

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The bill reduces funding by \$93 million for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). I also oppose the \$92 million reduction from the President's FY 2013 Budget request for the Census Bureau. A cut of this magnitude threatens the Bureau's ability to implement Economic Census data collection activities that peak in FY 2013, hindering the successful development of critical benchmarks for Gross Domestic Product estimates.

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

I strongly oppose the level of funding provided in the bill as reported by the Committee for the Community Oriented Policing Services Hiring Grants Program, which is \$217 million below the President's FY 2013 Budget request. This reduced funding level would result in the loss of approximately 1,200 police hires/rehires, including veterans. In addition, some communities seriously impacted by crime would not be able to support enough police officers to effectively respond.

The Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program offers local, state, federal and tribal law enforcement access to intelligence databases, investigative support and research, equipment loans, training and publications, and field staff support, among other services. RISS is a proven, trusted and cost-effective program that has contributed to 52,350 arrests and yielded \$857 million in narcotics, property and case seizures. This represents a 223 percent return on federal investment. Today, state and local law enforcement agencies are experiencing reductions in funding and resources and are turning to RISS to cope. Nevertheless, RISS funding was severely decreased from \$45 million in FY2011 to \$27 million in FY2012 and a recommended \$27 million in FY2013. I requested an additional \$18 million for this program to return funding back to \$45 million.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) is to reimburse municipalities for the costs incurred incarcerating undocumented immigrants convicted of crimes. This program is vitally important to my home state of California. In 2009, California received \$159 million in SCAAP funds, representing over 40 Percent of the funds allocated nationwide. These funds are an important contribution towards California's cost of incarcerating undocumented immigrants, which is over \$1 billion annually. The Committee recommended federal funding for SCAAP at \$165 million, which is a cut from FY2012 levels by \$75 million and which falls below my request by \$785 million.

## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION (EEOC)

I also believe strongly that the Committee's funding level for EEOC, which is \$7 million less than the FY 2013 Budget request is inadequate. As the Administration points out in its Statement of Administration Policy, funding at this level would prevent EEOC from filling critical investigator positions lost through attrition, which would increase EEOC's backlog and weaken its ability to enforce Federal laws that protect individuals from discrimination based on their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or genetic information.

## LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION (LSC)

I also strongly oppose the level of funding provided in the bill for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), which is \$74 million below the FY 2013 Budget request. At this funding level,

tens of thousands of low-income Americans, including many military families and veterans, would be denied assistance with civil legal problems, impacting their ability to receive fair treatment in the courts.

Now Mr. Speaker, as a representative of the 37th Congressional District of California, I understand the importance of supporting emerging businesses and manufacturers. 30,000 of my constituents are employed in the manufacturing sector, and nearly 45 percent of all U.S. imports travel through the district's neighborhoods. The 37th district also includes three universities and five medical facilities, all of which benefit from funding directed at science and research.

The programs covered in this bill have a direct impact on lives across the country, and I am deeply committed to ensuring that commercial, legal and research facilities in my district are able to continue their important work. I would note briefly the provisions in the bill as amended that I do support:

1. U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA): The EDA is the only federal agency focused on private sector job creation. It provides infrastructure grants, strategic planning assistance, business development capital, and technical assistance in economically distressed areas. The Committee approved funding at \$219.5 million, or 92.2 percent of my funding request.

2. Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program: MEP is the only public-private program dedicated to providing technical support to small and medium sized manufacturers to improve efficiency, productivity and profitability. In FY2009 alone, MEP projects created or retained 52,948 jobs, generated more than \$9.1 billion in sales and provided cost savings of more than \$1.41 billion. The Committee met my request for funding at \$128 million.

3. Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA): MBDA works to foster the growth and competitiveness of minority-owned U.S. businesses. Minority firms currently provide nearly 5.8 million jobs but have the potential to create 17.5 million jobs, leading to stronger communities and a bolstered economy. The Committee designated \$28,689,000 for the agency, 94.2 percent of my request.

4. Department of Justice Youth Mentoring Grants: This account is the sole remaining source of federal funding to support mentoring for at-risk youth. The account provides grants to non-profit organizations that reduce youth interaction with the juvenile justice system, which proves to be a cost-effective method for reducing the likelihood of drug and alcohol use while improving academic performance and family relations. The Committee exceeded my request and FY2012 funding by allocating \$90 million.

5. National Science Foundation (NSF): This funding will allow NSF and universities to sustain and expand their vital research and education programs, which range from improving science education to developing multimedia technologies to improve telemedicine. This significant investment will support technological advancement here at home and properly train the country's next generation of scientists and engineers. Funding for FY2013 is \$7.3 billion, which is 97 percent of my request.

6. Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP) Formula Grant Program: As the cornerstone of VAWA, STOP awards funds to every state and territory to create and sustain

coordinated community responses and trainings for law enforcement, prosecutors, judicial personnel, and victim advocates. This coordinated response has been proven effective in helping hundreds of thousands of victims find safety and holds perpetrators accountable for their actions. The Committee recommends funding at \$189 million, 92.2 percent of my request.

7. VAWA Transitional Housing Assistance Grants Program: After fleeing dangerous and abusive situations, survivors must rebuild their shattered lives. The VAWA Transitional Housing Program provides an essential continuum between emergency shelter and independent living, helping victims move from crisis to stability. The Committee met my funding request of \$25 million.

8. Victims of Trafficking Grant Program: There are currently 40 task forces nationwide that integrate federal, state and local law enforcement with prosecutorial and victim service organizations to prevent and prosecute human trafficking and to protect the victims of trafficking and slavery. I supported the continuation of this task force program, and the Committee has set funding at \$13.5 million, 90 percent of my request.

9. Community Relations Services: CRS provides resources and tools to address community conflicts that arise from racial and ethnic tensions. The Committee recommended \$11,456,000 for these services, or 95.1 percent of my request.

10. Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms: The TAAF program is the only trade adjustment assistance program that works with economically distressed U.S. manufacturers impacted by international trade agreements, offering technical assistance to help them remain employers in their communities. Its continuation is critical to the sustainability and growth of domestic manufacturing, and the Committee met my request of \$15.8 million.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the decision of the Appropriations Committee to fund the programs I have described at a level consistent with my requests and want to express my thanks to Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member FATTAH for their responsiveness. It is my hope that the more problematic provisions of the bill will be corrected as the process goes forward so that the final version of the bill can be signed by the president and worthy of my support.

## 6TH ANNUAL DC LATINO PRIDE

## HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 6th annual DC Latino Pride, the national capital region's celebration of our Latino lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community.

The Washington, D.C. metropolitan area has had an identifiable Latino LGBT community since the early 1960s. However, the community remained largely invisible until the first LGBT March on Washington in 1987. DC Latino Pride's parent organization, the Latino Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender History Project, began in 2000. The organization

grew out of a private archive kept since 1993 by its founder, José Gutierrez, who, in turn, organized the first DC Latino Pride in 2007.

It has been both a pleasure and an inspiration to watch DC Latino Pride grow from a panel discussion held the day before the annual Capital Pride parade to this year's series of events between May 20 and June 7: La Corona, La Plática, La Misa, and La Fiesta. The four events incorporate the elements of DC Latino Pride's 2012 theme: "History, Celebration, Identity, and Diversity."

The volunteers who staff the Latino LGBT History Project and who are organizing DC Latino Pride also embody the 2012 theme. This year's organizers include: David M. Perez, the president of the Latino LGBT History Project and the Director of Development for the League of United Latin American Citizens; José Gutierrez, a member of Mayor Vincent Gray's LGBT Advisory Council and a member of La Clínica del Pueblo community health center; Manuel Cosme, treasurer of the Latino LGBT History Project and CFO of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Jorge Andres Sotos, secretary of the Latino LGBT History Project and a civil rights attorney in private practice; Esther Hidalgo, a manager at Leslie Cashen Photography and a Library and Archives Assistant at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land. The 2012 Latino Pride co-chairs are Sergio Lopez and Oskar Moran, who work for, respectively, the People for the American Way and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate-Aviation Safety Program Office. The 2012 Development Chair, Raul Olivo, is the immediate past co-chair and parade manager, and is a health educator and advocate for Transgender Health Empowerment.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing the 6th annual DC Latino Pride, welcoming all those who will attend, and congratulating the volunteers for work well done.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAKELAND HILLS FAMILY YMCA

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lakeland Hills Family YMCA, in the Borough of Mountain Lakes, Morris County, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2012.

The Lakeland Hills Family YMCA, originally called the Boonton Area YMCA, was first formed in the Boonton area in 1865 and occupied several sites throughout the area. However, it was not until 1912 that it filed its official YMCA charter. In 1960, it moved to Cherry Hill Road in Parsippany. Since it was then serving seven different communities, it decided to adopt the name Lakeland Hills YMCA. In 1968, the Lakeland Hills YMCA was able to move to its final location in Mountain Lakes on Fanny Road. To cover the costs of both the move and building of the facility, the Trustees added a Building Fund pledge to the membership, and with the support of its members, the new YMCA was able to open its doors in 1972.

The early years as the combined YMCA, saw the addition of a children's day care, aerobics program, and senior program. The aquatic and physical education programs were expanded and the YMCA sponsored an "Adult Club" which offered programs and trips.

Unfortunately, the early years for the Y brought financial difficulties, even as membership continued to grow. These financial difficulties were alleviated by a "miracle" donation from Ms. Esther Dutton who was so impressed by the staff and members that she remembered the Y in her will. In 1978, with this new funding, plans to double the size of the center were undertaken to include a gymnasium, racquetball courts, and a running track. The Y has since undergone numerous renovations, including those to add additional childcare classrooms.

Moreover, the Y announced a scholarship for less fortunate children to attend childcare and day camp in 2007. That same year the Lakeland Hills Family YMCA announced the creation of a Kid's Cardio Arcade and began a Kid's Wellness Month program. They also joined the YMCA's national programs of Healthy Kids Day and Activate America.

Today the Lakeland Hills Family YMCA boasts 11,000 members and serves ten different communities in Morris County. It seeks to build strong families, and in doing so, build strong communities. The YMCA currently offers a wide range of programs including a childhood daycare center, educational programs for children, a leadership training program for teens, a series of family programs, and a plethora of fitness options. It also runs an annual Give a Kid the Y campaign to allow underprivileged children to have the ability to participate in programs at the Y. The YMCA has also been proud to host a number of Special Olympics meets over its existence. Its presence in Morris County continues to enrich the lives of its members and the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Lakeland Hills Family YMCA as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

A TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW T. GIBBONS

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Matthew Gibbons of Johnston, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Matthew's project involved designing and completing a courtyard for St. Mary of Nazareth Catholic Church in Des Moines. The work ethic Matthew has shown in his Eagle Project, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks

volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance which are core Iowa values. It's truly an honor to represent Iowa in the United States Congress and I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating Matthew in obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking. I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM CZMYR

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary accomplishments of William Czmyr. A longtime resident of Jewett City and a Veteran who served in the United States Navy during the Korean War, Mr. Czmyr has recently been named Veteran of the Year of the Jewett City VFW Post 10004. Based on Bill's many years of tireless service to his community, for this award could not have gone to a more worthy recipient.

As President of the Veterans Housing Project in Jewett City, Bill Czmyr has worked tirelessly over the last decade to secure critical resources for his fellow veterans. Earlier this month, Mr. Czmyr was finally able to see the result of his hard work as he walked through the apartments that 18 veterans will soon call home. Not only will these formerly homeless vets have a place to live, but thanks to Bill, they will have also have access to counseling and mental health services.

Mr. Czmyr was also fundamental in securing the funds to make this dream a reality. By coordinating with my office, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, he won vital grants to bring hope and peace of mind for the men and women who are set to move into the apartments this June. I urge my colleagues to join with me in congratulating William Czmyr for being named Veteran of the Year. His patriotism and dedication to veterans inspire us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 18, 2012*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I was unfortunately unable to cast a vote on rollcall vote 291 on Friday, May 18, 2012 because I was tending to a family matter. H.R. 4310, the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2013 does not sufficiently address the strategic or fiscal realities we are facing and I would have voted "no" on its passage. I would not in good conscience have been able to vote for this authorization bill that forces the Pentagon to accept \$8 billion that it neither requested, needs, nor wants. Many weapons programs, like upgrades to the Army's ground vehicles, were funded not only above the