

and forensics within Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Child Exploitation Investigations Unit at the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. Chair, there is no question that our children need our support now more than ever. With the proliferation of the Internet and wireless technology, the spread of child pornography online must be addressed now. We don't have a moment or an opportunity to waste.

The Department of Justice estimates that at any moment there are more than 1 million pornographic images of children on the Internet—think about that, 1 million—with an additional 200 images being posted every day, and more than one-third of the world's pedophiles involved in organized pornography rings worldwide live in the United States.

The Internet allows these images to be disseminated indefinitely, victimizing that child again and again with each click of the mouse. Because let's not forget that these aren't just heinous images, they are crime scene photos. Every face in those photographs is the face of a child who needs our support in order to escape a living hell of constant abuse and exploitation.

Since the 1970s, before we even had a Federal child pornography statute, ICE—which was then called the U.S. Customs Service—was a leader in the fight to protect our children. That is still true today. Last year, there were more than 1,600 criminal arrests relating to child exploitation, and 2,600 worldwide investigations were launched, setting new records for Homeland Security investigations. Already this year, there have been 1,382 criminal arrests relating to child exploitation. Their efforts are second to none, and I know they will continue to put these resources to good use.

But for every child rescued, hundreds more remain trapped in a current of abuse, the horrors of which none of us can truly imagine. We need the absolute best personnel going into the fight to rescue these children. That's why it's my hope that some of these funds will be used to employ our wounded warriors, in addition to the experienced agents already fighting these battles. And I thank the chairman and ranking member for adding report language in the bill to encourage the hiring of these valued veterans.

Our armed services have already protected us abroad, so naturally our veterans are a perfect choice to protect our most precious resources at home. In fact, retired Army Master Sergeant Rich Robertson is already fighting child exploitation at the ICE field office in Tennessee. In his words, "Who better to hunt child predators than someone who's already hunted men?"

I am enthusiastic about this initiative because I know of the immense skills and motivation of our returning servicemen and -women, and the skills that they possess could be the key to our most successful affront on child ex-

ploitation yet. Child predators won't stand a chance.

By harnessing the abilities of our wounded warriors, we not only ensure that their skills, dedication, and drive are put to good use back at home, we give them the most dignifying thank-you of all: a job that truly makes a difference.

Mr. Chair, let me be clear: with the inclusion of this language, we are putting predators on notice. Their reign of terror is coming to an end—you can bet on it.

I thank my colleagues on the committee for committing to fight until every American child can live free from terror and exploitation.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, at this time I would like to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from the State of Pennsylvania (Mr. BARLETTA). He is the chairman of the committee that authorizes FEMA.

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman ROGERS and Chairman CARTER for putting together a bill that supports communities' ability to prepare for natural disasters in this very difficult fiscal environment.

As chairman of the subcommittee with jurisdiction over FEMA, I want to thank them for including all three of my committee recommendations in the bill:

Thank you for continuing the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program, which saves money in future disaster assistance;

Thank you for preserving the FEMA administrator's authority for directing Federal disaster response by limiting the role of the principal Federal official;

Finally, thank you for funding the Emergency Management Performance Grants, or EMPG. With a 50 percent match requirement, EMPG grants leverage twice as many preparedness dollars as any other Federal program. For 60 years, EMPG has been focused on building local and State emergency management capability. There are plenty of programs that buy equipment and other things, but they won't do much good in a major disaster without qualified local emergency managers.

We have all seen the photos of evacuation buses flooded and useless in New Orleans because they didn't have a good hurricane evacuation plan. Emergency managers develop the plans to get people out of harm's way and to bring help from outside to the disaster area. The EMPG program helps buy that capability, and FEMA needs to keep the EMPG grant guidance focused on building local government emergency management capacity.

Again, let me thank Chairman ROGERS and Chairman CARTER for a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER. I yield back the balance of my time.

H.R. 2217, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of very important report language included in the Homeland Security Appropriations bill, which will sustain inland Border Patrol stations in states along our nation's southern border.

In 2012, the U.S. Border Patrol proposed to close nine interior Border Patrol stations as part of a cost-savings proposal. Six of the nine proposed closures are located in Texas, including one located in my district in the city of Amarillo. The U.S. Border Patrol made this announcement without first ensuring that local law enforcement agencies will have the necessary resources to deal with the serious illegal immigration problems in our area. The inland stations proposed for closure apprehend hundreds of illegal aliens every year. If these closures are allowed, several hundred illegal aliens would have to be let go due to the lack of federal presence.

Since the proposal was unveiled last year, I have repeatedly heard from numerous local law enforcement officials who have serious concerns about the detrimental effect this would have on our local communities. They also believe this impact could reverberate throughout the country.

You do not have to be on—or even near—the border to see and feel the effects of illegal immigration on our local communities, and that is something we want to make sure the folks in Washington understand. Enforcement of our immigration laws does not stop at the border. Interior enforcement is essential as well. The Supreme Court has confirmed that it is the federal government's job to enforce these laws.

The Border Patrol cited "cost-saving measures" as a reason for this proposal, but it is simply penny-wise and pound-foolish. Although the agency anticipates closing these nine stations could save \$1.3 million, they admit it will cost \$2.47 million to transfer all the agents to other stations.

When I first brought these concerns to the U.S. Border Patrol, I was told time and time again that the agency was working with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to develop a transition plan to ensure that someone from the federal government will be there to pick up the phone when local law enforcement needs their help. To date, I have seen no evidence of a viable plan. There appears to be no draft plan or even an outline of a plan. There are simply too many unanswered questions to allow these inland border patrol station closures to proceed.

Any country must be able to control who and what comes across its borders. A government that cannot or will not do so fails in one of its most basic responsibilities.

I would like to thank the Appropriations Committee and Subcommittee Chairman CARTER for including this important language. I look forward to continuing to work together to ensure that our country is not left with a gaping hole in the enforcement of our immigration laws.

I will be offering an amendment later today to cut \$10 million from this unnecessary program and use those funds to increase CBP staffing at our nation's airports.

I would like to express my frustration that the legislation we are considering today, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, provides \$68 million for the 287(g)—a superfluous and controversial program that allows local police to act like federal agents.

It does not make any sense to waste \$68 million on a program that will not help us fix our immigration system nor secure our country.

Because of this, today, I will be proposing an amendment that will cut \$10 million from this program and use that money to increase the number of customs agents in our airports.

This would reduce long lines and unacceptable delays, promoting commerce and tourism and furthering our economic recovery.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this bill, though not in support of the process that brought it to the House floor.

I am pleased that the overall committee process that produced this bill was bipartisan. For the first time in several years, this bill actually provides slightly more money for the State and Local Grant program, which funds such critical community grant programs like SAFER, AFG, and the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. Specifically, the bill provides \$1.5 billion for State and Local Grants, which is \$456.8 million above the request and \$35.4 million above the FY2013 enacted level. This is still far less than what our firefighters, EMS and other first responders need to replace aging equipment and hire needed additional personnel, but it is nonetheless movement in the right direction.

Unfortunately, that positive development is offset by the failure of this bill to reverse the effects of sequester. TSA is addressing its sequestration-related funding shortfalls in part with a reduction in overtime and a freeze on hiring of new transportation security officers, which will lead to longer checkpoint lines at airports during peak summer travel season. CBP reduced overtime for CBP Officers, leading to significant increases in wait times at air, land, and sea ports of entry for citizens and international commerce. Coast Guard drug and migrant interdiction efforts have been reduced substantially, increasing the flow of narcotics into the United States. Sequestration cut \$928 million from FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund (DRF), threatening to reduce funds available to help future victims of hurricanes, tornadoes, and other natural disasters recover and rebuild. This is no way to run a government, and I again urge the House majority to bring a bill to the floor that permanently overturns sequester. The American people want it, they need it, and we should do it today.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, before us is H.R. 2217, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for FY 2014. Although this legislation is far from perfect, I rise in reluctant support of the bill because ensuring that our first responders and those who work on the frontline protecting our borders have adequate resources to protect our homeland and keep our citizens safe.

I strongly disapprove of the method employed by the House Republican to discharge the House's fundamental responsibility to reach a budget agreement with the Senate establishing the framework governing the appro-

priations process. The Republican majority brought to the floor and passed a rule that "deems" adopted the draconian spending limits imposed by the Ryan Budget resolution rather than a resolution that realistic and responsible limits that is to be negotiated and agreed to by House and Senate budget conferees.

Indeed, the Republican House leadership has refused for months to appoint conferees empowered to reach a budget agreement that is fair, balanced and would end sequestration.

I agree with President Obama that prior to consideration of appropriations bills the House and Senate should first reach agreement on an appropriate framework for all appropriations bills and one does not harm our economy or require draconian cuts to middle-class priorities.

Without such an agreement, House Republican appropriation bills will result in: hundreds of thousands of low-income children losing access to Head Start programs, tens of thousands of children with disabilities losing federal funding for their special education teachers and aides, thousands of federal agents who will not be able to secure the border, enforce drug laws, combat violent crime or apprehend fugitives; and thousands of scientists without medical grants to conduct research to find new treatments and cures for diseases like breast cancer and Alzheimer's.

The Ryan Budget that the House majority deemed adopted and incorporated in the rule governing consideration of this legislation assumes that the draconian funding levels established under sequestration will remain in place for the next several years.

Sequestration has been an unmitigated disaster for the American people, especially for Texas and the people I represent in Houston. Let me identify just a few of the ways my constituents are being adversely affected by sequestration:

Teachers and Schools: Texas will lose approximately \$67.8 million for primary and secondary education, putting around 930 teacher and aide jobs at risk. In addition about 172,000 fewer students would be served and approximately 280 fewer schools would receive funding.

Education for Children with Disabilities: Texas will lose approximately \$51 million for about 620 teachers, aides, and staff who help children with disabilities.

Head Start: Head Start and Early Head Start services would be eliminated for approximately 4,800 children in Texas, reducing access to critical early education.

Military Readiness: In Texas, approximately 52,000 civilian Department of Defense employees would be furloughed, reducing gross pay by around \$274.8 million in total.

Law Enforcement and Public Safety Funds: Texas will lose about \$1,103,000 in Justice Assistance Grants that support law enforcement, prosecution and courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, and crime victim and witness initiatives.

Job Search Assistance: Around 83,750 fewer Texans will get the help and skills they need to find employment as Texas will lose about \$2,263,000 for job search assistance, referral, and placement, meaning.

Child Care: Up to 2,300 disadvantaged and vulnerable children could lose access to child care, which is also essential for working parents to hold down a job.

Vaccines for Children: In Texas around 9,730 fewer children will receive vaccines for diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, whooping cough, influenza, and Hepatitis B due to reduced funding for vaccinations.

Violence Against Women Grants: Texas could lose up to \$543,000 to provide services to victims of domestic violence, resulting in up to 2,100 fewer victims being served.

Public Health: Texas will lose approximately \$2,402,000 to help upgrade its ability to respond to public health threats including infectious diseases, natural disasters, and biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events. In addition, Texas will lose about \$6,750,000 in grants to help prevent and treat substance abuse, resulting in around 2,800 fewer admissions to substance abuse programs. And the Texas State Department of Public Health will lose about \$1,146,000 resulting in around 28,600 fewer HIV tests.

Regarding the merits of the legislation before us, let me say that there is much in the bill that should command bipartisan support. For example, the bill includes \$1.5 billion for FEMA State and Local Grants, which is \$35.4 million above the FY 2013 enacted level. These grants fund critical programs such as the Homeland Security Grant Program, which primarily fund first responders, and the Urban Area Security Initiative.

The bill also provides \$10.6 billion for Customs and Border Protection and includes funding for the additional 1,600 Customs and Border Protection Officers requested by the President.

The bill also makes needed investments in cybersecurity, providing \$786 million to help protect federal networks from foreign espionage and cyber attacks. The bill also provides a total of \$6.2 billion for disaster relief, as requested by the President.

A major improvement to the bill was the adoption by the House of the Jackson Lee-Markey-Grimm-Reed Amendment which prohibits the Transportation Security Agency from changing its Prohibited Items List (PIL) to permit knives on planes. Adoption of my amendment enhances the security of air travel and protects TSA workers, flight attendants, pilots, and federal air marshals.

I am also pleased that H.R. 2217 incorporates several program funding recommendations I made to the Committee, especially the funding provided for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant and the Staffing for Adequate Emergency Response Grant (SAFER) programs. The tragic loss of four firefighters last week in Houston reminds us again of the dangers faced daily by first responders and the necessity of providing them the resources and support required to keep them safe. Specifically, the bill funds in full or substantial part the following programmatic requests I submitted to the Appropriations Committee:

1. \$337,500,000, which is 100% of the amount requested, for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. This program is critical to ensuring that our nation's first responders are adequately trained and equipped to safely and effectively respond to emergencies in their communities.

2. \$337,000,000 for the SAFER Program, which is 100% of the amount requested. The SAFER Grant Program provides much-needed funding for career and volunteer fire departments to hire new firefighters and recruit and

safely and effectively respond to emergencies in their communities.

2. \$337,000,000 for the SAFER Program, which is 100% of the amount requested. The SAFER Grant Program provides much-needed funding for career and volunteer fire departments to hire new firefighters and recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. This program is critical to the thousands of fire stations across the country that are currently operating short of staff and to those seeking to retain current first responders in the face of the economic downturn and recovery.

3. \$11,002,000, 91 percent of my request, for the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program, which awards funding to organizations that help legal immigrants prepare for citizenship. Since the current immigration system does not always meet the comprehensive needs of immigrants, integration grants provide culturally sensitive and intentional services to uplift AAPI immigrants. Integration grants are critical as they prevent integration barriers, such as precluding applicants from registering to vote or to secure jobs that require U.S. citizenship.

4. \$111,590,000, 86.4 percent of my request, for Alternatives to Detention. These programs provide alternate detention options for low-priority AAPIs where detention is neither mandated nor appropriate. While some immigrants need to be detained because they pose a public safety or flight risk, many immigrants do not need to be jailed and should be placed in less costly supervision programs. A recent report reveals that 40% of individuals held in detention in October 2011 had no criminal history.

It is critical that this legislation continue to undergo further improvement and refinement before it is presented to the President for signature. As Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee, I will continue working with my colleagues across the aisle and in the Senate to ensure that our firefighters and other first responders have the resources needed to keep the American people safe.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern about the proposal in the President's budget request, which is included in this bill, to shift the responsibility for exit lane staffing from TSA to airport operators across this country.

Since November 2001, TSA has assumed responsibility for staffing exit lanes under the authority of Aviation and Transportation Security Act. Citing budget constraints, in the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Request, TSA has sought to shift the responsibility and costs for exit lane staffing to airport operators.

This move raises a number of concerns ably described by the Committee in the report accompanying this bill. Particularly troubling is TSA's intention to continue to collect money for performing this function through the Aviation Security Infrastructure Fee while passing the buck along to airports.

Like many of my colleagues, I have heard from my local airport—Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport—about the devastating impact this unfunded mandate would have on airport operators. Mineta airport is already paying \$200,000 per year to staff one exit lane because TSA decided it was not “co-located” with the checkpoint screening area, and it cannot absorb the additional costs for more exit lane staffing—over the last few

years, the airport has already reduced staff by more than 50 percent due to budget constraints.

At the end my statement is the text of a letter I received from the City of San Jose, CA's director of aviation on behalf of Mineta San Jose Airport outlining these concerns in greater detail.

Chairman CARTER and Ranking Member PRICE, I know that you were faced with a challenging task, working within the allocation given and trying to fill holes left by the budget request. And I know from the language you included in the report that you regret being unable to fill this hole in the budget.

I thank you for including language in the report directing TSA to work with airport operators to assess the impact of this change and consider delaying or at least phasing in this shift of responsibility until TSA can certify effective technology solutions that would reduce the cost for airport operators.

I hope that as we move this bill to the Senate and into conference, we will have a more favorable allocation to work with that will allow us to reject this ill-conceived proposal and protect already strapped airports from an unfunded mandate to perform duties that they have never had the responsibility for and which TSA is receiving fees to carry out.

MAY 30, 2013.

Hon. MIKE HONDA,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HONDA: I am writing to express my strong concern over the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) plan to shift responsibility—without funding—for monitoring passenger exit lanes onto airport operators. While all levels of government face tough budget decisions in the current economic environment, we need your help to prevent TSA from shifting this unfunded mandate onto our airport. TSA should also explain to the Congressional appropriators why shifting its security function to airports and airlines is not an abdication of its Federal responsibility under current law.

It is unconscionable that a Federal agency that is responsible for national security make a unilateral decision to shift a security responsibility and the associated costs to airport operators, particularly as there currently exists no regulation or other requirement which specifically assigns the responsibility for monitoring sterile area exit lanes to airport operators. Notably, this regulatory option does not “take into account benefits and costs, both quantitative and qualitative.” as stipulated by Presidential Executive Order 13563, Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review.

Congress, through the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (ATSA), delegated the responsibility for passenger and baggage screening to the TSA following the tragic events of September 11. It was decided by Congress that aviation security was a matter of national security and should be provided by the federal government.

Through the Aviation Security Infrastructure Fee (ASIF), based on the airlines' calendar year 2000 costs for passenger and property screening, TSA collects money from airlines to offset the cost of monitoring exit lanes. In fact, TSA provided to air carriers for use in determining their ASIF fee amount, “Calendar Year 2000 Costs for Passenger and Property Screening” (Appendix A to 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1511), which specifically includes, at line item “2”, the air carrier's costs for “Exit Lane Monitors”.

The TSA, with no Congressional review or legislation, has decided to impose the responsibility for exit lane monitoring on airports. Although the agency proposes to do this through an amendment to airports' Airport Security Programs, which the TSA unilaterally controls, industry will be afforded the opportunity to submit comments. However, TSA is neither required to consider those comments nor make any changes based on industry input.

It is time to take a close look at ATSA to see if its provisions are still appropriate or need some modifications or enhancements. This review should be done in a very thoughtful and deliberate way by the appropriate Congressional Committees, not by an agency that can make unilateral and arbitrary decisions. At minimum, TSA needs to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking and seek legislative changes to promulgate a requirement for airport operators to assume responsibility for monitoring exit lanes.

The cost implications of exit lane monitoring are significant for all airports, and in many cases, these costs will be passed on to airlines. Based on reports from some airport operators, the cost would range from approximately \$160,000 per year for a smaller airport to as much as \$2.5 million for a larger airport to monitor exit lanes in accordance with the way the TSA performs the function today. At Mineta San Jose the cost to take on the exit lane responsibility is now estimated at \$180,000 to \$200,000 a year. The Airport cannot absorb these costs through further reductions in staff and services. (Through the Great Recession of the past 4-5 years, the Airport has gone from a staff of 400 in 2008 to just 187 staff members today.) Accordingly, this additional cost would have to be passed on to the airlines through the Airport's rates and charges structure and ultimately be paid by passengers, who are already paying a fee to the airlines as part of their ticket, for security-related costs.

We ask that your office take action to put a stop to this unfunded mandate and require TSA to explain why shifting a security function and the associated costs to airports and airlines is not an abdication of its Federal responsibility under current legislation.

Members of my staff will be in touch with your office shortly to arrange for an opportunity to discuss this issue with you or your staff in more detail. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM F. SHERRY, A.A.E.,
Director of Aviation.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chair may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment who has caused it to be printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered read.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2217

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes, namely:

Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 112), and executive management of the Department of Homeland Security, as authorized by law, \$103,246,000: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$45,000 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided further*, That all official costs associated with the use of government aircraft by Department of Homeland Security personnel to support official travel of the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary shall be paid from amounts made available for the Immediate Office of the Secretary and the Immediate Office of the Deputy Secretary: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, with the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2015 submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, expenditure plans for the Office of Policy, the Office for Intergovernmental Affairs, the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman, and the Privacy Officer.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. MOORE

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 2, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$3,346,000)"

Page 9, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$4,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Wisconsin is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 1340

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill for fiscal year 2014. My amendment is intended to restore the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties to fiscal year '13 levels by transferring \$3,346,000 into the Office of the Secretary and Executive Management. The amendment is wholly offset. It is budget-neutral.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties is an integral part of ensuring that our rights and values are carried out through the Department of Homeland Security. Today, it is even more important than ever to ensure that this Office is adequately funded.

While this body continues to increase funding for immigration enforcement—and we expect even more funding and personnel to be added in any comprehensive immigration reform bill that we adopt—it is essential that we maintain adequate safeguards to protect our rights and liberties.

I offered a similar amendment last year that sought to provide the office funding that it requested to adequately review 287(g) and Secure Communities programs, and I thank the chairman and the ranking member for directing \$2.39 million to be used for review of these 287(g) programs.

As I mentioned last year, I remain gravely concerned about any 287(g) programs that have been found to facilitate racial profiling in our communities or enforcement programs that make it harder for immigrants, espe-

cially women victims, to get help from the police.

If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to insist on fully funding 287(g) programs, as they do here in this bill—\$44 million above the President's budget request and cited as one of the reasons for a White House veto—at the very least, we should have rigorous safeguards and oversight. And I'll tell you, I must question whether or not we're on a path that recognizes that oversight is paramount as we continue to allow local police to act as Federal immigration officers. The bill increases these programs for review of 287(g)s, but I question whether or not we really get it.

I am here today because I disagree with the approach of the bill. Specifically, the bill would cut the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties by 15.5 percent and then direct the office to pay for this increase of reviews for the 287(g) and Secure Communities programs by making further internal cuts to other essential areas of their mission.

In addition to oversight of 287(g) and Secure Community programs, the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties provides Homeland Security officials with advice on the full range of civil rights and civil liberties issues.

The office engages with communities that are disproportionately impacted by Homeland Security policies and activities. In 2005, the Office had regular roundtables with Arab Americans, Sikhs, Muslims, and other ethnic minorities. Today, they work in 13 core centers around the country.

The office investigates detention facility violations through site visits to ICE detention facilities to investigate civil rights violations.

Complaints from the public, oversight of intelligence collection, and, as I mentioned, comprehensive immigration reform has a chance of becoming a reality. And we know there's going to be a vast increase of enforcement funding and personnel for this Department, but we can't continue to balance essential rights with the security of our country if we play these zero-sum games. It is essential that we adequately fund the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties to implement changes to our immigration law in a way that respects our values that the country was founded upon.

Again, my amendment is budget-neutral, Mr. Chairman. It only transfers a very small amount, which is vital funding, to this \$21.6 million office.

I urge my colleagues to support this important amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is unnecessary since the bill already includes ample funding for necessary oversight of ICE's 287(g) program. In fact, on page 11 of the bill's accompanying report, it states:

Included within the amount recommended for the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties is a total of \$2,394,000 for reviews of 287(g) agreements and ICE's Secure Communities. These funds are in addition to the ongoing work of ICE's Office of Professional Responsibility and the DHS Office of Inspector General, who reviews 287(g) agreements for compliance.

So, while I certainly support robust oversight and also demand ICE's compliance with all applicable laws and standards therein pertaining to civil liberties and civil rights, I cannot support additional bureaucracy.

Furthermore, the offset to this amendment will cut CBP's Automation Modernization account—a cut that will impede CBP's processing of trade and result in longer wait times at our ports of entry, which are detrimental impacts to our economy which none of us can afford to accept.

Finally, I think I need to remind Members that the President's budget request decimated operational staffing and enforcement programs. This bill reversed that flawed approach and is holding DHS headquarters' resources in check. Therefore, I cannot support an amendment that increases headquarters staffing beyond what is necessary or what can be afforded, and does so at the expense of our economy.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly urge my colleagues to support fiscal discipline, support economic growth, and vote "no" on this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I want to express my support of this amendment by our colleague from Wisconsin to restore funding for the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

The bill before us provides \$18.3 million for the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, which is \$3.4 million below the budget request and \$3.3 million below current year funding. The amendment would simply restore funding for the Office to the fiscal 2013 enacted level.

Now, I want to commend Chairman CARTER for fully funding the much-needed oversight activities related to the troubled 287(g) program and to the Secure Communities program. Oversight of these programs is probably the highest priority for this office. But with just a little more funding, as provided in this amendment, we can go further to ensure the protection of civil rights and civil liberties across the Department's many functions, programs, and activities.

The Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties is the key mechanism at the Department of Homeland Security for ensuring that the proper balance is maintained between measures to protect the country and the personal freedoms that we cherish. So I thank the

gentlewoman for offering the amendment. It's a good amendment, a reasonable amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote, and pending that, I make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. REICHERT

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 2, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,838,000)".

Page 42, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,838,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 1350

Mr. REICHERT. I rise to offer an amendment to H.R. 2217, and I thank the chairman and Mr. DELANEY.

As a former law enforcement officer, I know very well the needs of first responders. That is why I am proposing that we increase funding for the United States Fire Administration by \$1.8 million.

This would restore total funding for the administration to the fiscal year 2013 level of \$44 million. My amendment is offset by cutting \$2.8 million from the Secretary of Homeland Security's departmental operation and administrative account. According to the CBO, the amendment would reduce net budget authority by \$1 million and will have no impact on fiscal year 2014 outlays.

Continued funding for the brave men and women who protect American citizens by fighting fires is extremely critical, as we all know. The fire death rate in the United States is one of the highest in the industrialized world. We can prevent deaths by ensuring that the USFA has better resources. Data collection, public education, research, and training are all ways the USFA works to reduce the Nation's fire death rate.

Last year, my district experienced record devastation from forest fires, fires that quickly burned out of control and threatened both homes and entire communities. Tens of thousands of acres were destroyed, and it took over 1,000 firefighters and volunteers to get them under control. Hundreds of families lost their homes, and it was only

due to the valiant efforts of our fire personnel that more were not lost.

One of the key roles of the USFA is to work to prepare and prevent those types of fires from happening. They do this by working directly with the local communities and stakeholders. They work to promote the adoption of local codes, protection plans, preventative measures, and much more. They are also a key component of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group, which coordinated wildland fire prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and response programs of various Federal agencies. They do all of this, not just to fight a common natural menace, but to protect lives.

I urge my colleagues to support this important amendment, which is endorsed by the International Association of Firefighters, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Congressional Fire Services Institute. Together, we can ensure the safety of our first responders and the American people they serve.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. DELANEY. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Maryland is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DELANEY. I rise in support of this amendment, and I thank Mr. REICHERT for his work on this amendment and for his care on this issue. This is a bipartisan and commonsense amendment. It ensures that we fully fund the USFA so that our firefighters receive world-class training.

Fires are not limited to Republican districts or to Democratic districts. Fires do not discriminate against rural or urban districts. Fires do not choose between districts on the coast or in our heartland—and, thankfully, neither do our firefighters. Firefighters serve us all. Across the Nation, when crisis strikes and when the flames begin, our brave firefighters rush in. They risk their lives to save ours. We should do everything we can to make sure that firefighters are trained well. That investment will directly result in more saved lives and fewer tragedies.

Mr. REICHERT has spoken very eloquently and with great care about the benefits of this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to add that one of the keystones of our firefighter education system is the National Fire Academy, located at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland. This training center in Emmitsburg is a world-class facility and is one of the most important assets in our public safety infrastructure. This is the only Federal facility of its kind. This facility is a tremendous public safety asset for our country. Thousands are trained in Emmitsburg each year. In western Maryland, we are proud to train heroes—heroes who save lives from Maine to Washington State, from Minnesota to Texas.

This amendment restores funding for our critical training facilities to pre-

sequester levels at no cost to the taxpayer. I truly thank my colleague for his work on this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I want to applaud Chairman CARTER for funding the Fire Administration at a level higher than the administration's request, but the bill before us still provides a slight decrease in funding when compared to the current year. I believe this increase is warranted. The Fire Administration, as we all know, plays a critical role in training our first responders, in enhancing the security of our infrastructure, and in better preparing the response capabilities of our communities.

I do want to register a concern, Mr. Chairman, about the offset for this amendment in that the money is taken from the Office of the Under Secretary for Management, and this is at a time when departmental management funding is already in this bill—\$302 million below the request and \$147 million below the fiscal 2013 pre-sequestration level.

In dealing with this on the way to conference, we are going to have to pay attention to that offset. However, this is an important amendment, as the Fire Administration is important to all of us, and I urge the adoption of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I want to congratulate Mr. REICHERT for his amendment. I think it is necessary, and I approve of it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. REICHERT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. POLIS

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 2, line 17, under "Departmental Management and Operations Departmental Operations Office of the Secretary and Executive Management", after the first dollar amount insert "(increased by \$4,359,200)".

Under "U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Salaries and Expenses"—

(1) after the first dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$43,592,000)"; and

(2) after the sixth dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,400,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, the 287(g) program has become increasingly controversial and increasingly recognized as a costly failure.

By allowing local police officers to effectively act as Federal agents and immigration officials, it not only increases crime by taking local cops off the beat and not only costs taxpayers money at a time when we have an over \$600 billion deficit, but it also creates fear in Latino communities and in other immigrant communities. 287(g) exacerbates tensions and interferes with community policing and the efforts of law enforcement to gain the trust of people in the communities that they need in order to be able to do their jobs well. In effect, it has trained local law enforcement officials to use racial profiling, asking community members where they are born or if they are in this country legally.

Now, the 287(g) program has become infamous because of the implementation in Maricopa County under Sheriff Joe Arpaio and his racial profiling. The practices sanctioned under 287(g) have led to an unprecedented civil rights investigation by the Department of Justice and an independent civil suit. Even Sheriff Arpaio has acknowledged that the Department of Homeland Security directed him and his officers to use racial profiling as part of their policing practices in identifying individuals for deportation.

You know that, if Sheriff Arpaio is citing a Federal expenditure as the justification for his actions, there must be a problem with that Federal expenditure—and in fact there is.

In the fiscal year 2014 bill, the House Appropriations Committee has funded 287(g) at \$44 million above the White House request. The White House has even threatened to veto the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill, listing as one of its concerns that, in fact, the 287(g) program has been largely replaced by other enforcement mechanisms, like Secure Communities. Now, we don't all agree on Secure Communities, but there is increasing consensus on all sides of the aisle that 287(g) has no place in our communities or in our budget. It doesn't help combat illegal immigration. In fact, it makes it worse, and it increases crime in our communities.

□ 1400

This amendment will allocate 10 percent of that funding to the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and 90 percent toward deficit reduction. By seeking to cut the funding for a program that relies on racial profiling and increases crime, we're sending a clear message that we won't tolerate any more Arpaios, we care about the budget deficit, and we want to cut wasteful government spending.

Programs like 287(g) have created mistrust between Latinos and other immigrant communities throughout this country and local law enforcement and interfered with community policing. Eliminating 287(g) once and for all will begin to repair the trust that's been lost over the last decade. It will help local law enforcement fight crime,

instead of trying to implement failed Federal laws, and will be a step forward in the ultimate goal of this Congress of fixing our broken immigration system and restoring the rule of law so that we can grow our economy and decrease crime.

This amendment is very simple. It would save \$44 million from a wasteful government spending program, allocate just over \$4 million of that to address some of the cuts that have been made to the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and use the bulk of that for the deficit reduction account.

Let's come together, Democrats and Republicans, to go after wasteful government spending and counterproductive government spending, as it is in this case.

With that, I strongly encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. Robust enforcement of our immigration laws is critical to our national security. Clearly, the 287(g) program supports that goal.

Under the 287(g) program, ICE enters into a partnership with State and local enforcement agencies and authorizes them to remove criminal aliens who are a threat to local communities. In effect, the program acts as a force multiplier and ensures more resources to enforce immigration laws and policy. In fact, since January of 2006, the 287(g) program is credited with identifying more than 279,311 potentially removable aliens, mostly at local jails.

ICE's cross-designation of more than 1,500 State and local patrol officers, detectives, investigators, and correctional officers allows them to pursue a wide range of investigations, such as human smuggling, gang/organized crime activity, and money laundering. In addition, participating entities are eligible for increased resources and support in more remote geographic locations.

Currently, ICE has 287(g) agreements with 75 law enforcement agencies in 24 States. Utilizing these funds as an offset takes resources from local sheriffs, police officers, and other first responders and puts it in the hands of a bureaucrat at DHS headquarters.

And while I appreciate the gentleman's suggestion that the deficit is too high, I reject his choice of balancing the budget by jeopardizing public safety and law enforcement.

To his point that the deficit must be reduced, let me point my colleagues to other provisions in the bill that instill fiscal discipline by cutting departmental administrative expenses and bureaucratic overhead by nearly 25 percent and by denying the President's request to create three new offices.

For these reasons, I oppose the amendment, urge Members to join me in opposition, and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the gentleman from Colorado's amendment.

The gentleman's amendment eliminates increased funding in the bill for the critically flawed 287(g) program, and it increases funding for the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. I want to support the gentleman on both of these fronts.

As our colleague has noted, the 287(g) program designed to facilitate cooperation between Federal and local authorities and immigration enforcement, is, in fact, prone to serious abuse. It's fundamentally flawed in the way it blurs the line between Federal and local roles in immigration enforcement.

Moreover, it simply wastes money. It is very costly. The cost to the taxpayer per removal in the task force model of 287(g) is especially outrageous: \$32,789 per removal. Compare that to only \$1,500 per removal under the more workable and more appropriate Secure Communities program. So not only is 287(g) flawed and prone to abuse, it's also simply a waste of taxpayer dollars, and it's increasingly redundant as the Secure Communities program takes effect.

The gentleman is redirecting money, I think, in a useful way to the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. The most important activity of that office is to oversee this problematic 287(g) program, as well as secure communities. And the funding level in the bill is short of the request; it's short of the current year's funding. So with a little more funding, we can enable the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties to do its job in a much better way.

Ideally, Mr. Chairman, this amendment would address other seriously shortchanged areas of the bill. For example, cybersecurity, Coast Guard acquisitions, human trafficking, Secret Service. We can think of a lot. I would like to see some of those things addressed, as well as the deficit reduction item. But I believe this amendment greatly improves this bill both in the money it saves and in the money it redirects.

With that, I urge its adoption and yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Polis-Chu-Cardenas amendment to strike Federal funding for the 287(g) program.

287(g) is a misguided program. While it claims to help enforce our immigration laws, it actually diverts critical law enforcement resources and makes our communities less safe. By encouraging the police to do the Federal Government's job, 287(g) breeds mistrust in

Ms. CHU. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Polis-Chu-Cardenas amendment to strike Federal funding for the 287(g) program.

287(g) is a misguided program. While it claims to help enforce our immigration laws, it actually diverts critical law enforcement resources and makes our communities less safe. By encouraging the police to do the Federal Government's job, 287(g) breeds mistrust in local law enforcement. Immigrants worry that they will be punished or deported if they talk to the police. This means that victims will choose to suffer in silence. This means fewer witnesses will come forward to help solve crimes.

And this isn't just about undocumented immigrants being scared to come forward. Citizens and legal residents are holding back too. That's because the 287(g) program is a tool that too often relies on racial profiling. Take the case of Sheriff Arpaio in Maricopa County, Arizona. Just a few weeks ago, a Federal judge ruled that he and his deputies violated the constitutional rights of Latinos by targeting them during raids and traffic stops. It's no wonder that 44 percent of Latinos surveyed across the country said they were less likely now to contact police if they were victims of a crime. That's why 10 percent of the funding for 287(g) in this bill will be transferred to the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties that investigates allegations of racial profiling against immigrant communities.

Law enforcement officials from across the country oppose 287(g) because it's getting in the way of their real job: stopping crime and keeping people safe. The 287(g) program takes cops away from going after violent criminals to focus instead on civil violations. According to FBI and census data, 61 percent of 287(g) localities had violent and property crime indices lower than the national average. Former LA Police Chief Bill Bratton decided not to participate in the 287(g) program because his officers "can't prevent or solve crimes if victims or witnesses are unwilling to talk to us. Criminals are the biggest beneficiaries when immigrants fear the police."

As if that weren't bad enough, the Department of Homeland Security's own inspector general couldn't tell if the 287(g) money was being used for its intended purpose. In the same 2010 program, the IG cited insufficient oversight and supervision of the 287(g) program by ICE, an ineffective complaint system for abuse, and a lack of focus on their local partners' civil rights issues.

To keep our neighborhoods safe, we need the entire community to come together to solve crimes. Without it, the LAPD would never have solved the murder of Juan Garcia, a 53-year-old homeless man who was brutally killed in an alley just west of downtown Los Angeles in 2009.

□ 1410

At first, the police were stumped. There were no known witnesses and few clues. Then a 43-year-old undocumented immigrant who witnessed the crime came forward and told the homicide detectives what he saw. Because of his help, a suspect was identified and arrested a few days later while hiding on skid row. Because the witnesses were not afraid to contact the police, an accused murderer was taken off the streets, and we are all a little bit safer. We need to end this program today and ensure that no murder, no theft, no assault goes unsolved because of misguided policies like 287(g).

I urge you to vote in favor of the Polis-Chu-Cardenas amendment and end funding for 287(g). It's time to let police fight crime, not illegal immigration.

I yield back the balance of my time. The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR
MANAGEMENT

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Management, as authorized by sections 701 through 705 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341 through 345), \$171,173,000, of which not to exceed \$2,250 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, \$4,020,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2015, solely for the alteration and improvement of facilities, tenant improvements, and relocation costs to consolidate Department headquarters operations at the Nebraska Avenue Complex; and \$7,815,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2015, for the Human Resources Information Technology program: *Provided further*, That the Under Secretary for Management shall, pursuant to the requirements contained in House Report 112-331, submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives at the time the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2015 is submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, a Comprehensive Acquisition Status Report, which shall include the information required under the heading "Office of the Under Secretary for Management" under title I of division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-74), and quarterly updates to such report not later than 45 days after the completion of each quarter.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. POE OF TEXAS

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$10,000,000)".

Page 10, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank you, and I want to thank Judge CARTER as well.

This amendment is relatively simple. It started back in March of 2010. On March 27, 2010, a rancher by the name of Rob Krentz was on his own property about 20 miles north of the Arizona-Mexico border, and he was murdered. Even now 3 years later, the killer or killers have not been captured. When he was found by the people who lived there, his wife, Sue, was convinced one of the reasons he was murdered was he was in a certain area of his ranch that's a dead zone. Dead zones, Mr. Chairman, exist along the Arizona-Mexico border, the Texas-Mexico border, and are areas where there is no cell phone service. Ranchers rely many times on short-wave radios to communicate with each other and law enforcement. Basically, Rob Krentz could not call for help before he was murdered.

This legislation first started when Gabby Giffords was here in Congress. She proposed in 2010 that we fix that problem by taking about \$10 million from the Office of the Under Secretary of Management of DHS and move it to the Border Security, Fencing, Infrastructure and Technology account with the purpose of allowing the ranchers to have access to cell phone service so they can call for help when they're in trouble. The legislation has passed twice, but has not passed the Senate and become law.

So this legislation is being brought to the House again for the third time. I appreciate the support from my friend, HENRY CUELLAR from Laredo, Texas. It's commonsense legislation. There are portions of the border that are not secure, and those portions, those dead zones, let's help the ranchers so they can call for help when they are in trouble. That's what this legislation does.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I am happy to accept this amendment from my colleague and friend, Judge POE, which provides \$10 million for CBP to procure additional equipment for surveillance and detection at both the southern and northern borders.

Some of the technological solutions CBP procures for border security include integrated fixed towers, tactical communication, and tethered aerostat radar systems. All these systems increase situational awareness and assist law enforcement personnel as they identify and resolve illegal activity. In effect, they become a workforce multiplier, freeing agents to focus on other vital tasks like identifying, tracking, interdicting, and resolving events along the border.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 13, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 4, line 14, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 8, line 6, after the first dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 35, line 25, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 37, line 7, after the dollar amount insert “(increased by \$22,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Chairman, I have come to the floor today, along with my colleague, Mr. HORSFORD, to offer a very simple amendment because we must do everything we can to protect our cities, towns, and communities.

The Urban Area Security Initiative, according to the Department of Homeland Security, dedicates funds to:

Address the unique planning, organization, equipment, training and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas, and assists them in building an enhanced and sustainable capacity to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism.

However, due to a recent change in qualification criteria, a number of major metropolitan areas will be going without UASI funds despite being qualified for such funds last year. Those areas that will be without funds to prevent and respond to threats include Riverside, California; Portland, Oregon; Orlando, Florida; Indianapolis, Indiana; New Orleans, Louisiana; San Antonio, Texas; Kansas City, Missouri; and Las Vegas, Nevada. Now, if those sound like high-threat, high-density locations to you, you'd be correct. They are. Yet despite recent events, they are not going to be receiving UASI funds this year.

Now, I cannot speak for all of these areas, Mr. Chairman, but I can tell you that Las Vegas, which holds more high-profile, highly attended events than any city in the country, is worthy of UASI funding.

In Las Vegas, law enforcement has to not only defend the Las Vegas metro area, which includes the fabulous Las Vegas Strip with more densely packed hotel rooms than any other city in our country, but also has high-threat areas outside the city, like the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, which holds 140,000 people, and the Hoover Dam, which is not only a popular tourist attraction, but a source of electrical power for more than 1 million people across the southwestern United States.

So today, I have a very simple amendment to the bill. The amendment decreases funding under four different accounts as outlined previously and redirects those amounts to the Urban Area Security Initiative for the purpose of funding the program to the top 35 eligible metropolitan areas.

Now I recognize that as our debt continues to increase, we must work to rein in wasteful spending, and I recognize that all of the funding in the world isn't going to prevent every attack.

But in this case, don't we think the safety and well-being of our cities and communities, our families and our children, are a worthy expense? Don't we believe they deserve our support?

My amendment goes to the very heart of the core functions of our democratic government, Mr. Chairman. Our Constitution states that our Federal Government must “insure domestic tranquility” and “provide for the common defense.” That is the issue at hand with my amendment.

As someone who has worked on the front lines of homeland security as a SWAT physician and emergency preparedness consultant, as well as someone who has worn the uniform in the U.S. Army Reserve, I believe that overlooking the risks faced by the top 35 cities would be a mistake, and we should provide them the funding they need. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Nevada is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Chairman, this bipartisan amendment that I am offering along with Congressman HECK would help address some of our concerns about the calculations in the Urban Area Security Initiative funding formula. UASI provides critical funding to cities that are at risk for a terrorist attack.

□ 1420

As a member of the authorizing committee for the Department of Homeland Security, I want to work with the appropriators on this concern.

I have become deeply concerned about how the formula currently being used by the Department of Homeland Security will determine eligibility for this funding. The formula sometimes counts multiple buildings as a single site, something that shortchanges the Las Vegas Strip. It also punishes cities for successfully implementing anti-terror programs. Well, we should not be the victims of our own success.

As it stands now, critical anti-terror programs for major tourist destinations around the country are being defunded, including for Las Vegas, New Orleans, and Orlando, to name a few. That's the Las Vegas Strip, the site of Mardi Gras, and Disney World.

This is not an issue of budget cuts. It's an issue of prioritization. It's an issue of a faulty policy that completely ignores some major international tourist destinations and the threat posed to them.

During a recent House Homeland Security Committee hearing, I asked Boston Police Commissioner Edward Davis about the value of the UASI program in responding to the tragic events of the Boston Marathon attack.

Commissioner Davis told the committee that if it were not for UASI “there would have been more people

who would have died in these attacks. It is critical that we maintain that funding to urban areas.”

He stressed that this is not a frivolous expenditure. It's something that works. It's something that our sheriff is asking for, it's something that our mayor of Las Vegas is asking for, and it's something the people on the ground, the first responders, desperately need.

I visited the Southern Nevada Counter-Terrorism Center recently. They do incredible work in keeping the 2 million residents and the 40 million tourists who come to southern Nevada safe.

In studies on terrorist targets, however, the RAND Corporation has stated that Las Vegas “stands out in having a high proportion of high-likelihood targets compared to the Nation as a whole.”

The same study also reports that the unique composition of hotels, casinos, and skyscrapers “increases the overall attack probability in Las Vegas relative to other cities in the same likelihood tier.”

Yet, in my home State of Nevada, Mr. Chairman, we face reduced UASI funding because of flaws in the Relative Risk Profile model that has inappropriately dropped Las Vegas' ranking as a likely terrorist target.

We need a serious reevaluation of the funding formula for UASI. It is wrong that Las Vegas has dropped in ranking, and it is wrong that we will face reduced funds because of faulty calculations.

I urge adoption of this amendment, and I look forward to continuing to work with the appropriators on addressing this very important concern to the safety of our domestic homefront.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. The bill before us today was born out of a need for reform. It consolidates disparate grant programs, provides discretion to the Secretary while balancing fiscal discipline.

In total, this bill provides for \$2.5 billion for Homeland Security First Responder Grants. This is \$400 million above the President's request for fiscal year 2014 and \$35 million above fiscal year 2013.

This bill prioritizes our funding. The consolidation in this bill forces the Secretary to examine the intelligence and risk and put scarce dollars where they are needed most, whether it is port, rail, surveillance, or access and hardening projects, or whether it is to high-risk urban areas or to States, as opposed to reverse engineering projects to fill the amount designated for one of many programs.

This does not mean lower-risk cities will lose all funding. It means the funds will come from other programs,

such as State homeland grants that are risk-and formula-based.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support fiscal discipline and vote "no" on this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I want to join the chairman in opposing this well-intentioned amendment.

The amendment would cannibalize various administrative accounts throughout the bill, the Office of the Secretary for Executive Management, the Chief Financial Officer, the CBP Salaries and Expenses, FEMA Salaries and Expenses, somewhat obscure accounts, you might say; but, nonetheless, accounts that are vital to the Department's functioning. It would cannibalize these accounts and put \$22 million more in grants, presumably for urban grants, UASI.

Now, the grant programs can always use more money. I've championed those programs for years, especially the risk-based UASI program. But we need to think carefully what this amendment is really about.

This is a risky path for this body to go down. It really seems to be about adding cities to UASI, adding cities.

Now, UASI-eligible cities, and there are 25 of them, are picked on a risk basis. There's a formula involving threat and vulnerability and consequence. The estimates are updated every year. This is probably the most strictly risk-based assessment that DHS undertakes.

Do we really want to substitute that for picking these cities on the House floor?

I'm afraid that's what this amendment is all about, or at least it's the path that it could put us on. And so, therefore, I urge its rejection.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HECK).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. HECK of Nevada. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Nevada will be postponed.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. RUNYAN

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

Page 40, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

Page 40, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,500,000)".

Page 41, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,500,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Chair, my budget-neutral amendment, authored with my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), who was going to be here on the floor today but is attending Senator Lautenberg's memorial service this afternoon, supports our Nation's firefighters in two critical ways.

The FIRE and SAFER grant programs are two need-based, Department of Homeland Security-administered programs that go directly to local fire departments throughout the country. This amendment supports volunteer and career firefighters by giving them resources to purchase highly specialized equipment necessary to carry out their mission.

Mr. Chair, we all recognize the budget pressures facing our Federal Government and the need to prioritize where our tax dollars are spent. FIRE and SAFER grants are a very important partnership with local fire departments and invest in our communities and increase the safety of our constituents.

For that reason, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this amendment, which helps to ensure firefighters have the resources they need.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I rise simply to express support of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I accept the gentleman's amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I stand to urge my colleagues to support this amendment to provide \$5 million in additional funding for Firefighter Assistance Grants. This funding would be equally divided between the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) programs, which provide equipment and staffing assistance for local fire departments.

In my work to develop the AFG and SAFER programs, I envisioned them as ways to fill needs that local budgets sometimes can't. As we all know, in today's tough budget environment, many states and towns are strapped for cash and have asked their first responders to make sacrifices. These are the times when AFG and SAFER are most important.

These programs put more firefighters on our streets and provide better equipment to keep them safe. For example, in New Jersey's Ninth Congressional District, the towns of Garfield and North Arlington have recently received hundreds of thousands of dollars in AFG assistance for the purchase of electronic accountability systems and Self Contained

Breathing Apparatuses. These firefighters are risking their lives to protect our lives and property, and we owe it to them to ensure that they are protected with the best possible equipment.

Earlier this year, my hometown of Paterson received a SAFER grant of almost \$7 million to prevent the layoff of 40 firefighters and allow the city to hire 9 new firefighters to replace retirees. This funding goes directly to job creation in our local communities while helping our departments to maintain adequate staffing levels for public safety.

I am relieved that President Obama signed into law reauthorizations for AFG and SAFER this January after the program authorizations had been allowed to lapse. Now we must continue to provide adequate funding. Working together in a bipartisan manner, we have been able to restore over \$800 million in proposed cuts to AFG and SAFER over the past 3 years. I am proud that the Fire Caucus gathered the signatures of over 140 on a bipartisan letter to the Appropriations Committee opposing any cuts to these critical programs in FY 2014.

I would like to thank Mr. RUNYAN for his work on this amendment and this issue, as well as Chairman CARTER and Ranking Member PRICE for their work on this bill and for allowing this amendment. Our firefighters are on the front lines of our homeland security. I urge my colleagues to support their local firefighters by supporting this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. RUNYAN). The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1430

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GRIMM

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 3, line 13, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$7,667,000)".

Page 35, line 25, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$7,667,000)".

Page 36, line 21, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$7,667,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRIMM. I rise today in support of my amendment that would fund the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System at \$35.18 million, which is level funding compared to FY 2013 but still reflects a reduction of roughly \$6 million from fiscal year 2012.

The National Urban Search and Rescue Response System, or US&R, provides a significant national resource for search and rescue assistance in the wake of major disasters and structural collapse. A typical US&R task force will conduct physical search and rescue operations, provide emergency medical care to trapped victims, assess and control hazards such as ruptured gas and electric lines, and evaluate and stabilize damaged structures. Due to the critical lifesaving nature of their mission, US&R task forces must be prepared to deploy within 6 hours of notification and must be self-sufficient for the first 72 hours.

care to trapped victims, assess and control hazards such as ruptured gas and electric lines, and evaluate and stabilize damaged structures. Due to the critical lifesaving nature of their mission, US&R task forces must be prepared to deploy within 6 hours of notification and must be self-sufficient for the first 72 hours.

These teams have been deployed in responses to the Oklahoma tornadoes, Superstorm Sandy, the Japanese tsunami, the Haiti earthquake, Hurricane Katrina, 9/11 attacks, and many, many other disasters. Current Federal funding for the Nation's US&R teams only provides a fraction of the funds necessary to maintain each task force. It's important to note the recent devastation left in the wake of the Oklahoma tornadoes, as well as Superstorm Sandy, and the subsequent response underscore the importance of the national search and rescue capacity. Providing proper funding for the Urban Search and Rescue Response System will help ensure these highly skilled teams are available to respond to major emergencies without jeopardizing the budget priorities of our local first responders.

I'd also like to thank my colleague and friend from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), who's the lead cosponsor of this amendment and a strong, strong advocate for the Urban Search and Rescue program.

Therefore, I urge you to vote "yes" on this amendment and properly fund this critical program, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY. I am pleased to join my colleague once again in sponsoring this important amendment to restore funding to our Nation's elite Urban Search and Rescue teams.

Our modest, simple, straightforward amendment, which has the support of the International Association of Firefighters, would provide level funding, as my colleague just indicated, for the Department to continue supporting the 28 national teams currently spread across 19 States, including our respective home States of New York and Virginia.

When people are trapped in the unstable rubble of a collapsed building, the window of survivability can be measured in hours. Without highly trained responders, rescue attempts can actually imperil victims and rescuers alike. Thankfully, because of this training, we have made strategic investments in specialized research and search and rescue teams. These elite firefighters and emergency medical technicians are not just first responders, though they are that. For people awaiting rescue, they are often the last hope.

As my colleagues are aware, federally supported search and rescue responders

were on the scene recently in Oklahoma after the tornadoes there and in New Jersey and New York after Superstorm Sandy last year.

Prior to coming to Congress, Mr. Chairman, I served for 14 years in local government in Fairfax County, Virginia. For 9 of those years, I shared an office with the fire department. I saw daily the selfless dedication of men and women who put their lives at risk in service to others. Fairfax County is home to one of the most elite US&R teams in the country—in fact, in the world. In partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Agency for International Development, FEMA, and Fairfax County government, the team serves American interests both here at home and abroad.

The team is comprised of highly skilled career and volunteer fire and rescue personnel whose daily duties are to serve the community by responding to local fire and medical emergencies. But when called into service, that team, designated as Virginia Task Force One, is mobilized for quick response to domestic disasters, natural or manmade, with special expertise in collapsed building rescue.

Our team was deployed in Oklahoma City in the wake of the terrorist bombing in 1995 and was among the first on the scene at the Pentagon on 9/11. It was also dispatched to Mississippi and Louisiana in response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. It has answered the call for help in multiple States, including California, North Carolina, Texas, Florida, Kansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, to name a few.

When disaster strikes, whether natural or manmade, domestically or internationally, the US&R teams have rushed to the scene, saving countless lives and preserving and protecting property. Their heroic efforts have shown this to be a wise investment that absolutely must be maintained.

I urge my colleagues to support the Grimm-Connolly amendment to ensure that this successful partnership with our local partners and first responders is sustained, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I accept this good amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I, too, rise in qualified support of this amendment. When disasters strike, these Urban Search and Rescue Teams stand ready for FEMA deployment, complete with unique tools and equipment and training.

I do want to register another concern about the cannibalizing of manage-

ment accounts that this amendment, along with other amendments, is undertaking to do. We're already \$302 million below the request and \$147 million below our fiscal 2013, pre-sequestration, in this departmental management funding, so we've got to pay attention to this as we take this amendment to conference. We've got to have a better offset.

Having said that, I do think this is a meritorious amendment, well justified. I urge its adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GRIMM).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. LYNCH

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 19, line 1, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$15,676,000)".

Page 3, line 13, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$15,676,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

Mr. Chairman, my amendment increases surface transportation security funding by about \$15.6 million, bringing it to the enacted FY 2013 level of \$124.3 million. This would be offset by a reduction in a similar amount to the Office of the Under Secretary for Management.

Last April, the United States received a chilling reminder that it remains a target for attacks by terrorists and their sympathizers when two men detonated bombs in my home city at the finish line of the Boston Marathon. Just 1 week later, authorities foiled a plot to attack a passenger train running between Canada and the U.S.

After the September 11, 2001, attacks, we, as a Nation, undertook—and rightly so—a massive effort to strengthen aviation security. We invested significant resources into making our skies safer. I strongly supported those efforts but would also caution that we cannot forget that other forms of transportation remain vulnerable to attack.

Since fiscal year 2002, \$69.3 billion in funding has been dedicated to aviation security. However, during that same period, surface transportation security has been funded at about \$3.3 billion. Less than 5 percent of our transportation security funding has gone to our transit systems—our rails and buses.

Now it is sometimes said that our military planners are guilty of fighting the last war. I believe that in the war on terror, my fear is that it may be the case here.

□ 1440

Over the last number of years, we have seen buses and passenger rail systems targeted throughout Europe and Asia. I'll just mention a few.

As I mentioned, in April of 2013, there was an al Qaeda-linked plot to attack a passenger train running between New York and Toronto. In July 2006, seven bomb blasts over 11 minutes took place in a suburban railway in Mumbai; 209 were killed and over 700 injured.

In March 2004, coordinated bombings on the Madrid commuter rail system resulted in 191 killed and 1,800 injured. In February 2004, two suicide bombers attacked the Moscow metro stations; at least 40 were killed and over 100 injured. As well in Israel, France and Japan, they have suffered similar attacks on their bus and railway systems.

Many people don't realize that U.S. passenger rail systems carry about five times as many people as do airlines. For a potential terrorist looking to cause as much damage and panic as possible, we cannot ignore the fact that our rails and buses are a target. This amendment is one step to better secure our surface transportation systems that move millions of Americans each and every day.

I urge my colleagues to support both this amendment and the main bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to accept the amendment. I, too, have concerns about surface rail.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I want to commend the gentleman on his attention to the very real vulnerabilities of surface rail, his attention to this, and I urge acceptance of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, as authorized by section 103 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 113), \$41,242,000, of which \$4,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2015, for financial systems modernization efforts: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, at the time that the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2015 is submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Future Years Homeland Security Program and a comprehensive report compiled in conjunction with the Government Accountability Office that details updated missions, goals, strategies, priorities, along with performance metrics that are measurable, repeatable, and directly linked to requests for

funding, as described in the accompanying report.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Information Officer, as authorized by section 103 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 113), and Department-wide technology investments, \$210,735,000; of which \$99,397,000 shall be available for salaries and expenses; and of which \$111,338,000, to remain available until September 30, 2015, shall be available for development and acquisition of information technology equipment, software, services, and related activities for the Department of Homeland Security: *Provided*, That the Department of Homeland Security Chief Information Officer shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, at the time that the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2015 is submitted pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, a multi-year investment and management plan, to include each of fiscal years 2014 through 2017, for all information technology acquisition projects funded under this heading or funded by multiple components of the Department of Homeland Security through reimbursable agreements, that includes—

(1) the proposed appropriations included for each project and activity tied to mission requirements, program management capabilities, performance levels, and specific capabilities and services to be delivered;

(2) the total estimated cost and projected timeline of completion for all multi-year enhancements, modernizations, and new capabilities that are proposed in such budget or underway;

(3) a detailed accounting of operations and maintenance and contractor services costs; and

(4) a current acquisition program baseline for each project, that—

(A) notes and explains any deviations in cost, performance parameters, schedule, or estimated date of completion from the original acquisition program baseline;

(B) aligns the acquisition programs covered by the baseline to mission requirements by defining existing capabilities, identifying known capability gaps between such existing capabilities and stated mission requirements, and explaining how each increment will address such known capability gaps; and

(C) defines life-cycle costs for such programs.

ANALYSIS AND OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for intelligence analysis and operations coordination activities, as authorized by title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121 et seq.), \$291,623,000; of which not to exceed \$3,825 shall be for official reception and representation expenses; and of which \$89,334,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2015.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), \$113,903,000, of which not to exceed \$300,000 may be used for certain confidential operational expenses, including the payment of informants, to be expended at the direction of the Inspector General.

TITLE II

SECURITY, ENFORCEMENT, AND INVESTIGATIONS

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for enforcement of laws relating to border security, immigration, customs, agricultural inspections and

regulatory activities related to plant and animal imports, and transportation of unaccompanied minor aliens; purchase and lease of up to 7,500 (6,500 for replacement only) police-type vehicles; and contracting with individuals for personal services abroad; \$8,275,983,000; of which \$3,274,000 shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for administrative expenses related to the collection of the Harbor Maintenance Fee pursuant to section 9505(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 9505(c)(3)) and notwithstanding section 1511(e)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 551(e)(1)); of which not to exceed \$34,425 shall be for official reception and representation expenses; of which such sums as become available in the Customs User Fee Account, except sums subject to section 13031(f)(3) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(f)(3)), shall be derived from that account; of which not to exceed \$150,000 shall be available for payment for rental space in connection with preclearance operations; and of which not to exceed \$1,000,000 shall be for awards of compensation to informants, to be accounted for solely under the certificate of the Secretary of Homeland Security: *Provided*, That for fiscal year 2014, the overtime limitation prescribed in section 5(c)(1) of the Act of February 13, 1911 (19 U.S.C. 267(c)(1)) shall be \$35,000; and notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated by this Act shall be available to compensate any employee of U.S. Customs and Border Protection for overtime, from whatever source, in an amount that exceeds such limitation, except in individual cases determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security, or the designee of the Secretary, to be necessary for national security purposes, to prevent excessive costs, or in cases of immigration emergencies: *Provided further*, That the Border Patrol shall maintain an active duty presence of not less than 21,370 full-time equivalent agents protecting the borders of the United States in the fiscal year.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GARCIA

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 8, line 6, after the first dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$10,000,000)".

Page 12, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$10,000,000)".

Page 12, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$3,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Chairman, my amendment seeks to increase by \$10 million the funding for Customs and Border Protection staffing and to decrease by \$10 million the funding for the controversial 287(g) immigration enforcement program.

At a time when our economy is just starting to pick up steam, this amendment is intended to promote trade, travel, tourism, and investment through our Nation's airports and ultimately support our economic recovery.

As the busiest airport in the United States for international flights and the Gateway to the Americas, Miami International Airport is a vital economic engine for south Florida and our country. Unfortunately, MIA has been among the worst hit with inadequate

Customs and Border Patrol staffing levels. On the worst peak travel days, we have over 3½ hours of waiting time, and sometimes up to 800 missed connections.

If we want to continue being the top destination for foreign investors, for immigrants, for tourists, for visitors, and for business people, we need to ensure we have adequate CBP staffing to handle our growing number of visitors.

While these personnel shortages are especially acute at MIA, these delays are prevalent at international hubs throughout the country, impeding the trade, travel, tourism, and investment that we need to fuel our economic recovery and create jobs.

This amendment seeks to reduce the funding of the section 287(g) program to enable the increase of funding for CBP staffing. This immigration enforcement program has been controversial and criticized for many years and has been made increasingly redundant by the development and expansion of other questionable programs, like Secure Communities.

While this appropriations bill provides \$68 million in funding for 287(g), that amount exceeds the request from the Department of Homeland Security by \$44 million, that is, a \$44 million increase over the request.

Both the Major Cities Chiefs Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police have expressed strong concerns about section 287(g)'s program, which undermines public safety and diverts limited law enforcement resources, and exacerbates fear and distrust in our communities. And if that wasn't enough, other immigration enforcement programs like Secure Communities have replaced the need for 287(g), and yet we are continuing to fund a practically defunct program. I believe these funds are better spent in promoting American commerce at our Nation's airports and invigorating our economy.

I urge my colleagues to support what I think is a very sensible and important amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. Not only do I oppose the increase of \$10 million for additional CBP officers; I oppose the offset suggested to pay for the increase.

As drafted, the bill provides for \$105 million for hiring 1,600 officers over a 2-year period. In fact, we provide funds sufficient to cover the costs of no less than 21,186 CBP officers, which sets a historical precedent.

The reason we took this incremental approach into hiring 1,600 new officers is because CBP's staffing and deployment plan was not linked to its goals for border security. To address these concerns, the report includes language directing CBP to provide a more complete 5-year staffing and deployment plan.

Furthermore, an internal audit revealed systemic failures within CBP's budget formulation for salaries and benefits of its operational workforce. And though I believe taking a go-slow approach to hiring just makes sense, I oppose the offset, which decreases funds for the 287(g) program.

Under the 287(g) program, ICE enters into partnerships with State and local law enforcement agencies and authorizes them to remove criminal aliens who are a threat to local communities. In effect, the program acts as a force multiplier to ensure more resources to enforce immigration laws and policies. In fact, since 2006, the 287 program has been credited with identifying more than 279,311 potentially removable aliens, mostly from local jails.

So I oppose this amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment. I think it's a positive contribution to the bill. It improves the balance in the bill, both in what it proposes—positively—and also what it cuts. I think we can use the additional funds in CBP for additional officers. And as has been said many times on this floor today, the 287(g) is flawed and wasteful and can well afford this kind of cut.

So I commend the gentleman on both fronts—adding to the right things, cutting the right things—and I urge adoption of his amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GARCIA).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida will be postponed.

□ 1450

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

AUTOMATION MODERNIZATION

For necessary expenses for U.S. Customs and Border Protection for operation and improvement of automated systems, including salaries and expenses, \$707,897,000; of which \$325,526,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016; and of which not less than \$140,762,000 shall be for the development of the Automated Commercial Environment.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. TIPTON

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 9, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(decreased by \$7,655,000)".

Page 49, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$7,655,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, as I stand here, wildfires are burning in my district and in the State of Colorado. The bark beetle epidemic, rampant drought, intense weather occurrences, and deteriorating forest health have increased the propensity for devastating wildfires throughout the Western United States.

According to the National Interagency Fire Center, last year, more than 9.3 million acres of land burned. That is an area that is approximately the size of Rhode Island, Delaware, the District of Columbia, and Massachusetts combined. These fires tragically claimed 13 lives, destroyed more than 2,000 homes, and led to hundreds of millions of dollars in damages. Nearly 400,000 acres burned in Colorado, alone, with the tragic loss of six lives.

The status quo of addressing a problem when it's too late is no longer good enough. The status quo has given us decades of declining forest health. The status quo has given us years of increasingly catastrophic wildfires. The status quo has put people, communities, and ecosystems at risk. We must do more.

Forests are vital for the Western United States. They provide limitless environmental and economic benefits when healthy. It's our responsibility to be able to preserve this incredible natural resource and do all that we can to be able to restore forest health. And we also need to be able to prevent future loss of life and property to catastrophic wildfire.

I urge this body to be able to join with me and my colleague, Congressman POLIS of Colorado, in taking a step to be able to prevent these tragedies. For far too long we've been working to stop fires once they start and mitigate damage once it has already occurred. As the old saying goes, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." That is what this amendment is about: getting ahead of this problem by investing greater resources toward prevention so that we can take a more proactive approach to restoring our forests to a healthy, natural state.

Representative POLIS and I have introduced this amendment to direct \$7,655,000 to FEMA's National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund, a program uniquely suited to be able to assist in our effort to be able to reduce the occurrence of wildfire, as it would provide funds aimed at mitigating conditions that lead to these fires.

Despite the need for proactive programs such as this in the wake of increased occurrences of extreme weather events, including wildfire, the National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund is facing a reduction of nearly \$2.5 million this year. Considering the value of this program and the term saving it generates through prevention of destructive fires, I believe there are more

appropriate areas within the Federal Government where it can realize budget savings.

Our amendment is offset by decreasing the same amount of funding in the Automation Modernization account of the Department of Homeland Security, which received an increase of \$7,655,000 this year for its IT modernization, despite concerns with transparency of spending within the agency. I share the concerns expressed there.

Senator COBURN's Wastebook provided some troubling findings about wasteful spending within DHS, including the fact that this agency has spent over \$35 billion of taxpayers' money in the last 10 years. In fiscal year '10, DHS spent \$6.5 billion on IT spending alone. In 2013, DHS planned to spend \$4 billion on 68 major IT programs. A third of these programs cost about \$1 billion and were identified by the Government Accountability Office as containing waste and not meeting specified commitments.

Besides being replete with wasteful government spending, many programs at DHS have been found to be overlapping, unnecessary, or lacking in transparency. Until these concerns are addressed, I do not believe we should be providing additional resources for these programs at DHS. Instead, we could better use that \$7,655,000 to take steps towards proactively reducing the occurrence of devastating wildfires by redirecting those funds to the National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund.

I urge my colleagues to support this important amendment and safeguard our forests.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I would like to join my colleague, Mr. TIPTON, in bringing forward this important amendment.

Here, in the first year of June, there are already two wildfires that have erupted in my district. Mr. TIPTON and I share northern and western Colorado. Just this last Monday, a wildfire ignited near Evergreen, Colorado. We had an evacuation of several thousand people. These are just the early season fires, and this year's wildfire season could very well be longer and more extreme than ever before. Already, the National Interagency Fire Center has predicted that this summer will bring an increased fire threat to communities in multiple States across the United States.

Unfortunately, last year was a devastating year for fires in my home State. We had two of our most destructive fires in history. In 2012, wildfires destroyed 650 structures, six Coloradans lost their life in wildfires, 384,000 acres of land were burnt and caused over half a billion dollars in property damage.

In addition to wildfires, our country and our State have experienced natural

disasters, like droughts and tornadoes. The impacts of these are reminders of how costly and destructive extreme weather can be and how important it is to be prepared and to reduce risks where we can. In total, 11 extreme weather events last year across the country, including hurricanes, tornadoes, and fires, cost taxpayers \$96 billion. Extreme weather events have a real impact, a human impact, and a cost.

We have an opportunity in this amendment to reduce and minimize the damage and costs of extreme weather events, like wildfires, by mitigating the threat prior to an event. That is why I join Representative TIPTON in directing \$7.6 million to the National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund. We can spend a penny now to save a dollar later. The National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund is one of the only FEMA programs that reduces fire danger before a fire starts. By increasing funding to mitigate extreme weather events, we can allocate more resources to preventing the impact of these devastating fires, saving lives and saving money.

Unfortunately, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund, absent this amendment, is only funded at \$22.5 million, which is actually a reduction of \$2.475 million, even though events were occurring at higher rates last year and we have no reason to believe that this year will be different.

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund, very simply, is a good investment, Mr. Chairman. The Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund investments have already led to significant savings to taxpayers by reducing risks and damages caused by extreme weather.

The amendment is completely offset by reducing the same amount of funding in the Automation Modernization account. In fact, our amendment actually decreases costs in the first year by \$4 million. The Automation Modernization account has already been noted by the committee of lacking transparency regarding how the funds are managed. And of course, while I support the DHS modernizing its technology systems, I cannot support increasing that account in this time of fiscal constraint, especially when the result of these disasters could very well cost more than an ounce of prevention now.

So this bill increases the account by \$7.655 million that we're directing to the National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund to proactively reduce the threat of wildfires and save taxpayer money. Now, we can't stop wildfires, but we can take measures to reduce their impacts on our communities and to save taxpayer money.

That is why I am proud to join Representative TIPTON, and I've offered this commonsense amendment that would allocate \$7.655 million in additional resources to the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Fund.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. I would like to accept this amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I, too, urge adoption of this amendment.

I want to commend the chairman, though, while I have a moment, for putting in \$22.5 million for pre-disaster mitigation into this bill. He did that at my request. We had a proposal for the President, which was quite inadequate in this respect, and so the chairman has put this money in. This is an amendment that would add more to that, and it is money we can quite well use.

□ 1500

I don't believe the offset is ideal. The offset would slow down the IT initiatives at Customs and Border Protection, which are designed to modernize customs processes and risk-based targeting efforts. I don't necessarily think it's the best process for us on the House floor to be establishing carveouts in the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program. We need an all-hazards approach. We don't necessarily want to rank the threat of fire higher than the threat of hurricanes and so forth.

Having said that, though, I think this bipartisan pair of cosponsors has made a very compelling case today for the threat that their areas face, and I urge my colleagues to support them.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

BORDER SECURITY FENCING, INFRASTRUCTURE,
AND TECHNOLOGY

For expenses for border security fencing, infrastructure, and technology, \$351,454,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for the operations, maintenance, and procurement of marine vessels, aircraft, unmanned aircraft systems, and other related equipment of the air and marine program, including salaries and expenses and operational training and mission-related travel, the operations of which include the following: the interdiction of narcotics and other goods; the provision of support to Federal, State, and local agencies in the enforcement or administration of laws enforced by the Department of Homeland Security; and, at the discretion of the Secretary of Homeland Security, the provision of assistance to Federal, State, and local agencies in other law enforcement and emergency humanitarian efforts; \$802,741,000; of which \$292,791,000 shall be available for salaries and expenses; and of which \$509,950,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2016: *Provided*, That no aircraft or other related equipment, with the exception of aircraft that are one of a kind and have been

identified as excess to U.S. Customs and Border Protection requirements and aircraft that have been damaged beyond repair, shall be transferred to any other Federal agency, department, or office outside of the Department of Homeland Security during fiscal year 2014 without prior notice to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Homeland Security shall report to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, on any changes to the 5-year strategic plan for the air and marine program required under this heading in Public Law 112-74.

CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

For necessary expenses to plan, acquire, construct, renovate, equip, furnish, operate, manage, and maintain buildings, facilities, and related infrastructure necessary for the administration and enforcement of the laws relating to customs, immigration, and border security, \$471,278,000, to remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives, at the time that the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2015 pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, an inventory of the real property of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and a plan for each activity and project proposed for funding under this heading that includes the full cost by fiscal year of each activity and project proposed and underway in fiscal year 2015.

U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for enforcement of immigration and customs laws, detention and removals, and investigations, including overseas vetted units operations; and purchase and lease of up to 3,790 (2,350 for replacement only) police-type vehicles; \$5,344,461,000; of which not to exceed \$10,000,000 shall be available until expended for conducting special operations under section 3131 of the Customs Enforcement Act of 1986 (19 U.S.C. 2081); of which not to exceed \$11,475 shall be for official reception and representation expenses; of which not to exceed \$2,000,000 shall be for awards of compensation to informants, to be accounted for solely under the certificate of the Secretary of Homeland Security; of which not less than \$305,000 shall be for promotion of public awareness of the child pornography tipline and activities to counter child exploitation; of which not less than \$5,400,000 shall be used to facilitate agreements consistent with section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1357(g)); and of which not to exceed \$11,216,000 shall be available to fund or reimburse other Federal agencies for the costs associated with the care, maintenance, and repatriation of smuggled aliens unlawfully present in the United States: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available under this heading shall be available to compensate any employee for overtime in an annual amount in excess of \$35,000, except that the Secretary of Homeland Security, or the designee of the Secretary, may waive that amount as necessary for national security purposes and in cases of immigration emergencies: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided, \$15,770,000 shall be for activities to enforce laws against forced child labor, of which not to exceed \$6,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, not less than \$1,600,000,000 shall be available

to identify aliens convicted of a crime who may be deportable, and to remove them from the United States once they are judged deportable: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Homeland Security shall prioritize the identification and removal of aliens convicted of a crime by the severity of that crime: *Provided further*, That funding made available under this heading shall maintain a level of not less than 34,000 detention beds through September 30, 2014: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided, not less than \$2,835,581,000 is for detention and removal operations, including transportation of unaccompanied minor aliens: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided, \$31,541,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2015, for the Visa Security Program: *Provided further*, That not less than \$10,000,000 shall be available for investigation of intellectual property rights violations, including operation of the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this heading may be used to continue a delegation of law enforcement authority authorized under section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1357(g)) if the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General determines that the terms of the agreement governing the delegation of authority have been violated: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this heading may be used to continue any contract for the provision of detention services if the two most recent overall performance evaluations received by the contracted facility are less than "adequate" or the equivalent median score in any subsequent performance evaluation system: *Provided further*, That nothing under this heading shall prevent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement from exercising those authorities provided under immigration laws (as defined in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17))) during priority operations pertaining to aliens convicted of a crime.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. DEUTCH

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment to the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 13, beginning on line 22, strike "*Provided further*, That funding made available under this heading shall maintain a level of not less than 34,000 detention beds through September 30, 2014:".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would strike the provision in H.R. 2217, which states:

Funding made available under this heading shall maintain a level of not less than 34,000 detention beds through September 30, 2014.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement has interpreted this provision, which has been in past appropriations bills, to require the maintenance of a daily detention population of 34,000 people. This detention bed mandate ties the hands of ICE and restricts its discretion to make detention decisions even when release could be appropriate. Indeed, this is an unprecedented mandate for law enforcement as no other law enforcement agencies have a quota for the number of people that they must keep in jail.

This detention bed mandate is a drain on ICE's limited resources. On

March 19 of this year, I participated in a Judiciary Committee oversight hearing with ICE Director John Morton that addressed this issue. Director Morton explained that ICE had interpreted language in the previous continuing resolution as requiring the agency to keep "a yearly average daily population of approximately 34,000 individuals." Accordingly, ICE has been maintaining an average daily detention population well over 34,000 people with the numbers fluctuating between 35,000 and 37,000 people. Due to this fiscally unsustainable mandate, ICE released more than 2,000 individuals earlier this year to avoid burning through its detention funds.

Detention is extremely costly, and it strains ICE's limited budget in an era of fiscal restraint. Mandating ICE to keep 34,000 detainees in custody each day forces ICE to forgo alternatives to detention that would save taxpayer money. In fact, a single detention bed is approximately \$122 per day; and with additional administrative costs, it can rise to \$164 a day. Meanwhile, alternatives such as ankle bracelets, parole, telephonic, and in-person reporting, curfews, and home visits can run from 30 cents to \$14 per day.

By untying ICE's hands by striking this minimum detention population requirement, we can allow ICE to pursue effective alternatives and make budgetary savings. ICE agents could use these savings when focusing on their many additional responsibilities, such as cracking down on drug smuggling, human trafficking and child pornography—all priorities which are shared by Republicans and Democrats alike.

I would like to thank my friend, Congressman BILL FOSTER, for his dedication to this issue.

Detention takes an enormous toll on our communities, and mandating ICE detain 34,000 individuals a day does not secure our borders or make us safer. The Deutch-Foster amendment would strike this arbitrary provision from the bill, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to my friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER).

Mr. FOSTER. I rise today in support of this amendment, and I would like to thank my colleague from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) for joining me in the fight on this important issue.

Our amendment would end the costly and inhumane practice of imposing arbitrary immigrant detention requirements by striking the language in this bill which mandates that the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, otherwise known as ICE, maintain 34,000 immigrants in detention every single day.

Mandatory detention comes at a high cost both for taxpayers and immigrant families who are needlessly torn apart. Immigration detention costs the United States \$2 billion a year. That's \$5.4 million a day or \$164 per day per detainee. Despite the availability of

other proven cheaper methods, including ankle bracelets and supervised release that cost the Federal Government anywhere from 30 cents a day to \$14 a day, we continue to use detention as the primary method for immigrants facing deportation. Not only is this quota fiscally irresponsible, but it makes it impossible for DHS to make rational decisions about detention based on enforcement priorities and needs.

There is also a high human cost. Most immigrants in detention are held in county jails or facilities run by private prison corporations often hundreds of miles from anyone they know. Human rights abuses have been well documented in facilities across the country. Many immigrants in the system have strong ties to their communities and no criminal records; yet they must fight their cases from a distant jail all because of this arbitrary quota. No other law enforcement agencies in our government have such quotas. Rather than a per-day bed quota, ICE's use of bed space should be based on actual need, which is the approach used in every other law enforcement context.

In his letter from the Birmingham jail, Martin Luther King, Jr., said:

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Mandatory detention quotas distort our system of justice and are a threat to freedom and justice in our country. Mr. Chairman, I rise to end this costly and needless injustice, and I urge my colleagues to support our amendment.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Chairman, I have a letter of support for this amendment that is signed by 66 local, national and State groups, which I submit for the RECORD.

JUNE 5, 2013.

Re H.R. 2217—Support Rep. Deutch's Amendment to Eliminate the Immigration Detention Bed Mandate

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER AND MINORITY LEADER PELOSI: As organizations that work to protect and advance the rights of individuals in immigration detention, we write to encourage bipartisan support of Rep. Deutch's amendment (co-sponsored by Rep. Foster) to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act, H.R. 2217, that would eliminate the immigration detention bed mandate.

Congress has mandated through appropriations that DHS maintain a daily immigration detention level of 34,000 individuals, a micro-managing approach that does not exist in any other law enforcement context. DHS already uses a Risk Assessment Tool to help determine whether an individual presents a risk of flight or a risk to public safety and whether that person should be detained. Yet the bed "mandate" precludes the agency from making decisions about detention based on its enforcement priorities, policies, and need. It also makes increased efficiencies, effective alternatives to detention, and other cost-savings efforts for tax-

payers impossible—an irresponsible approach for the federal government to take when Washington seeks to reduce federal spending. Alternatives to detention have received bipartisan support for its cost-savings from groups such as the Council on Foreign Relations' Independent Task Force on U.S. Immigration Policy, the Heritage Foundation, the Pretrial Justice Institute, the Texas Public Policy Foundation (home to Right on Crime), the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the National Conference of Chief Justices.

Today, taxpayers pay upward of \$2 billion a year to fund immigration detention, approximately \$5.5 million each day. Decades ago, criminal justice and correctional experts observed that holding all individuals subject to incarceration in jails or prisons was unsustainable, unnecessary, and a wasteful use of resources. It is common in the criminal justice system to use an array of less costly custody options, such as electronic monitoring and house arrest, to meet pre-trial and post-sentencing needs. The federal sentencing guidelines expressly allow substitution of a prison sentence with alternatives to incarceration. The immigration detention system should follow suit and conform to established best practices.

We urge you to support this important amendment, which will eliminate this arbitrary immigration detention quota and save critical taxpayer dollars. Please feel free to contact Royce Murray with any questions.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Adrian Dominican Sisters.
All of Us or None.
American Civil Liberties Union.
American Friends Service Committee.
American Immigration Lawyers Association.
Americans for Immigrant Justice, formerly Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center.
America's Voice.
Arab American Institute.
Congregation of St. Joseph.
Detention Watch Network.
Human Rights First.
Immigration Equality Action Fund.
Japanese American Citizens League.
Justice for Immigrants.
Justice Strategies.
League of United Latin American Citizens.
Lutheran Immigration Refugee Service.
NAFSA: Association of International Educators.
National Center for Transgender Equality.
National Council of La Raza (NCLR).
National Immigrant Justice Center.
National Immigration Forum.
National Immigration Law Center.
Physicians for Human Rights.
Service Employees International Union (SEIU).
Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania, OH.
Sisters of St. Joseph, TOSF.
Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, O'Fallon, MO.
Sisters, Home Visitors of Mary.
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT).
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC).
Southern Poverty Law Center.
The Advocates for Human Rights.
The Center for APA Women.
UC Davis Immigration Law Clinic.
Women's Refugee Commission.

STATE ORGANIZATIONS

Advocates for Survivors of Torture and Trauma.
California Immigrant Policy Center.
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project.
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children.
Maria Baldini-Potermin & Associates, PC.
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition.

New York Immigration Coalition.
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project.
OneAmerica.
Pax Christi Florida.
Political Asylum Immigration Representation Project.
Scott D. Pollock & Associates, P.C.
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Justice Team.
Vermont Immigration and Asylum Advocates.

Voces de la Frontera.

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition.
Dominican Sisters of Houston.
Gesu Immigration Study Group.
Good Shepherd Immigration Study Group.
Gospel Justice Committee Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon, MO.
Immigration Taskforce, SWPA Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
Justice and Peace Committee/Sisters of St. Joseph/West Hartford, CT.
Justice for Immigrants, District 4 & 5.
Milwaukee New Sanctuary Movement.
PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union.
Reformed Church of Highland Park, NJ.
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester.
University of Miami School of Law Immigration Clinic.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. I rise in opposition to this amendment, which strikes the legal requirement for 34,000 detention beds.

The simple fact is that sovereign countries control their borders and have an immigration system with integrity that adheres to the rule of law.

This last Friday, I visited the ICE facility in Houston, Texas. I find it interesting the numbers that they explained to me that were going on today in the Houston-Corpus Christi region, which takes in the entire gulf coast of Texas along with what we call the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. They informed me that we are having a massive encroachment into our country from across the border right now of approximately 100 OTMs a day in addition to the Mexicans who are coming across the border. It's interesting that we talk as to the alternatives to incarceration. In the Houston office alone, 64,000-plus are on alternatives to incarceration, which is almost double the number of detention beds for the entire United States in one office. So I think, with this, we get a better picture of what this invasion is all about.

The attacks of 9/11 taught us that immigration enforcement matters. It matters to our security. The Boston Marathon attacks underscored this sobering lesson. Each year, more than 1 million aliens attempt to illegally enter the United States without proper documentation, or they enter legally but overstay and violate their visas.

Though reasonable people can disagree, I believe detention beds are a

critical component in enforcing U.S. immigration laws with the detention and eventual removal of those aliens who enter this country illegally. Therefore, the bill recommends \$2.8 billion to fully fund ICE's obligation to maintain no fewer than 34,000 beds.

□ 1510

In contrast, the President's request provided funds sufficient to support 31,800 beds, justifying the request by saying there's no need to support 34,000 detention beds, even though, as I speak today, those in detention are at 38,000 beds. So it looks like we've got overage, not shortage.

The facts, however, refute this completely.

First, as of last Friday, more than 38,000 illegal immigrants are being held in ICE custody, many of whom meet the mandatory detention requirements.

Second, by the administration's own estimate, there's at least 1.9 million removable criminal aliens in the United States.

There is general acknowledgement of an illegal alien population of approximately 11 million. That estimate goes up to as high as 20 million in some quarters.

Clearly, detention beds are necessary. This bed mandate is needed.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Deutch-Foster amendment, and I commend my colleagues for addressing one of the major problems in this bill.

Once again, this bill sets an arbitrary minimum of 34,000 ICE detention beds, whether or not ICE needs them, whether or not the population it is managing on a given day warrants detention.

This detention bed mandate denies ICE the flexibility it needs to manage its enforcement and removal resources in response to changing circumstances. It prevents ICE from making full use of cheaper alternative forms of supervision when it's appropriate.

The specific number of beds is not the main issue here. The problem is attempting to micromanage detention operations from the floor of this House and doing it, by the way, in a way that wastes money and reduces flexibility. I've never understood why we would want to do that, and yet this keeps appearing in the bill produced by our majority colleagues.

Once again, we need to remove this provision, and I commend Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. FOSTER for focusing attention on this so effectively.

I urge adoption of their amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. FOSTER's amendment.

I think it is absolutely astonishing. We can have a conversation about different people who are here undocumented and whether or not they ought to be in detention and whether or not they have a criminal record and whether they're a danger to our country, but to say that 34,000 beds have to be filled no matter what is so un-American. It's so un-American to say we're going to build X number of prison cells and then, no matter what the law says, we're going to fill them. We start with the need to fill the cell?

What the Deutch-Foster amendment would do would be to strike that mandate. It doesn't strike the idea that some people are going to be detained. It just strikes the idea that we have to fill what Janet Napolitano, who is the Homeland Security Secretary, just said is arbitrary. These mandated levels effectively mean that ICE, our immigration system, can't make detention decisions based on risk to our country, to our people, the various agency priorities. Its officers have to focus instead on filling daily quotas. And as a result, growing numbers of immigrants are held in detention. In fiscal year 2011 alone, ICE detained 429,000 people.

Let's talk about those people. Some of them are dangerous criminals, but most are not. Over half of the immigrants detained in 2009 and 2010 had zero criminal history. Of those who did, about 20 percent had only traffic violations. Only 11 percent of the detainees with felony convictions had committed violent crimes.

Included among those detained are victims of trafficking, families with small children, elderly individuals, individuals with serious medical and mental health conditions. Many of those detained have U.S. citizen children or spouses and deep ties to their American families and their communities. Many have potential claims for lawful status, but still are detained for months or even years. Some are even survivors of torture seeking asylum in the United States.

In my district, the Heartland Alliance Marjorie Kovler Center works with survivors of torture and emphasizes that placing these individuals in detention can be particularly traumatic, even replicating the feeling of vulnerability that they experienced during their torture.

And the irony is this: detaining large numbers of immigrants who have no criminal convictions, except immigration charges, does not make us safer. It's not necessary to enforce immigration law—we don't need it to enforce the immigration law—and it represents a major waste of taxpayer dollars. Each detainee costs the government around \$164 a day to hold. I understand why the prison industry, the private

prisons in particular, would love to see \$164 and set this goal of detaining all these people every day.

So we should detain people because they pose a threat to our communities, not to meet congressionally mandated quotas. The criminal justice system does use a range of cheaper and effective custody options: electronic monitoring, house arrest. Alternatives to detention cost between 30 cents and \$14 per individual per day, far less than our current spending on detention.

We're making real progress toward immigration reform. The Senate is considering language that would allow undocumented immigrants to come out of the shadows and earn the chance to pursue their American Dream.

Let me tell you, as a first-generation American, I find this policy so offensive to me, and my district is one of the most diverse in the country. To say we have to fill prison beds with these people, whether or not they're criminals, whether or not they pose harm to our country, this is not who we are as Americans. These provisions don't make us safer and they don't solve the immigration challenges we face. They are a waste of taxpayer money.

I urge support of the Deutch-Foster amendment in promoting real immigration reform and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. GINGREY of Georgia). The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Chair, I agree strongly with the impassioned plea by my colleague from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), and I'm very grateful for this amendment to be brought forward by Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. FOSTER.

This really is an outrage. It's an outrage to our values as Americans, and frankly it's an outrage to taxpayers. The cost of holding an immigrant overnight is \$120. We have viable and proven alternatives to detention that we should be using for noncriminal aliens.

Again, what we're talking about here are different folks. When we're talking about criminal aliens, I don't think there's any dispute to the extent that we have criminal aliens. At any given time, this can be approximately 40 percent of the people in detention. When I visited the ICE facility in Aurora, they keep them separate, they wear different colored jumpsuits. They're criminal aliens, and they are—however many we have that have been apprehended for a crime—subject to deportation orders. It's perfectly fair to keep them in some form of detention.

But the majority, 60 percent, are noncriminal aliens. They were in the wrong place at the wrong time. It could have been a tail light out. They could have been going 10 miles over the speed limit. Yet, we as taxpayers are removing noncriminal aliens from their homes, from being the breadwinner for their family, from supporting their kids and being an asset to our country

and instead turning them into a liability for taxpayers to the tune of \$120 a day. Again, I don't see how this makes fiscal sense at all. We're paying for free rooms, free board, food, medical services. All of these are being provided at taxpayer cost for folks.

□ 1520

How is this a good deal for Americans? It just doesn't make any sense to me when we have at one-tenth the cost alternatives to detention that include call-ins and ankle bracelets. There's a comprehensive program for non-criminal aliens that can do it at a much less expensive cost. And in detention, many of them remain for a period of months. I've even talked to folks, noncriminal aliens, who'd been in limbo for over a year, some approaching 2 years.

So yes, anybody who opposes this amendment is saying U.S. taxpayers should foot the bill for food and board and health care for someone who is here illegally for 2 years. Why do people want to subsidize our illegal population? It's absolutely absurd.

This is a commonsense measure. However many beds we need for criminal aliens, let's have. However many we need for noncriminal aliens in terms of alternatives to detention, let's do. Obviously, what we really need is comprehensive immigration reform to address this issue. There's no way I don't think people on either side of the aisle think that we should pay for 12 million people to be detained at the cost \$120 a day. I can't even add that up in my own mind, but I can tell you, it'd be a deficit buster right there.

So let's start here. Let's address our deficit. Let's make sure that we keep families together. Don't take parents away from kids. Don't force taxpayers to buy medical care and lodging and food for people who aren't even here in this country illegally. We can do that right here, right now by passing the Deutch amendment. I call upon my colleagues to join me in doing so.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this important amendment, the Deutch-Foster amendment. First of all, this is the right thing to do, but to bring the conversation back to what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle pivot to in almost every policy discussion we have in this body—cutting spending.

In a budget age where many in this body celebrate the draconian and harmful cuts of the sequester, it seems we've come to accept as the norm indiscriminate, across-the-board cuts that in many cases fall on the backs of the most vulnerable among us. Cutting spending in this Congress no longer equates to targeted cuts to inefficient or duplicative government programs to

root out waste. Cutting spending in this budget climate is simply about the bottom line. But it doesn't have to be that way.

This amendment is the perfect example of how we can cut spending in a smart and efficient way while defending those most vulnerable. By ending the arbitrary 34,000-bed mandate for immigration detention, we can cut spending and do the right thing.

How's this for a bottom line: alternatives to immigration detention save money. We're spending more than \$5 million a day to detain immigrants, 45 percent of which have no criminal record, according to Human Rights Watch. That equates to roughly \$164 per day per detainee for detention and roughly \$2 billion per year.

On the other hand, alternatives to detention only cost between 30 cents and \$14 per day per detainee, and they have proven to be safe and effective. According to Julie Myers Wood, who ran ICE under President Bush, 96 percent of individuals enrolled in alternatives to detention show up for their final hearing and 84 percent comply with removal orders.

So what's stopping us from putting in place these effective, cost-saving policies? Another harmful appropriations policy rider, mandating a daily detention level of 34,000 immigrants. In no other law enforcement context do we impose such a ridiculous quota. You wouldn't tell a county jail or a State prison that you have to keep "X" number of prisoners in that facility.

Mandating such a high level of detention makes absolutely no sense. By doing so, ICE is effectively prohibited from making decisions about detention based on enforcement policies, efficiency, and need.

All-too-often in this body, we look for someone else to blame. But in this case, we have no one to blame for this wasteful policy but ourselves. We have the power to change a policy that does nothing but waste the taxpayers' money and cause undue hardship to immigrant families across the country. I urge my colleagues to vote for increased efficiency and compassion, and urge a "yes" vote on this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. I have listened to the arguments from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and I find it interesting. First, those who cross into our country without and contrary to the laws of this great Nation have committed an illegal act. Calling them not illegal doesn't make them not illegal.

I really would like to point out that we have a curious way to discuss this as a policy; that is, no one here stands responsible for the decision. You know, the alternatives to incarceration were created by judges, and the judicial system stands in a little different situa-

tion than the Members of Congress. When one of these people who's let out under alternatives to incarceration in fact commits another criminal act—and believe me, it happens—nothing more than just DWI, when you run over a little kid—the judge, who puts him on that particular forum, is held responsible. And he is now going to read his name in the newspaper that he put that person out that should have been in jail, out on an alternative to incarceration. Or if the person commits another criminal act even more severe—murder, rape, robbery—if it happens when the judge puts him out on alternatives, the judge has to take the heat.

But as we have this great policy debate in Congress, no one who is arguing to release all these people on alternatives is taking any heat at all on what the accomplishments in the criminal realm will be of those we release.

I approve of alternatives to incarceration. I just told you that 64,000 people alone in the city of Houston's jurisdiction, which is the valley all of the way up to Beaumont, were out on alternatives. But detention beds are also full and overflowing. When I visited the ICE unit there, the red uniforms were the majority, and the red uniforms are criminal aliens. They have committed crimes in this country.

And so I think we are being a little bit safe to make these arguments as we stand here in these hallowed Halls. Never is our name going to appear in any newspaper when one of these people commits an act that causes damage to our fellow citizens. And yet we make this argument very passionately. I just want to remind everybody that we are responsible for those criminal aliens that we release, and criminal aliens are right now being released. And, in fact, Ms. Napolitano, after I asked her specifically, Are you releasing anyone from detention, she looked me right in the eye and said, No. And 2 days later, she released 2,300. And of those 2,300, the top two categories were both represented in that release—the most serious and the second-most serious categories of crimes we hold people for.

So this is a policy. This administration continues to have a policy of not enforcing the law, and, quite frankly, we need this availability of beds so we can enforce the law.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida will be postponed.

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

AUTOMATION MODERNIZATION

For expenses of immigration and customs enforcement automated systems, \$34,900,000, to remain available until September 30, 2016.

CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses to plan, construct, renovate, equip, and maintain buildings and facilities necessary for the administration and enforcement of the laws relating to customs and immigration, \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
AVIATION SECURITY

For necessary expenses of the Transportation Security Administration related to providing civil aviation security services pursuant to the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (Public Law 107-71; 115 Stat. 597; 49 U.S.C. 40101 note), \$4,872,739,000, to remain available until September 30, 2015, of which not to exceed \$7,650 shall be for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount made available under this heading, not to exceed \$3,824,625,000 shall be for screening operations and not to exceed \$1,048,114,000 shall be for aviation security direction and enforcement: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available in the preceding proviso for screening operations, \$2,972,715,000, to remain available until September 30, 2014, shall be available for Screener Compensation and Benefits; \$163,190,000 shall be available for the Screening Partnership Program; \$382,354,000 shall be available for explosives detection systems, of which \$83,845,000 shall be available for the purchase and installation of these systems; and \$103,309,000 shall be for checkpoint support: *Provided further*, That any award to deploy explosives detection systems shall be based on risk, the airport's current reliance on other screening solutions, lobby congestion resulting in increased security concerns, high injury rates, airport readiness, and increased cost effectiveness: *Provided further*, That security service fees authorized under section 44940 of title 49, United States Code, shall be credited to this appropriation as offsetting collections and shall be available only for aviation security: *Provided further*, That the sum appropriated under this heading from the general fund shall be reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2014 so as to result in a final fiscal year appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$2,752,739,000: *Provided further*, That any security service fees collected in excess of the amount made available under this heading shall become available during fiscal year 2015: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 44923 of title 49, United States Code, for fiscal year 2014, any funds in the Aviation Security Capital Fund established by section 44923(h) of title 49, United States Code, may be used for the procurement and installation of explosives detection systems or for the issuance of other transaction agreements for the purpose of funding projects described in section 44923(a) of such title: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any recruiting or hiring of personnel into the Transportation Security Administration that would cause the agency to exceed a staffing level of 46,000 full-time equivalent screeners: *Provided further*, That the preceding proviso shall not apply to personnel hired as part-time employees: *Provided further*, That not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives a detailed report on—

(1) the Department of Homeland Security efforts and resources being devoted to de-

velop more advanced integrated passenger screening technologies for the most effective security of passengers and baggage at the lowest possible operating and acquisition costs;

(2) how the Transportation Security Administration is deploying its existing passenger and baggage screener workforce in the most cost effective manner; and

(3) labor savings from the deployment of improved technologies for passenger and baggage screening and how those savings are being used to offset security costs or reinvested to address security vulnerabilities:

Provided further, That Members of the Senate and House of Representatives, including the leadership; the heads of Federal agencies and commissions, including the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Under Secretaries, and Assistant Secretaries of the Department of Homeland Security; the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, Assistant Attorneys General, and the United States Attorneys; and senior members of the Executive Office of the President, including the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall not be exempt from Federal passenger and baggage screening.

□ 1530

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. BROUN OF
GEORGIA

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk, and I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the Clerk will designate the amendment.

There was no objection.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 15, line 20, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$4,872,739,000)”.

Page 15, line 21, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$7,650)”.

Page 15, line 24, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$3,824,625,000)”.

Page 15, line 25, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$1,048,114,000)”.

Page 16, line 4, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$2,972,715,000)”.

Page 16, line 6, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$163,190,000)”.

Page 16, line 7, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$382,354,000)”.

Page 16, line 8, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$83,845,000)”.

Page 16, line 10, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$103,309,000)”.

Page 16, line 25, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$2,752,739,000)”.

Page 93, line 9, after the dollar amount insert “(increased by \$4,872,739,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would completely eliminate funding for the Transportation Security Administration, TSA, and transfer that money to the spending reduction account, saving taxpayers nearly \$5 billion.

Congress intended for TSA to be an efficient, cutting-edge, intelligence-based agency responsible for protecting our airports and keeping our passengers safe and secure, but today it has grown into one of the largest bureaucracies in the Federal Government. They've had a 400 percent increase in staff since they were created.

A good portion of those are headquarters employees making six-figure incomes, on the average.

What's worse is that the American passengers aren't getting a good return on the more than \$60 billion investment that they've spent on TSA. Reports indicate that more than 25,000—repeat, 25,000—security breaches have occurred in U.S. airports since 2001.

Plus, we have evidence today that terrorists on the no-fly list still have been able to board U.S. aircraft—terrorists boarding U.S. aircraft, in spite of TSA.

Furthermore, we've seen report after report on TSA employees displaying a lack of professionalism, being inadequately trained, and even engaging in theft and other illegal activities.

Just about the only thing that the TSA is consistently good at is using its extensive power to violate American travelers' civil liberties. Veterans, the disabled, the elderly, and even small children have been the victims of overly invasive searches by TSA officers. This is all evidence that the TSA has veered dangerously off course.

I've repeatedly asked that we use our resources to focus on intelligence and technologies that could be more effective when it comes to catching terrorists. I've called for the privatization of TSA, and so have many other of my colleagues. But we still have yet to see the necessary changes made to the TSA personnel or to its procedures that will ensure the safety and security of our airports and passengers.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment to zero out funding for the TSA forces Congress and the Department of Homeland Security to start from scratch on a leaner, more effective, and more focused and more productive system for protecting our U.S. citizens. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER. I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, the simple fact is this amendment is unnecessary and harmful to national security, in my opinion.

Now, am I happy with TSA? No. I have criticism of TSA also. Most people who travel have some criticism of TSA. But zeroing out TSA and leaving our airports unsecured is not the solution to the problem.

If the gentleman's argument is that we're being fiscally responsible to do away with the TSA part of this budget, I would argue the contrary. This bill, quite frankly, has made cuts, and, in fact, for 4 years now we have reduced spending in this bill. That's not a good argument.

It's easy to get mad at somebody that interferes with your life every time you travel, especially when you travel every week, but the reality is, this would be a mistake to national security. This would be a mistake to our country.

And even though we have criticism of TSA, our job is to fix TSA, not abolish TSA. And I know there's plenty of folks that think that abolishing it is a good idea, but, quite honestly, it would be a real tragedy to leave our airports undefended. We need to make them better. And I think one of the things we're doing is the oversight that we've provided in this bill so that we can take a hard look at DHS across the board and come up with solutions where things need to be fixed; and, of course, if TSA's on the radar screen, they ought to be fixed.

But I think this is a mistake. I think it's bad policy. I think it's good grandstanding but bad policy, and I oppose the gentleman's amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I join the subcommittee chairman in strong opposition to this amendment. The gentleman's amendment would eliminate entirely the TSA aviation security account from this bill, more than \$4.8 million.

Now, I oppose this dangerous amendment on numerous grounds, but I'm most appalled by the fact that it includes no language on who, if not TSA, would be securing our Nation's airports and under what authority, what guidelines.

If this amendment were to pass, not only would the public not worry about bringing knives on planes, but terrorists would be able to bring guns and explosives on planes. So surely the sponsor can't be suggesting that as an acceptable outcome of this amendment.

I just have to say, the job of this subcommittee and of this bill is to provide for the defense of our homeland. That's our bottom-line obligation, and this amendment is in direct contradiction to that obligation. So I urge the resounding defeat of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROWN).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. TIPTON

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 15, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$3,000,000)".

Page 15, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$3,000,000)".

Page 16, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$3,000,000)".

Page 19, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$4,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Chairman, I rise today with an amendment that cuts \$4 million from the Transportation Security Administration and provides these resources for small and rural airports, airports that have had important pas-

senger screening devices removed as a result of the Federal Aviation Administration Modernization Act.

Passengers in rural airports in my district, including Yampa Valley, Montrose, Gunnison, Durango, they've all been impacted by unnecessary delays and intrusions because of the removal of security screening devices that were sent to larger airports.

In the interest of protecting passenger privacy, the FAA Modernization Reform Act of 2012 required the use of Automated Target Recognition scanners, or "Gumby scanners," at all airports by June 1 of 2012. While the intent of Congress was admirable and protecting the privacy of passengers should be a priority, TSA's interpretation and implementation of the law has caused numerous problems for passengers traveling from small and rural airports throughout the country.

One of TSA's manufacturers who provided equipment for passenger screening could not comply with the changes in the law and provide new equipment. As a result, TSA decided to remove 174 of these noncompliant machines throughout the country. Rather than waiting for funding for new machines or finding alternative ways to be able to fix this problem, TSA made the arbitrary decision of taking compliant scanners from small and rural airports throughout the country and giving them to larger airports that lost their noncompliant scanners.

□ 1540

One alternative could have been the cost-effective private-Federal alternative screening model that was put forth by then-House Transportation Chairman JOHN MICA that would have saved billions of dollars and not compromised security at small and rural airports.

TSA's implication that security checkpoints at small and rural airports are somehow less critical is inaccurate. Once passengers clear screening at small and rural airports, they typically do not receive additional screening for connecting flights at any other potentially larger airports.

The amendment will assist with reducing unnecessary delay for passengers at small and rural airports by providing funding to be able to speed up the replacement of security equipment removed by the TSA. It is important to note that the funds being redirected from TSA toward improving passenger screening at small airports come from its administrative budget and, as such, do not impact passenger security.

There are numerous concerns with transparency and waste in the TSA budget, including a recent agreement by the TSA to purchase \$50 million worth of new uniforms that are unnecessary, wasting approximately \$212 million each year on the inefficient SPOT program and billions on the Transportation Worker Identification Credential program. I believe that these resources could be better used to more efficiently screen passengers at small airports, strengthen security,

prevent delays and unavoidable intrusions.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this commonsense amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I share some of these concerns with the gentleman from Colorado, and I believe that outstanding questions still remain over the timeline for replacing the AIT scanners. I expect TSA to sufficiently answer the question posed here today.

I urge TSA to move forward with the replacement of AIT scanners at the affected airports as soon as possible. I commit to the gentleman from Colorado that the committee will look into this issue further and do everything within its power to fix the problem to the extent that it does not cost the American taxpayers more money. It's my understanding that this amendment will not result in the need for additional TSA screeners.

Therefore, I accept the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I, too, would suggest that for now we accept this amendment and continue to work on the problems that the amendment highlights. My understanding from TSA is that they have prior-year funding available to replace detection machines that were removed due to the FAA Modernization Act. The machines that were removed didn't meet certain privacy standards and were removed at the cost of the contractor. TSA is currently testing new machines that could be used to replace the roughly 250 that were removed from airports across the country. Clearly, of course, this needs to be done.

So I'll be happy to work with the gentleman to press TSA to move at an expeditious pace to replace these with more advanced machines, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. HUDSON

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 15, line 25, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$12,500,000) (increased by \$12,500,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to support our amendment which strengthens the Federal Flight Deck Officer program, or FFDO. Our amendment increases funding for the FFDO

by \$12.5 million, bringing the total authorized for the program to \$25 million, with the Congressional Budget Office reporting no budgetary impact.

Since its creation in 2003, this program has provided training to pilots who are willing to step up and volunteer to protect their fellow citizens by defending the airliners that millions of Americans fly on every year. As part of TSA's risk-based approach to aviation security, which I've strongly advocated for on the Homeland Security Committee, the FFDO program plays an integral role in providing an additional layer of security against a hijacking or terrorist attack.

Since its inception, the FFDOs have protected thousands of flights each day and over 100,000 flights a month, at a fraction of the cost to taxpayers compared to the Federal Air Marshal Service. As the first line of deterrence and the last line of defense, it only makes sense that we should continue to provide adequate funding to the FFDO program. While zeroed out in the President's budget, we believe the FFDO program provides a cost-effective solution in protecting passengers aboard our airliners.

I applaud Chairman ROGERS, Subcommittee Chairman CARTER, and the Appropriations Committee for finding ways to prioritize spending so this program did not meet its demise. With that said, \$12.5 million represents more than a 50 percent cut from last year's amount. At this level of funding, the FFDO program would be unable to recertify all the pilots currently in the program, maintain its current management structure, or train any additional officers.

We have offered a responsible and fully offset amendment that moves \$12.5 million to the FFDO program to ensure that we are using our resources wisely and in a manner that directly benefits America's safety. The House unanimously agreed to a similar amendment offered in the FY 2013 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, and I hope my colleagues will join me this year in providing the support that such a valuable program deserves.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. DEFAZIO. I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. It's been nearly a decade since, on a bipartisan basis, against bipartisan opposition, we fought and were successful in creating the Federal Flight Deck Officer program. Since that time, over hundreds of thousands of flights have been protected by armed pilots.

There was controversy at the beginning. Could we trust pilots with guns? Well, we trust them with our lives. We trust them with planes that were used as weapons of mass destruction by the terrorists in 2011. Of course, we can trust them with guns. But they need proper training because it's an unusual

environment in which to possess and use a weapon—and use a weapon as the last line of defense—should a plane be taken over by terrorists.

We've done other things to provide security like Federal air marshals, armored flight decks. But still, we know that this program is essential, it's inexpensive, and it is something that pilots want to do. There were openings last year for a few additional training spots. Over a thousand people volunteered for those slots. Many, obviously, were not chosen.

If this program were eliminated, as was proposed in the President's budget, or even if it's cut in half—and I appreciate the fact that the committee has labored to find money to restore half the funding—many officers will not be recertified, new officers will not be allowed to join, and we will lose this last critical line of defense and one that is wonderfully random. A terrorist could never, ever know if the pilots on that plane were armed. It's pretty hard to spot the air marshals, but it's even impossible to know what the pilot has behind that locked flight deck door.

So we're recommending an amendment to our colleagues that would take money out of other parts of the bureaucracy of the TSA at no increase in debt or deficit and fully fund this program so that thousands of pilots can continue to participate meaningfully as the last line of defense against a future terrorist attack.

I think this amendment has tremendous common good sense about it. It's very cost effective. And I would hope that my colleagues will join us on a bipartisan basis in supporting it.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 1550

Mr. MICA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want to thank particularly the committee leadership, Mr. CARTER, Mr. PRICE, and the staff. They've done an excellent job in trying to put into appropriations language, and amount of money expended, reforms that are long overdue in TSA.

I'm pleased to join the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON) and my colleague, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), in this bipartisan amendment to restore the \$25 million for the Flight Deck Officer program.

I can't, for the life of me, understand why the Obama administration would propose to Congress that we zero out one of the most cost-effective mechanisms we have to ensure the safety and security of the flying public.

Now, this program costs \$25 million, and that's out of a \$5 billion expenditure for TSA—\$25 million. It is probably the most cost-effective layer of security that we have. Just a few dollars underwriting, again, the expense of training these pilots who have asked

for the ability to protect their aircraft themselves and their passengers.

We put this in place—everyone was against it. You heard Mr. DEFAZIO tell the story of this. The Senate was against it. The administration was against it. The airlines were against it. We brought it out here in a demo project, and the House overwhelmingly voted to support this program; and it's done it time and time again because it is cost effective and it's a good layer of security.

Now, let me tell you what these pilots do. These pilots go at their own expense. They're not paid per diem. They're not paid for the flight. I went out to visit the program, and I have to admit, whether it was a Republican administration or a Democratic administration, everybody tried to do the program. And so they put the training facility almost on the border of Mexico. I had to take three flights—one to Denver, one to Albuquerque, and another jumper flight—and then drive almost 2 hours to the border to get to this flight facility. That's what these pilots are doing on their own dollar for a weeklong training program that, again, this is the cost of that training program but the expense is borne by the pilot. I saw men, I saw women, I saw pilots for cargo, passenger all going to get this training.

Why would you want to end a program that is so cost effective and gives us this protection?

So, I don't want to belabor this. Mr. HUDSON and Mr. DEFAZIO have stated the case well. Thousands and thousands of flights are protected, and thousands of pilots participate on their own dime.

I urge the passage of this amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Chairman, moments ago, the TSA Administrator announced that he will reverse his earlier decision to allow knives back onto airplanes. Knives will now continue to be a part of the prohibited items list on our aircraft, making our passengers and our crew more safe. This is positive news.

However, the administration's desire to zero out this FFDO program—allowing our trained pilots to be armed on the aircraft—puts us in a position that will put us more at risk, will put passengers and flight crew more at risk. The TSA not allowing knives on planes, that's just one step for passenger and crew safety when we need a comprehensive approach to keep our passengers and crew safe, which would include not allowing knives on planes, which would include risk-based screening, which would include, as my friends from the other side have talked about, increasing funding for intelligence operations to make sure we know who is getting on these airplanes. But it

would also mean keeping the Federal Flight Deck Officer program fully funded.

This is a program I know about because of a personal friend in Livermore, California, who is a Southwest pilot. I have seen firsthand over the last 7 years how serious he has trained to be ready for this program. As my friend and colleague from the other side just mentioned, they fly down to Texas routinely to train down there, and they are very diligent. They do this many times on their own dime. And a lot of skill and effort is put into their training to make sure that if something dangerous were to happen on that aircraft, they would be prepared. It is a task they take seriously, and it's a task we want them to continue to be supported by in the Federal Government.

So, to have comprehensive airline passenger security, we want to restore the Federal dollars for this, put it back at \$25 million. And I appreciate that this amendment was offered.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. I accept the amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word for the purpose of a colloquy.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Chairman, as chair of the House Transportation Security Subcommittee, I want to raise my concern about a delay in finalizing a rule to improve the security of FAA-approved domestic and foreign repair stations. This rulemaking, mandated by Congress in 2003 and again in 2007, has languished for almost 10 years.

By way of background, TSA signed off on the rule late last year, and DHS completed consideration early this year. The Office of Management and Budget is currently reviewing the rule. I hope that OMB will complete this rulemaking by June 14, 2013, which is the end of the 90-day clock for their consideration.

At this time, I yield to my colleague from Texas (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I share the gentleman from North Carolina's concern on that. The House Appropriations Committee included report language asking for final action on this rule. It is well past time to finalize this rule, whose delay has impeded manufacturers in growing critical markets for aviation exports.

Mr. HUDSON. I thank my colleague.

At this time I would like to yield to my colleague from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE).

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I thank my colleague for yielding, and I very much appreciate my fellow North Carolinian raising this issue.

I agree with his assessment that OMB needs to finalize this rule as soon as possible. It's critical to establish this risk-based security regime for these repair stations. So we do hope for a rapid conclusion of this protracted episode, and I appreciate his raising the matter.

Mr. HUDSON. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. MICA

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk. It's Mica amendment 8, designated and preprinted.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 15, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$31,810,000)".

Page 16, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$31,810,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman and my colleagues, first I want to again thank Chairman CARTER and Ranking Member PRICE for their excellent work, and again his staff. They have gone through some of the expenditures for TSA not only in the dollar amounts, but also in the language that's contained supporting their appropriations measures, some excellent provisions.

Now, I do offer this amendment, which is no greater increase in spending, but does move some money around from TSA administration to support our private screening partnership program. As you heard earlier from one of the speakers, this program is very successful, it's cost effective, and many airports want to avail themselves of it.

TSA has thwarted all the efforts to increase the private screening under Federal supervision, and they came up with a whole host of excuses. Also, they have cooked the books as far as the cost of operating these private screening operations.

□ 1600

Now, you've got to remember that if you look at this bill, it puts a limit of 46,000 screeners, I believe, in the past. We've increased that from 40,000. Mr. ROGERS and I did that some time ago. Actually, if you go online, you'll find 51,000 screeners. We're not sure exactly what the figure is right now. It may be less than that.

There are a total of 66,000 TSA employees. So that leaves approximately 15,000—even at our most conservative estimate—of the number of people in administration.

Right now, there is close to \$1.2 billion spent on nonscreener salaries. That's \$1.19 billion, to be exact, in this bill. So this moves a small amount of money—\$20-some million—over to,

again, the private screening account. I think it's justified. I think we're going to need it.

I have several amendments that I'm going to offer in a minute that I would like to expand, again, on the size of the bureaucracy and what TSA is doing to thwart the privatization effort that could bring cost-effective screening to play and do a better job and save taxpayers money.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Chairman, I accept this amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman's amendment would provide an additional \$32 million for the Screening Partnership Program. I have no objection to the concept of the Screening Partnership Program. If a local airport authority applies to participate in the program and a private company can provide screening in accordance with TSA standards and costs, then so be it.

In fact, this bill increases funding for the SPP by \$15.6 million over current-year levels and \$10 million above the request in anticipation of the program's vast expansion. But I am unaware of a surge in demand for participation in the SPP that would warrant a 30-percent increase in funding for this program. The offset for the amendment is aviation security direction and enforcement, which the bill already cuts by \$20 million below the request.

Now, Mr. Chairman, should additional demand warrant funding for the SPP above what is already provided in this bill, we could work with the TSA to transfer funding to meet that demand. But it simply makes no sense to provide such a significant increase for the SPP when it is almost certain that those additional funds are going to go unused.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

The amendment was agreed to.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Nevada is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to voice my objections to the limits placed on DHS regarding the UASI Grant program. My district is slated to lose \$2 million due to the limit of awards to only 25 UASI grantees. While I believe that counterterrorism funding should go to the places

that need it the most, an arbitrary cap, along with a flawed formula, is not helping our Nation's efforts to prepare for, and respond to, natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks. I have voiced these concerns on a number of occasions over the past few months with DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano, and I appreciate her willingness to work with me on this issue.

I want to acknowledge other Members of our Nevada delegation for joining with me today to work on this issue through a proposed amendment, but I have a number of reservations about their approach. I am concerned about reductions in salary accounts for agencies that are charged with keeping our Nation safe and prepared for all types of emergencies. Furthermore, their amendment provides additional funding, but not additional instruction, so there is no guarantee that additional cities, like Las Vegas, will receive any of this increased funding in the amendment.

I am proud to represent Las Vegas, one of the premier vacation and business destinations in the world. Ensuring that my constituents and millions of visitors who we welcome every year stay safe is a top priority of our local government and law enforcement. Without UASI funding to sustain and enhance our regional capabilities, Las Vegas, as well as our portion of the large FEMA Region IX, will be at a significant disadvantage in preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities.

Hundreds of thousands of people gather in large venues in southern Nevada every day. Fifteen of the world's 25 largest hotels are in my district on the Las Vegas Strip with a total of over 62,000 rooms. In 2012, some 37.5 million visitors came to Las Vegas and over 21,000 conventions are held each year. On any given day, tens of thousands of tourists walk along the 4.2 mile Las Vegas Strip, just a few miles from critical Federal assets, including Nellis Air Force Base and Creech Air Force Base, as well as the National Nuclear Security Site and Boulder Dam.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that counterterrorism funding decisions should be made using forward-looking, risk-based metrics. It is critical that DHS update their decision-making matrix to reflect these principles. DHS does not accurately count expected visitors in their decision-making process. It is important to remember that visitors to our city would need the most assistance in the event of a natural disaster or terrorist attack because they are unfamiliar with the area, as well as with local evacuation and safety plans.

In Las Vegas, we welcomed over 40 million travelers to our city this year, an increase of 400,000 over last year. We are also expecting our local population to continue to grow. Yet despite these increases and increases in other components of our risk profile, Las Vegas actually slipped in DHS' risk rankings. This fall in ranking caused the city to fall out of contention for a grant, and it was announced that we will not receive the funding we need. This is not good planning and should be remedied immediately.

I pledge to work with my colleagues from districts with other tourist destinations and with the Secretary to be sure that the formulas are updated and improved and that the funding goes to where it is truly needed.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. MICA

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 15, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$23,334,000)".

Page 19, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$23,334,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman and Members of the House, I have this amendment and I have several others. I'm going to combine my remarks on this amendment and one of the other amendments to expedite this process.

I am very pleased that the previous amendment to take money out of administration—TSA administration—which I believe is extremely bloated, and putting it into, again, the private Screening Partnership Program, that successfully passed. With that passing, I had a second amendment to take a similar amount to put those funds into the transportation security support and intelligence account.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have created this multi-billion dollar bureaucracy that has been unable to connect the dots. Here is almost every terrorist incident. We'll put this in the RECORD. TSA failed every single time. They have never connected the dots. We need to be putting the money not into this huge screening bureaucracy that hinders veterans and little old ladies and children—and you've seen it all.

□ 1610

We have created this unbelievable detriment to the American right to fly

and to be a free citizen, and it's so difficult to get this darned thing under control, but I'm telling you that the money needs to be going into security.

When Mr. DEFAZIO and I helped create TSA, the purpose was to connect the dots, so I would move money out of administration. They have 4,000 to 5,000 people just within a mile or two of here who are doing nothing, with most of them making, on average, \$104,000. Someone told me who just left there that there were four secretaries in his office making over \$100,000 apiece. Do the math. We only have 457 airports in the country. That means you've got about 17 people in administration out there and about nine in Washington in administration overseeing this program. It's totally out of control.

So the Mica amendment that I'm going to ask to withdraw in just a second would take money out of administration and put it into connecting the dots in security. I know that's a dumb idea.

Then the other thing is that the staff has done a great job here. There is some good report language, but TSA is thwarting the intent of Congress to allow the honest competition of the private Screening Partnership Program. We never intended to keep this all bureaucratic. Only Bulgaria, Romania, and Poland have a similar screening model as the United States today.

What they've done is they've packed each of the private screening operations with huge bureaucracies left in place. In San Francisco, there are somewhere between 60 and 85 TSA administrators who, most of them, are making in the \$100,000 range and don't have a job. How would you like that position? In Kansas City, there are 51 that they left there of private screening. They don't need these positions. They leave them there to jack up the cost to try to make private screening look more costly.

So, while you have language again in this bill—and it's good language—we need to hold TSA accountable to stop cooking the books and to give us honest accounting, and then allow for the natural process of evolution to private screening under Federal supervision—you don't do away with TSA—then finally getting TSA and Homeland Security to concentrate on security and intelligence and on connecting the dots to stop the terrorists before they ever get to the airport or get to screening.

| Date | Target | Description | Arrest location | Suspect(s) | Nationality | Status |
|-----------|---|--|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 22-Dec-01 | American Airlines 63 | A man was put into custody after attempting to detonate a shoe bomb. Conspirators include a British man, Sagid Badat from Gloucester, England and a Tunisian man, Nizar Trabelsi, who is in jail in Belgium in a plot to blow up two airliners bound for the United States, using their shoe bombs. | Paris to Miami | Richard Colvin Reid | British Citizen | Serving a life sentence without parole |
| 8-May-02 | ? | A man was arrested after returning from Pakistan for allegedly attempting to build a dirty bomb. Arrested by U.S. Customs agents at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport on May 8, 2002, and held as a material witness on a warrant issued in the state of New York stemming from the September 11, 2001 attacks. | Chicago, Illinois | Jose Padilla | U.S. National | Sentenced to 17 years in prison [4] |
| Sep-02 | ? | Reportedly are six naturalized American citizens who were friends from childhood in Yemen; were arrested for allegedly providing material support for al-Qaeda and running a terrorist cell in Buffalo, NY. | Buffalo, New York | Lackawanna, Sk. Mukhtar Al-Bakri, Sehim Alwan, Faysal Gaba, Shafiq Mased, Yasemni Taher, and Yahya Goba. | Yemen | Each sentenced to 10 years of prison or less[6] |
| 13-Mar-03 | Brooklyn Bridge | A man was arrested and accused of giving aid to al-Qaeda and attempting to destroy the Brooklyn Bridge. | Columbus, Ohio | Iyman Faris | Kashmir, entered US in 1994, became US citizen in 1999. | Sentenced to 20 years in Prison [8] |
| Jun-03 | ? | Eleven members of the Virginia Jihad Network were arrested and accused of training for holy war around the globe. A federal grand jury indicted 11 people on conspiracy, firearms and other charges, six members have pleaded guilty and received prison sentences. Two others were acquitted of all charges. Ali Al-Farimi sentenced to life imprisonment, others less than 20 years or less. | Northern Virginia | Ali al-Timimi, Ali Asad Chandoia, Muhammed Aatiq, Hamad Abdur-Raheem, Ibrahim, Ahmed Al-Hamdi, Serfilah Chapman, Khwaja Hasan, Masoud Khan, Yong Awon, Randall Todd Royer and Donald Surratt. | US Nationals | — |
| Aug-04 | New York Stock Exchange, World Bank, International Monetary Fund. | Security in the United States was put on high alert after a plot surfaced to destroy the New York Stock Exchange and other financial institutions in New Jersey and Washington. Dhiren Barot converted to Islam at age 20. Came to the U.S. on a student visa in August 2000. Returned to UK in 2001, arrested by UK authorities in 2004. | United Kingdom | Dhiren Barot | Indian | Sentenced to life in prison, reduced to 30 years in 2007. |
| 28-Aug-04 | Herald Square subway system | Two men were arrested after attempting to bomb the New York subway system on the day before the 2004 Republican National Convention. Over a period of several months in 2004, he was recorded by an FBI informer Osama Eldawody plotting to plant a bomb in the 34th Street Herald Square station of the New York City Subway. | New York, New York | Shahawar Ma'in Siraj and James Elshafay. | Pakistani and US National | Sentenced to 30 years in prison [14] |
| Aug-04 | Pakistani diplomat | Two leaders of an Albany Mosque, Mohammed M. Hossain and Yassin M. Aref, conspired with a man who claimed to have ties to Islamic terrorists in laundering \$50,000 in payments for a Chinese missile that he showed them. In fact, the contact turned out to be an undercover informer for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the RPG-7 missile was a disabled weapon owned by the federal government. | Albany, New York | Yassin Aref and Mohammed Hossain | Bangladeshi and Kurdish | Both sentenced to 15 years in prison |
| Jun-05 | ? | In June 2005 Hamid Hayat was arrested and charged with providing material support to terrorists and of lying about it to FBI agents. The prosecution alleged that Hamid Hayat had spent the better part of two years at an al-Qaeda training camp in Pakistan, returning in 2005 with an intent to attack civilian targets in the United States. Umer Hayat was also arrested and charged with two counts of making false statements to the FBI regarding the investigation of his son and of certain members of the Muslim community of Lodi. | Lodi, California | Hamid and Umer Hayat | Pakistani | Hamid was sentenced to 24 years in prison |
| Aug-05 | Los Angeles-area military bases, synagogues and other places. | Indicted on terrorism charges related to conspiracy to attack military facilities in the Los Angeles area and of attempting to fund their campaign by robbing gas stations in Southern California. | Los Angeles, California | Kevin James, Levar Washington, Gregory Patterson, Hamad Samana. | US Nationals and Pakistani | James sentenced to 16 years in prison |
| Dec-05 | Williams Natural Gas (Wyoming), Transcontinental Pipeline, Standard Oil refinery. | A man was arrested on suspicion that he had plans to destroy several sites. Reynolds was formally charged with a firearms offense for possessing a hand grenade, though a sealed statement from the FBI also stated that he intended to blow up multiple pipelines in the United States in a bid to help further terrorist causes. | Pennsylvania | Michael Curtis Reynolds | US National | Sentenced to 30 years in prison |
| Feb-06 | Troops in Iraq, Toledo, Ohio citizens | Three men were arrested for allegedly planning to build bombs for use by terrorists in Iraq and were arrested and charged with conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists in Iraq and engage in violent jihad in their home town, as well as making verbal threats against the President of the United States. The investigation was conducted by the FBI and the Toledo Joint Terrorism Task Force, with the cooperation of an informant called "The Trainer" who has a U.S. military background in security. | Toledo, Ohio | Mohammad Zaki Anawi, Mamwan Othman El-Hindi, and Wassim Mazloum. | U.S. National, Jordanian | Anawi was sentenced to 20 years in prison, the others 13 and 8 years, respectively. |
| Apr-06 | Washington D.C.-area buildings | Two men from the U.S. state of Georgia, were arrested after videotaping Washington-area buildings, and sending the tapes to a London based jihadist website. Ahmed and Sadeque were reindicted by a federal grand jury in December, 2008. Both men were again charged with conspiring to provide material support to terrorists, including trying to join Lashkar-e-Taiba in 2005. According to the new indictment, the videos were passed to another convicted British terrorist, Aabid Hussain Khan, on whose computer they were found subsequent to his own arrest. | Toronto, Ontario | Syed Haris Ahmed and Ehsanul Islam Sadeque. | Pakistani | Ahmed sentenced to 13 years in prison, Sadeque sentenced to 17.[26] |
| Jun-06 | Sears Tower and FBI offices | The charges centered around the group's belief that they were being offered money by someone in Yemen to help their mission in Liberty City, provided they supported the al-Qaeda jihad. The FBI agents represented themselves as representatives of al-Qaeda (but who were actually undercover FBI agents), and persuaded Batiste to provide plans for a stated intention to destroy the Sears Tower in Chicago, the FBI field office in Miami, and other targets. | Miami, Florida, Atlanta, Georgia | Narseal Batiste, Patrick Abraham, Stanley Grant Phanor, Rotschild Augustine, Burson Augustin, Naudimar Herrera, Lyngelson Lemorin. | US National | Five of the men were convicted. Batiste was sentenced to 13 years in prison. |
| Jul-06 | Port Authority Trans-Hudson train tunnels. | Living in Lebanon who was charged with plotting a mission to blow up the PATH train tunnels beneath the Hudson River between New Jersey and lower Manhattan, New York City, United States with a team of suicide bombers with backpack explosives. He was arrested by the Lebanese Armed Forces, a division of the Internal Security Forces (ISF), in the Mousaitbeh area of west Beirut on April 27, 2006. | New York, New York | Assem Hammoud | Lebanon | — |