

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1530

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT EFFICIENCY AND STREAMLINING ACT OF 2011

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 679) to reduce the number of executive positions subject to Senate confirmation.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 679

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS NOT SUBJECT TO SENATE APPROVAL.

(a) AGRICULTURE.—

(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR ADMINISTRATION.—Section 218(b) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6918(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking "subsection (a)" and inserting "paragraph (1) or (3) of subsection (a)";

(B) by striking subsection (c); and

(C) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(2) RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR.—Section 232(b)(1) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6942(b)(1)) is amended—

(A) by striking ", by and with the advice and consent of the Senate";

(B) by striking paragraph (2); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2).

(3) COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.—Section 9(a) of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714g(a)) is amended in the third sentence by striking "by and with the advice and consent of the Senate".

(b) COMMERCE.—

(1) CHIEF SCIENTIST; NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.—Section 2(d)

of Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1970 (5 U.S.C. App. 1) is amended by striking ", by and with the advice and consent of the Senate".

(c) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 138(a)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking "16" and inserting "14".

(B) ADMINISTRATION OF REDUCTION.—The Assistant Secretary of Defense positions eliminated in accordance with the reduction in numbers required by the amendment made by subparagraph (A) shall be—

(i) the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration; and

(ii) the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

(C) CONTINUED SERVICE OF INCUMBENTS.—Notwithstanding the requirements of this paragraph, any individual serving in a position described under subparagraph (B) on the date of the enactment of this Act may continue to serve in such position without regard to the limitation imposed by the amendment in subparagraph (A).

(D) PLAN FOR SUCCESSOR POSITIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall report to the congressional defense committees on his plan for successor positions, not subject to Senate confirmation, for the positions eliminated in accordance with the requirements of this paragraph.

(2) MEMBERS OF NATIONAL SECURITY EDUCATION BOARD.—Section 803(b)(7) of the David L. Boren National Security Education Act of 1991 (50 U.S.C. 1903(b)(7)) is amended by striking "by and with the advice and consent of the Senate".

(3) DIRECTOR OF SELECTIVE SERVICE.—Section 10(a)(3) of the Selective Service Act of 1948 (50 U.S.C. App. 460(a)(3)) is amended by striking ", by and with the advice and consent of the Senate".

(d) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.—

(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.—Section 202(e) of the Department of Education Organization Act (20 U.S.C. 3412(e)) is amended by inserting after the first sentence the following: "Notwithstanding the previous sentence, the appointments of individuals to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Management shall not be subject to the advice and consent of the Senate".

(2) COMMISSIONER, EDUCATION STATISTICS.—Section 117(b) of the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9517(b)) is amended by striking ", by and with the advice and consent of the Senate".

(e) DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.—

(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the appointment of an individual to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs within the Department of Health and Human Services shall not be subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

(f) DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—

(1) DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS; ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, GRANT PROGRAMS.—Section 430(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 238(b)) is amended by striking ", by and with the advice and consent of the Senate".

(2) ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION.—Section 5(b) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2204(b)) is amended by striking ", by and with the advice and consent of the Senate".

(3) DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF COUNTER-NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT.—Section 878(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.

458(a)) is amended by striking ", by and with the advice and consent of the Senate".

(4) CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER.—Section 516(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321e(a)) is amended by striking ", by and with the advice and consent of the Senate".

(5) ASSISTANT SECRETARIES.—Section 103(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 113(a)) is amended—

(A) by striking "There" and inserting "(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (2), there";

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (10) as subparagraphs (A) through (J), respectively; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARIES.—If any of the Assistant Secretaries referred to under paragraph (1)(I) is designated to be the Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, or the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, that Assistant Secretary shall be appointed by the President without the advice and consent of the Senate."

(g) HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS.—Section 4(a) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3533(a)) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(1)" after "(a)";

(2) by striking "eight" and inserting "7"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) There shall be in the Department an Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, who shall be appointed by the President and shall perform such functions, powers, and duties as the Secretary shall prescribe from time to time."

(h) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—

(1) DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS.—Section 302(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3732(b)) is amended by striking ", by and with the advice and consent of the Senate".

(2) DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE.—Section 401(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3741(b)) is amended by striking ", by and with the advice and consent of the Senate".

(3) DIRECTOR, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE.—Section 202(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3722(b)) is amended by striking ", by and with the advice and consent of the Senate".

(4) ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION.—Section 201(b) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5611(b)) is amended by striking ", by and with the advice and consent of the Senate".

(5) DIRECTOR, OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME.—Section 1411(b) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10605(b)) is amended by striking ", by and with the advice and consent of the Senate".

(i) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.—

(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARIES FOR ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS.—Notwithstanding section 2 of the Act of April 17, 1946 (29 U.S.C. 553), the appointment of individuals to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management and the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs within the Department of Labor, shall not be subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) DIRECTOR OF THE WOMEN'S BUREAU.—Section 2 of the Act of June 5, 1920 (29 U.S.C. 12) is amended by striking ", by and with the advice and consent of the Senate".

(j) DEPARTMENT OF STATE; ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND ASSISTANT

SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION.—Section 1(c)(1) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “, each of whom shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and”;

(2) by adding at the end the following: “Each Assistant Secretary of State shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, except that the appointments of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs and the Assistant Secretary for Administration shall not be subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.”.

(k) DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.—

(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARIES.—Section 102(e) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking “(e) THE DEPARTMENT” and all that follows through “An Assistant Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(e) ASSISTANT SECRETARIES; GENERAL COUNSEL.—

“(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Department has 5 Assistant Secretaries and a General Counsel, including—

“(A) an Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, an Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, and an Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, who shall each be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate;

“(B) an Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs who shall be appointed by the President;

“(C) an Assistant Secretary for Administration, who shall be appointed by the Secretary, with the approval of the President; and

“(D) a General Counsel, who shall be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(2) DUTIES AND POWERS.—The officers set forth in paragraph (1) shall carry out duties and powers prescribed by the Secretary. An Assistant Secretary”.

(2) DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION.—Section 106 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (b), by striking “. The Administration has a Deputy Administrator. They are appointed” and inserting “, who shall be appointed”; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “The Deputy Administrator must” and inserting “The Administration has a Deputy Administrator, who shall be appointed by the President. In making an appointment, the President shall consider the fitness of the appointee to efficiently carry out the duties and powers of the office. The Deputy Administrator shall”.

(l) DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.—

(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARIES FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND MANAGEMENT.—Section 301(e) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking “10 Assistant Secretaries” and inserting “8 Assistant Secretaries”; and

(B) by inserting “The Department shall have 2 Assistant Secretaries not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate who shall be the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, and the Assistant Secretary for Management.” after the first sentence.

(2) TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES.—Section 301(d) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking “2 Deputy Under Secretaries, and a Treasurer of the United States” and inserting “and 2 Deputy Under Secretaries”, and

(B) by inserting “and a Treasurer of the United States appointed by the President” after “Fiscal Assistant Secretary appointed by the Secretary”.

(m) DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—Section 308(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “There shall” and inserting “(1) There shall”;

(2) in paragraph (1), as designated by paragraph (1) of this subsection, by striking “Each Assistant” and all that follows through the period at the end; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), each Assistant Secretary appointed under paragraph (1) shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(3) The following Assistant Secretaries may be appointed without the advice and consent of the Senate:

“(A) The Assistant Secretary for Management.

“(B) The Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration.

“(C) The Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs.

“(D) The Assistant Secretary for Operations, Security, and Preparedness.”.

(n) APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION; ALTERNATE FEDERAL CO-CHAIRMAN.—Section 14301(b)(2) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking “by and with the advice and consent of the Senate”.

(o) COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS, MEMBERS.—Section 10 of the Employment Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1023) is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) CREATION; COMPOSITION; QUALIFICATIONS; CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—

“(1) CREATION.—There is created in the Executive Office of the President a Council of Economic Advisers (hereinafter called the ‘Council’).

“(2) COMPOSITION.—The Council shall be composed of three members, of whom—

“(A) 1 shall be the chairman who shall be appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; and

“(B) 2 shall be appointed by the President.

“(3) QUALIFICATIONS.—Each member shall be a person who, as a result of training, experience, and attainments, is exceptionally qualified to analyze and interpret economic developments, to appraise programs and activities of the Government in the light of the policy declared in section 2, and to formulate and recommend national economic policy to promote full employment, production, and purchasing power under free competitive enterprise.

“(4) VICE CHAIRMAN.—The President shall designate 1 of the members of the Council as vice chairman, who shall act as chairman in the absence of the chairman.”.

(p) CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE; MANAGING DIRECTOR.—Section 194(a)(1) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12651e(a)(1)) is amended by striking “, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate”.

(q) NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY MEMBERS.—Section 400(a)(1)(A) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 780(a)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate”.

(r) NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES; NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD; MEMBERS.—Section 207(b)(1) of the Museum and Library Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9105a(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate”; and

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking “, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate”.

(s) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION; BOARD MEMBERS.—Section 4(a) of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C.

1863(a)) is amended by striking “, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.”.

(t) OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY; DEPUTY DIRECTORS.—Section 704(a)(1) of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1703(a)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) DIRECTOR.—The Director shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall serve at the pleasure of the President.

“(B) DEPUTY DIRECTORS.—The Deputy Director of National Drug Control Policy, Deputy Director for Demand Reduction, the Deputy Director for Supply Reduction, and the Deputy Director for State, Local, and Tribal Affairs shall each be appointed by the President and serve at the pleasure of the President.

“(C) DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR DEMAND REDUCTION.—In appointing the Deputy Director for Demand Reduction under this paragraph, the President shall take into consideration the scientific, educational, or professional background of the individual, and whether the individual has experience in the fields of substance abuse prevention, education, or treatment.”.

(u) OFFICE OF NAVAJO AND HOPI RELOCATION; COMMISSIONER.—Section 12(b)(1) of Public Law 93-531 (25 U.S.C. 640d-11(b)(1)) is amended by striking “by and with the advice and consent of the Senate”.

(v) UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR MANAGEMENT.—Notwithstanding section 624(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2384(a)), the appointment by the President of the Assistant Administrator for Management at the United States Agency for International Development shall not be subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

(w) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION FUND; ADMINISTRATOR.—Section 104(b)(1) of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4703(b)(1)) is amended by striking “, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate”.

(x) DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION; ADMINISTRATOR.—Subsection (a) of section 2 of the Act of May 13, 1954, referred to as the Saint Lawrence Seaway Act (33 U.S.C. 982(a)) is amended by striking “, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, for a term of seven years”.

(y) MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION; COMMISSIONER.—Section 2 of the Act of June 28, 1879 (33 U.S.C. 642), is amended in the first sentence by striking “, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.”.

(z) GOVERNOR AND ALTERNATE GOVERNOR OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1333 of the African Development Bank Act (22 U.S.C. 2901-1) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

(B) by striking “(a) The President” and all that follows through “The term of office” and inserting the following:

“(a) The President shall appoint a Governor and an Alternate Governor of the Bank—

“(1) by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; or

“(2) from among individuals serving as officials required by law to be appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(b) The term of office”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1334 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2901-2) is amended—

(A) by striking “The Director or Alternate Director” and inserting the following:

“(b) The Director or Alternate Director”; and

(B) by inserting before subsection (b), as redesignated, the following:

“(a) The President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint a Director of the Bank.”.

(aa) GOVERNOR AND ALTERNATE GOVERNOR OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.—Section 3(a) of the Asian Development Bank Act (22 U.S.C. 285a(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) The President shall appoint—

“(1) a Governor of the Bank and an alternate for the Governor—

“(A) by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; or

“(B) from among individuals serving as officials required by law to be appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; and

“(2) a Director of the Bank, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.”.

(bb) GOVERNOR AND ALTERNATE GOVERNOR OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND.—Section 203(a) of the African Development Fund Act (22 U.S.C. 290g–1(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) The President shall appoint a Governor, and an Alternate Governor, of the Fund—

“(1) by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; or

“(2) from among individuals serving as officials required by law to be appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.”.

(cc) NATIONAL BOARD FOR EDUCATION SCIENCES; MEMBERS.—Section 116(c)(1) of the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 (20 U.S.C. 9516(c)(1)) is amended by striking “, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate”.

(dd) NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LITERACY ADVISORY BOARD; MEMBERS.—Section 242(e)(1)(A) of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (20 U.S.C. 9252(e)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “with the advice and consent of the Senate”.

(ee) INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE CULTURE AND ARTS DEVELOPMENT; MEMBER, BOARD OF TRUSTEES.—Section 1505 of the American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Culture and Art Development Act (20 U.S.C. 4412(a)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “by and with the advice and consent of the Senate”.

(ff) PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—Section 203(a)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 204(a)(3)) is amended by striking “with the advice and consent of the Senate”.

(2) PROMOTIONS.—Section 210(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 211(a)) is amended by striking “, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate”.

(gg) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS.—

(1) APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS TO PERMANENT GRADES.—Section 226 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 3026) is amended by striking “, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate”.

(2) POSITIONS OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY.—Section 228(d)(1) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3028(d)(1)) is amended by striking “, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate”.

(3) TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS GENERALLY.—Section 229 of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3029) is amended—

(A) by striking “alone” each place it appears; and

(B) in subsection (a), in the second sentence, by striking “unless the Senate sooner gives its advice and consent to the appointment”.

(hh) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Notwithstanding section 3132(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code, removal of Senate confirmation for any position in this section shall not—

(1) result in any such position being placed in the Senior Executive Service; or

(2) alter compensation for any such position under the Executive Schedule or other applicable compensation provisions of law.

SEC. 3. APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENSUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21 of the title 13, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 21. Director of the Census; duties

“(a) APPOINTMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Bureau shall be headed by a Director of the Census, appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, without regard to political affiliation.

“(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Such appointment shall be made from individuals who have a demonstrated ability in managing large organizations and experience in the collection, analysis, and use of statistical data.

“(b) TERM OF OFFICE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term of office of the Director shall be 5 years, and shall begin on January 1, 2012, and every fifth year thereafter. An individual may not serve more than 2 full terms as Director.

“(2) VACANCIES.—Any individual appointed to fill a vacancy in such position, occurring before the expiration of the term for which such individual's predecessor was appointed, shall be appointed for the remainder of that term. The Director may serve after the end of the Director's term until reappointed or until a successor has been appointed, but in no event longer than 1 year after the end of such term.

“(3) REMOVAL.—An individual serving as Director may be removed from office by the President. The President shall communicate in writing the reasons for any such removal to both Houses of Congress not later than 60 days before the removal.

“(4) PERSONNEL ACTIONS.—Except as provided under paragraph (3), nothing in this subsection shall prohibit a personnel action otherwise authorized by law with respect to the Director of the Census, other than removal.

“(c) DUTIES.—The Director shall perform such duties as may be imposed upon the Director by law, regulations, or orders of the Secretary.”.

(b) TRANSITION RULES.—

(1) APPOINTMENT OF INITIAL DIRECTOR.—The initial Director of the Bureau of the Census shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of section 21(a) of title 13, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a).

(2) INTERIM ROLE OF CURRENT DIRECTOR OF THE CENSUS AFTER DATE OF ENACTMENT.—If, as of January 1, 2012, the initial Director of the Bureau of the Census has not taken office, the officer serving on December 31, 2011, as Director of the Census (or Acting Director of the Census, if applicable) in the Department of Commerce—

(A) shall serve as the Director of the Bureau of the Census; and

(B) shall assume the powers and duties of such Director for one term beginning January 1, 2012, as described in section 21(b) of such title, as so amended.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Not later than January 1, 2012, the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Director of the Census, shall submit to each House of the Congress draft legislation containing any technical and conforming amendments to title 13, United States Code, and any other provisions which may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

SEC. 4. WORKING GROUP ON STREAMLINING PAPERWORK FOR EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Working Group on Streamlining Paperwork for Executive Nominations (in this section referred to as the “Working Group”).

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—The Working Group shall be composed of—

(A) the chairperson who shall be—

(i) except as provided under clause (ii), the Director of the Office of Presidential Personnel; or

(ii) a Federal officer designated by the President;

(B) representatives designated by the President from—

(i) the Office of Personnel Management;

(ii) the Office of Government Ethics; and

(iii) the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

(C) individuals appointed by the chairperson of the Working Group who have experience and expertise relating to the Working Group, including—

(i) individuals from other relevant Federal agencies; and

(ii) individuals with relevant experience from previous presidential administrations.

(c) STREAMLINING OF PAPERWORK REQUIRED FOR EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Working Group shall conduct a study and submit a report on the streamlining of paperwork required for executive nominations to—

(A) the President;

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

(2) CONSULTATION WITH COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE.—In conducting the study under this section, the Working Group shall consult with the chairperson and ranking member of the committees referred to under paragraph (1) (B) and (C).

(3) CONTENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The report submitted under this section shall include—

(i) recommendations for the streamlining of paperwork required for executive nominations; and

(ii) a detailed plan for the creation and implementation of an electronic system for collecting and distributing background information from potential and actual Presidential nominees for positions which require appointment by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(B) ELECTRONIC SYSTEM.—The electronic system described under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall—

(i) provide for—

(I) less burden on potential nominees for positions which require appointment by and with the advice and consent of the Senate;

(II) faster delivery of background information to Congress, the White House, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Diplomatic Security, and the Office of Government Ethics; and

(III) fewer errors of omission; and

(ii) ensure the existence and operation of a single, searchable form which shall be known as a “Smart Form” and shall—

(I) be free to a nominee and easy to use;

(II) make it possible for the nominee to answer all vetting questions one way, at a single time;

(III) secure the information provided by a nominee;

(IV) allow for multiple submissions over time, but always in the format requested by the vetting agency or entity;

(V) be compatible across different computer platforms;

(VI) make it possible to easily add, modify, or subtract vetting questions;

(VII) allow error checking; and

(VIII) allow the user to track the progress of a nominee in providing the required information.

(d) REVIEW OF BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Working Group shall conduct a review of the impact of background investigation requirements on the appointments process.

(2) **CONDUCT OF REVIEW.**—In conducting the review, the Working Group shall—

(A) assess the feasibility of using personnel other than Federal Bureau of Investigation personnel, in appropriate circumstances, to conduct background investigations of individuals under consideration for positions appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; and

(B) consider the extent to which the scope of the background investigation conducted for an individual under consideration for a position appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, should be varied depending on the nature of the position for which the individual is being considered.

(3) **REPORT.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Working Group shall submit a report of the findings of the review under this subsection to—

(A) the President;

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

(e) **PERSONNEL MATTERS.—**

(1) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—**

(A) **FEDERAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.**—Each member of the Working Group who is a Federal officer or employee shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as a Federal officer or employee.

(B) **MEMBERS NOT FEDERAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.**—Each member of the Working Group who is not a Federal officer or employee shall not be compensated for services performed for the Working Group.

(2) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—The members of the Working Group shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Working Group.

(3) **STAFF.—**

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The President may designate Federal officers and employees to provide support services for the Working Group.

(B) **DETAIL OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**—Any Federal employee may be detailed to the Working Group without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

(f) **NON-APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.**—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Working Group established under this section.

(g) **TERMINATION OF THE WORKING GROUP.**—The Working Group shall terminate 60 days after the date on which the Working Group submits the latter of the 2 reports under this section.

SEC. 5. REPORT ON PRESIDENTIALLY APPOINTED POSITIONS.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

(1) the term “agency” means an Executive agency defined under section 105 of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) the term “covered position” means a position in an agency that requires appointment by the President without the advice and consent of the Senate.

(b) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Government Accountability Office shall conduct a study and submit a report on covered positions to Congress and the President.

(c) **CONTENTS.**—The report submitted under this section shall include—

(1) a determination of the number of covered positions in each agency;

(2) an evaluation of whether maintaining the total number of covered positions is necessary;

(3) an evaluation of the benefits and disadvantages of—

(A) eliminating certain covered positions;

(B) converting certain covered positions to career positions or positions in the Senior Executive Service that are not career reserved positions; and

(C) converting any categories of covered positions to career positions;

(4) the identification of—

(A) covered positions described under paragraph (3)(A) and (B); and

(B) categories of covered positions described under paragraph (3)(C); and

(5) any other recommendations relating to covered positions.

SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) **PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS NOT SUBJECT TO SENATE APPROVAL.**—The amendments made by section 2 shall take effect 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act and apply to appointments made on and after that effective date, including any nomination pending in the Senate on that date.

(b) **DIRECTOR OF THE CENSUS AND WORKING GROUP.**—The provisions of sections 3 and 4 (including any amendments made by those sections) shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. **CHAFFETZ**) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. **MALONEY**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. **CHAFFETZ**. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. **CHAFFETZ**. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The need for reforms in the Federal appointments process is not a new topic. There is little dispute that the current nominations process has grown too cumbersome and complicated, in some cases, discouraging qualified individuals from seeking leadership positions. On average in recent administrations, only 35 of the 100 most needed leadership roles were filled within the first 100 days of the new administration, and 200 days into a new administration, only 50 percent of key national security officials are actually in place.

Nine special commissions have called for fixing the broken Presidential appointments process by starting the

Presidential transition and personnel planning earlier, streamlining background investigations, and reducing the number of appointments requiring Senate confirmation.

S. 679 provides a commonsense solution that preserves the important role of the Senate in confirming key nominees but unburdens the process by relieving the advice and consent requirement for less critical positions. The bill is based on a bipartisan Senate working group commissioned to improve the nominations process, which was led by Senators **ALEXANDER** and **SCHUMER**.

S. 679 eliminates the requirement for Senate confirmation for a number of executive branch positions, many of which are: one, below the assistant secretary level and report to a Senate-confirmed individual; two, do not make policy; or three, are members of part-time advisory boards or commissions.

S. 679 also establishes an executive branch working group to study and report on streamlining the paperwork required for nominations.

In addition, S. 679 requires a fixed 5-year term for the Director of the Census Bureau to coincide with the planning and operational phases of the census. The Director of the Census Bureau remains subject to Senate confirmation.

S. 679 provides a mechanism to allow the Senate to focus its efforts on installing qualified leaders to key positions in order to meet the many challenges facing our Nation.

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

Mrs. **MALONEY**. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 679, the Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act, which was introduced in the Senate by Senators **SCHUMER** and **ALEXANDER**. This bill will improve the Presidential appointment process by reducing the number of Presidentially appointed positions that are required to be confirmed by the Senate.

The number of Presidentially appointed positions that require Senate confirmation has increased over the years. The Congressional Research Service estimates that at the beginning of the Obama administration, there were 1,215 executive branch positions subject to Senate confirmation. It takes months for a new President to fill these positions, and the resulting gaps in leadership make the government less efficient and less productive.

This bill will reduce the bureaucracy and red tape that comes with requiring the Senate to confirm Presidential appointments. Under this bill, high-profile positions, such as Department Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries, will continue to require the consent of the Senate. This bill impacts lower-level positions, which a President routinely fills these positions without any controversy. For example, this bill would eliminate the Senate confirmation requirement for positions such as the alternate Federal cochairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission and

members of the National Council on Disability.

In addition to reforming the Presidential appointments process, the legislation before us today makes the Director of the Census Bureau a Presidential term appointment of 5 years, subject to confirmation by the Senate. I particularly am pleased the bill includes this provision so that the Director is tied to the needs of the decennial census and not to an election year calendar.

For years, I have been working on this provision, which I proposed in H.R. 4595 in the 111th Congress, to ensure the Census Bureau is able to perform the decennial census as accurately and as inexpensively as possible. Senator CARPER introduced this bill in the Senate and added this amendment to the bill we are considering today.

Too often, in the last four decennials, there have been major operations issues to overcome just before implementation. Historically, it's not uncommon for the Bureau to be without a Director to lead the agency until shortly before the decennial. We did not have a Director in place for the current 2010 count until mere months before census day. In 2000, the Census Director took office 2 years before the decennial count; and in 1990, it was 1 week before the count.

This change will help to ensure the independence of the Census Bureau from political interference and ensure adequate leadership for the census in critical planning and implementation phases for the decennial.

Data and analysis from the Census Bureau provides policymakers, businesses, and State and local governments with vital, accurate, scientific information that is used to guide our country's economic growth. It's important that Bureau leadership have stability. So I thank the chairman and ranking members for getting this done.

The Senate passed this bill with an overwhelming bipartisan majority. I believe this body should defer to the will of the Senate when it comes to their own process for confirming Presidential appointments. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this good-government bill.

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, with due deference to my friend from New York and my friend from Utah—and I do mean that literally—I rise in opposition to this bill.

What we've seen over the last year and a half is a Presidency that had the most disdain for Congress in the confirmation process of any President I'm aware of, and I'm quite familiar with the history of the United States.

Not only has this President made recess appointments when there was no recess, not only has this President appointed czars that were beyond the

reach of Congress—although we could have made it within our reach; we could have just cut off every dime for anything that did not come before congressional approval—but with this latest tactic of having a recess appointment when there wasn't a recess, all of the talk across the country about the appointing of czars with no accountability to the Senate, I really did expect some of my conservative friends in the Senate at some point to move a bill on this subject. I expected it to be a bill that would send a loud and clear message to the President that, if you feel like some of these don't need to be appointed, you come talk to us about it, and let's talk about no more recess appointments. Let's talk about some of these others.

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Instead, it's almost a pat on the back to the President to say, Look, you've ignored us; you've made us irrelevant. You've done all of these things, as you've said, Congress won't act so you're going to act. The President has gone out and made speeches like the king or Caesar: as I speak, so it is the law.

And even though Congress has duly passed immigration laws that the President has stood up, and as he spoke, he made law and ignored Congress completely. The message we're sending back here is: Mr. President—as in some old movie—thank you, may I have another. Look, you just keep ignoring us, and we'll keep making ourselves more and more irrelevant.

I would like to make one other point, too. Here we are in a desperate situation where our military, our very national security is at risk for being cut to the extent that we will no longer be secure. I would humbly submit that a better bill would be, Mr. President, if these are not all that important, let's get rid of all of these. There are board members. There's commissions. I mean, there's things in here, there's a director of the Women's Bureau. I don't see one for the Men's Bureau. There's a director of all kinds of things here that it just seems like are redundant, that could be done away with. If they're not important enough for the Senate to take a look at them, Mr. Speaker, I would humbly suggest that maybe they're irrelevant and immaterial enough that we just do away with the positions. And accordingly, I would urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this provision.

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

I respectfully disagree with my good friend from the great State of Texas, Representative GOHMERT. The number of executive branch positions subject to Senate confirmation has grown at a very large number, and it literally takes months to fill these positions, and the resulting gaps in leadership makes the government less efficient and less productive. It came to us with a strong bipartisan vote in the Senate,

and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will be, under the general leave, inserting a couple of letters. One is from Frank Carlucci, former Secretary of Defense under President Reagan, who wrote us a letter saying:

Leaving positions vacant indefinitely as appointees wait to be confirmed is not smart management and is frankly a threat to our national security.

Also in support of this piece of legislation, a noted conservative Senator, former Senator Fred Thompson, took a position on this and said:

I believe that this will result in an increasingly narrow pool of potential public servants who are more likely to be wealthy and already live in the Washington, D.C. area.

That is if we don't pass this piece of legislation. He went on to say:

In 1960, President Kennedy had 286 positions to fill in the ranks of Secretary, deputy secretary, under secretary, Assistant Secretary, and administrator; and by the end of the Clinton administration, there were 914 positions with these titles.

As was noted by the gentleman from Texas, there is an argument to say a lot of these positions shouldn't even be in the Federal Government. But nevertheless, under the Constitution, the Constitution says under article II, section 2, the appointments clause—I'll cut right to the phrase I would like to refer to which is:

Congress may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers, as they think proper.

Therefore, as I read the Constitution, we have a duty and a responsibility to review this and look at this. So here you have a situation where 79 Senators in a very bipartisan way came together after nine different commissions and looking at things and decided to trim it back a little bit. There will still be over a thousand Senate-confirmed positions. But if we want proper oversight, if we want to go through this process in a swift and timely manner, if we want oversight, let's focus on what's most important.

What's most important probably doesn't require Senate confirmation for the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. How about the administrator of St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, or the National Council on Disability, or the Office of Navaho and Hopi Relocation? These are positions that, while are important to our Nation, and some would argue are vital, probably don't necessarily rise to the level that requires Senate confirmation. These should not just be used as political tools. This Nation has business at hand, and we should focus on what's important.

Again, there are still more than a thousand appointments that will require Senate confirmation. But let's listen to our colleagues in the Senate. Seventy-nine of them came here and said we think this is good. There have

been nine different commissions looking at this. I think it's a valid recommendation. It still allows for the advice and consent within the Senate. It is a duty under the Constitution to do this.

I would encourage adoption of this. I think it is common sense. It is what our friends in the Senate are asking us to do with 79 Senators coming together to urge the adoption of this.

And with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

FRANK C. CARLUCCI,
McLean, Virginia, June 1, 2011.

Hon. HARRY REID,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES SCHUMER,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC.

Hon. LAMAR ALEXANDER,
U.S. Senate, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS REID, MCCONNELL, SCHUMER AND ALEXANDER: I am writing to commend you for your leadership and bipartisan approach to tackling one of the great challenges facing our government—presidential appointments and nominations reform. There is little dispute that the current nominations process has grown too cumbersome and complicated, and the number of political appointees is too large. S. 679, the Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act, and S. Res. 116 are a promising show of progress, and I encourage all Senators to support this bipartisan legislation.

As former Secretary of Defense (under President Reagan), I know the importance of having high quality leaders in place within an agency. Leaving positions vacant indefinitely as appointees wait to be confirmed is not smart management, and is frankly a threat to our national security. We need strong leaders installed quickly in agencies to ensure our government is ready to meet the many challenges it faces. S. 679 and S. Res. 116 together present a common-sense solution that preserves the important role of the Senate in confirming key nominees, but unburdens the process by relieving the advice and consent requirement for less critical positions.

Congress would be wise to act now, before the politics of the next election cycle get in the way of practical reforms to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our federal government. I urge the Senate to swiftly pass both S. 679 and S. Res. 116 to ensure our government has its senior leaders in place within agencies to carry out critical missions.

Sincerely,

FRANK CARLUCCI.

SENATOR FRED THOMPSON,
Hermitage, TN, April 12, 2011.

Hon. JOSEPH LIEBERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,
Ranking Republican Member, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR JOE AND SUSAN, in 2001, when I was Chairman of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, we held hearings reviewing the nominations process and potential options for reforms. President George W. Bush had been in office 10 months and only about 60 percent of the government's top po-

litical jobs had been filled—which created national security concerns.

That's why I want to commend you for your work on the Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011 which would eliminate the need for Senate confirmation of approximately 200 relatively low level positions. We tried to fix this problem when I was chairman, and it still needs to be done.

My experience was that our confirmation process led to substantial delay and extraordinary expense for nominees as they are vetted beyond what is necessary even for the least sensitive positions. I believe that this will result in an increasingly narrow pool of potential public servants who are more likely to be wealthy, and already live in the Washington, DC, area.

In 1960, President Kennedy had 286 positions to fill in the ranks of Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Under Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Administrator and by the end of the Clinton Administration there were 914 positions with these titles. Reform would not diminish oversight. It would make oversight more effective.

Comprehensive reforms throughout the presidential appointment process are needed so that the Senate can spend its time focusing on senior nominations and on major priorities such as national defense and tackling our budget problems.

The Senate should take its advice and consent powers seriously, but the number of nominations has grown and expanded over time—much like the rest of the federal government. I hope your committee will take quick action on this legislation and send the bill to the full Senate for its consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 679.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

THRIFT SAVINGS FUND CLARIFICATION ACT

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4365) to amend title 5, United States Code, to make clear that accounts in the Thrift Savings Fund are subject to certain Federal tax levies, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4365

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

SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS.

Section 8437(e)(3) of title 5, United States Code, is amended in the first sentence—

(1) by striking “659)” and inserting “659),”;

and
(2) by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: “, and shall be subject to a Federal tax levy under section 6331 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.”

SEC. 2. DISPOSITION OF AMOUNTS.

Any potential revenue gain attributable to the enactment of this Act, as determined by

the Director of the Congressional Budget Office—

(1) shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury of the United States; and

(2) shall be used solely for purposes of deficit reduction.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. BUERKLE), the prime sponsor and author of this piece of legislation.

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and I rise today in support of my legislation, H.R. 4365, which would make Thrift Savings Plans subject to Federal tax levies. Currently, TSP accounts are not listed in the IRS Code provisions identifying property that is exempt from tax. This bill makes clear that the TSP accounts are to be treated the same as 401(k)s and similar retirement and savings accounts held by private sector employees.

This bill is about fairness, Mr. Speaker. It will treat Federal employees the same as private sector employees.

H.R. 4365 adds needed clarification to existing law and provides guidance to the Thrift Board on how to honor IRS levies as they arise. In 2010, the Office of Legal Counsel at the Department of Justice concluded that TSPs are subject to levy. And last week, the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, which oversees TSP accounts, wrote Congress asking that this issue be clarified expeditiously, noting that the lack of clarity is causing significant operational issues.

At the end of 2010, Mr. Speaker, the most recent year for which IRS data is available, 279,000 Federal employees owed \$3.4 billion in Federal taxes. And the Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that enacting this legislation would increase revenues by \$24 million over the 2012–2022 period.

Mr. Speaker, \$24 million may seem like a small figure to some inside the Beltway. However, I believe any savings Congress can produce in today's fiscal environment is significant.

This is a commonsense solution which received bipartisan support in the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. Similar legislation also received overwhelming support in the Senate. I urge passage of this bill.

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