

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3521, THE “EXPEDITED LINE-ITEM VETO AND RESCISSIONS ACT OF 2011”

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I join my friend House Budget Committee Chairman RYAN to introduce the “Expedited Line-Item Veto and Rescissions Act of 2011.” Taxpayers deserve a system that is accountable, and this bipartisan legislation will provide another tool to ensure that we are good stewards of their money. The process created by this bill would enable the President to effectively propose the elimination of unnecessary spending from legislation that arrives on his desk for signature, and send those items back to Congress for expedited votes on whether or not to rescind that funding.

We must do everything we can to make sure tax dollars are spent wisely and responsibly. Budget process reform cannot be a substitute for judgment, and it cannot replace the urgent need to put Americans back to work and to put our nation on a path toward long-term fiscal sustainability. But I hope this bipartisan step toward strengthening our budget process will be the first on the road of greater cooperation to meet our fiscal challenges.

I want to thank Mr. RYAN and his staff for their important and thoughtful cooperation in developing this proposal. I ask all members on both sides of the aisle to cosponsor this measure and join us in the hard work ahead.

EXPEDITED LINE-ITEM VETO AND RESCISSIONS ACT OF 2011

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the “Expedited Line-Item Veto and Rescissions Act of 2011” along with my friend and colleague House Budget Committee Ranking Member CHRIS VAN HOLLEN of Maryland.

The fiscal and economic challenges facing our nation are immense. In addition to the alarming budget deficit and painful jobs deficit, Washington’s failure to tackle these challenges fuels a growing credibility deficit. For years, policymakers—in both political parties—have failed to serve as responsible stewards of American families’ hard-earned tax dollars. Too many politicians continue to make empty promises to those they serve, spending money we don’t have on government programs that don’t work.

The stakes are too great to continue to kick the can down the road. I believe that leaders can—and must—work together to meet these challenges by advancing structural reforms to

the drivers of the debt and pro-growth solutions to create a more conducive environment for job creation.

This bipartisan legislation takes a modest step in the right direction. The Expedited Line-Item Veto and Rescissions Act gives the President an important tool to target unjustified spending, while also protecting Congress’s constitutional authority to make spending decisions.

This new authority would allow the President to specify spending provisions within an appropriations bill, requiring stand-alone consideration of the spending proposal by Congress. Legislation implementing the proposed spending cancellations would receive expedited floor considerations and an automatic up-or-down vote in both chambers of Congress. Should Congress determine the spending cannot be justified: Every dollar of savings would be devoted to deficit reduction.

This bipartisan proposal builds upon past efforts to target wasteful spending, including Legislative Line-Item Veto proposals I’ve advanced over the years and the new House Majority’s ban on earmarks. I remain grateful to Ranking Member VAN HOLLEN at the House Budget Committee for his partnership in this effort. I look forward to working with my colleagues to help advance this common-sense deficit-reduction tool—a step in the right direction as we work to address the structural drivers of the debt and continued impediments to economic growth.

REMEMBERING HAL BRUNO

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, a number of us have come to the floor today to remember a great American who passed away earlier this month. Hal Bruno made a real difference in people’s lives, both by keeping them informed about our world and by serving as an advocate for firefighters and their families.

Hal was ABC News Political Director through the 1980’s and 1990’s, covering major national events and keeping Americans engaged with their government. He skillfully moderated the vice-presidential debate in 1992 after having covered presidential campaigns since Kennedy ran against Nixon. He had the respect and admiration of leaders from both parties.

As a journalist, Hal made a reputation for himself as a truth-teller, even when the truth was difficult. That began in Chicago, when as a young reporter he uncovered how poor safety standards in the building code had contributed to a fire that claimed 95 lives. He became a respected voice for fire safety, and that experience led him to become a volunteer firefighter himself, which he continued to do for decades.

After retiring from ABC News in 1999, Hal dedicated himself to serving our communities’

firefighters and their families. He chaired the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation at a time when we lost so many brave first responders in the September 11 attacks. Hal was a champion for the families of firefighters who lost their lives in service to their communities, and he fought for and won the passage of legislation to provide them survivor benefits.

I know that Hal will be both dearly missed and dearly remembered by many in government, those who turned to him for their news for so many years, and by the families of firefighters on whose behalf he worked so tirelessly.

I join in remembering Hal and celebrating his life. I offer my condolences to his wife Meg and their children and grandchildren.

HONORING SPENCER ROSENAK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Spencer Rosenak. Spencer is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 216, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Spencer has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Spencer has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Spencer has earned the rank of Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, participated in the 2010 National Jamboree and has held several leadership positions within his troop, including Assistant Patrol Leader and as the Chaplain’s Aide. Spencer has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Spencer documented the directory of those buried at B’nai Yaakov Cemetery in St. Joseph, Missouri, and created a map of the plots in the cemetery. Spencer then published his work on the internet, providing an online directory for anyone interested in those buried at the cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Spencer Rosenak for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING ETHAN DOYLE OF OAKTON, VA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ethan Doyle, a 2011 Critical Language Scholarship Program Recipient. Ethan

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