

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2577) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chair, I rise today to oppose this appropriations measure—and to oppose the policies that it embodies.

The THUD bill before us, like all of the non-defense appropriations measures being drafted by my Republican colleagues, adheres to the budget caps set under sequestration, which require cuts in BOTH non-defense and defense discretionary programs.

My Republican colleagues have decided that applying these caps to the defense side of the ledger, where the budget authority appropriated by Congress for discretionary programs topped \$560 billion in fiscal year 2015, is intolerable.

However, they have decided that these cuts are not only acceptable on the non-defense side of the ledger, they are inadequate, and so the Republicans' budget plan would impose additional cuts over and above those required under sequestration.

Mr. Chair, what is intolerable is failing to invest in our own nation.

The Republicans' unmistakable budget priority is to disinvest in the United States, and that objective is clearly reflected in the THUD bill before us.

Let me tell you about the people who are suffering the consequences of this disinvestment.

They are people just like Freddie Gray.

Mr. Chair, the eyes of this nation saw Freddie Gray only after he was dead.

They didn't see him when he was reading from text books that were 30 years old.

They didn't see him when he was suffering from asthma because of exposure to lead paint in his home.

And they didn't see him when he couldn't find a job.

There are tens of millions of Americans who are facing the same deep and systemic economic challenges today in cities and towns across this nation.

These Americans have watched employers leave their communities and have been left with standard schools, few job training options, and no path to the better future they want for themselves and their families.

They have been intentionally targeted by leading banks to receive subprime mortgages, or have been left to obtain financial services

from liquor stores and pawn shops when banks closed in their neighborhoods because their communities were deemed "unprofitable."

They are people who are working full-time jobs at the minimum wage—but are still left below the poverty line.

They are the millions who are tired of being tired.

Anyone who sees these people should find the bill before us today intolerable.

This bill does nothing to restore the funding cut in past years from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

As a result of these cuts, the CDBG award amount to Baltimore has fallen from \$27 million in federal program year 2005 to just \$18.8 million in federal program year 2014. Baltimore officials have indicated to me that they will be unable to fund any new non-profit social service activities in calendar year 2016.

City officials indicated to me that among the requests they cannot fund was a request for \$187,000 to help provide legal assistance for 300 households facing foreclosure.

This is particularly devastating in my state, which continues to have one of the highest foreclosure rates in the nation, and where many of the people now facing foreclosure are the very people illegally targeted by banks to receive subprime loans.

The bill before us also cuts funding for the maintenance and repair of public housing, cuts the Choice Neighborhoods program, and fails to provide the funding requested by the President to restore the more than 60,000 housing vouchers lost due to sequestration.

According to the Baltimore City housing authority, there are tens of thousands of people waiting for housing assistance in our city. And that's just one city in this nation.

This bill even cuts funding—by 30%—for lead hazard abatement. Baltimore City has one of the highest rates of children testing positive for elevated lead levels among urban centers in the United States, and the highest rates are in the lowest income neighborhoods.

As I've walked Baltimore's streets in the weeks since Freddie Gray's death, I have met countless young people who want exactly what every child in this nation wants.

They want a safe place to live. They want a good school. They want a way to fulfill the promise they feel in themselves.

And they want to know their lives matter—a right deserved by every American, not just the privileged few.

The President has already indicated he would veto this bill—so rather than wasting time on it, why don't we craft a new budget framework that will ensure every American has the chance to succeed?

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2578) making appropriations for the Department of Commerce and Justice, Science, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Chair, I want to compliment the Chairman for a good bill that responsibly invests in law enforcement, space, the sciences, research, our oceans and marine resources, and our weather sciences.

I also want to thank the Chairman for his support in this bill for an innovative data collection initiative to improve fish stock assessments and research of the fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico. As we discussed in our hearings, we as a nation need to utilize all available tools and technology, and work with all fisheries' sector participants, including recreational, for-hire and commercial, to provide the most accurate assessment of the health of our fish stocks, including the Red Snapper species so critical to our quality of life in our Gulf states like Florida and Texas, and so critical to our regional economy. This innovative data collection initiative will better enable the National Marine Fisheries Service and the regional council to make the most informed decisions possible about the length of various fishing seasons.

Mr. Chair, without constantly improving, more accurate, quantifiable data—data that is believed to reliably reflect the fisherman's experience on the water—our commercial and recreational fishermen alike find it difficult to understand decisions made by government to shorten fishing seasons and limit catches.

To be clear, this important new provision included in this year's CJS bill is intended to provide the National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office new tools to utilize data collection efforts from our recreational, for-hire and commercial fishermen, state and local officials, third party researchers, and academia—data collection and research focused on the unique stock assessment challenges of Gulf fisheries.

By working with our recreational, for-hire and commercial fishermen, and engaging them directly in data collection, the NMFS Southeast Regional Office will ultimately accumulate more and better data, and will begin to restore trust between the sectors and regulators.

This public-private effort will allow officials tasked with managing our fishery resources to reach the right balance, balance for our recreational fishing community's quality of life and right to fish on our waters, balance for our regional economy fueled by the commercial and

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

for-hire fishing industry, and balance for our strong interest in stock rehabilitation, species preservation and protecting our critical natural resources.

Mr. Chair, the Florida Institute of Oceanography estimates that Florida's ocean economy generates almost \$30 billion dollars per year in economic activity, more than that generated by citrus, cattle, ranching and the space industry of Florida combined. It is critical that we get this right.

I look forward to continuing to work with Chairman CULBERSON through the appropriations process, and with NOAA and NMFS Southeast Regional Office during implementation of this funding, to stand up this critical, innovative stock assessment initiative and make it a success for Florida and for all five of our Gulf States, including the Chairman's home state of Texas.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER-4
MICHAEL A. HUDSON

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today, I am very grateful for the opportunity to recognize Chief Warrant Officer-4 Michael A. Hudson, his wife Karin, and their two sons Zachary and Joshua, for their hard work and commitment to our great country, the United States of America. After honorably serving as an active duty U.S. Marine for the past 20 years, CW4 Hudson retired on Friday, May 15, 2015.

CW4 Hudson is an Ohio native from Sandusky who joined the Marine Corps in 1994. He has received numerous personnel awards such as: the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals. CW4 Hudson also excelled in his studies having earned a Master's Degree from Webster University in Management and Leadership. CW4 Hudson not only served his country while residing in the United States but also while living abroad in Japan for six years with his family. While on duty in Okinawa, Japan CW4 Hudson worked with General Support Maintenance Company during 1999. In 2006, CW4 Hudson and his family later transferred to Iwakuni, Japan where he served as the Station Motor Transport Officer and Garrison Mobile Equipment Fleet Manager.

It is with sincere gratitude I honor Mr. Hudson's family for their dedication to our country throughout his years of active service. Mrs. Karin Hudson has been happily married to Mr. Hudson for nineteen years. Not only has she held an important position with Valley Counseling in Warren, Ohio as a Program Manager, but she has also fulfilled the role of both parents her husband was deployed. Mrs. Hudson selflessly moved with her family whenever her husband's duty called for them to do so, and I laud her for her commitment to her husband, her family, and her country.

I would also like to acknowledge Mr. and Mrs. Hudson's two sons, Zachary and Joshua, for their patience and spirit as they traveled with their parents around Japan and the

United States. It may at times be difficult to have a parent in active service, but they have shown true patriotism in their support of their father. Zachary at thirteen attends Lakeview Middle School, all the while enjoying the responsibilities of being a Boy Scout. His younger brother Joshua is nine years old and currently attends Lakeview Elementary where he enjoys playing baseball.

Mr. Speaker I ask all of my colleagues to join me in extending a heartfelt thank you to Chief Warrant Officer-4 Hudson and his family for their commitment to our country. We will never forget the years you have honorably served and will forever be thankful for it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on Rollcall vote No. 292, the amendment offered by Mr. SANFORD of South Carolina. Had I been present, I would have voted "No."

TRIBUTE TO CARL ST. CLAIR

HON. MIMI WALTERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to honor and celebrate Carl St. Clair's 25th Anniversary as the Music Director at Orange County's Pacific Symphony.

Under Carl St. Clair's brilliant leadership, Pacific Symphony has become the largest professional symphony orchestra formed in the past fifty years. Through St. Clair's outstanding vision, sensitivity, and dynamic leadership, Pacific Symphony has developed programming that has bridged different cultures, engaged creative voices, and opened the door of great music for all.

St. Clair's artistic vision and standards have generated enthusiastic audiences locally and internationally. In 2006, he led the Symphony on its first European tour—nine cities in three countries playing before capacity houses and receiving extraordinary reviews. His commitment to new music has been demonstrated locally and admired nationally. The Pacific Symphony's American Composers' Festival has celebrated leading composers annually for fifteen years; the Symphony has won two ASCAP Awards for Adventurous Programming, and has released eleven recordings—primarily the music of American composers. St. Clair has produced numerous thematic festivals and fostered the return of professional opera to Orange County. He has also developed continuing programmatic relationships with a number of local universities, including USC, Chapman University, and UC-Irvine.

St. Clair is actively involved in both the conception and implementation of Pacific Symphony's education and outreach programs. The orchestra produces more than twenty distinct education and outreach programs—several garnered national attention and are widely replicated.

Maestro St. Clair has proclaimed that "Music is a birthright," and has supported that vision with complementary activities that are accessible to the entire community.

Through HEARTSTRINGS, the Symphony provides music to more than twenty different agencies that range from homeless shelters and after school youth-mentoring clubs to the Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Age Well Senior Services. This is accomplished through individual and small group visits to agency sites as well as providing available tickets for major performances. In total, forty-four percent of the Pacific Symphony's annual audiences heard the orchestra at no cost last season. Finally, in perhaps the greatest salute to Maestro St. Clair's musical leadership, fully one-third of Pacific Symphony musicians (37 in number) have tenures with the orchestra that equal or exceed his twenty-five years.

From the highest artistic standards to the breadth of community outreach and service, Carl St. Clair is a vital part of the distinctive quality of life we enjoy in Orange County and Southern California. I thank him for his leadership and for enriching the lives of children and adults throughout the Southern California region, the nation, and the world.

HONORING MARVIN GIBSON ON
THE OCCASION OF EARNING HIS
SEVENTY YEAR PIN

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Marvin Gibson of Marquette, Michigan on the occasion of earning his Seventy Year Pin in service of the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Gibson was awarded this honor at a ceremony in Northern Michigan on May 31, 2015.

As Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 305 in Marquette, Mr. Gibson has shown his devotion to the scouting way of life. In his long career with the BSA, he has earned several other distinctions such as the rank of Eagle Scout, Vigil Honor in the Order of the Arrow, National Jamboree Leadership, and the Order of the Arrow National Conferences. Mr. Gibson is additionally the father of an Eagle Scout and a long time summer camp staffer at Camp Hiawatha.

As a former Boy Scout myself, I have firsthand experience in the positive work that Scouting provides, especially in helping young men become self-reliant and learn important skills. On behalf of all residents of the First Congressional District, I wish to convey my congratulations to Mr. Gibson, his family, his fellow scouts, and the many that he has helped to positively influence in his seventy years in service of scouting.

IN HONOR OF SHERIFF LEON
WILMOT

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a patriot, a public servant and a