeland Security—Transportation Security Administration—Aviation Security' at a rate for operations of \$5,212,790,000: *Provided*, That the amounts included under such heading in Public Law 111-83 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this Act as follows: by substituting '\$5,212,790,000' for '\$5,214,040,000'; by substituting '\$4,356,826,000' for '\$4,358,076,000'; by substituting '\$1,115,156,000' for '\$1,116,406,000'; by substituting '\$777,050,000' for '\$778,300,000'; and by substituting '\$3,112,790,000' for '\$3,114,040,000'.

"SEC. 190. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Homeland Security—Coast Guard—Operating Expenses' at a rate for operations of \$6,801,791,000: *Provided*, That section 157 of this Act shall be applied by substituting '\$17,880,000' for '\$21,880,000', and without regard to 'and "Coast Guard, Alteration of Bridges"'.
 "SEC. 191. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Homeland Security—Coast Guard—Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements' at a rate for operations of \$1,519,980,000.

"SEC. 192. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Homeland Security—Coast Guard—Alteration of Bridges' at a rate for operations of \$0.

"SEC. 193. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Homeland Security—National Protection and Programs Directorate—Infrastructure Protection and Information Security' at a rate for operations of \$879,816,000.

"SEC. 194. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Homeland Security—Office of Health Affairs' at a rate for operations of \$134,250,000.

"SEC. 195. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Homeland Security—Federal Emergency Management Agency—State and Local Programs' at a rate for operations of \$2,912,558,000: *Provided*, That the amounts included under such heading in Public Law 111-83 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this Act as follows: in paragraph (12), by substituting '\$12,554,000' for '\$60,000,000' and by substituting '\$0' for each subsequent amount in such paragraph; in paragraph (13), by substituting '\$212,500,000' for '\$267,200,000'; in paragraph (13)(A), by substituting '\$114,000,000' for '\$164,500,000'; in paragraph (13)(B), by substituting '\$0' for '\$1,700,000'; and in paragraph (13)(C), by substituting '\$0' for '\$3,000,000': *Provided further*, That 4.5 percent of the amount provided for 'Federal Emergency Management Agency—State and Local Programs' by this Act shall be transferred to 'Federal Emergency Management Agency—Management and Administration' for program administration.

"SEC. 196. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Homeland Security—Federal Emergency Management Agency—National Predisaster Mitigation Fund' at a rate for operations of \$75,364,000.

"SEC. 197. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Homeland Security—Science and Technology—Research, Development, Acquisition, and Operations' at a rate for operations of \$821,906,000.

"SEC. 198. Sections 541 and 545 of Public Law 111-83 (123 Stat. 2176) shall have no force or effect.

"SEC. 199. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Smithsonian Institution—Legacy Fund' at a rate for operations of \$0.

"SEC. 200. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Labor—Employment and Training Administration—Training and Employment Services' at a rate for operations of \$3,779,641,000, of which \$340,154,000 shall be for national activities described in paragraph (3) under such heading in division D of Public Law 111-117: *Provided*, That the amounts included for national activities under such heading in division D of Public Law 111-117 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this Act as follows: by substituting '\$44,561,000' for '\$93,450,000' and by substituting '\$0' for '\$48,889,000'.

"SEC. 201. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Labor—Mine Safety and Health Administration—Salaries and Expenses' at a rate for operations of \$355,843,000: *Provided*, That the amounts included under such heading in division D of Public Law 111-117 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this Act by substituting '\$0' for '\$1,450,000'.

"SEC. 202. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Labor—Departmental Management' at a rate for operations of \$314,827,000: *Provided*, That the amounts included under such heading in division D of Public Law 111-117 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this Act by substituting '\$0' for '\$40,000,000'.

"SEC. 203. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Health and Human Services—Health Resources and Services Administration—Health Resources and Services' at a rate for operations of \$7,076,520,000: *Provided*, That the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twenty-second provisos under such heading in division D of Public Law 111-117 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

"SEC. 204. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Health and Human Services—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Disease Control, Research, and Training' at a rate for operations of \$6,369,767,000: *Provided*, That the amount included before the first proviso under such heading in division D of Public Law 111-117 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this Act by substituting '\$0' for '\$20,620,000'.

"SEC. 205. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Health and Human Services—Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration—Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services' at a rate for operations of \$3,417,106,000: *Provided*, That the amount included before the first proviso under such heading in division D of Public Law 111-117 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this Act by substituting '\$0' for '\$14,518,000'.

"SEC. 206. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are transferred from the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund for 'Department of Health and Human Services—Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—Program Management' at a rate for operations of \$3,467,142,000: *Provided*, That the sixth proviso under such heading in division D of Public Law 111-117 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

"SEC. 207. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Payments to States for the Child Care and Development Block Grant' at a rate for operations of \$2,126,081,000: *Provided*, That the amount in-

cluded in the first proviso under such heading in division D of Public Law 111-117 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this Act by substituting '\$0' for '\$1,000,000'.

"SEC. 208. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Children and Families Services Programs' at a rate for operations of \$9,293,747,000: *Provided*, That the fifteenth proviso under such heading in division D of Public Law 111-117 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

"SEC. 209. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Health and Human Services—Administration on Aging, Aging Services Programs' at a rate for operations of \$1,510,323,000: *Provided*, That the first proviso under such heading in division D of Public Law 111-117 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

"SEC. 210. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Health and Human Services—Office of the Secretary—General Departmental Management' at a rate for operations of \$491,727,000: *Provided*, That the seventh proviso under such heading in division D of Public Law 111-117 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

"SEC. 211. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Education—Education for the Disadvantaged' at a rate for operations of \$15,598,212,000, of which \$4,638,056,000 shall become available on July 1, 2011, and remain available through September 30, 2012: *Provided*, That the tenth, eleventh and twelfth provisos under such heading in division D of Public Law 111-117 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

"SEC. 212. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Education—School Improvement Programs' at a rate for operations of \$5,223,444,000, of which \$3,358,993,000 shall become available on July 1, 2011, and remain available through September 30, 2012: *Provided*, That of such amounts, no funds shall be available for activities authorized under part Z of title VIII of the Higher Education Act of 1965: *Provided further*, That the second, third, and thirteenth provisos under such heading in division D of Public Law 111-117 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

"SEC. 213. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Education—Innovation and Improvement' at a rate for operations of \$1,160,480,000, of which no funds shall be available for activities authorized under subpart 5 of part A of title II, section 1504 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 ('ESEA'), or part F of title VIII of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and \$499,222,000 shall be for part D of title V of the ESEA: *Provided*, That the first, fourth, and fifth provisos under such heading in division D of Public Law 111-117 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

"SEC. 214. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Education—Safe Schools and Citizenship Education' at a rate for operations of \$361,398,000, of which, notwithstanding section 2343(b) of the ESEA, \$2,578,000 is for the continuation costs of awards made on a competitive basis under section 2345 of the ESEA: *Provided*, That the third proviso under such heading in division D of Public Law 111-117 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

"SEC. 215. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for 'Department of Education—Special Education' at a rate for operations of \$12,564,953,000, of which \$3,726,354,000 shall become available on July 1, 2011, and remain available through September 30, 2012: *Provided*, That the first and

second provisos under such heading in division D of Public Law 111-117 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

“SEC. 216. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Department of Education—Rehabilitation Services and Disability Research’ at a rate for operations of \$3,501,766,000: *Provided*, That the second proviso under such heading in division D of Public Law 111-117 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

“SEC. 217. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Department of Education—Career, Technical, and Adult Education’ at a rate for operations of \$1,928,447,000, of which \$1,137,447,000 shall become available on July 1, 2011, and remain available through September 30, 2012 and no funds shall be available for activities authorized under subpart 4 of part D of title V of the ESEA: *Provided*, That the seventh and eighth provisos under such heading in division D of Public Law 111-117 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

“SEC. 218. Notwithstanding sections 101 and 164, amounts are provided for ‘Department of Education—Student Financial Assistance’ at a rate for operations of \$24,899,957,000, of which \$23,162,000 shall be available to carry out subpart 1 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and no funds shall be available for activities authorized under subpart 4 of part A of title IV of such Act: *Provided*, That the maximum Pell Grant for which a student shall be eligible during award year 2011-2012 shall be \$4,860.

“SEC. 219. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Department of Education—Higher Education’ at a rate for operations of \$2,126,935,000, of which no funds shall be available for activities authorized under section 1543 of the Higher Education Amendments of 1992 or section 117 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006: *Provided*, That the thirteenth proviso under such heading in division D of Public Law 111-117 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

“SEC. 220. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Institute of Museum and Library Services—Office of Museum and Library Services: Grants and Administration’ at a rate for operations of \$265,869,000: *Provided*, That the amounts included under such heading in division D of Public Law 111-117 shall be applied to funds appropriated by this Act by substituting ‘\$0’ for ‘\$16,382,000’.

“SEC. 221. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Library of Congress—Salaries and Expenses’ at a rate for operations of \$445,951,000, of which \$0 shall be for the operations described in the seventh proviso under this heading in Public Law 111-68.

“SEC. 222. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Department of Transportation—Federal Highway Administration—Surface Transportation Priorities’ at a rate for operations of \$0.

“SEC. 223. Notwithstanding section 101, no funds are provided for activities described in section 122 of title I of division A of Public Law 111-117.

“SEC. 224. Notwithstanding section 101, section 186 of title I of division A of Public Law 111-117 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.

“SEC. 225. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—Rail Line Relocation and Improvement Program’ at a rate for operations of \$10,012,800.

“SEC. 226. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for ‘Department of Housing and Urban Development—Communi-

ty Planning and Development—Community Development Fund’ at a rate for operations of \$4,255,068,480, of which \$0 shall be for grants for the Economic Development Initiative (EDI), and \$0 shall be for neighborhood initiatives: *Provided*, That the second and third paragraphs under such heading in title II of division A of Public Law 111-117 shall not apply to funds appropriated by this Act.”

This joint resolution may be cited as the “Further Continuing Appropriations Amendments, 2011”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Pursuant to House Resolution 115, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 44, the fiscal year 2011 Further Continuing Appropriations resolution.

This temporary CR is an extra special effort by the majority Republicans to avoid a government shutdown that could otherwise occur on March 4, when the current funding resolution expires. This temporary CR contains funding to allow all government agencies and programs to continue at the current rate of spending for the next 2 weeks until March 18, 2011, while reducing spending by \$4 billion through several spending cuts and program terminations. These cuts reflect this Republican majority’s continued commitment to significantly reduce spending, to rein in the Nation’s exploding deficits and debt, and to help our economy continue on the road to recovery.

Madam Speaker, a government shutdown would halt critical and necessary services and programs that Americans across the country rely on, and it is not what our constituents expect or demand.

□ 1410

I would have greatly preferred that the Senate act on the hard-fought and thoughtfully crafted funding legislation that the House passed almost 2 weeks ago which saves the taxpayers \$100 billion compared to the President’s request, but it’s clear that the Senate needs more time. So this short-term CR will provide an additional 2 weeks by cutting spending to show our continued resolve to get our Nation’s fiscal house in order.

The bill before us terminates eight programs for a savings of about \$1.24 billion. These eight programs were all targeted for elimination in the President’s budget request and have also been part of proposed cuts in the past in the House and the Senate by Members of both parties. These eight programs include: Election Assistance Grants, the Broadband Direct Loan Subsidy, the Smithsonian Institution Legacy Fund, the Striving Readers program, the LEAP program, Even Start, Smaller Learning Communities, and a one-time highway funding addition.

In addition, the bill also eliminates more than \$2.7 billion in funding previously reserved for earmarks, eliminations that the House, the Senate, and the White House have all called for this year. The earmark funding cuts in this legislation come from Energy and Water; Homeland Security; Labor, Health and Human Services; legislative branch; and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development program accounts.

This legislation will represent the second of many appropriations bills this year that will significantly reduce spending, continuing a pattern of cuts that will help put our Nation’s budget back in balance and stop the dangerous spiral of unsustainable deficits and debt.

It is my hope that this CR can be passed quickly and that the President will sign it before the March 4 deadline. This legislation should garner broad support today, given the short time-frame for action and given the fact that these spending cuts have received previous bipartisan support by Members of the House and Senate as well as the White House.

Madam Speaker, we’re now 5 months into the current fiscal year and it’s critically important that we complete this budget process so that we can turn our attention quickly to passing funding bills for fiscal year 2012. It is high time we start looking forward instead of constantly looking back to clean up past mistakes and inaction. We must move forward quickly in regular order, passing bills on time in an open and transparent fashion to avoid these budget uncertainties in the future.

Madam Speaker, this is one more step that we have to take to get our fiscal house in order. While this isn’t a perfect or an easy process, it is essential that we pass this bill, avoid a government shutdown, and continue to work on a long-term solution to complete this long overdue funding process. Our constituents expect and deserve no less.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, today we will consider a short-term continuing resolution that will allow the essential functions of our government to continue beyond March 4, the date on which the current continuing resolution will expire.

With no final agreement on the spending levels for the current fiscal year, this measure is necessary in order to avoid a government shutdown, something I believe we should all want to do. I think that 2 weeks is not enough time to reach an agreement on H.R. 1 with the other body, and I’m afraid we’re going to be back here doing this again.

Now, when the House approved H.R. 1 earlier this month, despite the overwhelming opposition of the Democratic

Caucus, it was clear to me that gaining agreement on a compromised version of a full-year continuing resolution would be very difficult, at least before the expiration of the current CR. We opposed H.R. 1 because we believe it would have the effect of slamming on the fiscal brakes too abruptly, resulting in higher unemployment and threatening our Nation's economic recovery.

There is no dispute that cutting Federal spending too deeply and too quickly before the economy has fully recovered risks slowing growth and losing jobs. Moody's estimates that H.R. 1 would reduce real growth in 2011 by 0.5 percent, meaning 400,000 fewer jobs in 2011 and 700,000 fewer jobs by the end of 2012. The Economic Policy Institute projected job losses near 800,000. Goldman Sachs predicts that H.R. 1 would slow economic growth by about 1.5 to 2 percentage points, which translates into the American economy losing up to 2.4 million jobs.

So the recovery of our economy and the reduction of unemployment should be our paramount concern at this time.

I said during the debate on H.R. 1 earlier this month, and I will repeat today, that I believe the approach to deficit reduction that has been adopted by the Republican majority here in the House is far too narrow and too focused on the smallest segment of spending in the budget. It is a risky strategy based on the specious concept of cut and grow, which of course has no basis in sound economic theory.

So where does this leave us? We are now 6 months into the current fiscal year, FY11, and hearings with regard to the fiscal year 2012 budget have begun in both the Budget Committee and the Appropriations Committee.

H.R. 1 is clearly not acceptable to the other body, nor would it be acceptable to the President, whose signature is necessary before any funding bill can become law. What the President has already proposed for the coming year—a budget freeze at last year's level—remains, in my judgment, the best and most effective way to reduce the deficit and to support recovery in major sectors of our economy. In fact, we have already adopted a freeze at FY10 levels in the continuing resolution that we are currently operating under.

Democrats approved the CR in December with only one Republican vote, which represents a reduction of \$41 billion from the levels sought by the President in his FY 2011 budget request. This is a significant reduction in the deficit, and a significant part of that came from defense. I want to repeat this. The \$41 billion cut from the Obama FY11 budget was passed in a CR by the Democratic House and Democratic Senate and signed into law by the Democratic President with only one Republican vote.

We are now on the verge of an expiring CR, and we are considering another version that extends the time to resolve the differences by only 2 weeks.

I take the chairman at his word that neither he nor his leadership is interested in shutting down the operation of the Federal Government by declaring a stalemate in these appropriations deliberations. I will concede that it is disconcerting to me and others on our side to read the Speaker's comments this week that would seem to imply that there is a strategy of passing shorter term appropriation bills, with further and further and further cuts 2 weeks at a time.

□ 1420

We were concerned by his statement that seemed to indicate a plan for a piecemeal approach to future spending cuts. He said, "If they won't eat the whole loaf at one time, we'll make them eat it one slice at a time."

I believe we need to set aside these political machinations and get serious about finishing up work on the fiscal year 2011 budget. I will be the first to admit that it is because the Democrats didn't pass our bills last year that we're here working on this. So we have responsibility, too, and that's one of the reasons why we were so eager to engage Chairman ROGERS in trying to get this open rule, to work through the amendments, get a unanimous consent agreement—to help move this process forward because I personally feel we have some responsibility here.

And I think it is obvious that we are going to need more than the 2 weeks to get from here to there.

Now, I appreciate the desire of the gentleman from Kentucky to encourage the Members of his caucus to enter into serious negotiations with the other body with the hope of completing work by March 18.

But in a conference—I've been in conferences for 34 years as a Member and 8 years before that as a staffer—nobody gets everything they want. It's a process of compromise. You work out the differences between the two positions.

So I'm proud of the fact that we start with a cut of \$41 billion that was enacted by the Democratic Congress in December during a very successful lame duck session.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I yield myself 30 seconds.

The gentleman, who is my friend, mentioned the economists and their opinion of H.R. 1, the budget-cutting bill we passed a couple of weeks ago.

The best source that I think of, right off, is Ben Bernanke, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, who has said H.R. 1 would have no negligible harmful impact on the economy. And if the Chairman of the Federal Reserve says that, I tend to believe him.

Now I yield 3 minutes to the chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee on our committee, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN).

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I rise in support of this continuing resolution. It's a reasonable and a thoughtful path for-

ward to avoid a potential government shutdown.

Madam Speaker, the American people have made two things perfectly clear: First, they want their government to stay up and running; and, secondly, they want us to cut spending. We need to do both.

Like many of us, I would have greatly preferred that the Senate act on H.R. 1, the 7-month continuing resolution that we debated for over 90 hours that included, indeed, the largest spending reductions in the history of any Congress.

Ten days ago, this committee and this House took the President's budget and cut it by over \$100 billion, terminating dozens of government programs in the process. And in a city where President Reagan once said "A government bureau is the nearest thing to eternal life we'll ever see on this Earth," that's quite an accomplishment.

Madam Speaker, the resolution we have before us today is a simple stop-gap measure to provide more time for negotiations to develop a funding bill for the rest of the current fiscal year. It's temporary and it must pass to keep the government open beyond Friday.

This bill contains \$4 billion in savings including just under a billion from programs under the jurisdiction of my committee, Energy and Water Development. These savings are found purely from eliminating earmarks inserted by Congress in the fiscal year 2010 bill.

As with other spending reductions in this temporary bill, the committee has taken great pains to include only savings that both parties and both Chambers support. Both the House and Senate have sworn off earmarks for fiscal year 2011, so these reductions should not be controversial.

My colleagues, we must move this resolution. We need it to provide time to continue negotiations to complete the important work that should have been done by the last Congress—which passed no appropriations bills.

Madam Speaker, I repeat: The American people have made it clear. They want their government to stay open for business. They also want us to cut spending. Let's do it. Let's move ahead. This resolution needs to be passed.

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), who is also the ranking Democratic member on Health and Human Services.

Ms. DELAURO. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this 14-day continuing resolution. The House majority is threatening to close down the government. This is brinkmanship. Their desire to engage in brinkmanship damages our economy and creates uncertainty for businesses and families.

Make no mistake, the proposed budget cuts will cost jobs, 700,000 jobs by the end of 2012, according to economist Mark Zandi, who, in fact, was the chief

economist for Senator JOHN McCAIN in his Presidential bid.

Let me be clear. I am very supportive of the removal of earmarks in this resolution. They should be cut. We understand the need for deficit reduction. The question is where do we start?

Our first priority should be to go after waste and special interest spending: \$40 billion to the oil industry which we are providing today, \$40 billion. What about the almost \$8 billion to multinational corporations who take their jobs overseas? And, yes, what about the \$8 billion in agricultural subsidies?

It is too bad that cutting these special interest subsidies is not the priority of the majority's resolution. Instead, this budget makes deep and reckless cuts in the areas that most impact middle class and working families.

Of the \$4 billion in immediate cuts put forward by this 14-day resolution, \$1.4 billion comes out of Education, Health and Human Services, and out of training programs. And, yes, almost a billion dollars, a quarter of the cuts, comes out of education. Education should be one of the last places we look to cut the budget, not the first.

Yes, these cuts could be achieved by eliminating four programs proposed for termination by the President, as well as eliminating funding associated with earmarks last year. But these are not the President's proposals. While he would cut some education programs, he would then reinvest those savings in other education programs considered more effective. This resolution just wipes out the funding.

This resolution severely cuts efforts to reduce illiteracy, which is a serious national problem for economic, as well as human, reasons. The largest program targeted, Striving Readers, represents a consolidation and reorganization of literacy programs that was just launched in 2010. Why would the Republican majority think it is responsible to strip away funding to improve literacy in this country before it even has a chance to work?

I'm particularly concerned and disappointed by the elimination of Even Start. Even Start is about breaking the cycle of poverty and illiteracy by improving educational opportunities for families. I do not agree with the President's assessment that it should be terminated, and I do not support its elimination in this resolution. This is an effective and a critical program that should be allowed to continue.

I'm not the only one concerned by the consequences of this reckless budget. Three hundred leading economists have signed a letter to the President noting how these spending cuts will diminish our economic competitiveness. Goldman Sachs reported to its investors that the Republican budget will slash economic growth by 2 percent of our economic growth. That would send the unemployment numbers back over 10 percent.

Americans want us to craft a budget for the remainder of the year that creates jobs, reduces the deficit, and strengthens the economy.

□ 1430

Do we start with slashing special interests and waste like the \$40 billion that we are providing in subsidies to the oil companies? And last time any of us looked, they were doing pretty well. They don't need any subsidies. Or do we start by cutting the things that help the middle class, which help our businesses, and working families with children and with seniors?

This resolution increases unemployment. It will hurt our economic recovery. And I urge my colleagues to oppose this reckless resolution.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I yield 2 minutes to the chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Appropriations, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the chairman for the time.

Madam Speaker, I want to make three very important points right off the bat:

Number one, our debt is almost at 95 percent of the GDP. It's the highest debt we have ever had in history. Last year alone the deficit was \$1.5 trillion. We are borrowing 40 cents for every \$1 that we spend. Now, if you and I were doing that in our households or our business was doing it or anybody else, you would say, okay, we've got to change our spending habits. But somehow there are those in Congress who think that we can continue to defy the laws of gravity. We have got to get our house in order.

Number two, why are we here? We are here because the Democrats last year did not pass a budget, did not pass appropriation bills, and did not complete their work on fiscal year 2011. That's what we're doing. We are trying to clean up the mess that was left to us. And in doing that, we are mindful of our financial situation and trying to reduce some of the spending.

Number three, let me say this. This bill was passed with an open rule. Indeed, I believe we had 127 votes on different amendments. Democrats and Republicans offered a myriad of amendments. Now, for those who are complaining on the floor today that they don't like these cuts, why didn't they offer their amendments on the floor a couple of weeks ago? That would have been the way to do this. Now, the chairman and the Speaker have committed to have open rules throughout this process this year, and so there will be a lot of opportunities to go after some of these programs. And some of the ones that are mentioned, I think I will support those cuts. But I just want to emphasize that everyone has had a bite of this apple.

Finally, let me just say this, Madam Speaker. The Zandi report comes from an economist, a political economist we might say, who was the same person

who told us the stimulus bill would work, the stimulus bill would keep us from going to 8 percent unemployment. We reached 10 percent. I don't think we need to listen to any more of his advice.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the chairman.

I just want to say that I don't think that Mr. Zandi has any more credibility. We have already spent \$800 billion on his advice that the stimulus program would work, and it did not work.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KINGSTON. I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Is the gentleman aware that Ben Bernanke, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, now says that H.R. 1 would have no harmful effect on the economy?

Mr. KINGSTON. I have heard that. And I understand there is something like 150 other economists who have signed a letter to that effect that was led by John Taylor, who is an economist as well.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. And that cutting spending and reducing the deficit will give confidence to the business community to hire people and put people to work.

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the chairman.

Mr. DICKS. I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), one of our distinguished Members.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Let me thank the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee and let me thank the chairperson. I sometimes have a slip of tongue, Mr. DICKS, and call you "chairman," but I thank you very much for this opportunity.

I want to just try to give a procedural class here today. The procedural class is that this document is a placeholder. I would hesitate to call it a fake document, but that is what it is.

As I left my constituency, the last words I heard were, "Don't you all shut down the government." And I am glad that Mr. DICKS worked hard to submit his amendment in the Rules Committee. It's unfortunate that the wise men and women didn't have a majority. The Republicans would not yield to a thoughtful amendment by Mr. DICKS.

But this is a 2-week document. We know how old, and what—many of us have seen a 2-week-old baby. That's what this is: a 2-week document so we can do the right thing.

It needs to be very clear that before we left in the 110th Congress, Democrats had already cut \$41 billion. Now, many say we didn't have a budget. We had a budget, but we had no compromise, no reconciliation, no fairness, no concern about the American people.

Now we have spent 3 months, March 1, doing nothing, and not one bill creates a job. Goldman Sachs, I know that

there is a critique on Goldman Sachs, but you can't discount the independent, objective assessment of them saying that in the CR that was passed a week ago 700,000 to 800,000 jobs would be lost.

Mark Zandi was the economist and adviser to JOHN McCAIN. I am not sure what politics he has, but he is not in a political office today. And he provides us with an independent assessment that the CR that we voted on, which the Senate would not agree to, would cost us 800,000 jobs. This document will go nowhere.

Unfortunately, the \$4 billion that is cut out of here, and a litany of other unfortunate cuts, is only temporary. I want to live to fight another day. We all want to be able to respond to the needs of this country in deficit reduction and a fair budget. But we could have had a clean CR, and we would have reasonably sat down and made right decisions.

Most economists have said that cutting the government in the middle of a budget year is ineffective. The bipartisan fiscal commission said: Project to 2012 and 2013; don't cut 2011.

It's important for the American people to know this is in the midst of your budget year. So Pell Grants for students who are in college right now, who have already gotten an amount rendered to them, operating on maybe a \$1,000 grant to finish out in May, what we're doing is cutting them in the midst.

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

Mr. DICKS. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. That's what was voted on a week ago. What we're doing now is to recognize that people who govern are responsible for making sure the doors of this government stay open.

I care about homeland security as a member of the Homeland Security Committee. I care about the DEA task force fighting drug cartels. I care about children getting education, health care, the environment.

So let me just say this. We're doing this because we believe in the American people, but don't you for a moment think that this document is worth anything. We've got to get to business and fight for the American people and preserve education. That's what Democrats stand for, and that's what we'll fight for.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Appropriations, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT).

Mr. ADERHOLT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding this time to me.

Madam Speaker, as has been pointed out, 2 weeks ago this Chamber voted emphatically to cut spending and to right-size our government. This CR that's before us today is a necessary stopgap that will keep the government operating until we can finalize an

agreement on those spending cuts that was contained in H.R. 1.

The homeland security sections of the CR before us today strikes the right balance between funding priority programs that are essential to our Nation's security and, at the same time, keeping our discretionary spending in check. This CR cuts over \$264 million in earmarks from the Department of Homeland Security's budget, while at the same time sustaining the current staffing levels of our frontline operating agencies like Border Patrol, CBP, ICE, and the Coast Guard, proof that we can cut spending and fund these functions of government that are truly vital.

As I said 2 weeks ago on this floor, the Department of Homeland Security is not immune from fiscal discipline, and no program or agency is beyond the belt-tightening that our government so desperately needs.

□ 1440

By implementing these cuts, we are not choosing between homeland security and fiscal responsibility. Both are serious national security issues that must be dealt with immediately. Through a series of prudent choices, this CR achieves both.

Madam Speaker, this CR is a reasonable first step in addressing our government's fiscal crisis. There is absolutely no reason why the President or our colleagues in the Senate cannot support these overdue spending cuts. The American people are demanding no less.

Mr. DICKS. I yield myself 1 minute.

You know, as I have said here today, everyone is in favor of doing deficit reduction. We want to do it in a way that won't hurt the economy. What I am concerned about is that if we have this large cut and then the States and local governments cut \$125 billion at the same time, we will have about \$185 billion of cuts, and that is going to cause a decline in economic growth.

I mean, it is basic economics. The way you get the deficit down is get people back to work, get people jobs, get them back to work. When the economy is as fragile as it is, it's a question of timing.

What the commission members said is don't do it in 2011; do it in 2012 and 2013 and then deal with the entire budget, deal with the entitlements, deal with the taxes, do the whole thing. Do the budget agreement that we all know we have to do, and that's going to take bipartisanship. That's going to take both parties, the President and the Senate and the House.

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

Mr. DICKS. I yield myself 1 additional minute.

We are going to have to get together and work out an agreement and come out together and support it in order to get this through. This is what we did with Bob Dole and Tip O'Neill and Ronald Reagan.

So, this can be done, but we have to have everything on the table. Again, I worry about the 2 week Continuing Resolution. I think that's a bit ambitious.

Again, I want to point out to my colleagues that it was the Democratic House and Senate and President who passed the bill, the CR that cut \$41 billion from Obama's FY 2011 request, \$41 billion.

So I want to make sure you all don't forget that. I am going to try to continue to remind you of that fact.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the chairman of the Labor-HHS subcommittee on appropriations, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. REHBERG).

Mr. REHBERG. Thank you, Chairman ROGERS.

Madam Speaker, I rise to express my deep frustration with this extension. Here we go again, debating another continuing resolution. I am starting to feel like Bill Murray in "Groundhog Day." In that movie, the main character wakes up every morning to relive the same day again and again. He never moves forward because he is stuck on Groundhog Day.

Last year, Republicans in the House put the country on notice that we would try to reduce spending by \$100 billion this year. The Senate knew, and the American people knew, and they gave us a substantial majority in the House.

We worked responsibly and openly on a continuing resolution to meet that goal. After considering scores of amendments and engaging in long days of thoughtful debate, we succeeded. In response, the Senate majority leader summarily dismissed our good-faith efforts and recessed the Senate for a week.

Despite giving us an unprecedented 3 years of trillion-dollar deficits, the majority leader dismissed our efforts to reduce spending less than 2 percent from the total fiscal 2011 budget.

In the interest of continuing our work on behalf of the American taxpayer and finding some common ground, Republicans are offering this 2-week extension, another continuing resolution made necessary only because the Democrat leadership refused to adopt a budget last year. It is like Groundhog Day all over again.

During this short extension we propose to save \$4 billion—too much for Senator REID. He suggests a freeze on spending for 30 days while he contemplates our proposal. The national debt will increase another \$136 billion during that time.

This is part of a big stall. Keep stalling. Keep implementing unaffordable health care entitlement programs. Keep threatening, keep spending, all the while ignoring the will of the people.

But the growing \$14.5 trillion national debt is dragging our country into economic ruin, and a looming

health care law with \$2.5 trillion in new spending, when fully implemented, is about to bury us. And make no mistake, I am not happy that funding for the implementation of health care law continues in this continuing resolution.

At some point soon, before it is too late, the majority leader and his Democrat colleagues need to meaningfully address our spending problem. Unfortunately, all indications are that our good-faith effort to find common ground with this 2-week extension will not bring the Senate to the table to negotiate.

The President and the Senate majority hold the balance of power in Washington D.C., but they stand against the majority of Americans.

I will support this measure, but I have been pushed to my limit. "Groundhog Day" may have been an entertaining movie, but it shouldn't be the basis for a system of government. It's time for the Senate to get to work.

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington has 13 minutes remaining and the gentleman from Kentucky has 15½ minutes remaining.

Mr. DICKS. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

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

Mr. ANDREWS. I thank my friend for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I hope that we are beginning to usher in in the next 2 weeks a season of compromise on this very important question before the country. I hope and I am confident that Chairman ROGERS and Mr. DICKS are capable of striking a very sound compromise for the people of our country.

Here is where we are. When the fiscal year began on October 1, there were a series of resolutions that said let's live under the budget that spent what last year spent, and we have lived under that budget until this time. That budget saves \$41 billion below what the administration asked for last February.

The majority, about 10 days ago, passed a bill that said it wants to spend \$100 billion less than what was proposed by the administration last February. Now, logical people would say that we are very well on the way to a sensible compromise.

We are on track to save \$41 billion below what was requested. The majority wishes to spend \$100 billion less than that.

I am certain that talented legislators like the chairman, like Mr. DICKS, left to their own devices and leadership, can find a way to have us strike a middle ground for the rest of the fiscal year. I am hoping that this is the last one of these temporary extensions we have so that those who rely upon the continuing funding of government de-

partments—vendors, employees, and institutions—will be able to do so.

I think it's fertile for a good compromise, and I certainly hope the House reaches it.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. AUSTRIA).

Mr. AUSTRIA. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this short-term continuing resolution, which must be passed this week to avoid a shutdown of many important programs and services.

Our first priority today is job growth. That's why we are putting into place policies that will stop the runaway spending here in Washington and help bring more certainty to our financial and business markets to grow our economy and create long-term sustainable jobs.

Last week, I had the opportunity to visit the largest single site employer in the State of Ohio, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and I was told that if the government shuts down that thousands of people may be asked not to come to work. If we don't pass this short-term CR, this is one place that would surely suffer from a shutdown, which is responsible for numerous national defense programs that depend on continued funding.

Without funding, programs like this across the country will not get off the ground in a timely manner, may incur programmatic delays and costs, jeopardize the national defense programs they support, and put thousands of jobs, including small businesses, on the line. We must do the responsible thing and pass this short-term resolution, which will buy us time to find a long-term solution to our budget crisis.

Madam Speaker, people across America, and especially in Ohio, have spoken very clearly that Washington needs to cut spending.

□ 1450

Nobody said these cuts were going to be easy, but they are absolutely essential to help put our country back on a fiscally sustainable path that will create jobs and strengthen our economy for future generations.

With the leadership of Chairman ROGERS, this House has already passed a CR to help protect national defense, but in addition to that made more than \$100 billion in cuts; and when we pass this short-term CR, we will have passed another \$4 billion in cuts. It's time for the Senate to do their job and pass a CR. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this short-term CR and show that we're listening to the American people by passing a CR that includes substantive cuts and will put us on a fiscally sustainable path forward.

Mr. DICKS. I yield 1 minute to the distinguished Democratic leader and former Speaker, the gentlelady from California, NANCY PELOSI.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman for yielding time and for presenting the

Dicks substitute, which was not allowed to come to the floor, but nonetheless I salute him for his leadership in that regard.

Madam Speaker, Members of Congress agree, I think, on two things today: that we must move this process forward so that government does not shut down, and that we must reduce the deficit. As we do that, we must create jobs and strengthen the middle class. That is someplace where we may have some separation, because as the distinguished ranking member, Mr. DICKS, has said earlier, in December of 2010, congressional Democrats and the President of the United States cut spending by \$41 billion—\$41 billion. On that day in December, only one Republican voted for those cuts—only one.

February, 2 months later, Republicans passed a spending bill that does not create jobs but, in fact, has been said to destroy 700,000 jobs. That's approximately 100,000 jobs a week since we passed our "cut it" bill.

February 2011, Republicans passed the same spending bill that reduces U.S. economic growth by 1½ to 2 percent. Now some have questioned, Is it really as much as 700,000 jobs? Is it really as much as 1½ to 2 percent? But no one questions whether there will be job loss or whether there will be a slowing down of our economic growth among serious economists.

We are going in the wrong direction. How fast may be the question. But we are going in the wrong direction. That is why it's very important for us to proceed with great care and great caution here because, again, we have the opportunity to create jobs, to strengthen the middle class, and to do so in a way that is fiscally sound.

When I hear our colleagues talk about the deficit and the immorality of a big deficit—and I completely agree that we owe it to our children and our grandchildren not to leave them a debt—but all this talk about deficit is what we have, as Democrats, taken the lead on for decades.

Do you remember—because many of you were here at the time—that when President Clinton became President he inherited an enormous debt? He instituted pay-as-you-go, we had an economic agreement that was passed in the Congress, and the deficit began to reduce to a path of \$5.6 trillion in surplus. Another President Bush took office; pay-as-you-go went out the window; and, again, the turnaround into growing deficits.

So for all of this talk about the immorality of deficits, where were you when those deficits were instituted in the late eighties? Some of you were here. In the 2000s, many of you were here. And, again, we have to take our country on a path of deficit reduction. Many of you were here when the tax cuts for the high end were implemented, creating no jobs, except increasing our deficit, sending the bill to our children and the credit to the Chinese Government.

How about when we did the prescription drug bill, giving away the store to the pharmaceutical industry and the price tag to our children by increasing the deficit? How about two wars, unpaid-for wars? God knows we will do anything to protect and defend our people. And I would hope that everybody subscribes to that. Why would we have tax cuts for people at the highest end? Why wouldn't they pay their fair share of protecting the American people and American interests and their interest wherever they may exist in the world?

And so we had in the 8 years of President Bush's administration a complete reversal, an \$11 trillion swing, \$5.6 trillion in surplus to nearly \$5 trillion in debt.

And now people are saying it is an immorality to have national debt and to have these deficits. We thoroughly agree. And that's why, once again, we must take our country down a path of deficit reduction, but to do so in a way that is job creating and strengthening of the middle class.

As I said, in December 2010 Democrats cut \$41 billion in spending. Only one Republican voted for that. February 2011, Republicans passed a spending bill that could destroy 700,000 jobs and reduce and slow down our GDP, our gross domestic product, by 1.5 to 2 percent. If you want to say it's going to slow down less than that, it's still going in the wrong direction.

I commented on Mr. DICKS' proposal because in the bill that we have before us, we have a situation where the Republicans have stripped the bill of important initiatives to the education of our children. In fact, President Obama made some of those cuts, too; but he didn't do it in a way that hurt the children.

What we debate today undermines our future by stripping support for some pressing educational challenges without redirecting those critical resources to meet the educational needs of our children. What Mr. DICKS proposed would have reversed that. He would have eliminated those educational programs in a way, as did the President, in the context of a comprehensive budget that also redirected funds to other initiatives addressing these needs.

If we do not, as a Congress, understand that education is essential, is key to all of our success—key to all of our success—then, frankly, the American people are way ahead of us on that. That's why I asked when we debated the bill before the break to see a quarter of a million children thrown off Head Start and many teachers fired alongside that, is that a smart cut? Sure, we have to tighten our belt. But let's do it, again, in a very smart way.

I just want to know where everybody was in the days when this deficit grew in the 8 years of the Bush administration. That's why we're in the situation we are in today. That's why we must, again, make some very difficult decisions.

So what is before us today is for the short term. It is saying, let's just keep the government open 2 weeks so we use that time to do the right thing and so we use that time to have a reality check—a reality check—on how we got these deficits in the first place. Tax cuts at the highest end do not create jobs but increase the deficit and are not the appropriate path to deficit reduction. Cutting education and therefore the innovation that goes with it and the strength of our children and affecting our economy is not the way to do it.

Many people here have met much experience on the way to do it, and they sit on both sides of the aisle. So let's get through this today, recognizing the challenge that we have, understanding that this bill before us is not a good one, but it's not final.

□ 1500

And when we come together, we need to meet the three criteria: Does it create jobs? Does it strengthen the middle class? Does it reduce the deficit? Because all of those who say that it is immoral for us to grow the deficit and pass those bills on to our children and grandchildren are right. I just don't want them to ignore the fact that we got here a certain way, and please do not ask us to go down that path again with the sanctimonious attitude that it is a morality for us to do exactly the same thing again, ignoring again the tremendous, tremendous suffering of the American people and their need for jobs, ignoring the aspirations of our children and their need for education by making the cuts that are in here without them rechanneling to a better place.

This is as serious a debate that we can have in the Congress of the United States because it affects our children and their future, because the deficits have gotten so far out of hand.

I am very proud of the fact that 30 years ago—in 1982, 29 years ago—when Democrats gathered in Philadelphia for a midterm conference, pay-as-you-go was placed on the agenda, passed as a resolution, and became part of the Democratic platform. Fiscal responsibility is a part of who we are. Our Blue Dog Coalition has had this as their mantra: pay as you go. Do not add to the deficit. If we all share that view, we should all be able to come together because the numbers will add up or they will not add up, and the bill for sure will be sent to our children and grandchildren.

Some of you have children; some of you have children and grandchildren. Would you ever dream of sending them a bill for a personal expense? If you were to leave them anything, would you leave them a bill? We cannot leave the children of America with any bills for any fiscal deficit either. It wouldn't be the right thing to do. But in order for us to do the right thing, it is time for a serious reality check, and that is the opportunity Mr. DICKS was giving

us today. The Rules Committee rejected that. I hope that in the weeks ahead, depending on what happens here today, we can move on with it so we can spend whatever time it takes to do it right. Nothing less is at stake than the economic security of our country, the well-being of our children, the well-being of our children and the confidence that the American people have in what we are sent here to do for them.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute to point out to the body that over the last 2 years, the Congress went on a spending spree and increased spending by 84 percent in just 2 years. You ran the deficit up; the annual deficit, now two in a row, trillion-dollar-plus deficits per year, record breaking. We have never had that before. You ran the debt up to where now we are bouncing against the ceiling and the Congress will be called upon to increase the debt ceiling.

There were no appropriations bills passed last year at all. Thus that's why we are here today. So let's talk about the spending spree that we're trying to slow down and stop, Madam Speaker, with this bill.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GRAVES), a member of our committee.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the chairman clarifying some things we just heard because I was at a loss thinking I was going to need much more than 3 minutes to rewrite some of what we just heard there and correct the historical account of the last several years.

We've heard the lamenting and wailing today from the other side of the aisle. It is amazing to hear about why we are here? Why are we in this position today?

We are hearing government shutdown from the Democrats. You're not hearing that from the Republicans. You're hearing no, we have to cut spending and reduce the size of government. But we hear we're at the brink, we're about to shut down government, and we have to wonder: Why are we here?

Well, the chairman brought it up so eloquently just a minute ago. When they were in the leadership last year, and it wasn't that long ago, 1 year ago, they had the opportunity. They had the opportunity to pass their own budget. They didn't do it.

So instead, they passed a CR. The CR went for 4 or 5 weeks. It wasn't enough. Let's do another one because again, they couldn't pass a budget. They passed another CR for 2 more weeks. Again, it wasn't quite enough. So let's go 3 days because we don't know now to pass a budget nor have an appropriations meeting. And then, yet again, let's pass another one for just over 2 months. That is why we are here today. That is why the Republicans are stepping up and leading. That is why the Republicans passed a CR a few weeks ago cutting a hundred billion dollars.

But yet again the Democrats, they do not want to step up and lead at this time in our Nation.

So here we are again, the chairman of appropriations and the Republicans have stepped up and said it is time to lead. So \$2 billion a week in cuts, yes, that is what we are proposing. Should it be more? Sure it should be more.

To those who have said we were cutting the wrong programs, I assure you, you'll have your chance to cut those programs because, again, we will be cutting more.

So this measure, hopefully it will pass both Chambers, and we will avert the government shutdown. And the question is then: What happens next? The American people want to know that.

Well, I want the American people to know this: that there are more spending cuts on the way. Now, some of my colleagues on the other side will say, we don't need to cut spending. In fact, we have heard that. We've heard that they want to freeze spending instead, which is akin to tying a brick to the accelerator of this vehicle that is going off the cliff when we need to take our foot off that accelerator. Again, it is the status quo that we hear from the other side.

We heard a minute ago from the leader of the Democrats, the former Speaker, and her quote was: They took the lead in deficits.

Oh, is she so right. In fact, they have led 3 straight years of deficit spending, consecutive years, trillion-dollar deficits, and now a \$14 trillion debt. What leadership that is.

The status quo is unacceptable. The American people deserve so much more. So today, let's stop that threat of a government shutdown, and let's save the taxpayers \$4 billion. Let's come back and let's save them billions upon billions more. But let's get ready because deeper spending cuts are necessary. And as we saw from that Government Accountability report, duplicative programs exist.

Madam Speaker, it is time to eliminate some of those programs, continue eliminating portions of this government, and get this fiscal house back on track.

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the Democratic whip and former majority leader, who will help correct the record.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I have now heard and watched on television and I have been on the floor with two members from Georgia, both of whom are brand new to this body who were talking about the history. Well, I want to tell my friend from Georgia a little bit of history. I have been here 30 years. I have served some 20 of those years under Republican Presidents. Every one of them has run a deficit of \$100 billion or more. In fact, during that cumulative period of 30

years, notwithstanding the Obama administration, and I will discuss that in a second, Mr. Reagan, Mr. Bush I, and Mr. Bush II ran deficits of over \$6 trillion that they signed the bills to spend. Over \$6 trillion. Bill Clinton was President for 8 years. The last 4 years, we didn't raise the debt at all, unlike every one of the Republican administrations, where we raised it on a regular basis. Not at all during the last administration, the last 4 years of Mr. Clinton's administration, and he ran—the only President in your lifetime, and very frankly mine, and I may be twice as old as you are—a \$62.9 billion surplus. Look it up. No argument.

But let me say something. Irrespective of who is responsible, we are responsible for fixing it. Republicans and Democrats. The American people know that we have a crisis confronting us. They know there is no option other than to deal with this realistically. I would call everybody's attention in this body—Republican, Democrat, liberal, conservatives—to an article written by David Brooks today in *The New York Times*. Read it. Read it. David Brooks is a conservative columnist of the *New York Times*. We all ought to read this and take it to heart. I called it to my caucus' attention this morning.

Our deep debt is a serious danger to our economy, to our future, and our children's opportunities. The American people want us to bring the debt down. They said so very loudly. And I doubt there is a Member who disagrees.

□ 1510

Democrats believe that spending cuts are part of the solution. Let there be no mistake. We need to cut spending, but we also believe that those cuts must be smart and targeted, not pegged to an arbitrary number.

One of your staffers, when you put the Pledge to America, came forth with a figure of \$100 billion. That's a nice round figure; \$100 billion sounds good. It's good PR. It's good spin—\$100 billion. Read David Brooks. No analysis was given to that figure. No hearings were held on that figure. Nobody could testify on the cuts that were proposed to reach that figure.

We have to cut the spending. We can do without some spending, not the vital investments, however, that are helping to grow our economy, that are helping our private sector innovate and creating the jobs of the future.

During the Clinton administration, I will tell my young friend from Georgia there were 22 million new jobs. During the Bush administration, we lost 8 million jobs. A 30 million job turnaround. That's why there was so much spending of which Mr. ROGERS spoke. And \$700 billion of that, of course, was asked for by the Bush Presidency, Secretary Paulson and Mr. Bernanke, so that we didn't fall into a depression for the first time since Herbert Hoover. This President has been trying to bring us out and, frankly, is succeeding.

Unfortunately, Republicans passed a spending bill full of shortsighted and indiscriminate cuts. Do we need cuts? Yes. Do we need shortsighted and indiscriminate cuts? No. Just over a week ago, you would cut billions in energy and medical research, kick 200,000 children out of Head Start, make college more expensive, and stop 21st-century infrastructure projects in 40 States. That's what Mr. Zandi is talking about. That's what Goldman Sachs is talking about. Cuts like these could cripple America's competitiveness and job growth.

According to Moody's Analytics chief economist Mark Zandi, who advised Senator McCain's Presidential campaign, Republicans' cuts would cost America a total of 700,000 jobs. The Economic Policy Institute puts it at 800,000.

Rather than such job-destroying policies, both of us, both parties, need to come together and reason together. Frankly, the American public doesn't care who works with whom. They just want it to work. This is no way to fund the largest enterprise in the world—on 14-day cycles. The gentleman criticized us for doing it, and we should have been criticized.

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

Mr. DICKS. I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. HOYER. Let me tell my friend what he didn't mention: One of the reasons we did it was that we couldn't get 60 votes in the United States Senate in order to move a bill forward.

Keeping our government running is vital to our economy. None of us should want to shut down the government. It is also vital to the millions who rely on government every day. The sooner we can agree on a long-term package of smart cuts, not reckless, arbitrary, job-destroying cuts, the sooner we can stop funding the government in disruptive 2-week increments. The gentleman was correct that we ought not to do that. We need to pass a 7-month funding so that government and all who rely on the government, who work for the government, and who have contracts with the government can rely on some certainty.

You've talked a lot about certainty on your side of the aisle. You're absolutely right, we need certainty. The business community needs certainty. Individuals need certainty, and the government needs certainty.

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

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

Mr. HOYER. Rather than passing 2-week continuing resolutions, I urge Republicans and Democrats to work together on a long-term solution—in this case, "long term" is 7 months—to reduce spending, to try to balance our budget, and to try to bring rationality to this process. We cannot, my friends on the Republican side of the aisle and

the Democratic side of the aisle, continue to look at 15 percent of the budget and expect us to get to where we need to be from where we now are.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, may I inquire of the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky has 9½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Washington has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to a brand-new member of the committee, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. YODER).

Mr. YODER. Madam Speaker, we can debate today who is at fault for the crisis we are in; but I think we have an agreement, which is, with record spending, deficits and accumulated debt, coupled with 20 months straight of 9 percent unemployment, it is time for us to get serious about the crushing effect of a runaway debt on this economy.

As Speaker BOEHNER said, "Just like a bankrupt business can't create jobs, a bankrupt country can't create jobs."

Small business owners, individuals and families now find themselves at the mercy of this debt that we as a government have recklessly accumulated. It's not Democrats or Republicans. It's those families and individuals and business owners who are the real casualties of this government spending spree. So now we must choose a pathway. We are at a crossroads: reasonable spending reductions and keeping the government open or heading towards devastating tax increases and crushing deficits.

The tax increases that would be needed to actually alleviate these bloated deficits would wipe out individuals, families and businesses. According to the CRS, current income tax rates would need to double across the board to close the expected deficits of this administration. You can't create jobs under these devastating taxes. We must reduce spending.

We have a choice as the American people. We can choose prosperity; we can choose lower taxes; and we can choose reduced debt. Or we can go other the other direction and choose record-breaking deficits, historic taxes and devastation all across this country.

Madam Speaker, we have a choice to make today, and it is my hope the Members of this body will choose to keep the government open, will choose to begin making modest reductions, and will pass this necessary resolution to begin the pathway towards prosperity again in this country.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. HURT).

Mr. HURT. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, last November, the people I represent in Virginia's Fifth District sent an urgent message that

America must make a bold departure from the status quo and put a stop to the out-of-control spending that has come to define Washington over the past 2 years. No longer can we continue on the path of unchecked, reckless spending that has crippled our economy and has left us with a massive \$14 trillion in debt, \$1.6 trillion in deficit spending, and an unacceptably high unemployment rate.

Last year, the 111th Congress completely failed in its fundamental responsibility to adopt a budget for the American people. Remarkably, they have punted that responsibility and have kept the Federal Government operating over the last 5 months by adopting continuing resolutions.

Fortunately, the new 112th Congress has accepted this responsibility to clean up the mess of the last Congress. Indeed, the House of Representatives, Republicans and Democrats, worked late into the night last week to get a proposal to the Senate that recognizes the critical need to adopt a budget while cutting a historic \$100 billion in spending for the rest of this fiscal year.

After 5 months of failed leadership by Senate Democrats, we now find they need more time. This is truly unbelievable. Over the past week, back home in the Fifth District, I was reminded again and again by my constituents that now is the time for leadership, not for excuses.

While the House takes up another resolution today that will continue to temporarily fund the government while keeping our commitment to the people to cut an additional \$4 billion in spending, it is critical that the Senate join us to produce a responsible funding resolution that makes the cuts necessary to get our fiscal house in order. For the sake of the next generation of Americans, we must act, and we must act now to secure our future.

Mr. DICKS. I yield 2 minutes to the ranking member and former chairman of the Interior and Environment Appropriations Subcommittee, the gentleman from Virginia, JIM MORAN.

Mr. MORAN. Madam Speaker, so many of our brand-new colleagues seem to have run on the thesis that government can't be the solution to any of your problems, rather that "it" is the problem, that it can't be counted upon to help people, that it can't even be counted upon to invest in America's long-term interests. It seems as though, now that they've been elected, they're doing everything they can to prove themselves to be right.

This is no way to run a government. A 2-week CR?

Now, we don't have any great problem with the components of this CR except for the fact that it's 2 weeks.

□ 1520

It should be a 7-month CR. In fact, we should really tackle the appropriations bills themselves. But if it's a 7-month CR, it shouldn't be a dump truck of legislation that includes in it virtually

every controversial issue that this Congress has dealt with over the last 20, 30 years.

My good friend from Kentucky, the chairman of the committee, will recall that quaint phrase that we would deploy in committee, that this amendment is not in order because it constitutes legislating on an appropriations bill. Well, we legislated everything. This bill has more poison pills in it than Rasputin's medicine cabinet. Everything is thrown in here, and it was thrown in in the middle of the night. You know, bills that we had considered carefully in committee that had come to the floor, that they were debated carefully and then resolved, and yet sometimes in a 10-minute debate those bills were dispensed with. That's not the way an appropriations bill should be brought to the floor. It ought to be a clean, continuing resolution if we're going to do a CR.

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

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

Mr. MORAN. The fact is we know we can do this. We can get a good appropriation bill. We can make surgical cuts and we can agree on those surgical cuts. But let's not try to put together a dump truck that includes in it every possible controversial issue that we know we can't resolve. That's not in the long-term best interest of the American people, and, in fact, it ought to be an embarrassment to our appropriations process.

So I would hope that we would vote against this continuing resolution simply because it's only a 2-week CR. We can do better.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I wish they had done better last year and passed one appropriations bill.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.J. Res. 44, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the chairman of the MilCon and VA Subcommittee on Appropriations, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I first would like to yield to my colleague from Georgia (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I have to take a moment here to, I guess, comment back on the distinguished whip's comments a minute ago.

It's great that he pointed out his knowledge of history and his years of experience here, and he's right about a few things. He talked about the years

of Bill Clinton and the spending cuts and the deficit reduction and debt reduction, all those kinds of things. He's absolutely right. But he didn't tell you the rest of the story, and that is the Republicans took the majority in 1995 and were part of that process, in leading through the legislative process not through the executive process.

And then he talked about George Bush and the 8 million job losses. And if you look back, if you look at the rest of the story on that again, that starts in about 2006 and 2007 and 2008. And if we think about who was in charge at the time, yes, it was the distinguished whip, who was the leader at the time, and the former Speaker. So they were right. They were right about history, but they weren't telling the whole story, and that is that the Republicans were leading during those difficult times and providing the spending cuts when necessary.

To the gentleman a minute ago who said government is not the solution, you're absolutely right. And to finish that quote from Ronald Reagan, more so, it is the problem.

Mr. CULBERSON. Reclaiming my time, Madam Speaker, I think it's important to remember that the people of America spoke decisively in the November election. It was as clear a referendum on the direction that President Obama and Speaker PELOSI were taking the Nation as we could have, and the Nation decisively rejected the agenda that Speaker PELOSI and President Obama were promoting.

The spending that Chairman ROGERS spoke about was out of control over these last several years. I know in the time I served under President Bush I voted against about \$2.6 trillion of new spending under President Bush. And in just the last 2 years, under President Obama and Speaker PELOSI, my staff calculates I've had to vote against about \$7.6 trillion in spending under President Obama. I know that the level of spending under President Bush was higher than it should have been, but it has absolutely gone vertical under President Obama.

The country decisively rejected the direction that President Obama was taking the Nation. The country elected this new majority to cut spending, to repeal ObamaCare, and to put the Nation back on track towards a balanced budget, and that's what this appropriations bill does. In this 2-week period, we're doing our best at every opportunity, on every occasion. Chairman ROGERS and all of us are working to cut spending and to get the Federal Government out of our pockets, off our backs, and out of our lives.

Mr. DICKS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CULBERSON. I am happy to yield to the distinguished gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. I was just glad to hear the litany of these things that you voted against. Are you still for those Civil War battlefields?

Mr. CULBERSON. Reclaiming my time, there are a few core functions the government has to do, and I'll tell you that national defense, for example, we've protected the Pentagon and national security. We've protected the investments in medical and scientific research and in law enforcement. And you will find on every bill that we present we're going to work to cut spending in every possible way.

Mr. DICKS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I think this has been a very spirited debate in the best traditions of the House. I want to point out a few facts to again correct the RECORD.

First of all, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act probably brought down the unemployment rate from 12 or 13 percent to 9.5 percent. We would have a 12.5 percent unemployment rate today if it weren't for the American Recovery Act.

The only deficit that has been cut around here was the \$41 billion that was done by the Democrats and enacted in December and passed to March 4.

Now, again, we did not get our work done. Mr. ROGERS and I are going to get the work done. But again, gentlemen and ladies, it's the economy. You've got to put people back to work. And if the net impact of what you do, the cuts you make are to throw people out of work, to cause the economy to stumble and stop the recovery and increase unemployment, then the deficit will go up.

The only way you get this better is to drive down unemployment, get people working, get businesses producing, get the revenues coming in. That will do it. But what the best economists in this country say is your medicine is not going to cure the patient. It could well harm the patient and cause things to get worse, not better. So that's why some people believe it's a timing issue.

And now, again, I want you to know, we will work together in these next 2 weeks. We've got to get this thing resolved.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. May I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky has 3 minutes remaining.

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

Let's be clear what it is we're voting on here today. This is a short-term, 2-week CR. It cuts \$4 billion, a little over \$4 billion in spending that both parties have agreed to in the past, both bodies in the House and Senate have agreed to in the past, and agreed to by the White House.

So what are we talking about here? This is a 2-week extension. It's about as clean as you can make it. And, oh, by the way, speaking about that bill we passed 2 weeks ago, H.R. 1, that cuts \$61 billion off of current spending, Ben

Bernanke, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, said as late as today that that bill will have no harmful effect on the economy. I don't know that there's a bigger, better source on the economy than the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, and he says no problem.

Now, what the Democrats want to do, Madam Speaker—this is pretty simple—they want to freeze spending. They want to freeze spending at the biggest bloated level we've ever had.

□ 1530

They increased spending 84 percent over the last 2 years. Now they want to freeze and they'll go no higher. Well, it's bloated. We want to take it back down to where it's reasonable, where we can live with it. So we don't want another \$1.7 trillion-a-year deficit like they've had the last year and, before that, something approaching that.

So I ask Members to vote for this short-term CR, to give us time to work with the other body on H.R. 1 to find out what their position is, about which we have no idea at this moment. They haven't acted. And so to avert a close-down of the government, which is what we're after here, we want to give the Senate time to look at H.R. 1 and tell us what their position is so we can have a conversation about it. And, frankly, 2 weeks is plenty of time, plenty of time in the House. I know the Senate works a bit more slowly, but 2 weeks should be plenty.

So, Madam Speaker, I urge Members to vote for this reasonable, fair, budget-cutting extension of the time to shut down the government. Vote "yes" and keep the government operating.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, today's legislation proposes to extend Federal Government operations for an additional two weeks while cutting roughly \$4 billion in spending from FY 2011, if the proposed cuts are ultimately extended for the rest of the fiscal year.

Democrats understand the need to get serious about our deficits and debt, but we also understand the difference between making smart, deliberate cuts to spending while maintaining targeted investments that create jobs, grow our economy and strengthen our international competitiveness. In that regard, I am especially disappointed that the majority did not make in order an amendment offered by ranking Member DICKS, which would have restored some of the education cuts in today's bill by finding the necessary savings in unused Census funds. It seems to me those are the kinds of distinctions, priorities and choices this body should be able and willing to make.

Furthermore, based on our experience with H.R. 1, I am concerned that the majority is ignoring the explicit advice of two fiscal commissions and a growing chorus of bipartisan commentators warning that we must not in the guise of fiscal discipline cut so indiscriminately, so fast that we sabotage job creation and weaken our ongoing economic recovery.

Madam Speaker, sooner rather than later, we need to come to a final agreement on federal spending for the rest of FY 2011. That agreement should chart a credible course towards long term fiscal sustainability while

making the kinds of investments that will allow us to win the future in the 21st century.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support for H.J. Res. 44, the Continuing Resolution (CR) to make further continuing appropriations for Fiscal Year 2011 to keep our Federal Government open through March 18, 2011.

Though I have serious reservations about this CR offered by my Republican colleagues, I absolutely refuse to let our Federal Government close on my watch. Allowing the Federal Government to close while this nation continues to recover from its economic downturn does no good for anyone. Closure of the Federal Government at this juncture would deal a crushing blow to the people all over the United States who are looking to Congress to do its part in bringing about much-needed economic relief and to get this country back on course.

Moreover, states all around this nation are in the midst of recovering from their own economic crises. The closure of the federal government would deal them a crushing blow. Worse still, it would only serve to increase the hardship and suffering visited upon the citizens of those states. We must remember that these citizens are also our constituents and we must not let unfettered zeal to make spending cuts blind us to the point where we allow cuts to the funding necessary for economic recovery.

This insufficient, fake CR contains many horrible cuts to important programs. It unjustly heaves a heavy weight upon the backs of the American people who should not be made to bear this burden. These cuts include but are not limited to:

- Critical Education Funding at All Levels from Head Start to Higher Education
- Health and Human Services Funding
- Energy Funding
- Critical Transportation Funding
- Military and Veteran's Affairs Funding
- Science and Technology and NASA Funding

However, this is only a two-week CR and the critical funding it cuts can be recouped and restored. I look forward to fighting hard over the next two weeks to restore this crucial funding. The cuts contained in this CR squarely impact the people and programs we need to support the most in order to bring about job creation and sustained economic growth. I am committed to doing all that I can to restore these funds while making fiscally responsible, well deliberated appropriations for funding the Federal Government for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2011. I urge my colleagues to join me in this commitment.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 115, the joint resolution is considered read and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the joint resolution?

Mr. KEATING. I am opposed in its current form.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Keating moves to recommit the joint resolution H. J. Res. 44 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendments:

Page 18, line 21, strike the quotation marks and final period.

Page 18, after line 21, insert the following: "SEC. 227. For the period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Further Continuing Appropriations Amendments, 2011 and ending on the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act, no major integrated oil company (as defined in section 167(h)(5)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) shall be eligible for any tax benefit or relief under the following provisions of such Code to the extent attributable to such period:

"(1) Section 43.

"(2) Section 45I.

"(3) Section 469 with respect to working interests in oil and gas property.

"(4) Sections 613 and 613A, with respect to percentage depletion for oil and gas.

"(5) Section 199 with respect to income derived from the production of oil and gas.

For purposes of this section, the amount of any tax benefit or relief for any taxable year shall be treated as attributable to the period described in the preceding sentence in the same ratio that the portion of such period which is part of such taxable year bears to the entire taxable year."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer this motion to recommit which I believe will greatly improve our fiscal health and ensure that we're responsible to all taxpayer dollars and the taxpayers of this great Nation.

We all agree—all of us, Republicans and Democrats alike—that cuts in wasteful spending are vital to our country's future. The decision that stands before us is whether we should adopt reckless cuts to some of our most important programs or not: education cuts, cuts to college scholarships, reading teachers, Head Start.

As a D.A. for the last decade, I know the effects of cuts to police officers and firefighters, and I know what they mean to our public safety. Reckless cuts: cuts to border protection, cuts to the hubs of cybersecurity research so that we can better protect ourselves in our infrastructure, cuts in cancer research and other life-saving ventures of the National Institute of Health.

It's worth repeating that Moody's chief economic expert, Mark Zandi, the former adviser to the McCain for President campaign, just this week estimated that the reckless Republican cuts will cost our country 700,000 jobs. Investment groups estimate that the reckless cuts will cut the economy by a growth this year of almost one-half.

Our alternative? Our alternative is an alternative of sensible spending cuts. In this motion, we're offering such a sensible spending cut.

Let's stop sending taxpayers' money to the most profitable companies in the world. The time is now to stop subsidizing the largest oil companies. I think it shocks every American taxpayer to know that they're required to fork out over \$40 billion in subsidies over the next decade to the most economically profitable of companies—especially as oil soars to a hundred dollars per barrel. My constituents in Plymouth, Massachusetts, are paying almost \$3.50 per gallon and have had enough. Even ex-Shell CEO John Hofmeister says enough is enough. He said, "With high oil prices, such subsidies are not necessary."

So let's put a stop to this welfare program for Big Oil right now. Cuts to police, cuts to fire, cuts to cancer research, cuts to border security, cuts to reading teachers—or oil subsidies to the most profitable of companies.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this motion to recommit.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. If I understand the gentleman's motion correctly, it would, for a 2-week period, attempt to change the Tax Code to single out resource companies and increase their costs of doing business. This misguided policy can only lead to higher energy prices, continued reliance on foreign oil, and economic hardship that hampers job creation.

At a time when gasoline is currently approaching \$4 a gallon around the country and when our resources are being threatened by the instability in the Middle East, we should be encouraging domestic energy production—not cutting it down.

We're talking about a 2-week continuing resolution to keep the government running past Friday, reduce spending, and avoid a government shutdown. This is neither the time nor the place to inject an unrelated job-crushing, controversial rider to the CR that will absolutely hinder its chance of passing in the Senate before this Friday when the current CR expires.

I urge defeat of this ill-advised motion.

I now yield to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON), chairman of the Interior Subcommittee Appropriations.

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the chairman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, if this wasn't such a serious subject that we're discussing here, the Federal budget and how we're going to fund it for the next 2 weeks, it would almost be funny.

Almost every Member of the Democratic Party that has stood up and talked about this CR has said something like this—even the sponsor of this motion said something along these lines: Democrats know we have to reduce spending. Democrats want to reduce spending. Yet the very first time

they have a chance to vote to reduce spending, reductions that the administration agrees with in its 2012 budget and eliminating earmarks, the Democrats vote “no”? It’s strange but true.

In fact, instead of cutting spending, they propose to increase revenue. Or increase taxes.

In this fragile economy with energy prices rising, we should be encouraging more energy and gas development and production in the United States. We need more supply, not less supply. This would reduce the supply.

Oil prices are rising again; and with the wave of unrest in the Middle East and North Africa, there are fears that we could soon see a return to \$4 or \$5 gas in the United States this summer.

□ 1540

The moratorium put in place following the Deepwater Horizon accident was lifted last fall by the administration; but the administration has issued just one deepwater permit in the gulf, and that was issued just yesterday. The Federal judge called this de facto deepwater drilling moratorium unreasonable, unacceptable, and unjustifiable.

The public will have no patience for more delays, more excuses, and higher taxes if gas prices continue to rise, especially when we have untapped resources here in the United States not being utilized. We need to be encouraging more production in this country, not discouraging production in this country.

Oil and gas from Federal lands, both onshore and offshore, provide an important energy source and domestic jobs and billions of dollars of revenue to the United States. This is a job-killing proposal. This is an issue that needs to be addressed carefully and in great detail. A rush to impose new taxes and fees through a motion to recommit is hasty and unwise. We ought to let the committees of jurisdiction address this issue. I strongly, in the strongest terms, encourage my colleagues to vote against this ill-conceived motion to recommit.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of the joint resolution, if ordered; and approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 176, nays 249, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 153]

YEAS—176

Ackerman
Andrews
Baca
Baldwin
Bass (CA)
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boswell
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Carmahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Chu
Cicilline
Clarke (MI)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
Critz
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
Deutch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Garamendi
Green, Al
Grijalva

Gutierrez
Hanabusa
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Higgins
Himes
Hinchey
Hirono
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inlee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kildee
Kind
Kissell
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lujan
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
Meeke
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Murphy (CT)
Nader
Napolitano
Neal
Oliver
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)

Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree (ME)
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Richmond
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stark
Sutton
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Tonko
Townsend
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NAYS—249

Adams
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Altmire
Amash
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Barletta
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bass (NH)
Benishkek
Berg
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boren
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brooks
Broun (GA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Buerkle
Burgess
Burton (IN)

Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Canseco
Cantor
Cardoza
Carter
Cassidy
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chandler
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Costa
Cravaack
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Dreier
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Elliott
Emerson
Farenthold

Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Flake
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Griffin (AR)
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guinta
Guthrie
Hall
Harper

Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (WA)
Hayworth
Heck
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herrera Beutler
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Labrador
Lamborn
Lance
Landry
Lankford
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
LoBiondo
Long
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marino
Matheson
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock

McCotter
McHenry
McKeon
McKinley
McMorriss
Rodgers
Meehan
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Myrick
Neugebauer
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Nunnelee
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Paul
Paulsen
Pearce
Pence
Peterson
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Quayle
Reed
Rehberg
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rivera
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney

NOT VOTING—7

Capito
Castor (FL)
Giffords

Hanna
Hinojosa
Marchant

□ 1605

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Messrs. GRAVES of Georgia, CHANDLER, and SMITH of Nebraska changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. CLARKE of Michigan, CARNEY, LEWIS of Georgia, SCHIFF, TIERNEY, and Ms. KAPTUR changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 335, noes 91, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 154]

AYES—335

Ackerman
Adams
Aderholt

Akin
Alexander
Altmire

Austria
Baca
Bachus

Barletta	Franks (AZ)	McIntyre	Stearns	Turner	Westmoreland
Barrow	Frelinghuysen	McKeon	Stivers	Upton	Whitfield
Bartlett	Galleghy	McKinley	Stutzman	Van Hollen	Wilson (SC)
Barton (TX)	Gardner	McMorris	Sullivan	Walberg	Wittman
Bass (NH)	Garrett	Rodgers	Terry	Walden	Wolf
Benishkek	Gerlach	Meehan	Thompson (CA)	Walsh (IL)	Womack
Berg	Gibbs	Mica	Thompson (PA)	Walz (MN)	Woodall
Berkley	Gibson	Michaud	Thornberry	Webster	Yoder
Biggert	Gingrey (GA)	Miller (FL)	Tiberti	Weiner	Young (AK)
Billbray	Gonzalez	Miller (MI)	Tipton	Welch	Young (IN)
Bilirakis	Goodlatte	Miller (NC)	Tsongas	West	
Bishop (GA)	Gosar	Miller, Gary			
Bishop (NY)	Gowdy	Moran			
Bishop (UT)	Granger	Mulvaney			
Black	Graves (GA)	Murphy (CT)	Amash	Hanabusa	Paul
Blackburn	Graves (MO)	Murphy (PA)	Andrews	Hastings (FL)	Payne
Blumenauer	Green, Al	Myrick	Bachmann	Hinchee	Pelosi
Bonner	Green, Gene	Neugebauer	Baldwin	Hirono	Rangel
Bono Mack	Griffin (AR)	Noem	Bass (CA)	Honda	Richardson
Boren	Griffith (VA)	Noem	Becerra	Jackson (IL)	Richmond
Boswell	Grimm	Nugent	Berman	Johnson (GA)	Roybal-Allard
Boustany	Guinta	Nunes	Brown (FL)	Johnson, E. B.	Rush
Brady (PA)	Guthrie	Nunnelee	Capuano	Jones	Ryan (OH)
Brady (TX)	Hall	Olson	Carson (IN)	Kaptur	Sánchez, Linda
Braley (IA)	Harper	Owens	Chu	King (IA)	T. Sanchez, Loretta
Brooks	Harris	Palazzo	Clarke (MI)	Kucinich	Schakowsky
Broun (GA)	Hartzler	Pastor (AZ)	Clarke (NY)	Lee (CA)	Serrano
Buchanan	Hastings (WA)	Paulsen	Clay	Lewis (GA)	Stark
Bucshon	Hayworth	Pearce	Cleaver	Lofgren, Zoe	Sutton
Buerkle	Heck	Pence	Clyburn	Lynch	Thompson (MS)
Burgess	Heinrich	Perlmutter	Cohen	Markey	Tierney
Burton (IN)	Heller	Peters	Conyers	Matsui	Tonko
Butterfield	Hensarling	Peterson	Cummings	McCollum	Towns
Calvert	Herger	Petri	Davis (IL)	McDermott	Velázquez
Camp	Herrera Beutler	Pingree (ME)	DeLauro	McGovern	Visclosky
Campbell	Higgins	Pitts	Edwards	McNerney	Wasserman
Canseco	Himes	Platts	Ellison	Meeks	Schultz
Cantor	Holden	Poe (TX)	Farr	Miller, George	Waters
Capito	Holt	Polis	Frank (MA)	Moore	Watt
Capps	Hoyer	Pompeo	Fudge	Nadler	Waxman
Cardoza	Huelskamp	Posey	Garamendi	Napolitano	Wilson (FL)
Carnahan	Huizenga (MI)	Price (GA)	Neal	Olver	Woolsey
Carney	Hultgren	Price (NC)	Oliver	Pallone	Wu
Carter	Hunter	Quayle	Grijalva	Pascarell	Yarmuth
Cassidy	Hurt	Quigley	Gutierrez		
Chabot	Inslee	Rahall			
Chaffetz	Israel	Reed			
Chandler	Issa	Rehberg	Castor (FL)	Hanna	Marchant
Cicilline	Jackson Lee	Reichert	Giffords	Hinojosa	Young (FL)
Coble	(TX)	Renacci			
Coffman (CO)	Jenkins	Reyes			
Cole	Johnson (IL)	Ribble			
Conaway	Johnson (OH)	Rigell			
Connolly (VA)	Johnson, Sam	Rivera			
Cooper	Jordan	Roby			
Costa	Keating	Roe (TN)			
Costello	Kelly	Rogers (AL)			
Courtney	Kildee	Rogers (KY)			
Cravaack	Kind	Rogers (MI)			
Crawford	King (NY)	Rohrabacher			
Crenshaw	Kingston	Rokita			
Critz	Kinzinger (IL)	Rooney			
Crowley	Kissell	Ros-Lehtinen			
Cuellar	Kline	Roskam			
Culberson	Labrador	Ross (AR)			
Davis (CA)	Lamborn	Ross (FL)			
Davis (KY)	Lance	Rothman (NJ)			
DeFazio	Landry	Royce			
DeGette	Langevin	Ryunyan			
Denham	Lankford	Ruppersberger			
Dent	Larsen (WA)	Ryan (WI)			
DesJarlais	Larson (CT)	Sarbanes			
Deutch	Latham	Scalise			
Diaz-Balart	LaTourette	Schiff			
Dicks	Latta	Schilling			
Dingell	Levin	Schmidt			
Doggett	Lewis (CA)	Schock			
Dold	Lipinski	Schrader			
Donnelly (IN)	LoBiondo	Schwartz			
Doyle	Loeb sack	Schwartz			
Dreier	Long	Schweikert			
Duffy	Lowey	Scott (SC)			
Duncan (SC)	Lucas	Scott (VA)			
Duncan (TN)	Luetkemeyer	Scott, Austin			
Ellmers	Lujan	Scott, David			
Emerson	Lummis	Sensenbrenner			
Engel	Lungren, Daniel	Sessions			
Eshoo	E.	Sewell			
Farenthold	Mack	Sherman			
Fattah	Maloney	Shimkus			
Fincher	Manzullo	Shuler			
Fitzpatrick	Marino	Shuster			
Flake	Matheson	Simpson			
Fleischmann	McCarthy (CA)	Sires			
Fleming	McCarthy (NY)	Slaughter			
Flores	McCaul	Smith (NE)			
Forbes	McClintock	Smith (NJ)			
Fortenberry	McCotter	Smith (TX)			
Fox	McHenry	Smith (WA)			
		Southerland			
		Speier			

NOES—91

NOT VOTING—6

□ 1614

Ms. WATERS changed her vote from "aye" to "no."

Mr. COSTELLO changed his vote from "no" to "aye."

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

□ 1620

CONGRATULATING THE PENN STATE IFC/PANHELLENIC DANCE MARATHON

(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, the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, referred to as THON, is a yearlong effort to raise funds and awareness for the fight against pediatric cancer. THON is the

largest student-run philanthropy in the world, with 700 dancers, more than 300 supporting organizations, and more than 15,000 volunteers involved in the annual event.

Since 1977, THON has raised more than \$78 million for The Four Diamonds Fund at the Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital. This year, THON 2012 took place from February 17–19. At this year's event, Penn State York broke its own record, raising \$17,160.71, the largest amount that has ever been raised for THON, and it made it to the top 10 in fundraisers among the Penn State campuses.

THON has helped so many families through The Four Diamonds Fund, and this critical support for pediatric cancer research has enabled some pediatric cancer survival rates to increase to nearly 90 percent.

I want to congratulate the Penn State University IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon on its continued success in support of The Four Diamonds Fund and for their amazing, record-breaking total for this year's event.

DEAD BABIES DESERVE JUSTICE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I came to the floor of the House, and I think I was genuinely pleading with my colleagues in responding to the tragedy of an incident that occurred last Thursday, when a person who was supposed to have been attending to seven babies under 3 years old now has been found allegedly to have left to have gone grocery shopping, to have come back to a grease fire in the kitchen, and to have found that four babies, 3 and under, were killed.

Two are now in the burn unit. These are possibly babies supported by Federal funding for child care—by someone 22 years old and licensed by the State of Texas. In all we do to provide funding for desperate parents, can we at least expect the criteria to be reasonable?

Now we have the District Attorney's Office indicating that they can't find the suspect, that he has fled because they waited 3 days to file any charges against someone who was responsible for four dead babies. We understand they have asked the U.S. Marshal. We don't even know whether they have asked the State Department to help.

It is a crying shame, and I am getting to the bottom of it. Dead babies deserve justice.

SHERIFFS ON THE BORDER

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it has been 5 months since David Hartley was brutally murdered by pirates on

Falcon Lake. His body remains missing, and those responsible for this border murder remain at large.

Shamefully, the only American peace officer apparently still working on this case is Sheriff Sigi Gonzalez of Zapata County. He has identified four of the seven shooters as Zeta Cartel members.

At least there's still somebody on the case.

The local sheriffs cannot do the job that they are supposed to do of protecting their counties while doing the Federal Government's job of protecting the border as well. Sixty-five Americans were murdered in Mexico last year, and not one case has been solved. Unfortunately, some of the Mexican border law enforcement personnel are in cahoots with the drug cartels. That relationship breeds incompetence and corruption.

Until the FBI, the State Department and Homeland Security get fully engaged in the murders of Americans in Mexico, it will be the responsibility of local sheriffs to keep the peace on the border.

And that's just the way it is.

THE STATE OF OUR ECONOMY

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

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, last week I had a chance to gain feedback from my neighbors in Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District, and what I heard should concern us all.

From my "Home to House" town hall forum to the numerous meetings I held all over the district, my constituents are deeply concerned with the state of our economy and its effect on our communities.

Just one week after I submitted an amendment to restore \$42 million to the Community Development Fund, I had the chance to get a firsthand look at some of the food banks and after-school programs that benefit from this critical resource. I also had the opportunity to hear from many who share my apprehension about spending reductions to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP. I learned that 3,036 requests for LIHEAP grants were received from Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton in the past 2 months alone.

I thank all of those who have made the effort to share their thoughts and concerns with me, and I look forward to receiving more feedback in the future.

TURN THIS SHIP AROUND

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, imagine in your own household if, for every dollar you spent, 40 cents was borrowed. Obviously, you would sit down

with your family at the kitchen table and say, Okay, for every dollar we spend, 40 cents is borrowed. We're going to have to change our purchasing habits.

That's what American families do; that's what farmers do; that's what small businesses do each and every day. Yet, for some reason, the U.S. Congress thinks it can defy gravity and not worry about this deficit, which is now \$1.5 trillion. The debt is nearly 90 percent of the GDP, and we owe much of this money to China.

We have got to make tough decisions. It is not time for partisan politics. We need to come together as Democrats and Republicans and do what American families, farmers and small businesses do every day, every year. We need to reduce spending and turn this ship around.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 662, SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2011

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-20) on the resolution (H. Res. 128) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 662) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4, SMALL BUSINESS PAPERWORK MANDATE ELIMINATION ACT OF 2011

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-21) on the resolution (H. Res. 129) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4) to repeal the expansion of information reporting requirements for payments of \$600 or more to corporations, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE DOCTORS CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank you, and I thank Speaker BOEHNER and my leadership for giving me an opportunity and my colleagues an opportunity during this next hour to talk about something that, yes, indeed, is still fresh on everybody's minds.

That is, of course, the passage on March 23, 2010, almost a year ago now,

of something that some might affectionately refer to as ObamaCare, I guess officially we would say the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Some people struggle with the acronym of PAPA Care. Whatever you call it, this health care reform act that was passed last year is something that a preponderance of the American people have been and continue to be opposed to.

Mr. Speaker, as the designee of the majority, I am taking this opportunity during this hour to talk a little bit more specifically about why we feel the way we feel, why the American people—why our constituents—keep telling us even a year later they are still worried about it and are opposed to it after President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act into law. I think the bill number was 3590. That's what we're going to be spending our time on here in the next hour. We will be discussing that issue.

□ 1630

I have a number of my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, who are members of the GOP House Doctors Caucus. Now, in that Doctors Caucus, we have all health care providers—not all M.D.s, a lot of M.D.s, but we also have some dentists. We have a clinical Ph.D. psychologist, and now, with our new freshman class, we have three registered nurses on our side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker. So the Republican GOP Doctors Caucus is growing, growing almost double in the 112th Congress as compared to the 111th. So many of my colleagues in the Doctors Caucus will be part of this discussion.

I would like to point out to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle a couple of slides before yielding time to the other members of the Doctors Caucus. This first slide that I'm pointing out to you—GOP Doctors Caucus, of course—"ObamaCare hurts States and patients."

I know that a lot of the discussion today will be about the strain that certain provisions of this bill place on our 50 States, not just my home State of Georgia. I do want to talk a little bit about that and the strain that my Governor and the members of the Georgia General Assembly are experiencing in trying to balance a budget when they have all this added requirement under the sections pertaining to Medicaid. So that's what I mean when I say in this slide the GOP Doctors Caucus feels that ObamaCare hurts States, and certainly potentially hurts patients.

I'd ask my colleagues to also—again, on both sides of the aisle, because our purpose here is to inform. We're not to be overly critical, but I think it's very important that we state the facts as we see them, as we know them.

In this slide a little bit further to my left, "ObamaCare," it says, if you can't see it, "You can have whatever you like as long as the boss approves it." And the boss, if you remember from that pretty popular TV series "The

Dukes of Hazard,” that would be Boss Hogg. Now, if you’re wondering who I’m referencing in regard to “the boss,” I’m referencing the Federal Government, Mr. Speaker, not any individual, but the Federal Government.

It was said many times in the mark-up of this bill and the lead-up to this bill—which, as I say, we call ObamaCare—“You can have whatever you like as long as the boss approves it.” And just in this year alone, the boss—and the boss in this instance happens to be Secretary Sebelius and the Department of Health and Human Services—has had to grant—now listen to this, my colleagues—has had to grant 733 waivers to make sure that this pledge of “if you like what you have you can keep it”; otherwise, without those waivers, you couldn’t—733 of them.

So this is what we’re going to talk about tonight, and I thank my colleagues for being on the floor and joining with me.

At this point, one of the members of the GOP Doctors Caucus, in his second term, a gastroenterologist of a number of years practicing in Louisiana, my good friend, Representative and Doctor BILL CASSIDY.

Mr. CASSIDY. Thank you, Dr. GINGREY.

Now, Dr. GINGREY, I’m struck. Sometimes folks think that when we speak about health care, we’re only speaking about health care. That seems kind of a simplistic statement. But let’s think about it.

Right now, States are having these huge budget crises. We see in Wisconsin where there’s a protest. We see in some States where there may be as much as a \$10 billion budget deficit. In my State of Louisiana, there is a \$1 billion to \$2 billion budget deficit. And if you think about this a little bit deeply, you understand that this can be related to health care.

Now, specifically, for Medicaid. Medicaid, for those watching who are unfamiliar with it, is a combined program in which the State puts up some money and the Federal Government puts up some of the money, and with this it is used to care for the elderly, for pregnant women, for children, typically people of low income. Well, as it turns out, it is this program which is bankrupting the States. In a State, if you’re paying this amount for health care and this amount for roads and this amount for education, as the amount for health care increases, you either raise taxes or you decrease spending on the other areas. Now, as it turns out, this has had tremendous impact.

Today, the Governor of Massachusetts came and spoke to one of our committees regarding the impact of their health care program, which is very similar to the bill just passed last Congress, in Massachusetts, and I was struck by what a nice view he gave. If you heard Governor Patrick speak—I didn’t have a chance to ask him questions, but if you heard him speak,

there’s no problems with it whatsoever. But as I logged on and, say, read the Boston Globe, I learned different things.

First, I learned that Massachusetts, which has already implemented a program like this, the amount of money spent on health care has gone from 21 percent of the State budget in the year 2000 to 37 percent now. So from 21 percent to 37 percent is the amount the State of Massachusetts is now spending on health care. Well, you can only imagine the crowd-out effect that has on spending for other issues.

Well, the Governor again, as he went on and praised their program, said that there has been no problems paying for it. Well, as it turns out, and according to the paper, there’s about a \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion shortfall in the Massachusetts budget. And in Massachusetts, the Governor of Massachusetts has said that the Medicaid spending is unsustainable. Hmm, that’s different. So this is, if you will, the beta version of the Affordable Care Act—or as I call it, the unaffordable care act. This is the beta version of it, but it gives us an idea of what our future is going to be like.

Now, in order to deal with these costs—again, I’m quoting the Globe—it says that “most recently dental benefits have been slashed for hundreds of thousands of Massachusetts Medicaid patients and they have lost access to their dentists.”

Now, by the way, the goals of health care reform are to provide affordable, quality health care that is accessible to all; but if you can’t afford it, you eventually lose access. And I think what we found in Massachusetts is that the inability to afford is, of course, decreasing access. And it’s not just the fact that these folks lost access to their dentists. Last year, folks who are recent immigrants to the United States who have been enrolled upon Medicaid in Massachusetts were disenrolled. So, if you will, this Massachusetts Medicaid program that has grown from 21 percent of the Massachusetts budget to 37 percent and still growing, now the cost is being controlled by denying access.

Now, we also mentioned a third goal of health care reform, which is quality care. You know, there’s actually now concerns about the quality of health care afforded by Medicaid. If you will, there’s a study recently reported in the Archives of Surgery in which someone looked at the outcomes of patients covered by Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, or uninsured. As it turns out, they say, of all four groups, the cost and length of stay associated with Medicaid was longer than the rest.

Also, mortality rates—now, that’s a way to say how many people die. Mortality rates associated with uninsured, Medicare, private insurance, and Medicaid was highest for Medicaid. So if you had Medicaid, you had a higher death rate from your hospitalization than if you’re on private insurance, if

you’re on Medicare, and if you’re uninsured.

Now, it’s so counterintuitive that being on Medicaid is worse than being uninsured in terms of outcomes. Clearly, this is an issue that has to be studied further, but it certainly calls into question the very premise of using Medicaid as the basis for health care reform.

Just to make a point, under the Affordable Care Act—or the unaffordable care act—many people are insured; 20 million Americans are put on Medicaid as a way for them to be now insured.

□ 1640

And yet if we see that it’s bankrupting States, it’s clearly not affordable. If we see that because it’s not affordable States are now denying access to care, as is the case in Massachusetts, and the care that is provided is of problematic quality, we can say to ourselves that this is not the basis for reform. It’s like the antithesis of reform.

So I will yield back to you, Dr. GINGREY, just pointing out that this not only involves health care but also involves our ability as a State to afford other things, like roads and education. And to use that State government-Federal Government program as a basis for reform does not serve patients, does not serve the States.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. I thank the gentleman from Louisiana, Mr. Speaker.

At this time, I want to yield a little bit of time to our colleague, a freshmen Member, a new member of the Doctors Caucus, a registered nurse from the great State of North Carolina, RENEE ELLMERS. Representative ELLMERS has worked in a medical practice with her husband, who is an M.D., and we look forward to her comments.

And at this time, I yield as much time as she may use to RENEE ELLMERS.

Mrs. ELLMERS. Thank you.

I’d like to just contribute a little bit more on the overall burden that ObamaCare places on our States in covering patients on Medicaid.

As we’ve seen, this has grown, especially with the recession and the undue costs to our States’ budgets to provide Medicaid at no cost sharing from the patients. I think that this is a key issue. It’s basically free health care for those individuals at taxpayer expense. And it’s just a huge strain on our States’ budgets, as my colleague has pointed out.

One of the key factors—and very important, certainly very important in health care—are the preventative mandates. Certainly preventative medicine is a way that we can all heal, that we can all be looking for those issues that can down the road prevent excessive costs. But such things as no copays or deductibles for colonoscopies, mammograms, such things like this is there again, an undue cost to our States at taxpayer expense. It’s just too much of a burden.

You know, I want to help everyone. I think that everyone should be able to have health care. As we know, if you pull up to an emergency room in any hospital across the country, you will receive health care. So the misnomer that there are those individuals who are not receiving health care is really an untrue statement.

Now, of course, you're going to receive a bill for that care. And I think that just as if you go to the grocery store and you have your cart full of groceries when you check out, you have to pay for it. It's the same thing with health care. Health care is a business, and someone has to pay for it.

But when we continuously pass this cost on to our taxpayers and, of course, our State budgets, it is just unbelievably difficult; and, of course, that is what ObamaCare does. It increases the number of patients on Medicaid, and it is just an unsustainable cost.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. If the gentlelady would let me reclaim my time for just a second, and then I will yield back to her.

Colleagues, look at this first slide again, the heading, "Who Is the Boss?" And of course we've already talked about Boss Hogg. And I said at the outset, the Federal Government is the boss. But there are one, two, three, four, five bullet points under that. And this is really what Representative ELLMERS is referring to in regard to the Federal Government putting all of these mandates onto the State budgets.

159 new boards, agencies, and commissions created by ObamaCare to support the boss, the government—159 new boards. Sixteen thousand new IRS agents help the boss, the government, enforce the new law. That's a report from the House Ways and Means Committee.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius, under this law, this 2,400-page monstrosity, is given broad new powers to run ObamaCare—rulemaking, regulatory authority. No wonder the doctors and their patients are scared to death.

And then, of course, the new Director of CMS, the Committee on Medicare and Medicaid Services, Dr. Donald Berwick, a brilliant man, a Harvard-trained doctor, M.D., written several books. Unfortunately, in those books, Mr. Speaker, he talks about rationing of care. This is a paraphrase of a quote: It's not if we ration; it's how we ration.

And, again, these are the things that we have great fear of.

The CBO actually, in this last bullet point, Congressional Budget Office, nonpartisan, says it will cost between \$5 billion and \$10 billion just to hire all of these new employees needing to help the boss, the government, run ObamaCare.

Mrs. ELLMERS. I would like to expand on some of the points that you're making there.

We're basically talking about the same issues, and we can see what an increase in costs this is going to be and

how incredibly difficult it would be to put this in place. And, you know, this isn't yet another situation where the good intentions and well-meaning intentions that are put forward to help this situation are just truly not the answer.

You know, basically, how do we increase the access to health care coverage? Medicaid is not the route to take. There again, it passes too much cost on to our States and it is not—it is an imperfect situation. And I'll expand a little bit on the Congressional Budget Office numbers.

Very conservative estimates indicate Federal spending for Medicaid is expected to reach \$427 billion by 2019. And the Congressional Budget Office notes the program will consume more than 4 percent of GDP by 2050.

You know, one of the unintended consequences to this—you know, we were talking about some of these bad situations, poor outcomes. One of the things that we're seeing right now, unfortunately, in health care as we move into this transition into ObamaCare is the decrease in Medicaid reimbursements to physicians. They're not very good to begin with, and I would say that that's probably going to decrease to doctors and hospitals as we decrease the reimbursement to hospitals especially.

This will basically—we were talking about the possibility of rationing of care and knowing that this is down the line and the quotes, of course, that we see from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid. But basically what we're seeing here is that physicians will be forced to have to stop taking Medicaid patients.

As we all know, physician offices are businesses. They're small business owners. They have staff that they have to pay. They have payroll that they have to meet. And, unfortunately, when faced with a situation like this—we're already seeing it with Medicare as well; physicians, you know, having to dial back on the number of Medicare and Medicaid patients that they're seeing. This ultimately will not help the situation and get that health care for the American public that we're looking for.

If this is the answer—well, let's just say it's not the answer. We're creating another problem with this solution. And once again, how will we deal with that down the road, with these incredibly large numbers of costs that we're passing on to our taxpayers?

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, again, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina and hope she'll stay with us during the remaining portion of the hour, and I'd like to yield additional time to her later in the hour.

At this time, I would like to yield to another freshman Member, another physician Member, Mr. Speaker, and also I'm proud that he is a member now of the House GOP Doctors Caucus. And I will yield time now to my good friend from Indiana, Dr. LARRY BUCSHON.

Mr. BUCSHON. Thank you, Dr. GINGREY.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about how ObamaCare will hurt my State and ultimately hurt my patients. And I would like to start with an example of the Medicaid program.

As a cardiothoracic surgeon in Evansville, Indiana, I see a lot of patients from neighboring States because we're right in the corner next to Illinois and Kentucky.

□ 1650

Many of these patients are Medicaid patients and, without treatment, face grave results. However, every year the Illinois Medicaid program runs out of money in September, October. They don't have enough money to fund the entire year. And what does that mean? That means that without denying any patients care that they need and deserve, my practice was forced to delay billing to the Medicaid system of Illinois. And then once the new fiscal year came into play, about 50 percent of those claims were subsequently denied by Illinois Medicaid. So those patients that came over for our services, they don't have quality health insurance, Mr. Speaker.

Some physicians in my community don't even bother to bill the Medicaid program in some States at all. This is an example of the broken Medicaid system, a system that has many issues focusing on the access to quality health care. And it was said earlier you see the outcome difference between Medicaid and private insurance patients because we have an access and quality problem with these patients, a system that ObamaCare will break even more by adding millions of Americans to the States' Medicaid rolls. It's estimated that this may cost the State of Indiana as much as \$3.6 billion to cover these folks.

From Indiana we have an innovative and effective solution, and that's called the Healthy Indiana Plan. Beginning in January 2008, uninsured Hoosiers between the ages of 19 and 64 started enrolling in this plan, a consumer-driven health care plan. The Healthy Indiana Plan operates on an 1115 demonstration waiver from CMS, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Due to the program's success, the State of Indiana would like to use the Healthy Indiana Plan as a coverage vehicle for the newly eligible population under ObamaCare. This has been requested by my State Department of Health and Human Services, but to this point we have not heard a response about whether this will be possible. And I am hoping that we get a response in the positive direction because this is a great program.

The plan is for citizens that earn less than 200 percent of the Federal poverty level and works on a sliding scale for individual contributions, based on the ability to pay, that cannot exceed more

than 5 percent of his or her gross family income. Each participant is enrolled in a health savings account valued at about \$1,100, and will not make copays except for non-emergency use of the emergency room. And believe it or not, this program reimburses providers at a Medicare, not Medicaid, level. This gives citizens a financial incentive to adopt healthy lifestyles and personal responsibility to make their own health care decisions.

Healthy Indiana Plan is an innovative, market-based, consumer-driven plan that is working. In a recent survey, 94 percent of Healthy Indiana Plan participants are satisfied with the program, and 99 percent indicated they would re-enroll. There is data in the fact sheet that I have included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD showing the success of this plan both for patients and for the State of Indiana.

It's a commonsense, market-based solution to a broken Medicaid system that ObamaCare does nothing to fix, but only further burdens my State, and all States, and will ultimately continue to hurt patients' access to quality health care in America. So I would urge everyone to review what the State of Indiana has done with its Healthy Indiana Plan.

With that, Dr. GINGREY, I thank you.

The Healthy Indiana Plan is a consumer-driven health care plan for uninsured Hoosiers between the ages of 19-64. The program began enrollment in January 2008, and operates under an 1115 demonstration waiver from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services (CMS). During the first two years of the program, HIP served 61,797 Hoosiers.

WHO IS COVERED?

HIP is for uninsured Hoosier adults between the ages of 19-64. Parents or caretaker relatives of children in the Hoosier Healthwise (CHIP) program are likely candidates for HIP.

Eligibility Requirements: 1. Earn less than 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). A single adult earning less than \$20,000 or families of four earning less than \$40,000 likely meet the basic financial requirements. 2. No access to employer sponsored health insurance coverage. 3. Uninsured for the previous six months.

PLAN STRUCTURE

A POWER (Health Savings Account) Account valued at \$1,100 per adult. Contributions to the account are made by the State and each participant (based on ability to pay). No participant pays more than 5% of his/her gross family income.

Sliding scale for individual contributions (based on % of gross family income): 0-100% FPL: 2%; 100%-125% FPL: 3%; 125%-150% FPL: 4%; 150%-200% FPL: 4.5%-5% (Caretaker relatives/parental adults in this income bracket contribute 4.5%, and the childless adults contribute 5%).

No co-pays except for non emergency use of the ED.

Providers are reimbursed at Medicare, not Medicaid, rates.

PLAN BENEFITS

A basic commercial benefits package, once annual medical costs exceed \$1,100.

Coverage for preventive services up to \$500 a year at no cost to participants.

Services include: physician services, prescriptions, diagnostic exams, home health services, outpatient hospital, inpatient hos-

pital, hospice, preventive services, family planning, and case and disease management.

Mental health coverage is similar to coverage for physical health, and includes substance abuse treatment, inpatient, outpatient, and drugs.

HIP does not cover vision or dental. HIP also does not cover pregnancy services, as these services are available through the existing Medicaid program.

WHY A POWER (HSA) ACCOUNT?

Personal Wellness and Responsibility (POWER) Accounts give participants a financial incentive to adopt healthy behaviors that keep them out of the doctor's office. When they do seek health care, participants will seek price and quality transparency so they can make value conscious decisions.

If all age and gender appropriate preventive services are completed, all (State and individual) remaining POWER Account funds will rollover to offset the following year's contribution. If preventive services are not completed, only the individual's prorated contribution (not the State's portion) to the account rolls over.

PROGRAM RESULTS & PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

HIP members, in general, have demonstrated the personal responsibility emphasized by the program.

Lower ER Use: Some HIP members do not make POWER account contributions due to CMS income-counting guidelines. HIP members required to make POWER account contributions: 9% decrease in ER use in 3 months; 15% decrease in ER use after 6 months. HIP members not required to make POWER account contributions: Initial 5% decline in ER use after 3 months; no additional decline in ER use.

High Generic Drug Utilization:

HIP generic drug utilization: 80%; comparable commercial population: 65%.

High Use of Preventative Care: 76% of HIP members received their required annual physical in the first year of the program. Use of preventive services was significantly higher than the traditional Medicaid population in Indiana: 445.4 well care visits per 1,000 (HIP caretaker adults); 281.8 well care visits per 1,000 (HIP childless adults); 195.2 well care visits per 1,000 (Indiana Medicaid adults).

Strong Personal Responsibility: 97% of members made their required POWER account contributions during program year one. Individuals can be removed from the program for failure to make POWER Account contributions within 45 days. Once removed from the program, an individual may not re-enroll for 12 months.

High Member Satisfaction: 94% of HIP participants surveyed said they are satisfied with the program, and 99% of respondents indicated that they would re-enroll in the program.

IMPACT OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

The Affordable Care Act maintenance of effort requirements turned HIP into an entitlement program for adults. Despite funding limitations (HIP was funded through an increase in the cigarette tax), the State cannot limit the number of parental enrollees. Therefore, the State is not currently enrolling childless adults on the wait list.

Due to the success of the program, the State would like to use HIP as the coverage vehicle for the newly eligible population. Indiana has asked for direction from CMS (May letter to Cindy Mann) and has not received any official guidance.

The success of the program depends on its innovative market-based, consumer-driven structure. There is concern about whether or not CMS will allow the program to continue in its current form.

For more information: www.HIP.in.gov.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. I think, Mr. Speaker, the good doctor is pointing out some things that our colleagues on both sides of the aisle and the American people need to understand. This plan that was just described to us by Representative BUCSHON, the Healthy Indiana Plan, it's so typical of what the States are capable of doing, Mr. Speaker, if they're allowed to do that.

But we have great concerns, and when I say "we," I am talking about the governors of all 50 States, be they Republican or Democrat, and the territories, to be told by the boss, again, that, no, you can't be an incubation center, you cannot be innovative in regard to developing a health care plan for those who can't afford to purchase health insurance on their own and they qualify for safety-net programs like the Federal-State shared program Medicaid.

And the States, Indiana, my own State of Georgia, Governor Herbert testified before the Energy and Commerce Committee today in regard to what he is doing in Utah. In fact, they had already set up exchanges at the State level 5 or 6 years ago, long before this Patient Protection Affordable Care Act even was on the drawing board.

But when you have things in the bill, when the boss writes a section of the bill that says States, it doesn't matter that you have to balance your budget, we don't at the Federal level, but we're going to dictate to you that you're going to have to start covering Medicaid constituency up to 138 percent of the Federal poverty level. We're going to put that into law. That's part of this new law ObamaCare. And you have no choice. Now, we're going to give you a little breathing room, and we're going to say it's not going to start for a couple of years, indeed January of 2014 you have got to expand your Medicaid rolls from the typical State covers 100 percent of the Federal poverty level. This goes up to 138 percent of the Federal poverty level.

And the boss says, well, we'll pay all of it with Federal dollars for the first couple years, but we're going to phase that out. And then, oh, yes, guess what happens, the boss adds eventually at the end of the day \$60 billion to State Medicaid costs. And also there is a section in the bill, Mr. Speaker, that tells the States, and it's called maintenance of effort, you can't change one thing that you currently do in your Medicaid program to prepare yourself for this tsunami. If you're covering today 185 percent of the Federal poverty level, you can't all of a sudden say, well, gosh, you know, we're going to have to lower that to 150 percent and put some oats away and get ready for that real rainy day in 2014.

We heard from another governor today in that hearing—there were three—Governor Deval Patrick of Massachusetts was one, and Governor Haley Barbour from Mississippi, Mr.

Speaker, was the other. And Governor Barbour was saying that a couple of years ago he instituted a program in the State of Mississippi that would make sure that people that were on the Medicaid program were eligible, that they deserved to be there. They weren't eating somebody else's lunch, as the expression would go. They weren't illegal immigrants. Their income wasn't too high to make them eligible for this safety-net program.

And of course, Mr. Speaker, as we all know, thank goodness, income from year to year can get better. We're still waiting for that to happen. I think ObamaCare and some of these other policies that we're seeing over the last 4 years is preventing that from happening. So Governor Barbour would make people come and face to face verify that they were still eligible from year to year. As I understand it, this rule, this maintenance of effort would prohibit—he has already done it in Mississippi—but in any other State, as an example, to make sure your rolls were clean and were you covering the people that were eligible and that really needed that care.

□ 1700

This is the kind of thing that we are dealing with, and why we are talking about this tonight and why we are talking about it so passionately.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Tennessee, Representative DIANE BLACK, another new Member, a delightful new Member, also assuming leadership positions and going to do a great job here in the House.

Mrs. BLACK. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a registered nurse who worked in emergency rooms and caring for patients. I also rise as a former member of the Tennessee General Assembly who saw firsthand the devastating effects of TennCare on our State and was a part of the group, of the effort, to dismantle it.

Finally, I rise today as a representative of the Sixth District of Tennessee, where my constituents have told me over and over how they do not want ObamaCare bankrupting our Nation and getting between them and the doctor.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the health care industry, and I know that the new health care law, is not the solution to our problem. Pretty soon, the health care law will be the problem. I know this because for many of us in Tennessee, the President's new health care law is like a bad dream all over again.

And let me tell you what I mean. Tennessee was the pilot project for universal health care and the experiment was called TennCare. Put simply, the experiment failed.

After TennCare passed, we watched the cost grow exponentially, and those of us in the legislature knew that if we did not do something, TennCare was going to bankrupt our State and, much like ObamaCare, the sheer size of

TennCare was more than government could handle. The government could not perform all of the functions of the medical insurance industry. Promises of care and access were made, and promises were far beyond what our State could possibly do.

It didn't take long before TennCare became riddled with waste and fraud and abuse. I can remember talking with people who had gone from doctor to doctor and specialist to specialist using TennCare to fill more than 50 prescriptions. Yes, 50 prescriptions is what they would put in front of me and tell me that TennCare was paying for, and it was all on the taxpayer's dime.

TennCare became the monster that even the creators could not control. Today, TennCare is gutted, only available to a small group of people, and Tennessee has been brought back from the brink of bankruptcy.

Last month, Republican Governors wrote to ask the administration to "waive the bill's costly mandates and grant States the authority to choose benefit rules that meet the specific needs of their citizens." The Governors were asking for commonsense solutions like waiving provisions that punished consumer-driven plans like the most popular plan and the cost-effective plan of health care savings accounts. Give the States the ability to do what States can do best, and that is to determine what's best for them.

But the President shows no sign of granting States some flexibility in how they will apply ObamaCare. And only yesterday, President Obama said he is supporting letting the States propose their own health care plans by 2014. However, that would be only if he will not change the mandates for the States in the current law.

So in one side of his speech he says, yes, he will allow some flexibility. On the other side he says, there still must be certain mandates.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. If the gentlewoman would yield, it is kind of like you can keep what you like until you can't. That's what we are seeing, and that's why, as I pointed out earlier, that 733 waivers, just this year in 2011, had been grant happened by Secretary Sebelius to try to fulfill that promise, but they can't do it. They can't keep up with it. There is a need for a new waiver every day.

Mrs. BLACK. Dr. GINGREY, as you said, States will still be forced to comply with benefit levels and mandates that are set by Federal bureaucrats, not by the States themselves. That certainly doesn't give States rights.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius has already said that if the State were to propose its own plan that they will be forced to provide comprehensive, comprehensive coverage, and that coverage will be defined by government. So much for being able to keep your plan or for the States to make a determination on what plan best suits them.

Now President Obama wants every State to live through its own version of

TennCare. With ballooning budgets for each State and no way to curb their health care costs that will cripple the States during a time of already strapped budgets, it's simply unacceptable.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. I would say it's unconscionable and unacceptable.

Mrs. BLACK. We averted this disaster in Tennessee by dissolving TennCare and now, as a Member of Congress, I will work to stop this financial and fiscal disaster that ObamaCare will bring to our Nation. This health care law must be replaced, and I believe this House can do it.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. I thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee. I failed to mention, of course, that she is also a part of our GOP House Doctors Caucus and, as she pointed out, a registered nurse for many years in a great Volunteer State, so we appreciate Representative BLACK being with us tonight.

Before I yield to our next speaker I wanted to, Mr. Speaker, go back to this current chart. I wish I had brought a magic marker. I didn't. But I circled this, I guess, third bullet point because I think it's really telling in regard to what's happened at the State level as a consequence of the provisions of ObamaCare.

And this bullet point says the boss, the Government, the boss prohibits 16 million patients from buying private insurance by trapping them in Medicaid, and that's really what they have done, Mr. Speaker. By expanding the Medicaid eligibility from 100 percent of Federal poverty to 138, that means that a lot of the folks out there today who are uninsured can't afford health insurance; they are not eligible, they are not poor enough, if you will, to be eligible for their safety net program known as Medicaid.

In the Federal Government, the boss comes along with this idea of letting people buy their health insurance in an exchange in each State, maybe over the Internet. If they are low income, then they get a Federal subsidy, not a Federal-State subsidy, but a Federal subsidy.

Well, clearly as the Democratic majority and President Obama were crafting this thing, they figured out, well, you know, if we can shift more of these people into the Medicaid program where the States have to pick up some of the tab, then we will get them off our back. You know, we will lower the cost. We will make this thing work.

Unfortunately, the poor States, and they are poor, all have to balance their budgets, and the Federal Government doesn't. That's why we owe \$13.4 trillion, and now they are even talking about us wanting to raise the debt ceiling so we can borrow some more money. It's a smoke and mirrors game, maybe even a Ponzi scheme, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I want to yield to another member of our GOP

House Doctors Caucus, the gentleman from west Tennessee. I don't know whether the area is called Pell Mell or Pall Mall—maybe he will describe it to us when he stands to speak—but I am talking about a fine physician, a family practitioner, Dr. SCOTT DESJARLAIS.

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Thank you, Dr. GINGREY. I hail from Marion County, which is South Pittsburg, would be the hometown.

Before coming to Congress I had the opportunity to serve the people in Tennessee as a primary care physician. In 1994 Tennessee embarked on an experiment with the Medicaid program, which became known as TennCare. Unfortunately, it never accomplished its goal of improving on the flawed Medicaid system.

□ 1710

To the contrary, it became a breeding ground for waste, fraud, abuse and inefficiency. I witnessed the frustration of my patients, my staff and myself as we struggled to combat this bureaucratic web that forced us to spend time navigating administrative hurdles rather than focusing on quality care.

Another problem that rapidly evolved was over-utilization of the system. Often, only one family member was ill, but other family members were requesting to be seen simply because it was more convenient than making other arrangements for the non-ill member, such as children, to be cared for elsewhere. This also became, and continues to be, a problem in the emergency rooms. There is no cost difference to the patients, so there is no disincentive to utilize the ER for non-emergent care. In fact, this is a national problem, with up to 80 percent of ER visits being deemed nonemergent. This leads to much longer wait times in emergency rooms for those patients who are critically ill. It should also be noted that ER visits are obviously much more expensive than office visits, further driving up the cost unnecessarily.

A simple solution to improving the problem of over-utilization would be implementing a nominal copay system in which office visits cost something like \$5 per visit and ER visits might cost \$20. This simple step would likely have far-reaching effects to reduce costs, over-utilization, and thus increase availability of care for those who need it. We should see TennCare as a warning of the many problems that a government-run health care model creates.

There are certainly issues with our Nation's health care system that need to be addressed, and the GOP Doctors Caucus has no shortage of good ideas on how to make health care more affordable and expand coverage. But what we stand firm in saying is that ObamaCare is not the answer to the problem, but, rather, it creates an even bigger problem.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. I thank the gentleman from Tennessee, and I

thank him for making sure that I know exactly what county and counties he represents. I know it's a great State and a great part of the State, and we are very proud of the good doctor.

At this time, I want to yield to another freshman member of their class of 87 strong. It's a fantastic class, Mr. Speaker. We are awfully proud of each and every one of the new Members, but especially those who have that health care background, that experience to come to this body, to this Chamber and to this town and bring some professional expertise. We don't have all the answers, Mr. Speaker. And I'm proud of these physician colleagues of mine because they're not know-it-alls, but they know what they know and they know it well.

At this point, I would like to yield time to the gentlewoman from New York, an ophthalmologist, Dr. NAN HAYWORTH.

Ms. HAYWORTH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I observed, sir, that you have brought a sign to the floor that talks about stealing America's liberty. One of the fundamental problems that I perceive, and I'm not alone in this, but in this entire scheme, if you will, that is represented by the Affordable Care Act, as it has been called, is that there was a failure to understand the very nature of American medical care. When it's at its best, and we recognize—every colleague of mine, all of my Republican and medical colleagues have also appreciated certainly that we want to see all Americans have access to good, affordable care and to have affordable, portable health insurance. That's not in dispute. So we honor those goals. But the means by which the ACA endeavors to achieve those goals go against the grain of the American culture. Our culture is one that has always allowed us to choose, that has allowed us to pursue, in terms of our medical care, the very best that the world has to offer in terms of innovation and quality, motivation, incentive to invent and to do better. The American medical consumer, our patients, expect no less than the best, nor should they receive anything less than the best.

That's a very different way of thinking about care in a consumer society than is the case in so many other systems around the world that were cited as exemplars when the ACA was being formulated. We do not have, I can tell you from my experience with patients who have had care, who have lived in Europe for variable periods of time, some Americans who have spent sojourns in Europe because of business obligations and working with colleagues from Europe, historically it is rather a different model than we have here. American doctors are accustomed to jumping and doing and doing all they can and doing it fast, and my colleagues can certainly attest to that.

It's a little bit different sometimes overseas. They have a different kind of

medical culture. Patients don't expect quite as much. It's not the same sort of thing that we have here. And indeed, that is consonant with the fact that there isn't any other country's dream necessarily as there is an American Dream. My mother is from England. She came to this country in 1948 because she was very distressed by national health care. There is no British dream. There is not necessarily a German dream or Japanese dream. But there is an American Dream.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. If the gentlewoman will yield, Mr. Speaker, what the gentlewoman from New York is referencing is something that I have heard from people in other countries that have government health insurance. And they say, well, I'm real happy with my government health insurance. And I know what's going on over here. And I'm thinking, my goodness gracious, you're happy? What are you happy about? Well, you get to see the doctor within 5 minutes, and you always come out with at least three prescriptions.

Now, if that's the definition of success, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, that's not what American, good old U.S.A. medicine is all about. It's time, quality time, spent with that doctor, and maybe no prescriptions.

Ms. HAYWORTH. Thank you, and precisely the point that I'm agreeing on with you and that I think we all have driven to philosophically is that we need to have solutions that empower our doctors, our patients and our providers to do all of them, to have the best and to do the best. And consumer-based solutions are possible. Our Doctors Caucus is working very hard on providing those ideas. Real liability reform has to be part of this. We cannot possibly continue as we have been. That was a glaring omission from the ACA.

In addition, we need to recognize, appreciate and act upon the knowledge that our medical care can cost less. We do need to pay attention to costs, but we need to empower our patients, our doctors and our providers to use their best judgment, not empower something like the Independent Payment Advisory Board to make those decisions for us. That is a very dangerous thing and something that Americans will find very distressing and disturbing. And the inevitable result of the ACA is that, and you can trace it out, but we will end up having less choice. The government will make decisions for us. They will be decisions we don't like. We need our consumers and our providers to be able to make those decisions.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York, and I appreciate her time.

If my clock watching is accurate, I think we may have 8 to 10 minutes remaining, and I will try to conclude. I would like to see if my colleagues would like to weigh in with additional comments. We do have time if any of

those that are still on the floor would like to bring some more enlightenment into this subject.

I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

Ms. ELLMERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I think we've come to the point now where we do need to discuss that ObamaCare is not the answer. We have all discussed this over and over again. I would say that it's probably a good reason that I was elected because I ran on repealing it—that and cutting taxes and cutting spending. And it all ties in together.

Those of us who are in health care have been aware of the need for reform for quite some time. I think any of us can say that we've seen the costs increase. We've seen the cost of health care insurance increase. And yet we've all felt that our hands were tied. We didn't know how to address it. The bureaucratic system, as my colleagues have pointed out, just dealing with billing and trying to get the care for patients alone can just take over your office.

□ 1720

We have seen these things. We know there are problems that exist, but we all agree that it needs to be a patient-centered, doctor-nurse-patient relationship that we have to be putting forward. And it has to be in the private sector. There are ways to do this. There is a role for government in it, especially when we are talking about Medicare, Medicaid, and those who are unfortunate. We want everyone to have health care. But there are ways we can address it.

It is not a health care crisis; it is a crisis of culture. We have to change the culture that we are dealing with. We want everyone to have affordable health care, and there are simple solutions we can put in place to do that.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. I am so glad that I called on the gentlewoman from North Carolina and she brought up this point, colleagues, because what RENEE ELLMERS just said is absolutely the truth. We are not on this side of the aisle, and those Democrats who agree with us, we are not opposed to reforming the health insurance industry, to eliminating abusive practices such as canceling policies after the fact or denying children with preexisting conditions, and that is exactly what the gentlewoman from North Carolina was referencing.

The pledge to repeal ObamaCare is because in our humble opinion it is too bad to fix. That doesn't mean that when we replace it, and we may have to do it piece by piece, bit by bit, that we don't incorporate some of the things in there that most people would agree are good, like allowing youngsters, young adults, Mr. Speaker, to stay on the health insurance policy of their parents until they are 26 years old. With this economy and the destruction of jobs because of bailouts and stimulus,

trillions of dollars that don't work, unfortunately, our young college graduates have no job to go to; otherwise, they would have health insurance from their place of work. So they darn well need to stay on their parents' policy until they are 26, and maybe until they are 36 if we don't quite get our act together and quit spending and get this economy going.

Let me yield quickly to the gentleman from Tennessee, Dr. ROE, my OB-GYN colleague from Tennessee.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

When I came, as we all did, doctors, physicians tend to look at a problem. When a patient comes in, the first thing we ask them, Dr. GINGREY: Why are you here today? It is a fairly obvious question. It is called the chief complaint.

When I came to Washington, D.C., I asked the same thing about the American health care system. I said: What is the problem with the American health care system? I thought there were probably three.

Number one, it was too expensive. The cost of health care had skyrocketed way above inflation so it is way too expensive to come see a doctor or go to the hospital.

The second issue I saw you just brought up was that there was a segment of our population that didn't have access to affordable health insurance coverage. These are not the very poor who had access in my State to TennCare or in other States to Medicaid, but these are folks who are out working. Maybe they are a carpenter and their wife stays at home. Or maybe they have a job, a small business, where they can't afford it. So there was that segment that didn't have it.

Lastly, there is a liability crisis in America. Our friends on the other side, our trial lawyer friends can tend to say that is not the case, but let me give you a personal example. When I started my medical practice, probably about the same time you did, Dr. GINGREY, it cost \$360. That was the first baby I delivered in 1977 that I got paid for. I was out of the Army and out of my training, \$360. My first year's salary was \$32,000. That is what I made my first year in practice. I delivered 260 babies that year; a lot of babies. The next year I was up to \$60,000 a year. My malpractice was \$4,000 a year. When I came to Congress 2 years ago, the malpractice in Tennessee for an obstetrician was \$74,000. And there is no value that we get, that patients get from that. We will go into that when we have another hour.

But the thing about the ObamaCare plan that bothered me was it did nothing to bend the cost curve. If you looked at this and if you look at plans that have been out there in the past, Medicare, for instance, came on board in 1965 as a \$3 billion program; \$3 billion in 1965.

The estimators, there was no Congressional Budget Office then or folks

who make these estimates, but the government estimators at that time said in 25 years this will be a \$15 billion program. The actual number was over \$100 billion. And today it is over \$500 billion.

In Tennessee, we noticed we had the same problem 20 years ago. We have been through all of this before. Unfortunately, no one here chose to listen to us in our Doctors Caucus. We said we had lack of access and we had prices rising back in the 1990s, the early 1990s, exactly the same debate that we are having today except today it is more severe than it was.

We spent \$2.6 billion on TennCare in 1993. In 2004, 2005, just 10 budget years later, it was up to \$8.5 billion. The cost had tripled.

So when you see these cost estimates—and remember that the same CBO, and these are good folks. I'm not pointing the finger at them. It is very hard to do what they do. They are given a set of data. They crunch the numbers and they hand them to us. They only missed this year's budget deficit by \$400 billion in 1 year. So I am to stand here and believe, looking at these other examples I have just given you, that this is going to be budget neutral in 10 years? There is no way it will be.

I know we have a lot to discuss. I'm sorry I was a little late. I had some folks from the great University of Tennessee in my office to see. I look forward to continuing this discussion.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Dr. ROE, we appreciate you being with us. I know the time is rapidly coming to a close.

But, Mr. Speaker, I guess the last slide basically says it all, cuts right to the chase: ObamaCare steals Americans' liberty. Our forefathers intended certain basic rights—life, liberty, pursuit of happiness—to be inalienable—that means can't be taken away from you—and consider them self-evident and universal.

ObamaCare lets the boss steal liberty from every American by forcing them to buy health insurance whether they want it or need it or not. We can encourage them to have it and try to make it possible and affordable. But to force them to do it, the next thing we know, everybody will be eating broccoli by government edict because it is healthy, it is healthy food. They are going to have a hard time getting me to eat broccoli.

But I am telling you the judge in Florida, Judge Vincent, and the judge in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Judge Hudson, they got it right. We need expedited processing of those suits so the Supreme Court will tell the American people this is unconstitutional and will not stand.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
PEACE CORPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today, March 1, marks the 50th anniversary of the United States Peace Corps. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy, together with Sargent Shriver, established the most remarkable, long-lasting, and incredibly successful United States Peace Corps. On the announcement of the establishment of the Peace Corps, countries around the world clamored to have Americans of all ages come to their country and assist in the economic development of those countries.

To date, over 200,000 Americans have followed that call to service and have served in over 130 countries. Today, some 77 countries have Peace Corps volunteers and another 20 countries request the presence of Peace Corps volunteers.

My wife, Patti, and I are proud returned Peace Corps volunteers. Joining me today to celebrate this 50th anniversary are two other returned Peace Corps volunteers. And together with SAM FARR, who unfortunately cannot join us this evening, we comprise the four Members of Congress who are returned Peace Corps volunteers.

□ 1730

I would like to call upon my colleague from California, MIKE HONDA, to join us here to express his own experiences of his work here in Congress and how his Peace Corps experiences may have reflected upon his work.

MIKE, if you'll join us.

Mr. HONDA. Thank you, JOHN.

As a returned Peace Corps volunteer, I rise to recognize the work of the Peace Corps on its 50th anniversary. The Peace Corps has played an instrumental role in establishing prosperous foreign relations while fostering cross-cultural understandings. Countries from all over the globe celebrate the contributions of the Peace Corps and look forward with anticipation to its continued growth.

In representing the Ethiopian Caucus here, I was in Ethiopia a couple of years ago and traveled extensively through Ethiopia during the 8 days I was there. I ran across some folks in the upper part of Ethiopia, and we talked about the Peace Corps. Immediately, a lot of the young people there brightened up, and asked, Do you know GARAMENDI? It was at that moment I remembered that our colleague GARAMENDI had served in Ethiopia. What struck me the most were the memories of people and the fact that we touched them in their youth. The influence that we had on the young people in the different countries had stayed with them, and they have become leaders in their own right in the

countries in which we served. The same happened in El Salvador. I'm sure the same happened in Somalia where our other colleagues had served their time.

The Peace Corps provides a unique opportunity for volunteers to help some of the most impoverished people in the world, work that changes their global perspectives.

I had met another person at Stanford University. He was a visiting scholar. He was not much more than 5-foot 1-inch, articulate in English and Spanish, who said that he was an aberration of statistical probability. In saying that, he meant that he was a young boy in the mountains of Peru and that it was a Peace Corps volunteer who had touched his life, who had allowed him to learn more about himself and his country, which pushed him to learn English. Because of the Peace Corps volunteers, he was able to go to school.

His name was Alejandro Toledo. He became the President of Peru. Now he is a visiting scholar and is also looking at running again and perhaps serving his country. He not only serves his country; he serves all people of this world by the fact that he was able to express the idea that he was probably an aberration of statistical probability and that he had attained a position on the global stage, a leadership position, because of Peace Corps volunteers.

This story is replicated over and over again with the over 195,000 volunteers who have served. Yet I just want to pay special attention to Sargent Shriver, the person who made the selfless commitment and took the visionary leadership in creating a pioneering organization that provided opportunities for young people and that provided them opportunities to grow in themselves. Filling Sargent Shriver's shoes will always be difficult.

President Clinton was right when he said that never has America had a stronger warrior for peace and against poverty than Sargent Shriver. Sargent Shriver, himself, said it best when he said that the Peace Corps represents some, if not all, of the best virtues of this society. It stands for everything that America has ever stood for. It stands for everything we believe in and hope to achieve in this world.

So I want to thank my colleague for putting this together. I want to thank my friend Mr. PETRI, on the other side of the aisle, for his friendship. We say "the other side of the aisle," but I think that the aisle does not exist with our relationships and with our commonality within the Peace Corps.

The Peace Corps allowed me to grow up. The Peace Corps allowed me to believe in myself. The Peace Corps was responsible for my being here today to be able to speak fervently and hopefully convincingly in encouraging other young people to serve this country through the Peace Corps. It will be 2 years that you will never ever regret—years I would never exchange for 10 years of regular life in this country.

I thank you.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Congressman MIKE HONDA, thank you so very, very much.

Let me now turn to my colleague on the Republican side, TOM PETRI, who also served.

TOM, if you could share some of your experiences with us.

Mr. PETRI. Yes, I am delighted to have the opportunity to join with my colleagues in recognizing the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps.

It was my pleasure some 25 years ago to work with the fellow whose picture is up by the podium, Sargent Shriver, on some of the arrangements for the 25th anniversary of the Peace Corps. They'd had a gala reunion and a program at the Kennedy Center with such luminaries at that time as Harry Belafonte and many others. It was a memorable occasion.

Sargent Shriver, of course, was a great leader in many different areas. I met him in a reception line awhile back. He didn't really much like, though, that I'd said, So great to meet Arnold Schwarzenegger's father-in-law. He really didn't want to be known as Arnold Schwarzenegger's father-in-law. He wanted to be known, and is known, as the most dynamic director of the Peace Corps and for many others of his works—with Mrs. Shriver on the Special Olympics and for a variety of other good works that he did with his life.

We all have our Peace Corps experiences. I had the opportunity to serve in the neighboring country to Ethiopia, which was Somalia—a troubled place now. It was a great experience, though. People ask about the Peace Corps, and I always say that one of the things you have to remember about the Peace Corps is that you get a lot more out of it than you really give. You're serving other people, but you're learning. You're learning about another culture; and at the same time, you're learning about your own country and your own experiences because of the points of contrast.

What a wonderful thing it is that America has now tens of thousands of people who have served in the Peace Corps, who have returned and who now are working in every walk of life—working in international organizations, working in business organizations, knowing different cultures, knowing different languages—thereby providing a dimension to our own national life that we would otherwise not have if we did not have people who had had the experience of serving in the Peace Corps.

There is one other thing. I still can remember the quizzical but interested reaction that so many people in Somalia or, I'm sure, anywhere in the world had: Who are you? Why are you doing it? Explain that to me again.

The spirit was kind of catching, and they would participate in all kinds of little volunteer activities and things that they hadn't necessarily thought of doing themselves.

Of course, the Peace Corps volunteers are not representatives of the American Government. They are representatives of the American people. That was always emphasized very, very strongly to all of us as part of our Peace Corps training. The way we were living was among the people, not behind these diplomatic bunkers that we sometimes see in the world today. You're experiencing life in the country in which you're serving.

One thing, just as an example, is that Peace Corps volunteers, of course, do their assignments, but they're also people who do volunteer work of one kind or another. One of the big hits was when I was in Mogadishu in the Peace Corps. I was with two other people who were Peace Corps lawyers at that time, and there were about 50, 60 people who were teachers. Some were community health workers, and some were community school construction workers. They would come to Mogadishu for a couple days off, for vacation time, when school was down, that kind of thing.

□ 1740

And five or six of them got together and started playing some American young people's music. And the next thing you know they were invited to a restaurant in Mogadishu. Crowds of hundreds of people gathered, and it was the sensation of the town for a couple weeks. Of course they couldn't be paid for doing this sort of thing, but they might have gotten a couple of free meals from the restaurant and that kind of thing. What a wonderful, sort of natural way of building bridges. The people in this country had never really seen something like this. They weren't on a tour for any of these international shows, and they just thought it was the most wonderful thing to see live music played by American Peace Corps volunteers. And that was the face of America that they were presenting in this country, and it was one that I think has served our Nation very well.

So thank you again for giving me the opportunity to participate in this Special Order that you've organized to mark the 50th anniversary of the United States Peace Corps.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Tom, thank you so very much for your experiences. What year were you in Somalia?

Mr. PETRI. I was in Somalia in 1966-67.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Those were the same years that Patti and I were in Ethiopia, and we served in the far western part of Ethiopia in a very small town.

Mr. PETRI. We were there during the peaceful years between the two countries. The Peace Corps had been in Somalia and then had been pulled out because war erupted between Ethiopia and Somalia. The people on the Horn of Africa have very close and great respect for each other but also a strong rivalry. It's a very interesting thing to learn about.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Well, that's exactly the case. And it's not unusual to find wars going on. But as MIKE HONDA was talking about the President of Peru, who started his climb up the economic and educational ladder as a result of his experience with a Peace Corps teacher in Peru, the same thing happens in the countries in which you and I and other Peace Corps volunteers serve.

I recall in 1999-2000, when the war broke out between Ethiopia and Eritrea, a group of us became interlocutors trying to figure out how to get these two countries to settle up. And because we were able to stand on the shoulders of so many Peace Corps volunteers that had served in those countries, we were able to meet with the President of Eritrea and the Prime Minister of Ethiopia in two separate meetings and just talk to them about peace, about why they were fighting, why this war was going on that killed nearly 100,000 soldiers at that point. And it turned out that they were willing to talk to us. The reason was that in their high schools they were taught by Peace Corps volunteers, and they had this trust. They knew we didn't represent the American Government. They knew that we were there searching for peace as we had when we were volunteers. It turned out that those conversations led to the essence of the settlement of that war, the peace treaty.

And I'll never forget a day when—actually, a gentleman who's here in the gallery at the moment, Chic Dambach was one of our team, and another fellow, Mike McCaskey, who was then the president of the Chicago Bears, he was part of our team. We sat down with the foreign minister of Ethiopia, and we were talking about where we served in the Peace Corps and Mike was saying he served in the northern part of the country. And the foreign minister said, what school? And Mike described the school. It turned out that Mike was the teacher for the foreign minister, and immediately there was a connection. That connection then led to the meeting that we had with Meles and the conversation that ultimately led to a peace treaty. Our role was ended, but the African Union carried on.

Those are the relationships that count. We never know when they're going to materialize. It's quite possible that the people that you taught may one day be the leaders in Somalia once again. And these are the foundations upon which the Peace Corps breeds.

Thank you so very much for joining us. I know that you have another appointment that you need to get to. But the experience of a Peace Corps—and my wife, when she was the associate director of the Peace Corps, would often say that a Peace Corps volunteer leaves to search for peace and returns, and throughout one's life, continues that process. Our work here in Congress is part of that. Thank you so very much for your service and joining us this evening.

Mr. PETRI. Thank you for organizing this occasion.

Mr. GARAMENDI. The interest in the Peace Corps is not just shared by those of us who are return volunteers; it's also served, and the interest is found, by others.

I'd like to invite here to the well a colleague of mine from California, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPs, who represents the Santa Barbara area up into Santa Maria. Would you care to join us? Thank you so very much for doing so.

Mrs. CAPPs. I thank my colleague, Mr. GARAMENDI, for inviting me to join him here and for bringing the likeness of Sargent Shriver, the first director, so that I can stand next to him and pay tribute to him as I am speaking about the importance of the Peace Corps as I have experienced it.

This is such an important anniversary, the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps—actually, this day, apparently, that's what you mentioned in your remarks, Mr. GARAMENDI. And you were joined by two Members of Congress who probably were influenced to become Members of Congress by—in fact, one, Mr. HONDA, just spoke, and he said it's because of his experiences in the Peace Corps he could say honestly that that's why he is now serving in Congress. And I've heard others of our colleagues say that as well. And both Mr. HONDA and Mr. PETRI speak eloquently, as you do, Mr. GARAMENDI, about the effect of this experience on you. And I have seen it firsthand from friends of mine.

I don't think it's possible to say enough positive about this wonderful organization. So having a Special Order this evening is an opportunity for us all to come together and celebrate the commitment of the United States Congress to communities around the world as they experience, through volunteerism, through ordinary citizens of this country who volunteer to share in the life and experience of a culture different from their own. As the Peace Corps celebrates its 50th anniversary, it's clear that this work that our citizens and volunteers have done is never more important than we see today, and also more relevant to what's going on in the world today.

I am very proud to represent a congressional district, the 23rd in California, with a very active Returned Peace Corps Volunteers community. The alumni association numbers well over 150 members and they are active in our community. And I know firsthand also, knowing several of them—many of them—that the community has been strengthened because of their experiences in the Peace Corps, and they readily testify to that.

And at the University of California in Santa Barbara, my home town, this campus consistently ranks towards the top of U.S. colleges and universities for volunteer recruitment among its young graduates. When I have the opportunity to meet with folks from the

Peace Corps administrative office, the first thing they always mention when they find out where I'm from is the high concentration of former and future volunteers from my congressional district. And so I know that on the south and central coast of California, with these alumni living and working among us, the importance of service, community, and open mindedness, values that the Peace Corps holds dear, these have influenced the way our civic life is conducted in our country as these Returned Peace Corps Volunteers bring their experiences in their service abroad back to their home communities and places of business. It's a win-win on both sides of whatever body it is that separates us from our countries around the world.

There is an institute on my campus that I'll reference, it's named for my husband, but it's called the Capps Center for the Study of Faith, Ethics and Public Policy. They sponsored an event—in fact, they had a series of events this past fall celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps. And on one of those occasions it was a privilege to welcome Aaron Williams, who is the National Peace Corps Director, to Santa Barbara, and in doing so to pay tribute to the Peace Corps. But also, the Capps Center invited three former Peace Corps volunteers to honor their service, but also to invite them to form a panel discussion so the rest of us could listen and respond and have questions about their own experiences. One of them was Sarah Chayes, who is a former NPR, National Public Radio, correspondent. She is a prominent author and founder of the Arghand Cooperative in Kandahar, Afghanistan. She spoke of her early experiences in the formation of the Peace Corps. She served in Morocco from 1984 to 1996.

Also present to be recognized and also to participate in the discussion was Gordon Radley. He is the former president of Lucasfilm. He served in Malawi from 1968 to 1970 and then again in western Samoa in 1979 and 1980.

□ 1750

The third person who spoke—I just acknowledge these people because they're examples of community leaders in the country who were influenced so tremendously by their experience in Peace Corps. One whom I know well, because he's a constituent of ours in the congressional district but also with his service, is Thomas Tighe. He is the President and CEO of a very influential organization called Direct Relief International, which provides emergency services, disaster aid to countries around the world. It's headquartered in Santa Barbara. And before Tom came to this position, he served as the Peace Corps associate general counsel and was the chief of staff and COO of the Peace Corps. He, himself, served in Thailand from 1986 to 1988.

I mentioned these three because now the Library of Congress is collecting

these stories from previous volunteers, and I think it's a great idea that the anecdotes and vignettes that Peace Corps volunteers remember so poignantly from their time of service can be woven into the Library of Congress archives and there for permanent record.

Some of us in Congress, Mr. GARAMENDI, are old enough to remember the passion and enthusiasm from these 50 years ago when President Kennedy announced the creation of the Corps, the idea that Americans from all different backgrounds and walks of life would have an opportunity to work for and to learn from other cultures. You know, in that time, that was a fairly radical concept. But I marvel—don't you?—at how far we have come.

Since 1961 when the first volunteers went abroad, nearly 200,000 volunteers have served in over—in 139 countries around the world. These are talented and selfless Americans who have made lasting contributions in agriculture, in business development, in sustainable infrastructure, in education, in health, in combatting HIV and AIDS, in working to protect the environment around the world. Collectively, each volunteer's work represents a legacy of service that has become such a significant part of America's history and the positive image that we have abroad.

I know that Mr. FARR is going to speak probably after me, and he has just joined the group. He and I are part of an organization here in Congress which has some connections to the Peace Corps. It's called the House Democracy Partnership. And last week we traveled actually literally around the world. One of the places we were, one of our partner countries whose parliament we work with closely is the country of Indonesia.

For many years, the Peace Corps was not there. And now, just this past year, volunteers have been welcomed back. We had the chance to meet these active volunteers as we have met during visits to other countries with our work in the House Democracy Partnerships. Some of the countries are Malawi and Indonesia, and we've taken gifts. Sometimes occasionally we'll have a constituent serving there, so a family will ask us to bring some item that this person has wanted.

It was because of Mr. FARR's insistence that we invite four of the current volunteers. They've just come back, the presence of Peace Corps in the country. I know, Mr. FARR, I hope you'll expand upon this. The four had dinner with us who were visiting. Here we were in Surabaya, a coastal community in a large city actually in Indonesia, and these four young people who are teaching English as a second language in the high schools in the region came and shared some of their stories with us. It moved me then as it has over the years as I've heard these stories. And to see these young faces—not all Peace Corps volunteers are young, I know that. But these are young people who just were caught with zeal and enthusiasm with what they were doing.

During times of both war and peace, our volunteers through Peace Corps have exemplified some of the best qualities that this country has to offer the world: generosity, tolerance, hard work, ingenuity, friendship, and compassion. They have exhibited critical attention to detail and an unwavering commitment to sustainable development. These are talented people who really are a beacon of the goodwill that we want our country to stand for.

So I'm offering tonight, and I'm standing right next to the likeness of Sargent Shriver, as I offer my sincerest congratulations to the Peace Corps on its 50th anniversary that we all join in celebration.

I want to take the opportunity to encourage anyone who is thinking about it to serve either abroad or find a way in one's own community to serve with this kind of volunteerism.

I appreciate the leadership you've shown, Mr. GARAMENDI, in calling us together. I want to thank you and my colleagues in Congress who add so much to your service as colleagues of mine by this history that you share. You can add this to the kind of Peace Corps volunteerism that you did when you were younger, and it is a spirit that I know has never left you.

So I got a signal from Mr. GARAMENDI, and it is really a tribute, because Mr. FARR is a dear friend but also my neighboring congressional district Representative, and he never misses an opportunity, whether he's at home or abroad, to bring up the topic of serving in the Peace Corps. And how fitting this evening, Mr. FARR, that you are here to add your words to and your stories to this celebration.

I'm going to yield the floor, if it is okay with Mr. GARAMENDI, right directly to you.

Mr. FARR. Thank you very much, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPs. I'm so fond of you and the service you give in your wonderful district, the Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo County coastlines.

Yes, I was with Congresswoman CAPPs last week when we hosted, in Surabaya, dinner with Peace Corps volunteers. And what struck me is, one, some of their assignments were much tougher than the one I had in a barrio in Medellin, Colombia, back in the 1960s, that women live with Muslim families because Indonesia is the largest Muslim country in the world. They teach in schools.

Very interesting how, and essentially progressive even, those Muslim schools were, allowing the American women not to have to be covered and to essentially be themselves and represent this country, and how fond the students are of their teachers and the faculty of the teachers. So Peace Corps was there.

And it's interesting that, as we pay tribute on the 50th anniversary, there's no age limit to joining the Peace Corps. We're in, I think, 77 countries now. We're about half our full size. We once were 15,000 volunteers. We're down

to 7,000. Growing. Congressman GARAMENDI and myself and others have been working to try to increase the Peace Corps budget because it's the only thing that's standing in the way between more volunteers being overseas.

There's 20 countries that want Peace Corps. There's 20,000 people that apply to the Peace Corps. And there's only, every year, about half of 7,000, so about 4,000, 3,500 jobs available. So only one in three or four ever can get a chance to get accepted, and that's not fair. And we need to double the size of Peace Corps.

And lastly on that point is that it costs, I think it's for every soldier we sent to Afghanistan, we could send 12 Peace Corps volunteers abroad. So we really get a good bang for our buck.

Why I rise tonight and I will try to be quick before I give it back to Mr. GARAMENDI is to, on behalf of all four of us who are returned Peace Corps volunteers now serving in Congress, we circulated a letter asking the President of the United States to issue a proclamation honoring the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps. It was signed by 136 Members of Congress.

Today, on the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps, the President of the United States said the following:

"In 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed an Executive order establishing the Peace Corps"—remember, Executive order. It wasn't done by a congressional act; it was a Presidential act—"establishing the Peace Corps, forever changing the way Americans see the world and the world sees us.

□ 1800

"Today, one of President Kennedy's most enduring legacies can be found in the over 200,000 current and returned Peace Corps volunteers who have collectively given over a half a century of service to the cause of peace. On its 50th anniversary, the United States Peace Corps remains an enduring symbol of our Nation's commitment to encouraging progress, creating opportunity, and fostering mutual respect and understanding throughout the world.

"Over the past five decades, Peace Corps volunteers have served in nearly 140 countries, bringing a wealth of practical assistance to those working to build better lives for themselves and their communities. From the first group of volunteers to arrive in Ghana and Tanzania in August of 1961, they have been emissaries of hope and goodwill to the far corners of the world, strengthening the ties of friendship between the people of the United States and those of other countries.

"Living and working alongside those they serve, volunteers help address changing and complex global needs in education, health, HIV/AIDS, business and information technology, agriculture, environmental protection, and youth development. With each village that now has access to clean water,

each young woman who has received an education, and each family empowered to prevent disease because of the service of a Peace Corps volunteer, President Kennedy's noble vision lives on.

"In our increasingly interconnected world, the mission of the Peace Corps is more relevant today than ever. Returned volunteers, enriched by their experiences overseas, bring a deeper understanding of other cultures and traditions back to their homes here in the United States. The lasting accomplishments of the Peace Corps continue to strengthen the partnerships with leaders in countries around the world.

"This year, we also mourn the loss and pay tribute to the extraordinary life of Sargent Shriver, the founding director of the Peace Corps. The impact of his decades of public service will echo forever in countless places across the globe that have been touched by the Peace Corps.

"On this anniversary, we honor the men and women from across the country who have carried forward our Nation's finest tradition of service, and we rededicate ourselves to fulfilling the dream and continuing the work of all those who aspire and yearn for peace.

"Now, therefore, I, Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby claim March 1, 2011, as the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that honor the Peace Corps and its volunteers, past and present, for their many contributions to the cause of global peace and friendship.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 28th day of February, in the year of our Lord 2011, and of the Independence of the United States of America the 235th. Barack Obama."

So in that honor I am very pleased that my colleague and friend from California, JOHN GARAMENDI, has asked us to pay tribute to the Peace Corps on its 50th anniversary. And I yield to my good colleague, who had the wisdom to set up this moment of special order.

Mr. GARAMENDI. SAM, if there was wisdom it was because you suggested it. Don't run off. I would like to ask you a couple of questions about your service.

SAM, the President's words were very touching to me, and I know they were to you, because we were part of the Peace Corps, and we still are, not so much because of our role here in Congress, but rather because once you are a Peace Corps volunteer you never leave the service of peace. Talk to me about where you served and the work that you did as a Peace Corps volunteer.

Mr. FARR. JOHN, I went into the Peace Corps right after graduating from college in 1963. I knew I wanted to be called for that service. I had done Air Force ROTC in college, and I

worked overseas for a cousin who had a factory in Argentina. It was my cross-cultural experience. And I realized that once I got bitten by wanting to see other languages and other cultures, that when the Peace Corps was announced, that's what I would do. And I thought when I left the Peace Corps—when I went in, I thought when I leave I will probably come back and be a high school biology teacher.

My background had been in science. And I went to do urban community development, which just means we were listening to what we call the felt needs of very poor people in a very poor barrio that didn't have any water or lights. And we were taught, and it was very interesting, because it's been probably one of the best teachings I have ever had in my life is don't go down there and just tell them what you want do based on your values, because you are going to be in a country that doesn't have infrastructure. Your main thought and idea will be about cleanliness because you haven't lived in dirt before. And you don't have garbage pickup and you don't have that infrastructure. Don't let your values not allow you—open your eyes and your ears and listen. Look before you leap. And that was really great advice, because I think in politics you really do have to be a good listener.

So we listened to the community, and what they wanted to do was first build a soccer field. I thought that's odd. I played soccer, but I have no idea of the dimensions of a field. I don't know how you do this. It didn't matter. It was just like, okay, they need a motivational force. I am there. I said, okay, how do we do this? Got some shovels, got some picks. Where do you want to do it? And we did it. What was interesting is they had never worked together in a community project. So the teachings there were community development, how do you get together. And from there on we went to build schools, and we put in sewers, all by hand by the way.

And we had to go downtown to the municipal government to get the sewer pipes and to get bags of cement. So that petitioning of government, going down, and a long story but quickly, it woke me up to thinking I am in another country, I can't vote here. I am petitioning government. I won't be able to vote for or against it. We have got poverty in America. The book had come out, "The Other America," which showed there was a lot of poverty in the United States. Why don't I go home and petition my own government to right wrongs? And here I am in the United States Congress.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Before you arrived here, you spent many years in the California legislature, where I had the privilege of working with you. You started the discussion about your own Peace Corps experience by answering the call to action, President Kennedy's very famous call: Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you

can do for your country. I know that for you and for myself, and even more so for my wife Patti—

Mr. FARR. You did it even more so, because you were married, you were a rock star athlete out of California, you were at the University of California Berkeley. And to be married and to take that risk, sort of walking away from what was just the ideal life to go off to Ethiopia must have been an incredible pull.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Certainly the pull personally, but much more important than that was the pull that Patti exerted upon me. I had an opportunity to play professional football, but turned that down to get married and to spend a 2-year honeymoon in the far western part of Ethiopia, where there was no running water, and we literally lived in a wattle, which is a mud-walled home with a corrugated tin roof and an out-house out back. And it turned out to be the most marvelous honeymoon, and it's still going on now some almost 46 years later. So it was a beautiful opportunity for us to serve.

And then the rest of what you said is a Peace Corps volunteer never leaves a life of service. We transform it into many, many ways. LOIS CAPPS talked about three or four examples from her own district of returned Peace Corps volunteers and the way they inserted themselves into their communities for service, and in one case international food.

Mr. FARR. Would you share for me, I got here a little late, maybe you already did, but I think you did one of the most remarkable diplomatic missions ever in being asked to come back to Ethiopia with some colleagues of the Peace Corps by the president of the country to see if you could help to settle the dispute with neighboring Eritrea. And as I recall, it was a band of Peace Corps volunteers that put that peace agreement together.

□ 1810

Mr. GARAMENDI. Well, it really speaks to the thousands of Peace Corps volunteers that worked in Ethiopia and Eritrea. In the late nineties, a war broke out between those two countries.

There is, here in Washington today, well over 100,000 people from Ethiopia and Eritrea. They were getting riled up and choosing sides. Those of us that served in Ethiopia, together with Chic Dambach, who is here in the gallery, set out to try to get these people here in the Washington area to work towards peace rather than to get into an argument amongst themselves over which country was right or wrong. From there we very quickly found ourselves invited to travel to both Ethiopia and Eritrea, where we were able to meet with the heads of state.

In both cases, the team that was assembled, there were five of us, myself, I was then just leaving Federal Government service as the Deputy Secretary of the Interior. Mr. Dambach had just left the Returned Peace Corps Volun-

teer Association, the National Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Association, a Federal appellate court judge who had served in Ethiopia who was then on the bench in Arizona in the Ninth Circuit; Mike McCaskey, who was then the president of the Chicago Bears; and another fellow who was deeply involved in African relief issues.

We journeyed and we sat down and met with first the President of Eritrea and had a 3-hour conversation with him about the war and why the war was underway, what his goals were.

We then traveled to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where we met first with the foreign minister of Ethiopia, who actually was a student of Mike McCaskey. They talked about it, and there was this bond that was immediately established between them.

Shortly thereafter, the foreign minister arranged a meeting with Prime Minister Meles, and, again, we spent nearly 3 hours with him asking him about the war from his perspective, what there was. It came to the five of us that there was a way to find peace, that there was a path that could bridge these differences that these two countries had that at that point had resulted in nearly 100,000 soldiers, both Ethiopia and Eritrean, having been killed in that war.

We turned that information over to the Organization of African Unity, which was then working towards some sort of a settlement. And, shortly thereafter, within a couple of months, the basic elements of the peace treaty were developed, and they were based upon the work that we had done. There was some more back and forth that took place. But our team was invited to Algeria for the signing of the ceremony of peace.

So the work for peace really never ends, and I know you are doing it here in Congress.

Mr. FARR. It's one thing to be a Peace Corps volunteer. It is one thing to bring two nations at war together living in peace because you are Peace Corps volunteers. I think that's a great tribute. You mentioned Chic Dambach. He was a student of mine when he was going into volunteer service in the Peace Corps in Colombia.

It seems that you and I have developed a great fondness for Chic. Maybe he is more important than either of us because he has been so instrumental in your life and what happened in Ethiopia and Eritrea, and was instrumental in my life in Colombia. I am glad he is here tonight because he really is part of the Peace Corps legacy.

Mr. GARAMENDI. There is another example of an individual who has dedicated his life to peace. He now heads up an organization that is a consortium of nongovernment organizations that are dedicated to searching for peace in countries around the world and trying to resolve disputes before they come to war.

We would just be derelict in our duty if we didn't make a heavy-duty pitch here for people to join the Peace Corps.

Everywhere I go on campuses, people, the young men and women that are graduating, and older people—I think 7 percent of the volunteers today are over 50 years of age. The next election may give us an opportunity to return to the Peace Corps. Who knows what will come of that.

But whatever your age is, the Peace Corps offers you an opportunity to serve.

Mr. FARR. I would also like to mention that we could use a lot more Peace Corps volunteers because of these countries that want us. They want us to come in for the first time, they want us to grow. Vietnam is interested in getting the Peace Corps.

We were just in East Timor. They were there. We were pulled out due to unrest. They are now in peace. They want them back. Surabaya in Indonesia, there are, I think, 18 volunteers there now. They could grow that to hundreds of volunteers. The country wants it.

But the one thing we have to do here in Congress is give them more money. Frankly, I want to really salute the President of the United States, because in these tough fiscal times, where everything else has to be cut back, this year he has asked Congress to give the Peace Corps more money than we gave them last year, and that's one of the bounce-up programs.

We have gotten strong bipartisan support on this, and hopefully in this Congress, which is going to be mostly a cut, squeeze, and trim Congress, we don't throw the baby out with the bath water, as you said. What an incredible opportunity at a time when peace might be breaking out in the Middle East. They are going to need a lot of this. They are going to need a lot of community development.

You are going to need people to understand. I mean, I could go on for hours at what I just saw in East Timor where women had, three, four, five babies in houses with no electricity, mud floors, before anyone got to them and said, you know, you need to go through a prenatal discussion and some postnatal treatment. Even in that poverty, what they are just trying to do is sequence the babies so they won't be born so quickly one next to another because there is a high risk of low birth rate.

You know who is there right on the ground doing that—that is what the Peace Corps does. So the need, the war on poverty never ends.

The war, or the path to peace, the process for peace, as we have seen hopefully breaking out in the Middle East, that we can get a democratic society, they are all going to need teachers, and as we need them here at home we need them abroad. Teachers and not just traditional reading, writing, and arithmetic but teachings of health care and HIV prevention and so on. And I know you and Patti have dedicated your lives to that work and what a wonderful way to celebrate on this 50th anniversary.

Mr. GARAMENDI. And as you were talking about Peace Corps volunteers working with young families, our son and daughter served in Paraguay in the Peace Corps, and her work was precisely that, working with her families in her community in Paraguay. They were also in a rural area working on family health on the issues of raising children, healthy children, and providing them with information about how they could better take care of their families and have a better life.

Our son was involved in community development work. Our two daughters also served in the Peace Corps, and for young men and women, and others who are not so young, the Peace Corps offers an incredible opportunity to serve the world, serve this country, and to serve the needs of individuals in a one-on-one relationship in some 77 countries now, and hopefully with a small increase in the Peace Corps budget, which stands just at \$400 million.

You issued, you gave a statistic earlier in your discussion that is really, I think, important. For every soldier that we send to Afghanistan, we could send 13 Americans somewhere in the world to work on the issues of poverty, the issues of education, social development, societal development, and peace. So it's a 13-1 ratio, a great investment.

Aaron Williams is the current Peace Corps director. He was a volunteer in the Dominican Republic from 1967 to 1970, served 3 years.

Mr. FARR. He met his wife there too. They are happily married. So some Peace Corps volunteers come home with new families.

Mr. GARAMENDI. There are many, many opportunities that the Peace Corps develops and yes, indeed, they can come home with a new family or wife. You are quite correct about Aaron.

There are 8,655 volunteers, as of today, serving in 77 countries, urban, rural, in all kinds of work. Just some of the statistics are, I think, interesting; education, 37 percent. We were teachers and community development. Actually, Patti and I were involved in the smallpox eradication program, Ethiopia being one of the last countries to eradicate smallpox.

Health, HIV/AIDS, was 22 percent. Business. Do you want to be a graduate of Harvard Business School and really get some experience? Fourteen percent of the volunteers do that.

Mr. FARR. We had small business development in Colombia. There was also a whole bunch of people working on educational television, which the country was implementing and needed teachers who knew how to do that, and technicians on how to run the studios and set it all up.

□ 1820

We also had architects helping design public facilities and parks. You don't work on your own. You work with host country counterparts who are professionals like you are.

Mr. GARAMENDI. I have a great example of this. A television reporter, a cameraman in the San Francisco Bay area, is about to retire; and every time I see him, he says, I'm going to go in the Peace Corps. And I say, have you gone online, peacecorps.gov, to put your application in? He says, no. And I said, well, the next time I see you, I want you to tell me that you have your application in. He wants to take his knowledge of reporting and television camera work overseas to work with countries that are developing their own media for the purposes of providing that foundation for a democratic society. And he would be terrific. He's a great reporter.

Mr. FARR. I think that's very important. One of the things I did today, because I was in the same conversation that you were having, somebody asked me about it who was my age and wanted to know whether he could go in the Peace Corps. And I said, go look up the Peace Corps on the Internet.

Not only that. It shows every one of those countries, 77 countries, and what jobs are in that country. You can go out and look around the world and see the country you want to go to and find a job that you think you're qualified to do, and that gives you a motivation to do that. Also, not all Peace Corps volunteers live in mud huts. If you're teaching in a university or in a school in an urban area, you could be in a much more comfortable, middle class setting than people out—the image of sleeping in a hammock in a mud hut. So it's all kinds of opportunities, just depending on the skill sets of you, the individual, and the needs of the host country.

We are always there as a guest being asked by the country to be there, and we do the jobs they ask us to do. And, frankly, I think we have enough innovation, as you and I found out, that sometimes if the job isn't working exactly as they described, you just look around and see what else is needed and adapt yourself. That's a lot of fun. That's a lot of creativity and I think a lot of satisfaction for the volunteer.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Sam, we're just about out of time.

Today, March 1, 2011, marks the 50th anniversary, the 50th birthday of the United States Peace Corps. It's been an incredible organization all of these years. Over 200,000 Americans have served, both young and old, in some 139 countries. And so for all of those out there that want to do something very, very special with their life, well, you can Google it or you can go directly to peacecorps.gov. Put your application in and see what the toughest job you ever loved will bring to you.

Congressman SAM FARR, thank you so very much for joining me this evening, for TOM PETRI and MIKE HONDA, the four of us who are in Congress that were—that remain—Peace Corps volunteers, and for LOIS CAPPS joining us and giving her perspective, a very big “thank you.”

Mr. FARR. Happy birthday.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Happy birthday, Peace Corps.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed an Executive Order establishing the Peace Corps, forever changing the way America sees the world and the world sees us. Today, one of President Kennedy's most enduring legacies can be found in the over 200,000 current and returned Peace Corps Volunteers who have collectively given over a half century of service to the cause of peace. On its 50th anniversary, the United States Peace Corps remains an enduring symbol of our Nation's commitment to encouraging progress, creating opportunity, and fostering mutual respect and understanding throughout the world.

Over the past five decades, Peace Corps Volunteers have served in nearly 140 countries, bringing a wealth of practical assistance to those working to build better lives for themselves and their communities. From the first group of volunteers to arrive in Ghana and Tanzania in August 1961, they have been emissaries of hope and goodwill to the far corners of our world, strengthening the ties of friendship between the people of the United States and those of other countries.

Living and working alongside those they serve, volunteers help address changing and complex global needs in education, health and HIV/AIDS, business and information technology, agriculture, environmental protection, and youth development. With each village that now has access to clean water, each young woman who has received an education, and each family empowered to prevent disease because of the service of a Peace Corps Volunteer, President Kennedy's noble vision lives on.

In our increasingly interconnected world, the mission of the Peace Corps is more relevant today than ever. Returned volunteers, enriched by their experiences overseas, bring a deeper understanding of other cultures and traditions back to their home communities in the United States. The lasting accomplishments of the Peace Corps continue to strengthen partnerships with leaders and countries around the world. This year, we also mourn the loss and pay tribute to the extraordinary life of Sargent Shriver, the founding director of the Peace Corps. The impact of his decades of public service will echo forever in countless places across the globe that have been touched by the Peace Corps.

On this anniversary, we honor the men and women from across the country who have carried forward our Nation's finest tradition of service, and we rededicate ourselves to fulfilling the dream and continuing the work of all those who aspire and yearn for peace.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 1, 2011, as the 50th Anniversary of the Peace Corps. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that honor the Peace Corps and its volunteers, past and present, for their many contributions to the cause of global peace and friendship.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty eighth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

BARACK OBAMA.

PUTTING OUR NATION ON THE
RIGHT TRACK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, the gentleman from Iowa is pleased to be recognized to address you here on the floor of the House, and I want to express my disappointment in the gentlemen who spoke before me. I usually come here to pick up my material for rebuttal. And as I listened to you talk about your affection for the Peace Corps, I didn't come up with a single thing that I seek to rebut here tonight.

So I'll go off on the subject matter that I came to address, Madam Speaker, and that is the situation where we are in this country today with debt and deficit and the growth in government and the things that we must do to turn this country back around and put it on the right track.

This House here this afternoon voted to pass a continuing resolution that has within it an aggregate of about \$4.1 billion in cuts over a 2-week period of time that if you multiply or extrapolate that out to the end of the fiscal year, it comes in that neighborhood of about \$61 billion in cuts which arguably holds the reductions in place. But it did specifically go in and make the cuts in areas where the President had recommended those cuts. It dialed down the contention and tried to find a way to find a solution and a resolution. A list of the President's recommendations I have, but I don't think I'm going to take the time or the trouble, Madam Speaker, to read them into the RECORD. I'll just say that it suffices to show that a number in the neighborhood of \$2.7 billion would be to earmark savings, and the termination of programs saving is about \$1.25 billion, so we get to that number that's just slightly more than \$4 billion.

It's perhaps a victory. It's perhaps a success. It's perhaps a temporary one. I think most likely that it is. These cuts that were offered here today will, most likely, be met with an agreement down on the other end of the Capitol Hill building in the Senate that is run by Majority Leader HARRY REID of Nevada. I think I saw some language in this appropriations bill that might directly affect him. That might be what helps convince him as well.

Madam Speaker, this is a short-term piece that was designed to be a period of time that would allow the Senate to mull over the House position, which is H.R. 1. H.R. 1 is the bill that has the highest priority for the Speaker of the House. It's been traditionally the case. And 2 weeks ago, this Congress negotiated, debated, and offered amendments. Some 500 to 600 amendments were filed. Nearly 200 of them were debated and voted upon. And many of them that went in were cuts in spending or prohibitions from using that spending to implement certain policies

that have been since rejected by this Congress.

And, Madam Speaker, we need to remember that there was an election last November 2 of 2010. And to quote the President of the United States, he famously said after the election of November, 2008: We had an election, and we won, which means that he dictates the policy. Well, Madam Speaker, to the President of the United States, I would say, we had an election November 2. You didn't win that one, Mr. President. In fact, you declared it to be a "shellacking." It was a shellacking.

And the Republicans won the majority in this House by huge numbers. We're looking today at 87 new freshman Republicans and nine freshman Democrats, to give you a sense of the poor proportionality, or the disproportionality. The seats that were picked up have dramatically changed. The gavels all changed hands in the House of Representatives. The agenda changed. It has gone from an agenda that has been driven under the speakership of NANCY PELOSI for 4 years, of an agenda of accelerating spending, increasing government and pushing socialized medicine—which is what I have long declared ObamaCare to be. That doesn't shock anybody, Madam Speaker. It is common vernacular out in the central part of the United States at a minimum.

And so we saw this push to grow government. We saw the President participate in, as a United States Senator, and accelerate his efforts as the President of the United States in the government take-over, first promoting a \$700 billion TARP bailout program that was designed to pick up toxic assets that could have been far better picked up by the private sector if he would have just identified them and we would have exempted capital gains taxes on the profits that would be have been made. We would have seen private money go in and pick up these toxic mortgages in a large way and be managed—managed for a better result that would have kept more people in their homes. The list of good things goes on that might have happened had we had more free market solutions and less government intervention.

□ 1830

But that \$700 billion TARP plan was a mistake, in my view, Madam Speaker. And behind that came the call for the economic stimulus plan which was \$787.5 billion that rolled up to around \$816 billion for the economic stimulus plan. Not all of it was spent, but it was to keep unemployment below 8 percent. We know that it sailed up into the upper 9 percentile, 9.7 and above. It has dialed down now to around 9. But we have a lot of people who have given up and stopped trying.

It is clear that the stimulus plan didn't stimulate the economy at all in the way that it was described or the way it was promised to us, but it surely added to the debt. We have seen about

\$3 trillion in unnecessary spending driven by this President. We have watched as proud companies went into hock to the Federal Government and found the Federal Government engaged in managing some of those companies.

Three large investment banks were taken over by the Federal Government, at least by the power of management or influence—AIG, the insurance company, over \$180 billion that flowed into AIG to protect other investors that had an interest in AIG, the insurance company, or in policies that they had offered that were guaranteeing the return on mortgage-backed securities, Madam Speaker. So there is \$180 billion there. Three large investment banks and AIG, the insurance company.

We saw Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac transition from quasi-government to government, to taxpayer guaranteed, stepping in to play a role in the majority of the mortgage loans in the United States, guaranteed by the taxpayers.

I recall standing on this floor, the floor of the House of Representatives, October 26, 2005, listening to the most immediate past chairman of the Financial Services Committee arguing that he was never going to participate in bailing out Fannie and Freddie. And if anyone was considering buying stock in either one, they should not do so under the consideration that BARNEY FRANK from Massachusetts would be engaged in bailing them out. And so he later became chairman of the committee, and that's what happened.

We saw Dodd-Frank become law, which gives the Federal Government massive regulatory control over the financial institutions in America. We saw the government, the White House, takeover of General Motors and Chrysler. And we saw ObamaCare pass, which I have declared to be the nationalization of our skin and everything inside it. And by the way, it includes a 10 percent tax on the outside if you go to the tanning salon. That is over 51 percent of our economy swallowed up by the Obama administration and supported by the Pelosi House and the Reid Senate.

And we come to this point where America can't take it anymore, Madam Speaker. We can't take it anymore. And all over the world they know that too much spending has put America in debt. It has put our currency in question. It has put our economy in an unstable position, and it guarantees that we will be in a long, drawn-out recovery because we have the overspending. We have the debt to service, which is pay the interest. And then we also have to eventually pay off the principal. And we are borrowing from the Chinese and begging them. And we are borrowing money from the Saudis and begging them. Yes, it affects our foreign policy. We are watching a foreign policy that is a conflagration in the Middle East. Country after country is blowing up and seeking to throw off the yoke of its long-term dictatorship ruler and replace it with—we are not sure what

their ideals are, but they have hit the end of their patience line.

So here we are. Here we are with a continuing resolution that the government is operating on today that was negotiated and passed here in the House and in the Senate in December. It extended the funding for the government over until March 4 of this year; midnight, March 4, which is somewhere around Friday night, I think. Maybe Thursday night.

So there has been an action here on the floor to pass a continuing resolution to do temporary stopgap funding to keep the government running for another 2 weeks, up until March 18. And that CR has now been messaged to the Senate. And the Senate can decide if they want to take it up tomorrow or the next day, get it to the President's desk. If the President signs the CR, the government keeps running; if the President doesn't, the government shuts down.

I am watching as my colleagues seem to think that there is one data point of message for them to learn from, that because there was a government shutdown in 1995, it was one that was pushed for by Republicans, it was driven by Republicans. They wanted to face President Clinton down and insisted that they pass a balanced budget and to get to a balanced budget. In spite of all of the things that happened in 1995 and in early 1996, that was the result, Madam Speaker. They shortly had a balanced budget, and that balanced budget came a lot sooner than it would have otherwise and it lasted at least until such time we were hit by September 11 and the calamity that sent this America into an overspending binge.

I think we could have faced the calamity of September 11 without having to blow our budget in the way we did, but that is not what happened. But what did happen in 1995, if that is the only data point, I want to make this point, Madam Speaker. First of all, there are thousands and thousands of students all over America who are studying political science. Some of them are watching tonight. Some of them are reading in the paper the things that we say and we do, and they are analyzing it. They are listening to their professors analyze what goes on here in Congress, and they are listening to the instruction of the rules, the standards, the axioms that come from certain data points along the line of continuum of political history. And that one data point on that line of continuum of political history is the government shutdown of 1995, and some of it drug over into very early 1996, and the argument is that House Republicans lost that because they had to concede their position to the President and to the Senate.

Well, it is a fact that the House had to concede. They did concede. It is also a fact that the Republicans that controlled the Senate at the time passed a unanimous consent agreement to go

ahead and spend the money that was demanded by Bill Clinton and send it over here to the House. The House was in a position where they couldn't push that chain back uphill and President Clinton and the Senate got their way and imposed it over the House.

But I will still say that there is not a dime that can be spent by the Federal Government if the House of Representatives insists that it not be spent. We have to concede and go along with it at some point, or it won't be spent. And the negotiating position that was there for the House Republicans in 1995 was one that was marginally stronger because they had at least a majority in the Senate. That is the difference in the dynamics. But it was also about \$300 billion, as I recall, on Medicare spending.

So whenever you put down a dollar figure and you try to stand on that as a principle, it is a different stance than if you put something that is principle down and stand on it. For example, whether we are going to spend \$300 billion on Medicare in 1995, or 250 or 200 or 150 or 100 or no more, you will lose or gain people along that line of that continuum. If you want to cut Medicare by \$350 billion, you would lose some people that might be with you at 300. And if you move the line up \$400 billion, 450, you lose some people who might have been with you at 350 or 400.

Money is something that there is a sliding scale. You cannot find a principle there that you can stand on. It is like going to an auction and seeing something that you want. And maybe you go to the auction and you decide I want to buy a bicycle and I am willing to pay \$100 for that bicycle. If you go to the auction and the auctioneer is crying out he has a bid for \$100, now he wants \$101, do you pay that extra \$1 and go home with the bicycle, something to show for it? Or do you say, no, that was my principle. My principle was I am not going to spend more than \$100.

Well, some people live by that principle. I do, occasionally. But it is not a principle that is tied to anything that is definable from a sense of right and wrong. It is a percentage scale. If \$100 was the right number, it is only 1 percent wrong to pay \$101. If you get it for \$99, do you have any more virtue? No, you just got a bargain from what you anticipated.

But when you stand on a principle, it is a different story. The principle here that is better for the House to stand on than the principle of the \$300 billion in 1995 is the principle that we must not be funding ObamaCare willfully with appropriations bills here in the House. We must not do so because every Republican and a handful of Democrats, and there will be more, voted to repeal ObamaCare.

We passed the repeal and sent it over to HARRY REID. Furthermore, now that that has happened, every Republican, with H.R. 1, has voted to shut off any funding that can be used to implement

or enforce ObamaCare. That is also a fact. They are principled votes. They are not votes that are measured on the dollar figure. In fact, most people who voted in that fashion didn't know how much money it actually saved us for voting to repeal ObamaCare.

And it is hard for me to take a position on that. I'll just say that the chairman of the Budget Committee, PAUL RYAN, has used the words about \$2.6 trillion is the spending that is saved by repealing ObamaCare.

That is the best number we have, and I don't disagree with that. I accept that number, but it is hard to come down to something and then argue are we doing it because of the money savings. Did we vote to repeal ObamaCare because it would stop the spending of \$2.6 trillion? I think not, Madam Speaker.

□ 1840

I think it's part of it. It's part of the equation—and we can't afford it—but there are many other principles. The most important one is: ObamaCare takes American liberty, and puts it into the hands of government to manage our, I'll say, the second most sovereign thing we have, which is our bodies and our health.

That's what's wrong with ObamaCare; it's a matter of principle. It's the takings of American liberty that must be stopped. No, we can't afford it, and it's money that's better spent by doctor-patient relationships and by individuals making decisions on their health insurance and moving on down the line with those conservative principles. We need to stand on principle.

We have this opportunity here in this 112th Congress to stand on principle. The stance needs to be that we will not vote to fund ObamaCare. I'm going to add to this that neither shall we vote to fund Planned Parenthood, and I shall be looking for ways to unfund every other entity like them that promotes abortion or provides abortion as a matter of practice in their facilities. Planned Parenthood has invested in promiscuity, but that's a longer discussion than I will engage in tonight, Madam Speaker.

I do think these two issues are tied very closely together going forward in that ObamaCare funding must be shut off, and we cannot be asking our Members to vote again to appropriate funds that can be used to fund ObamaCare. Some will be saying we didn't have ObamaCare funding in this short-term CR, just as they said there wasn't ObamaCare funding in the CR that passed at the end of December that takes us to the 4th of March, but here is the answer to this:

There are at least 21 different components to ObamaCare that are beneficiaries of funding that go into the various departments. There is no prohibition for that money going into or for being used to implement or to force ObamaCare. There are at least 21 different areas. Then when you look at

the money that's in there, we discover altogether the automatic appropriations. There was something like \$4.9 billion for the balance of this year that was automatically appropriated. That's not prohibited in this CR. We didn't get it into H.R. 1, actually, either. But the 21 programs are there, and the money is there for them. I can roll those into the RECORD, Madam Speaker, but there is another component to this that is a blanket component:

It is language in ObamaCare that gives the authority to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius, to do intradepartmental transfers so that she can use that money to implement and force ObamaCare at her discretion. We failed to shut that language off, too.

So this appropriations bill that passed today, H.J. Res. 44, the 2-week CR, has 21 places in it that could fund ObamaCare, and it still allows for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to take intradepartmental transfers to use at her discretion, at will, which funds ObamaCare.

Then the Pence language, the Pence amendment that he has worked on so valiantly and for so long to shut off all funding to Planned Parenthood, was passed by this House in H.R. 1. It became a component of the position of the House that was delivered here at about 4:30 on a Saturday morning, a week ago last Saturday morning.

Those components, I believe, need to be part of everything we do going forward. I will stand and promote those, and I will stand with those who will stand for life. I simplify it when I say the Pence language shuts off funding to Planned Parenthood, but there are other components that also were left out.

One is the Dornan amendment, which prohibits funding for abortions in D.C. There is the Mexico City policy that shuts off funding to abortions in foreign lands, which we've always done, which is not part of it. The international population control and planning fund gets money still, along with Planned Parenthood.

This is what has taken place, Madam Speaker, in this short-term CR. Boy, it's hard for many Members to vote for it. They want to be team players, and I appreciate that sentiment. From my standpoint, I have an obligation to my constituents and to God and country to do the best job I can to serve, and it goes in the opposite order: God, country. Constituents are right up there with country. Sometimes the best interests of my district are not always going to be the best interests of America. I haven't had that conflict that I can articulate yet, but if that comes, I'm pretty confident my constituents will understand the priority.

We have to do the right thing for the long term for our country, and the right thing is for us to stand on principle and to shut off this funding to ObamaCare, to shut off this funding to Planned Parenthood, to make sure that

we are standing on solid, moral, principled ground so that we have a firm place from which we can then negotiate those things that are negotiable with the Senate, which, by the way, is a proxy for the President of the United States. So, if it can be negotiated with the Senate, it's also negotiated, in my view, with the President.

In a moment, I'm going to look forward to yielding to my friend from Texas, who has just arrived on the floor, but I want to also add this:

For weeks now, the Democrats in the House and the Democrats in the Senate have been clamoring for a government shutdown. They seem to be determined to shut the government down. They seem to think that, if there's a government shutdown, they're going to win that debate, and they're going to maybe pick up seats in the House and pick up seats in the Senate, and they'll be able to impose their government growth/government spending/expansion of debt proposals that they've been pushing for the last 4 years, which have failed and which the American people have rejected.

We should not be deluded into believing that Democrats somehow want to go through this period of fiscal austerity. They want to drive this spending up, and they want to have more excuses for increasing taxes. If government grows and taxes grow, at some point the taxes grow to the point where they consume everything, and then those business entities that I talked about being taken over by this White House become the small part of a long list of business entities that are taken over.

I've spoken of this before. On the Web site, the Socialist Web site, they say: We don't want to nationalize everything like the Communists. We're just Socialists. We only want to nationalize the Fortune 500 companies. Thanks a lot. Give the barber, the butcher, the baker, and the candlestick maker some relief. Thanks a lot for that. They want to manage the Fortune 500 companies "for the benefit of the people affected by them."

That's the unions.

The President handed shares in General Motors and Chrysler over to the unions, who had no skin in the game, no equity invested, but he handed the shares over to them anyway. It's right off the Socialist Web site, and the Progressives that are left in this Congress adhere to the agenda of the Socialists, which is on the Web site.

But Democrats who are clamoring for a shutdown fail to understand that the American people are more sophisticated today than they were in 1995. They've seen this movie before, and they fear it ends with Republicans giving in to the demands of tax consumers. I have that same fear, but I'm encouraging all of us on this side of the aisle and those discerning Democrats who remain—and there are some—to join with us in putting an end to ObamaCare, in putting an end to fund-

ing for Planned Parenthood, in putting an end to overspending.

Let's get serious about real cuts. Let's get serious about holding the line. When every Republican in the House voted to repeal ObamaCare and when every Republican voted to unfund ObamaCare, then, by golly, that's our obligation. That's what we must do. That's what we shall do.

Madam Speaker, I'd be happy to yield to the gentleman from Texas, my friend Judge GOHMERT.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank my friend from Iowa.

I've been listening to your well-thought-out comments. This is a serious time, not just in American history but in world history; and it's a little difficult to get beat up from our friends from the other side of the aisle over what's going on right now over a continuing resolution when there is one reason we're doing any continuing resolution—they didn't do their job last year. This was supposed to have been done last year. They didn't do it. Why?

I guess they were concerned if people saw exactly a budget that's required by law, but that wasn't done last year—they just ignored that—just like the President is now going to ignore the Defense of Marriage Act. I didn't know Presidents could pick and choose the laws that were duly passed and signed into law and just say, We don't choose to defend that anymore.

But to get beat up by people across the aisle over what's going on is a little tough to take, because they didn't do their job, and now we're having to do it.

□ 1850

And then to further get beat up over spending issues because we're trying to cut spending.

I know my friend from Iowa, as I did, voted "no" on the CR today because it didn't continue the hard-fought battle that was won in H.R. 1, where we were defunding ObamaCare. But I recall in 2005, 2006, my first term in Congress, getting beat up—figuratively speaking—by my friends across the aisle because they said, rightfully, we were spending too much money and that we were going to run \$100 billion to \$200 billion in deficit over the amount we were going to receive in, and that that was irresponsible. Well, they were right. We shouldn't have been spending \$100 to \$200 billion more than we were getting in in 2005 and 2006. They said we were spending too much, they were right. And what happened in November of 2006? They promised they would get the spending under control if they were given the majority, they got the majority, and they immediately started spending more than we had spent.

And so here we are after a Democratic President gets elected promising hope and change, and people didn't realize that the change was going to be the few pennies left in their pockets after this government was spending so much and leaving little that banks can

loan for new businesses and small businesses to hire people. So the economy is struggling. I mean, this government has sucked up all the capital that there is to create jobs and to get the economy going.

So one of the things that has troubled me is hearing people complaining about wanting to cut hundreds of billions of dollars—in fact, trying to cut \$1.5 trillion of the President's proposed \$3.65 trillion budget, \$3.7 trillion. We're only supposed to get in about \$2.16 trillion total of all Federal revenue, and this President's proposing a budget that's \$1.65 trillion more than that.

So I keep wondering, since our Democratic friends across the aisle were beating up on us in 2006 for spending too much money, what would be wrong with saying not cut \$100 billion, but cut \$1.65 trillion, and let's get back to where we were in 2006. That was only \$200 billion over what we were receiving. The Democrats were right; Republicans were spending too much money in 2005 and 2006. What would be wrong with going back to that budget? And yet here there's all this rancor over just cutting \$100 billion. And the President's talking \$1.65 trillion more than we received in?

I don't know if my friend from Iowa noticed, but 2 weeks ago when the President came out with his absolutely irresponsible budget that was going to spend \$1.65 trillion more than we brought in—not the \$160 billion more that we got beat up for spending more than, but 10 times that, \$1.65 trillion—I noticed in the paper the next day that the Chinese were selling off some of their U.S. bonds, some of the debt from our country. Well, it immediately came to my mind, if I were China and I were holding our debt, and I saw that the President of the United States, despite making almost daily speeches about how we're getting spending under control—it would be irresponsible, he says, not to get spending under control—and then he reveals his budget and it's spending \$150 billion more than he did last year, I'd start selling off our debt too. I would be thinking these people are so crazy.

I mean, the dollar is the reserve currency of the world. Nations around the world have been advising us as friends, look, you don't realize what you're doing, but people are getting ready to dump the dollar as a reserve currency for one reason—well, two reasons: One, a lot of them are jealous, but number two, we're being irresponsible with our economy and with our spending. And so I couldn't help but vote “no” today on the CR with my friend from Iowa.

I also heard a lady yesterday talking about 30 people had lost their jobs because of ObamaCare and what this administration is doing. I've heard from people who are extremely upset back in Texas who have lost their health care just because ObamaCare has been passed. I've talked to doctors who have said, I'm done, I can't play these games anymore. I have not saved as much

money as I had hoped before I retire, but I'm done. And they're giving up the medical practice. I talked to a doctor just this morning who said the very same thing.

It just keeps bringing back: If you care about people, if you care about them having jobs, if you care about their self-respect that comes when they have a meaningful job, earn their own keep instead of having the government luring them into indentured servitude status where they are servants of the government and just running around wherever they can find a government that will hand them a check and demanding checks, America deserves better.

There are people that have given that last full measure of devotion to make sure that freedom existed around here, not freedom to go begging the government for a check, not freedom to go begging the government for health care, to pass some law that we're going to take someone's money that they earned, they don't want to give up, and force them to spend on people who don't want to work. We owe them better than we've been doing.

And so when we hear our friends talking about how we shouldn't even have to go through this process, I couldn't agree more. If they had done their job, if they had cut spending instead of putting the dollar in jeopardy, putting our economy in jeopardy, then they're right, we shouldn't have to be going through this. But we have got to defund ObamaCare before too many more people lose their health care and end up having rationed care. I heard about more doctors today who are no longer taking Medicare or Medicaid. We owe all of the people across this country better than what they've gotten in the last 6 years, and what they've sure been getting the last 2 years.

These are dire circumstances, and we just can't keep this going. I mean, we are really in serious trouble. And I know my friend knows that or he wouldn't be spending his time here when he could be doing so many other things. But I appreciate my friend from Iowa more than he could possibly know. I appreciate his courageous stands, and I look forward—I can't really say that. I don't look forward to the battles ahead, but I look forward to having a friend as we go through them.

□ 1900

Mr. KING of Iowa. Reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman from Texas. He sparked some things in my mind that in about the 6 minutes we may have, a little bit of dialogue with regard to that.

One point that I wanted to make about what's going on with the strategy on ObamaCare is that I've spoken significantly about how this House has voted to repeal it, this House has voted to shut off the funding to it at every single opportunity.

And if there's a strategy out there that says we're going to do death to

ObamaCare by a thousand cuts, I'd ask those folks that are concerned about a real showdown with the President on ObamaCare to think about what really happened not so much in the 1995 shutdown, which I said earlier I don't think is applicable under these circumstances. There's a better issue to understand.

And that is in 1998 when the impeachment of President Clinton was brought up, when America found out about what was going on in the Oval Office and in the room next to the Oval Office in too stark of detail for the children of America to be so rushed in to the birds and the bees discussion in the way that they were, Madam Speaker.

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I apologize. I didn't hear your gavel earlier.

So even though it's abrupt, I am happy to yield back the balance of my time.

WHAT CAUSED THE FAILING ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I appreciate the opportunity this evening to talk about something that we're not talking much about right now. We talk about the loss of jobs, the unemployment. But what really caused it?

You know, a few weeks ago the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission actually submitted its report to Congress. The good news is that it's on the best seller list. The bad news is that I am fearful that it's going to be gathering dust in the Chamber here and throughout this building because in this document it speaks volumes about why we are sitting where we are today; why our economy has tanked; why there are 15 million people unemployed in this country; and why there are 4 million people who now have been foreclosed on, and another 4 million who are underwater relative to their mortgages.

So this evening I am joined by the distinguished member from the Financial Services Committee, my good friend from the State of North Carolina, who is a powerful voice on consumer protection and the financial crisis that we've endured. And we're going to spend the next half hour just talking about it.

Well, first and foremost, what was this commission? This commission was a bipartisan, independent 10-member committee composed of private citizens with experience in economics, finance, housing, market regulation. They held 19 public hearings in affected communities across this country including Washington, New York, Miami, Sacramento, Las Vegas, and Bakersfield; 115 witnesses appeared before the

commission in sworn public hearings, including leading figures in the crisis.

In addition, the commission interviewed over 300 people, virtually all of the key players in the financial collapse, including Angelo Mozilo of Countrywide, Richard Fuld of Lehman, and Joe Cassano of AIG Financial Products Division, and examined thousands of documents—all of which are posted on the Web. A totally transparent process.

And the single most important statement they made was this crisis could have been avoided.

Now, they gave just a few examples. The Securities and Exchange Commission could have required more capital and halted risky practices at the big investment banks, but they did not. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York and other regulators could have clamped down on CitiGroup's excesses in the run-up to the crisis. They did not. Policymakers and regulators could have stopped the runaway mortgage securitization train. And they did not.

So this document has line and verse of what went wrong. But one of the most telling parts deals with the mortgage fraud, and I would like to just put this up.

How many executives have been held accountable for their actions in this financial crisis?

As you can see, two have been criminally charged. There have been zero convictions, zero sent to prison.

Well, what happened when the savings and loan crisis occurred in this country decades ago?

The results there were much different: 1,188 were criminally charged, 915 were convicted, and 582 went to prison. Convictions included more than 260 thrift CEOs and senior executives including, of course, the famous Mr. Keating.

So it is very important for us tonight and through the next year or two to not only study this document but to put it to paper. By "put it to paper," I mean legislate around it.

Now the Dodd bill is an incredible effort in that regard. The Dodd-Frank effort was one that we were successful in moving through; but as this report points out, there were powers that many of these regulators already had but chose not to use.

Now, the second poster talks about mortgage fraud; and the compelling information in the report that I think is important to point out is that, again, there were people that were looking at the problem and saying, Wait a minute, we need to do something about this. One in particular was the Deputy Director of the FBI who began to look at this issue and thought something is wrong here.

According to the FBI, 80 percent of the cases of fraud involves insiders. So if there was fraud being exercised in the mortgage industry, it was coming from the inside. FBI Assistant Director Chris Swecker began noticing a rise in mortgage fraud back in 1999 and in 2002 led a successful criminal prosecution

against the owner of Beneficial Mortgage in your State, my dear friend from North Carolina, for selling fraudulent loans to Fannie Mae.

First Beneficial repurchased the fraudulent loans from Fannie but then proceeded to resell them to Ginnie Mae without any interference from Fannie. Fannie later paid \$7.5 million in restitution to the government for allowing the sale.

Assistant Director Swecker told a congressional committee in 2004 that if fraudulent mortgage practices became unrestrained and systematic, it would ultimately place financial institutions at risk and have adverse effects on the stock market. Boy, was he prescient or what?

So here is an interesting chart that shows how we've seen an increase in fraud reports at financial institutions.

Now, these are really undervalued. They're probably five times higher because many institutions do not actually report like they should. But what is even more disturbing is that while the number of mortgage frauds have increased, the number of actual prosecutions have slowed down. So as we are trying to kind of somehow come to some understanding of why this all happened and how do we make sure it doesn't happen again, if we don't have enforcement tools, if we don't have those who have the enforcement tools seeking to go after the mortgage fraud, then in all likelihood it will continue to happen.

So I know that my good friend from North Carolina is interested in weighing in on this issue. I think that as we discuss this issue, it's important to know, one, that there are enforcement tools, but they have to be used.

I yield to my good friend.

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Thank you, and thank you for organizing this Special Order tonight to talk about an issue that we should not turn our attention from because we need to remember how we got here if we're going to figure out how to get out and how to make sure we don't get here again. This has been the worst economy since the Great Depression, and we need to make sure that the mistakes that got us here are mistakes we avoid in the future.

Our colleagues across the aisle have said the great issue in American politics now is between those who want big government and those who want small government.

□ 1910

The real issue is which side government is on; and for too long, government has not been on the side of working and middle class families who are trying to make an honest living, who are trying to support themselves, support their families, do the right thing, do something useful with their lives. Government has been on the side of people who were trying to make a killing by getting themselves into a position where they can take advantage of

the economy, where they can extract money, they can loot the economy, is what economists called rent-seeking, doing nothing particularly useful, but just taking a piece of other people's productive work.

There has been a lot of gloating in the last little bit about how successful the financial rescue has been, and by many measures it has been. The banks have not actually collapsed; the financial system didn't collapse. We did not have a Great Depression, as painful as this has been, but the financial collapse and the rescue profoundly offended Americans' sense of justice, and it offended my sense of justice.

What led to the financial collapse was not some perfect storm of unforeseeable macroeconomic forces and this weird combination of events that no one could possibly have seen. It really was the result, as the FCIC report concluded, it was not just preventable; it was the result of blame-worthy conduct that we should never have allowed to happen.

I first got involved in this issue, not knowing it would result eventually in a financial crisis, through working on the issue of mortgages, knowing that the mortgages were terrible for consumers, for homeowners. And the way that they had been portrayed, as a good-faith effort by the financial system to try to make home ownership available to people who could not otherwise afford it, was completely different from what was really going on with subprime mortgages.

There was an explosive growth of subprime mortgages. They grew from 8 percent of all mortgages in 2003 to 28 percent in 2006. That is enormous growth in just 3 short years. And they certainly were not about helping people buy homes who otherwise could not have afforded home ownership.

In fact, every study that has looked at it has concluded the great majority of people who got subprime loans qualified for prime loans. They got cheated. They got steered into loans that obviously were not in their interest. They weren't about helping people into home ownership.

In fact, subprime was almost entirely a creature of refinances. Seventy percent, even during that 2003 to 2006 period, 70 percent were refinances. People already owned their homes, but they needed to borrow money. Some of them lived beyond their means, there is no doubt about it. Some of them were using the equity in their home as an ATM machine. But the fact is for the last generation the means of middle class families have not been enough. Americans, as the economy has grown, as the Nation has prospered, that prosperity has not been widely shared as it has been in the past.

And so when Americans got into trouble, when they needed to borrow money from somewhere, when someone in the family got sick, when someone lost their job, when they went through a divorce, when they needed to borrow

money, the only way they could borrow money was to borrow it against their home, to refinance their home. Seventy percent of subprime loans were refinances. And again, the great majority, The Wall Street Journal estimated 55 percent, most of the other estimates have been more than that, were people who qualified for prime mortgages.

Ninety percent were not fixed rate, 30-year mortgages. They had a quick reset after just 2 or 3 years. So they were 2/28s or 3/27s. Most people who got those loans did not even know that. They did not know that the initial mortgage payment that they had to make, monthly payment, was going to be subject to a very quick increase. And the increase after just a couple of years was generally 30 to 50 percent a month. To get out of the mortgage, the great, great majority had to pay a prepayment penalty, usually like 3 percent of the outstanding balance of the mortgage.

Now, those were not mortgages that were designed to help middle class families. Those were mortgages designed to take the equity in their home, to strip them of the equity of their home as house prices were going up. There was never any thought that they really would be able to pay off those mortgages over the course of 30 years and then invite their friends and family over to have a ceremony where they would burn their mortgages, as earlier generations of Americans had done. They were mortgages that had the effect of trapping people in debt and taking from them the equity in their home and making sure that that ended up in the pockets of the financial sector, not in the pockets of the middle class families.

Other practices in that last decade that should never have happened, overdraft fees. Now, overdraft fees serve a useful purpose. In another generation, we used the criminal laws to prosecute people who wrote bad checks. There are a lot of perfectly honest folks who got themselves in just a little bit of trouble, or didn't balance their checkbooks, who ended up with prosecutions for writing bad checks. But overdraft fees became a source of profit for banks. A typical overdraft fee would be 40 bucks. The biggest banks actually developed what was called "fee harvesting software."

If you had an overdraft agreement, and you had one unless you specifically asked not to have one, and you went to an ATM machine and you asked for your balance, it wouldn't actually tell you how much you had in your account. It would say "funds available." That meant how much your balance was plus what they would allow in overdraft fees.

And they would run the bills through in a way that would maximize your overdraft fees. So if you were like a lot of people and you got to the end of the month and there was more month than there was paycheck, and you went to the ATM, and you had a hundred bucks

in your account, and you went to the ATM machine and you took out 20, and then you took out another 20, and then you made a \$20 purchase, and then another \$20 purchase with your debit card, and then maybe a \$15 purchase, and then you wrote a \$100 check or a \$105 check, the banks would put the \$105 check through first, putting you over your limit, charging you a \$40 overdraft fee on that and the 20, the 20, the 20, the 20, and the 15. Now, that's just crooked. And that was legal.

Ms. SPEIER, my colleague from California, has pointed out the lack of prosecutions. But perhaps the greatest scandal of this financial crisis is what was legal; not that illegality was blinked at, but what was legal in all of this.

We have now passed legislation that should reform much of this, but we have to stick to it to make sure that those reforms are enforced, they are given meaning, and that the regulators do not fall into that tendency to be controlled by the people they are supposed to be looking after. They are supposed to be the cop on the block, and they have to exercise independent judgment on behalf of the American people.

We need to make sure these reforms work because we cannot allow what happened in the last decade. It truly offended Americans' sense of justice, that the people who caused it have come out unscathed. Not only have they not been criminally prosecuted, but they are now back to making the same kind of bonuses they made before. And the people who have suffered, suffered the most, are the working and middle class families who got trapped in those mortgages, or who lost their jobs, or even people who had good mortgages have now seen the value of their homes collapse. And with the loss of the value of their home, one in four people with mortgages now are underwater, owe more on their home than their home is worth.

With that, they have seen the loss of their life savings. That is the life savings for most middle class families, the equity in their home. So of course people have a knot in their stomach. They have a knot in their stomach about whether they're going to keep their jobs. They have a knot in their stomach over what they really own in the world when they have seen the value of their home collapse in the way that it has.

So I thank the gentelady from California for organizing this Special Order so that we can call attention again to the kind of misconduct, the kind of corrupt, rent-seeking looting of the economy that we have seen in the last decade that got us to where we are.

Ms. SPEIER. I thank the gentleman. Reclaiming my time, you know, you had said earlier that our friends on the other side of the aisle were bemoaning the big government; and yet if any of the records that have been established by this commission are really studied, without the kind of government to do

the kind of investigation and enforcement, then we are setting ourselves up for another financial crisis.

□ 1920

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. I am reminded of one of my favorite quotes from Will Rogers, who is responsible for many of my favorite quotes, that in the New Deal, even after the financial collapse, even after the stock market collapse and the revelation of all of the conduct that had led to that stock market collapse, the securities industry fought tooth and nail. Wall Street fought tooth and nail the regulation of the securities markets, the stock markets.

Will Rogers said, "The boys on Wall Street don't want a cop on their block." Well, they still don't. They still do not want someone standing between them and the kinds of profits that they made in the last decade.

Ms. SPEIER. You know, you are absolutely right, and so is Will Rogers. I think that it's important for us to communicate to the American people that while we don't want bloated government, we want to make sure that there is a government that has the cop on the street.

Look at the savings and loan crisis and those who were criminally charged and those who were convicted and those who went to prison. The FBI deputy director at the time, John Pistole, testified before Congress and said that there were a thousand people working on the S&L crisis at its height within the FBI, a thousand people.

That compares to about 240 agents working on the mortgage fraud cases last year. So, you see, no numbers in terms of convictions, and you can see that if you don't have cops on the beat, then you are going to have people that are going to take advantage, that are not going to follow the rules, and that, frankly, will not be charged nor convicted for their crimes.

I am reminded, too, that during much of this review by the commission they talked about the action that some regulators did take in 2005 where they weren't willing to actually take action against the banks, but they did issue what they called was a nonbinding guidance. The guidance was to recommend the banks consider a borrower's ability to make the loan payment when the rate adjusted.

What a lightbulb going off. I mean, why wouldn't that be naturally part of the process when you were going to assess whether someone could carry the loan, to see whether or not they could carry the loan after the rate adjusted? But as you pointed out, they were all interested in the yield spread. They were all interested in churning. They were all interested in securitizing these loans and making more and more money. So it wasn't about making sure people could actually pay for the loans moving forward.

I see we have been joined by another colleague. Welcome. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PASCRELL. I didn't come to speak on this issue tonight but another issue, but I can't help but look at the graphic message that's right there in front of everybody, in front of the country, about the financial, Great Recession, depression—who was charged and how many were convicted. This is a very, very, very sad omen.

If we go back into the nineties and into the first decade of this century, very, very specific, as we understood what was going to come, you need to have a Justice Department that's willing to stand up and fight the very people who many times fund our campaigns.

Now, if you can't say it, then you shouldn't be here.

AIG is a perfect example. They became the poster child of everything that was going wrong in our financial institutions. But AIG, in 2003 and 2005—rather, 2003 and 2005, got what are called deferred prosecutions. Deferred prosecutions to me are the very center, the very apex of what is corrupt about those moneylenders in the temple.

Now, what is AIG all about? They made and packaged many of these financial deals that we read about it for so many years. And people look at this and they read about it. They may not know all the specific definitions about every one of these packages, these financial products, as they were called, but they do understand that nobody ever pays for anything, and nobody ever is held accountable.

So how can people, the average person who is struggling, particularly now, see it's all right when things are going well, the AIGs become simply a fault, a sand pebble on the beach of our brains.

But the fact of the matter is, when things get tough, then you will wonder where this money is going. Because money doesn't disappear into the ocean, it doesn't disappear into the atmosphere, into the sky. It goes somewhere and it winds up in someone's pocket. It's simple one-on-one mathematics, beyond the course.

When you look at deferred prosecutions and how many corporations got deferred prosecutions, where the government said, where the Justice Department said, look, if you straighten out and fly right, and we will have a Federal monitor there to make sure that you don't do the financial practices that you did before, then we will let you go. No one will be prosecuted, and no one will be taken to task, and no one will go to trial, and no one will, therefore, ever be convicted. My friend, it did not work with AIG, and it hasn't worked with any of the large corporations.

You know what? I don't blame one party for this. We were part of the situation as well, and until we stand and tell the truth about our own implications in this thing, this is never going to be changed.

People want to be confident in their government and their Justice Depart-

ment, to get to those people who made money on the backs of the working men and women of this country.

Ms. SPEIER. The gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Thank you very much. I think we all struggle with what phrase to use to describe the people that have been hurt by this. I think we use the words, the phrase working and middle class families, sometimes we say ordinary people. Sometimes we say regular people. But the phrase that keeps coming to me is people who are trying to make an honest living.

And I think my model for that was my own parents. I am a child of the middle class. My father worked for the post office. He managed, at the end of his life, he worked for the post office almost all of his life, almost all of his working life. He died in 1965. At the end of his life, when I was 12, he was a manager of a neighborhood branch of the post office.

After that I saw my mother support me on her own as a widow, when I was 12 forward. I remember my law school graduation, my mother trembling. I thought that she was overcome with pride since my generation was the first in our family to go to college. She later admitted to my sister that she had actually, after my father died, prayed that if her youngest, me, could just get through school, He could take her at any time. So she was expecting to be struck down at any moment and was trying to negotiate a new deal with God.

I am deeply offended by the suggestion that my parents, both of whom were public employees, my father worked for the post office, my mother was a bookkeeper for the local school system, were not making a contribution to society, that they were taking, that they were takers and not givers. I saw how hard they worked to do right by me and to do right by the people who were paying their salaries.

I am deeply offended by the arguments that public employees are people who are taking from our society and not giving back. The idea that they are takers, and the people who came up with this stuff, are the ones doing something useful to society, that they are the ones who are making a valuable contribution, offends me deeply.

Ms. SPEIER. It offends me as well.

As we conclude this half hour, I just want to say to our colleagues that this commission report must not gather dust. This commission report has got to be read by everyone, particularly our colleagues on the other side, and that we have got to take it to heart.

One of the points they make in this report was that \$2.7 billion was spent by the financial services industry over 10 years to lobby all of us, and another \$1 billion was given out in contributions to Members of Congress.

□ 1930

So, it's no surprise that the enforcement hasn't been as strong as it should

be. Thank you for sharing this half hour with me, and let's hope that we can continue to shed light on this issue.

GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. I want to talk tonight a little bit about, number one, why I even came to Congress and why I'm up here tonight talking about gun violence. I just want to give you a little history. On December 7, 1993, a deranged man named Colin Ferguson got on the Long Island Railroad train and changed my life and that of many others forever. As the train pulled into Merillon Avenue in Garden City, he took out a handgun and opened fire on those passengers in the train. He killed six people, including my husband. He injured 19, including my son, who was shot in the head at close range. Thankfully, my son did survive. And while it has been a difficult struggle for him, he has a rich life now with a wife and two children. I consider them my miracles. And I'm very grateful that he did survive.

What I did after that incident was become an advocate for reducing gun violence in this country, to see if I could help others not have to go through the same pain that my family and the other families of the Long Island Railroad massacre went through. As often happens when you become an advocate for a cause, any cause, that led me to work with elected officials and the government to try to change policies that I thought were hurting the American people.

And also as often happens when I discovered that there was only so much you could do outside the government, I ran for office myself. I was never a very political person, but I believed so strongly in this cause that people saw and gave me the chance to be their Congresswoman. The Members of this body embraced me also. That was in 1996. Even though I work hard on other issues like the economy and education, I'm still fighting that this struggle to reduce gun violence is the same battle I had back in 1993 and on.

So let's go fast forward now. From 1993 to January 8 of 2011, on that fateful day in Arizona, six lives were stolen from us, and 13 of our fellow Americans were injured, including one of our own,

Congresswoman GABBY GIFFORDS. Certainly it hit home for all of us, and it sends a chill down all of our spines. I know I'll never forget that day. The shootings had eerie similarities to our own incident in 1993. Six people were killed and over a dozen injured. Like my son, Gabby was shot in the head at close range. Like my son, she's looking like she's making a wonderful recovery. And we're all rooting for her.

There are a couple more similarities that bear mentioning. In both the shootings, the gunmen used high-capacity magazines that allowed them to maximize their carnage; and in both shootings, the gunman was tackled by unarmed witnesses while they stopped the shooting when he was trying to reload.

I ran for office and entered government to make a difference. I came to Congress to make our lives safer. I have a legislative proposal that I think should reduce the casualties in that supermarket parking lot on January 8.

H.R. 308 is a bill to ban high-capacity magazines like the ones used in Arizona and on the Long Island Railroad. These are devices designed to hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition and feed them into a gun. The State law in my State, New York, have already banned magazines holding more than 10 bullets, and that was also the Federal law between 1994 and 2004. So we know that there's precedent for this law on a State and a Federal level. There is no question about its constitutionality.

Unfortunately, most States, like Arizona, don't have limit on high-capacity magazines. This is what allowed the shooter to just walk into a common store and buy the weapon he did right off the shelf. This is a reasonable, commonsense bill that makes accommodations for public safety and gun owners' rights. This includes exemptions for our law enforcements and our military as well for testing purposes or for security guards looking after nuclear facilities.

As I noted, often shooters are tackled and stopped when they run out of bullets in a magazine and stop to reload. That was the case for my family in 1993, and that was the case of Arizona. Maybe if the shooter in Arizona had fewer bullets in the magazine, we wouldn't have had the carnage that we saw. Fewer people would have died. Fewer people would have been injured. We would be looking at one less funeral or a few less life-changing injuries.

Immediately after the shooting in Arizona, there was a lot of talk just about by everyone about putting partisanship and politics aside and working together for the common good. I see this bill as an opportunity to do that. This is not a partisan bill. There is no Democrat or Republican way to become a victim of gun violence. And there is no Democratic or Republican way to reduce it. In the absence of a perfect, nonviolent society, we must make laws to protect the public.

This is a very simple bill, a bill about our public health and our safety. We also have a moral imperative to protect innocent and law-abiding Americans from the threat of dangerous weapons in the wrong hands. In America, we believe in life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. To me, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness include being able to go grocery shopping on a Saturday or attend a public event on a Saturday afternoon without being gunned down.

This bill does not take away anyone's right to own a gun. Let me make that very, very clear. This bill does nothing to take away anyone's right to own a gun. I believe in this Second Amendment, and I support law-abiding hunters and sportsmen. But common sense dictates there is no need for the kinds of devices that this bill is addressing other than for killing as many people as possible in the shortest possible time.

Almost 100,000 people a year are shot in this country, suicides, homicides, accidental deaths and on and on. That's over 260 people a day. Every single one of those people have families and friends. Think of how many millions of Americans are affected by gun violence every single year. I want to remind us all that we can help lower these awful statistics. We can help save lives, and we can help prevent lives from being shattered.

Now, this bill is getting more and more support every single day. We have over 90 cosponsors in the House and 10 in the Senate. And every day there's another newspaper editorial or a columnist supporting this bill. There are a lot of coalitions, organizations, and leaders out there working to support this bill to reduce gun violence in our country—the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence; the Violence Policy Center; the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence; New Yorkers Against Gun Violence; New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg; the United States Conference of Mayors; Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter; Richard Aborn, who was a former president of Brady; Mothers Against Guns; Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence; States United to Prevent Gun Violence; and many, many more.

Even pro-gun conservatives like Vice President Dick Cheney say that it would be reasonable to discuss reinstating the restriction that was in the assault weapons bill and to do away with the large magazines.

□ 1940

We are also hearing word that President Obama will publicly address the issue of gun violence soon. We don't know whether he will talk about this bill or other measures that I also support, like strengthening our background check system, or closing the gun show loophole, which allows you to buy guns at gun shows without a background check.

But the good news is that people across the country are uniting in an ef-

fort to do something to reduce gun violence. I think one of the most important things I can do while I'm here with you is to ask for your help and ask the American people for their help.

We all saw recently from the world events the kind of change that you can make happen when you have the power of the people behind you. And certainly we have done this before. We have come together as a Nation, Democrat and Republican, to pass sensible gun laws in order to save lives and reduce injuries. If you are not a cosponsor on this legislation yet, please become one. If you are still not sure if you want to support this legislation or not, please feel free to talk to me or anyone on staff. Go on my Web site and read the bill. Basically, this is a very narrow bill.

Finally, no matter what we do, whether you support this bill or not, please let's look at ourselves in the mirror and ask ourselves: After the shooting in Arizona, will we sit by helplessly and do absolutely nothing or will we do everything we can to save lives and protect innocent people for the future?

I want to thank you again for listening to me tonight, and I want to say that even if we can save one life, one life, with all of our efforts, than to me it has been well worth it.

My good friend and colleague from New Jersey, BILL PASCRELL, who has been outspoken on this issue for many, many years, I appreciate him being with me tonight.

Mr. PASCRELL. I appreciate the gentleness for yielding. Madam Speaker, it is good to see you in the seat this evening.

I support the Second Amendment. I was lucky enough to come into this Congress with my friend from New York, CAROLYN MCCARTHY. She has been a champion for the issue against gun violence.

I am proud to be here tonight supporting her legislation, H.R. 308, the Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act. The McCarthy bill will reinstate the ban on large capacity ammunition feeding devices that existed for quite some time, from 1994 to 2004, as the gentleness from Long Island has said.

As has already been stated, this bill bans the sale or transfer of high capacity magazines, those holding more than 10 rounds, by non-law enforcement civilians. I state that right now, Madam Speaker, to make it very, very clear, this is an issue close to my heart because I came to this Congress in January 1997 pledging my support to defend law enforcement officials throughout the United States of America.

Many times those who illegally have these guns or have illegal guns, many times they are better armed than our police forces. Just think about it? When we raise our hands, if we are fortunate enough to be elected or re-elected, we swear to uphold the Constitution of the United States and life,

liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, as you heard the gentlewoman just mention. Part of that pledge, or a reflection of that pledge, is how we treat our law enforcement officials besides just patting them on the back. So we want to not only have a law enforcement person, a police officer out there who is well equipped, who is well trained, but is in a better position to defend us than those who seek to destroy property or limb.

It does not make sense. The failure of Congress in recent years to shoulder the ultimate responsibility of safeguarding our communities from gun violence is inexcusable. This is not rhetoric. This is common sense. These magazines, which contain so many bullets that can kill so many people, have no place in our towns, have no place in our cities.

The tragedy in Arizona was a gut-wrenching reminder of what can happen when these weapons are legally available. We are not suggesting taking guns away from anyone who legally possesses them, and I can't emphasize that enough. And I know those who are very close to the gun community are very suspect of anything that will lead to a graduated taking of guns away from the people. That has never been the intent of the gentlelady from Long Island, and certainly that is not my intent whatsoever. And that is not simply an assuaging of the argument; that is the fact. This is not about guns. This is about reason. This is about sanity. This is about peace of mind.

That tragedy will always remain in our minds. Our sister is hurting, and we pray for her recovery. The perpetrator of that heinous crime fired 32 bullets in only 16 seconds. He killed 6 people and injured 13. That did not happen that long ago, and yet, it is out of the country's culture mind. It is not there. It is not discussed. It is almost as if it didn't happen.

Some people have said that it is not the gun but the person who commits the act of violence. While that may be the case, the shooter was taken down while reloading his weapon after those 32 bullets. If there had been fewer bullets in the magazine, he may have been thwarted earlier, saving other lives.

So we are talking about this magazine that we want to take out of anyone's hands. We are talking about possibilities. We are talking about risk, and giving more of a chance to protect ourselves. And for a police officer, if a police officer was there, could have been in the crowd, should have been—all valued lives. And those are not the only numbers that are chilling.

Nearly 100,000 people are killed by guns every year. Over 260 people will be killed today by a gun. This results in \$100 billion annually in medical, security, and criminal justice costs. There is a reason that local enforcement and the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports this legislation: Because the ban worked when it was in effect for those

10 years. If it didn't work, we wouldn't be here tonight. Records show that while the Federal assault weapons ban was in effect, the number of high capacity magazines collected by police fell dramatically.

This is a return to the same standard we have in many States, including my home State of New Jersey, and the law of the land from 1994 to 2004. There is no question that it is constitutional. This is not a Republican or a Democratic issue. Let's not make it that. This is not about taking all guns away from law-abiding citizens. It has nothing to do with that, either. This is about saving lives. And right now we pray for our own buddy, our own sister, who was just here not too long ago. Where is she? I didn't see her the last few days. She's healing. We thank God she is in the position to heal.

We can do something about this reckless nonsense without violating the Constitution of the United States of America which we have all pledged to adhere to.

I yield back to the gentlelady from Long Island, and I thank you, Madam Speaker.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. And I thank my good friend.

You know, a lot of times there is a lot of propaganda out there that gun owners don't want to go anywhere with this, but the support for this bill and gun restrictions in general, from organizations and members of the media, are also reflected in public polls.

The Mayors Against Illegal Guns showed that almost 60 percent of all Americans and even 49 percent of gun owners support this bill.

A public policy poll found that 55 percent of the people in Arizona, a State where gun rights are dearly cherished, support more restrictions on guns.

A USA Today poll found that a majority of Americans do support stricter gun controls.

Here is one of the issues that we face all of the time: That the American people support what we are trying to do, but we are not hearing their voices. And I think that is something that the American people can do to make a difference.

I also want to note that Arizona and the Long Island Railroad are not the only recent incidents in which high capacity magazines were used. In Manchester, Connecticut, at a beer distributor, on August 3, 2010, a shooter with a large magazine killed eight and wounded two.

Fort Hood, we all remember that day: November 5, 2009. The shooter killed 13 and wounded 34.

□ 1950

Northern Illinois University on February 14, 2008: The shooter killed five and wounded 21.

Virginia Tech, right here in our neighborhood, on April 16: The shooter killed 32 and wounded 17.

We can go on and on and on, all the way back to Columbine High School,

where the shooter killed 13—13 students and teachers—and wounded 23.

Going back to California, a shooter killed eight and wounded six. At Luby's Cafeteria in Texas, the shooter killed 23 and wounded 20.

These were all done by large capacity clips.

My colleague, Congressman PASCRELL, talked about health care. My son was shot 17 years ago. His medical bills within a couple of years were over \$1 million, but there is the pain that he still has to go through every single day, which our friend GABBY is going to have to go through just to be able to do normal day things: tie your shoes, get dressed. My colleague mentioned \$100 billion a year in health care costs.

We know that we can't save every life. I know that. I spent over 30 years as a nurse. I couldn't save every life, but we sure did our best to do everything that we possibly could to make a difference. That's why I stand here tonight and talk about why I feel so passionately about this. Unless you're a victim, unless you're a family member or a friend who has lost a loved one or someone who was injured, it's very hard to describe the pain that goes on for many, many, many years. For those who survive, there is not only the mental trauma that they go through; there is also the physical trauma that they go through, which some will carry for the rest of their lives.

Again, I say there are supporters, and I want to read off a few. They're mainly from newspapers across the country. Here in Congress, everybody talks about red States and blue States. Yet these are States that have people in them. We can disagree, certainly, on where we're going on certain issues, but there are newspapers around the country and editorial boards, which usually would not support any kind of gun legislation, that say it's time, that it's time to have a debate on how we reduce gun violence in this country.

The New York Times reads: As lawmakers in Washington engage this week in moments of silence and tributes to Representative GIFFORDS and the other casualties, they should realize that they have the power—we have the power—to reduce the number of these sorts of horrors and the pain and suffering.

The Daily News noted that the shooter in Arizona squeezed the trigger again, again, again, and again—over 32 times—and that's just the half of it—as blood flowed and as people screamed and dropped to the ground.

Where I live on Long Island, we have gun violence. It's a suburban area, but unfortunately so many guns and large magazine clips are coming into our communities, and they're bringing with them death and pain. I know gun control of any sort is a tough sell in Congress these days, but commonsense restrictions should be enacted as such large capacity clips play such an obvious role in turning angry outbreaks of violence into massacres.

The Washington Post reads: Lawmakers should also endorse the sensible legislation introduced by myself to outlaw the sales of high-capacity ammunition clips that enabled Mr. Loughner to shoot some 30 bullets in a matter of seconds. A drug abuse history or not, no one, in my opinion, should be able to have the possession of a weapon that could so easily and senselessly be used to slaughter so many of our citizens, our neighbors, in such a short period of time.

The Seattle Times, The Denver Post, The Salt Lake Tribune, the Charlotte Observer, the Louisville, Kentucky Courier-Journal, and The Tennessean are all basically saying it's time to look at reducing the violence that is in our cities, our communities, our towns. One of the ways we can do that is by getting rid of the large capacity clips.

The Arizona Daily Star noted that no one outside of law enforcement and the military needs to fire 30-plus rounds without interruption. Hunters do not. Neither do target shooters or those who carry guns for self-defense.

Let me remind people that a gun that anyone uses that has a clip will still have 10 bullets and one in the chamber. That's 11 bullets that someone can use for self-defense. There is no question that fewer people would have been killed and injured on January 8 if the shooter had possessed a magazine with a capacity of just 10 rounds.

Gail Collins said Congress should have an actual debate about Representative MCCARTHY's bill to reduce gun violence.

Even traditional, conservative, pro-gun advocate Nick Kristof talks about the contrast of guns with automobiles. He turned it upside down to argue that, in reality—and this is true—for a long time, motor vehicles were dangerous, but slowly, slowly we made them quite safe. The trade-off is that we have modestly curbed individual freedom, but we can save tens of thousands of lives every year. That's a model for how we should approach guns and a public health concern.

I talked about individual leaders who support H.R. 308. It is a long list, and many people have stood up: Mayor Bloomberg from New York City, my great city; Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, another member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, also expressed support; I had mentioned Vice President Dick Cheney, of all people, who said it would be appropriate to reinstate a ban on high-capacity magazines like we had before.

Other public officials and individuals around the country also support this bill: The New York Police Department said that a legislative solution to eliminating extended magazines would be best; the President of the Alabama Sheriffs' Association is a supporter; the Minneapolis police chief is a supporter; the Palm Beach County commissioner; the Montana Secretary of State; President Bob Brown, an NRA member and hunter who owns 18 guns, supports my

legislation; the nurse who treated Ronald Reagan after he was shot supports this; the fiancée and family of Gabe Zimmerman, one of our own staffers who was killed in Arizona, support this bill.

You mentioned our police officers, BILL. If anybody would be interested, we've had more police officers killed since January of this year until now than we've had in the last number of years. We say that we are there for our police officers. You were a mayor, and I know you stood by your police officers. I know that police officers around the country know when they're facing these large capacity clips and they're outgunned, as they were when we passed the assault weapons bill.

So, BILL, I know you are where I am, and I thank you for the support that you have given me, because we did come in together, but it's people like yourself who are willing to speak out.

Mr. PASCARELL. Will the gentlelady yield?

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Please.

Mr. PASCARELL. Madam Speaker, I would like you to take back to your side—and I'll take back to my side—that I know this has been a great leverage issue for the Republican Party. It has been a third rail for the Democratic Party. We were told basically, in so many words, to stay away from it. Look, let's lay our cards on the table.

I think that this is something we can agree to come together on common ground and be a little bit more reasonable about our approach.

I thank you, Congresswoman MCCARTHY, for leading the way, as usual. You know I will always be there in support of what I think is very important legislation for the sanity of our country.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. And I thank you again.

I just want to remind the American people who might be listening tonight, I need your help. I can do the battles here. It's so easy to email your Member of Congress or your Senator to say it's time to get rid of the large magazines, because there is no place in America anymore that is safe. This can happen anytime, any place. So I thank you for listening to me tonight, and I thank my friend for standing here with me and talking about it.

I will say, in closing, it's 17 years since the incident happened to my family. There is not a day that goes by that I don't remember what happened, and that's why I continue to fight for this issue. I don't want another family to go through the pain. I don't want to see another person die. I don't want to see someone injured for the rest of their life, and to fight those battles.

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, in the wake of the horrible tragedy in Arizona, Members of Congress were united in condemning the violence. We expressed our prayers and hopes for the recovery of our colleague, Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS, and the others injured in the attack, and we praised the heroic actions of ordinary Americans on that day.

But for our words to have meaning, Madam Speaker, we also must act.

I'm proud to join Representative CAROLYN MCCARTHY in introducing the Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act, to eliminate access to clips that enable the kind of shooting spree that took place in Arizona. No one can say that the ability to shoot more than ten times—without pausing to reload—makes our cities or our citizens any safer. The Assault Weapons Ban of 1994 addressed this issue, but perversely, by allowing it to expire in 2004, we lost critical ground.

The importance of the ban was tangible in each of our communities. When I first came to Congress, East Palo Alto, a city in my district, bore the awful distinction of being the "Murder Capital of the Country." Today, the crime rate has subsided. The ability to take these murderous assault weapons off the street played a major role in that turnaround, and we should not turn back the clock.

Madam Speaker, we all honor our Constitution and the Second Amendment. I, however, see no connection between the primitive muskets our Founding Fathers contemplated and the sophisticated, deadly weapons that plague our streets today. The United States continues to have the most per-capita gun deaths of any developed nation. This is not a symbol of our freedom. It's a capacity to kill, and this must not eclipse our capacity to care. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this sensible gun legislation which we are grateful to Representative MCCARTHY for authoring to better protect our communities.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to join the vast majority of Americans, on both sides of the gun debate, who want a safe and sensible gun policy for their families and for the United States of America.

In the aftermath of the recent tragedy in Tucson, one eminently reasonable place to start—one place where gun rights advocates and gun control advocates should be able to find common ground—is the Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act (H.R. 308), introduced by my colleague Rep. CAROLYN MCCARTHY (D-NY).

H.R. 308 is not about gun control. Instead, it's about commonsense ammunition control. The Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act sets aside all of the historically contentious debate around gun ownership and instead asks every American a very simple question: Is it really necessary for non-law enforcement civilians to have access to high capacity, 33-round magazines like the one Jared Lee Loughner used to shoot our colleague GABBY GIFFORDS and his other victims in Tucson?

I would submit that it is not. And I would further submit that the overwhelming majority of Americans and law abiding gun owners would agree that it is not. Consistent with that commonsense conclusion, the Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act would simply ban the sale or transfer of high-capacity magazines holding more than ten rounds. Law enforcement records show that the number of high capacity magazines retrieved by police at crime scenes dropped significantly the last time this kind of restriction was in effect, and common sense tells you that smaller magazines with less bullets will lead to less fatalities and injuries during these kinds of horrific attacks.

Madam Speaker, this is not a partisan issue. This is an American issue. The Large

Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act is a commonsense step all of us can and should take to eliminate the senseless threat posed by these high capacity magazines while protecting the legitimate rights of law-abiding gun owners.

I thank Congresswoman MCCARTHY for her leadership on this issue.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MARCHANT (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of personal reasons.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A concurrent resolution of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. Con. Res. 8. Concurrent resolution recognizing women serving in the United States Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 2, 2011, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

597. A letter from the Regulatory Officer, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Adjustment of Appendices to the Dairy Tariff-Rate Import Quota Licensing Regulation for the 2010 Tariff-Rate Quota Year received January 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

598. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Mefenoxam; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0713; FRL-8855-1] received January 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

599. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No.: FEMA-7913] received February 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

600. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No.: FEMA-7917] received February 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

601. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — List of

Communities Eligible for the Sale of Flood Insurance [Docket No.: FEMA-7784] received February 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

602. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No.: FEMA-7915] received February 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

603. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No.: FEMA-D-7581] received February 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

604. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket No.: FEMA-P-7650] received February 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

605. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations received February 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

606. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No.: FEMA-7933] received February 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

607. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No.: FEMA-7923] received February 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

608. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No.: FEMA-7921] received February 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

609. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2010-0003] received January 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

610. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] received January 31, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

611. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations [Docket ID: FEMA-2011-0002] received January 24, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

612. A letter from the Deputy to the Chairman for External Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Orderly Liquidation Authority Provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act received February 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

613. A letter from the Deputy to the Chairman for External Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Deposit Insurance

Regulations; Unlimited Coverage for Non-interest-Bearing Transaction Accounts; Inclusion of Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (RIN: 3064-AD37) received February 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

614. A letter from the Deputy to the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Designated Reserve Ratio (RIN: 3064-AD69) received January 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

615. A letter from the Deputy Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Uniform Compliance Date for Food Labeling Regulations [Docket No.: FDA-2000-N-0011] received January 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

616. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of One-year Extension for Attaining the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard for the New Jersey Portion of the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City Moderate Nonattainment Area [EPA-R02-OAR-2010-0688; FRL-9255-5] received January 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

617. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of One-year Extension for Attaining the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard for the Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania Portions of the Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City Moderate Nonattainment Area [EPA-R03-OAR-2010-0574; FRL-9251-7] received January 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

618. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Notice of Re-Issuance of the Prevention of Significant Deterioration Applicability Determination for the Carlsbad Energy Center Project, Carlsbad, CA [EPA-R09-OAR-2011-0024; FRL-9256-9] received January 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

619. 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; Wisconsin; Particulate Matter Standard [EPA-R05-OAR-2009-0731; FRL-9250-6] received January 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

620. 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; Colorado; Revisons to Regulation 1 [EPA-R08-OAR-2007-1033; A-1-FRL-9209-3] received January 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

621. 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; Adoption of the Revised Lead Standards and Related Reference Conditions, and Update of Appendices [EPA-R03-OAR-2010-0882; FRL-9255-9] received January 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

622. 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; Adoption of Control Techniques Guidelines for Flat Wood Paneling Coatings [EPA-R03-OAR-2010-2010-0788; FRL-9256-2] received January 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

623. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Simplified Network Application Processing System, On-line Registration and Account Maintenance [Docket No.: 100826397-1059-02] (RIN: 0694-AE98) received February 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

624. A letter from the Assistant Director for Policy, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Iranian Human Rights Abuses Sanctions Regulations received February 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

625. A letter from the Secretary of the Commission, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Revised Jurisdictional Thresholds for Section 8 of the Clayton Act received February 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

626. A letter from the Secretary of the Commission, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Revised Jurisdictional Thresholds for Section 7a of The Clayton Act received January 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

627. A letter from the Senior Regulations Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Charter Rules for Foreign Direct Air Carriers [Docket No.: OST-2002-11741] (RIN: 2105-AD38) received February 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

628. A letter from the Senior Regulations Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Canadian Charter Air Taxi Operators [OST Docket No.: 2006-25691] (RIN: 2105-AD58) received February 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

629. A letter from the Senior Regulations Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) Requirements [Docket No.: OST-2005-22602] (RIN: 2105-AD46) received February 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

630. A letter from the Senior Regulations Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Review of Data Filed by Certificated or Commuter Air Carriers to Support Continuing Fitness Determinations Involving Citizenship Issues [Docket No.: OST-2003-15759] (RIN: 2105-AD25) received February 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

631. A letter from the Senior Regulations Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Display of Joint Operations in Carrier-Owned Computer Reservations Systems Regulations (Part 256) [Docket No.: OST-2005-20826] (RIN: 2105-AD44) received February 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

632. A letter from the Senior Regulations Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Transportation for Individuals With Disabil-

ities; Adoption of New Accessibility Standards [Docket No.: OST-2006-26035] (RIN: 2105-AC86) received February 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

633. A letter from the Senior Regulations Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Disadvantaged Business Enterprise: Program Improvements [Docket No.: OST-2010-0118] (RIN: 2105-AD75) received February 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

634. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for General Law, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Pipeline Safety: Update of Regulatory References to Technical Standards [Docket No.: PHMSA-05-21253; Amdt. Nos. 192-103, 193-19, and 195-86] (RIN: 2137-AD68) received February 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

635. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for General Law, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Pipeline Safety: Integrity Management Program Modifications and Clarifications [Docket No.: PHMSA-04-18938; Amdt. Nos. 192-104, 195-87] (RIN: 2137-AE07) received February 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

636. A letter from the Senior Regulations Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Department of Transportation Financial Assistance Programs [Docket No.: OST-2010-0021] (RIN: 2105-AD76) received February 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

637. A letter from the Senior Regulations Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs [Docket: OST-2008-0184] (RIN: 2105-AD67) received February 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

638. A letter from the Senior Regulations Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs: State Laws Requiring Drug and Alcohol Rule Violation Information [Docket: OST-2008-0184] (RIN: OST 2105-AD67) received February 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

639. A letter from the Senior Regulations Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Clean Fuels Grant Program [Docket No.: FTA-2006-24708] (RIN: 2132-AA91) received February 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

640. A letter from the Senior Regulations Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs: Procedures for Non-Evidential Alcohol Screening Devices [Docket: OST-2007-26828] (RIN: 2105-AD64) received February 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

641. A letter from the Senior Regulations Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs [Docket: OST-2007-26828] (RIN: 2105-AD64) received

February 4, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

642. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Information Technology (IT) Security (RIN: 2700-AD46) received January 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

643. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Department's final rule — Government Property (RIN: 2700-AD37) received January 19, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

644. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Disclosure of Medical Information to the Surrogate of a Patient Who Lacks Decision-Making Capacity (RIN: 2900-AN88) received February 8, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

645. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Time for Payment of Certain Excise Taxes, and Quarterly Excise Tax Payments for Small Alcohol Excise Taxpayers [Docket No.: TTB-2011-0001; T.D. TTB-89; Re: Notice No. 115; T.D. ATF-365; T.D. TTB-41; ATF Notice No. 813 and TTB Notice No. 56] (RIN: 1513-AB43) received February 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

646. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of American Viticultural Area Regulations [Docket No.: TTB-2007-0068; T.D. TTB-90; Re: Notice Nos. 78 and 80] (RIN: 1513-AB39) received February 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

647. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technical Corrections to the TTB Regulations [Docket No.: TTB-2011-0003; T.D. TTB-91] (RIN: 1513-AB69) received February 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

648. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Correction to Revenue Procedure 2011-8 User Fee Schedule (Announcement 2011-8) received February 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

649. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Repub. Rev. Proc. 2010-8 (Rev. Proc. 2010-8) received February 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

650. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Determination of Housing Cost Amounts Eligible for Exclusion or Deduction for 2011 [Notice 2011-8] received February 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

651. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Time and Manner for Electing Capital Asset Treatment for Certain Self-Created Musical Works [TD 9514] (RIN: 1545-BG34) received February 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

652. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Biodiesel and Alternative Fuels; Claims for 2010; Excise Tax [Notice 2011-10] received January 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

653. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Repub. Rev. Proc. 2010-6 (Rev. Proc. 2011-6) received February 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

654. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Repub. Rev. Proc. 2010-5 (Rev. Proc. 2011-5) received February 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

655. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Repub. Rev. Proc. 2010-4 (Rev. Proc. 2011-4) received February 7, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

656. A letter from the Chief, Border Security Regulations Branch, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Land Border Carrier Initiative Program [Docket No.: USCBP-2006-0132] (RIN: 1651-AA68) received February 28, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Homeland Security.

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. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 128. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 662) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a multiyear law reauthorizing such programs (Rept. 112-20). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 129. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4) to repeal the expansion of information reporting requirements for payments of \$600 or more to corporations, and for other purposes (Rept. 112-21). Referred to the House Calendar.

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. REBERG:

H.R. 845. A bill to prohibit the further extension or establishment of national monuments in Montana, except by express authorization of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LABRADOR:

H.R. 846. A bill to prohibit the further extension or establishment of national monuments in Idaho, except by express authorization of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. JENKINS (for herself, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. YODER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr.

ROSKAM, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. TIBERI, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. PLATTS):

H.R. 847. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require a provider of a commercial mobile service or an IP-enabled voice service to provide call location information concerning the user of such a service to law enforcement agencies in order to respond to a call for emergency services or in an emergency situation that involves risk of death or serious physical harm; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. ALEXANDER:

H.R. 848. A bill to require the Forest Service to accommodate, to the extent consistent with the management objectives and limitations applicable to the National Forest System lands at issue, individuals with mobility disabilities who need to use a power-driven mobility device for reasonable access to such lands; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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 Mrs. BACHMANN (for herself, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. BROUN of Georgia):

H.R. 849. A bill to provide for the repeal of the phase out of incandescent light bulbs unless the Comptroller General makes certain specific findings; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. BACHMANN (for herself, Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 850. A bill to facilitate a proposed project in the Lower St. Croix Wild and Scenic River, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 851. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain renewable fuel tax incentives and to repeal fossil fuel subsidies for large oil companies; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself and Mr. CULBERSON):

H.R. 852. A bill to authorize the issuance of United States War Bonds to aid in funding of the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:

H.R. 853. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to award grants to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs to assist at-risk middle school students with the transition from middle school to high school; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FARR (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HIMES, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PETRI, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. SCHAROWSKY, Mr. STARK, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms.

ESHOO, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DREIER, Ms. MOORE, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. OLVER, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H.R. 854. A bill to authorize the Peace Corps Commemorative Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 855. A bill to withdraw the Tusayan Ranger District and Federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the vicinity of Kanab Creek and in House Rock Valley from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. HECK):

H.R. 856. A bill to withdraw certain land located in Clark County, Nevada, from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws and disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. HIRONO:

H.R. 857. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide 100 percent FMAP under Medicaid for medical assistance provided to Native Hawaiians by a Native Hawaiian health care system or a federally-qualified health center; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. HIRONO:

H.R. 858. A bill to provide for the conversion of a temporary judgeship for the district of Hawaii to a permanent judgeship; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HIRONO:

H.R. 859. A bill to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for the shingles vaccine under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. REICHERT, and Ms. BERKLEY):

H.R. 860. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to promote charitable donations of qualified vehicles; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (for himself, Mr. BACHUS, Mrs. BIGGERT, and Mr. GARRETT):

H.R. 861. A bill to rescind the third round of funding for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program and to terminate the program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut (for himself and Mr. WEINER):

H.R. 862. A bill to apply to the justices of the Supreme Court the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, to establish certain procedures with respect to the recusal of justices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PIERLUISI (for himself and Mr. DIAZ-BALART):

H.R. 863. A bill to amend title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to authorize State educational agencies and local educational agencies to carry out teacher exchanges; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

H.R. 864. A bill to require full funding of part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. WALZ of Minnesota (for himself and Mr. ROE of Tennessee):

H.R. 865. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the work opportunity credit to certain recently discharged veterans; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Armed 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. WHITFIELD (for himself and Mr. PALLONE):

H.R. 866. A bill to amend and reauthorize the controlled substance monitoring program under section 399O of the Public Health Service Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BACA:

H. Res. 130. A resolution expressing support for designation of the fourth Friday of March as "Cesar E. Chavez Day"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BONNER:

H. Res. 131. A resolution providing amounts for the expenses of the Committee on Ethics in the One Hundred Twelfth Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mrs. CHRISTENSEN:

H. Res. 132. A resolution expressing the need to raise awareness and promote capacity building to strategically address the lionfish invasion in the Atlantic Ocean; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself and Mrs. BIGGERT):

H. Res. 133. A resolution encouraging Americans to recognize March 2, 2011 as "Read Across America Day"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DOLD (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. SHERMAN):

H. Res. 134. A resolution condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. HIMES):

H. Res. 135. A resolution requiring the posting of information on the disbursements made during each session of Congress from the Members' Representational Allowance on official public Internet sites of the House of Representatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. REHBERG:

H.R. 845.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 2 of Section 3 of Article IV of the Constitution: "The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the

United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State."

The specific Constitutional Authority cited here is not intended and should not be construed to be exclusive of any other general or specific Constitutional Authority that is otherwise applicable.

By Mr. LABRADOR:

H.R. 846.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 2 of Section 3 of Article IV of the Constitution: "The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State."

The specific Constitutional Authority cited here is not intended and should not be construed to be exclusive of any other general or specific Constitutional Authority that is otherwise applicable.

By Ms. JENKINS:

H.R. 847.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. ALEXANDER:

H.R. 848.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States)."

By Mrs. BACHMANN:

H.R. 849.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill makes specific changes to existing law in a manner that returns power to the States and to the people, in accordance with Amendment X of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. BACHMANN:

H.R. 850.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 851.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 852.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The attached legislation, the United States War Bonds Act of 2011, falls within Congress' enumerated power to raise revenue for the common defense of the nation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:

H.R. 853.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 7 of Section 9 of Article I of the Constitution, Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution, and Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. FARR:

H.R. 854.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8; Article IV, Section 3.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 855.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2, relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. HELLER:

H.R. 856.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3: The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Ms. HIRONO:

H.R. 857.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: "The Congress shall have Power To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Ms. HIRONO:

H.R. 858.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 9: Article I: "The Congress shall have Power to constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court."

Article III, Section 1: "The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office."

By Ms. HIRONO:

H.R.859.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: "The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

H.R. 860.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8—Powers of Congress: The Congress shall have Power To lay and

collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California:

H.R. 861.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the general welfare of the United States); and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).

By Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut:

H.R. 862.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The authority to enact this bill is derived from, but may not be limited to, Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. PIERLUISI:

H.R. 863.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, and to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution such power as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

H.R. 864.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WALZ of Minnesota:

H.R. 865.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WHITFIELD:

H.R. 866.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, which grants Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, among the several States, and with the Indian tribes.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 5: Mr. OLSON and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H.R. 23: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MICA, and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 24: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KIND, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. TURNER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. POSEY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. HONDA, Mr. WOLF, and Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 58: Mr. DIAZ-BALART and Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 91: Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. REED, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 100: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 127: Mr. LANKFORD.

H.R. 140: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 198: Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 217: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H.R. 303: Mr. DOYLE, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 308: Mr. PALLONE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 329: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 333: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 358: Mr. LANDRY.

H.R. 399: Mr. ROSKAM.

H.R. 402: Mr. HINCHEY.

H.R. 412: Mr. LANDRY and Mr. RIBBLE.

H.R. 436: Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. HECK, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. WHITFIELD.

H.R. 452: Mr. CAPUANO and Mr. GRIMM.

H.R. 456: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.

H.R. 459: Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. GIBSON.

H.R. 476: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mrs. NOEM.

H.R. 483: Mr. SHULER.

H.R. 487: Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 495: Mr. GRIMM.

H.R. 509: Mr. LATTA and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 544: Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 546: Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. SHUSTER, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Ms. SEWELL.

H.R. 547: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee and Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 548: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 595: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. GRIMM, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 615: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 634: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

H.R. 657: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.

H.R. 672: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. POSEY, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 674: Mr. HELLER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. JONES, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. CANSECO, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. ROSS of Florida.

H.R. 675: Mrs. BLACK and Mr. BECERRA.

H.R. 690: Mr. LANDRY.

H.R. 692: Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. JONES.

H.R. 695: Mr. CAMPBELL.

H.R. 706: Mr. ISRAEL and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 735: Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. COBLE, Mr. HERGER, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, and Mr. CANSECO.

H.R. 755: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 759: Mr. REHBERG.

H.R. 764: Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 769: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. BORDALLO.

H.R. 772: Mr. WATT and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 798: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. FILNER, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 801: Mrs. BACHMANN.

H.R. 808: Mr. HONDA and Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.

H.R. 819: Mr. PETERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. DEFazio, and Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 820: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. RAHALL.

H.R. 837: Mr. CUELLAR.

H.J. Res. 2: Mr. PALAZZO.

H.J. Res. 37: Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. CARTER, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. HARPER.

H. Con. Res. 3: Mr. YODER.

H. Res. 20: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H. Res. 44: Mr. BOREN, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. TIPTON.

H. Res. 46: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H. Res. 81: Mr. FILNER.

H. Res. 86: Mr. DENHAM.

H. Res. 106: Mr. SCHOCK.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. MICA

The amendment I will offer to H.R. 662, the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2011, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.