

more affluent districts with less need for such support.

The vast majority of the children affected by "portability," are black or Hispanic.

As legislators, as Americans, we have a generational responsibility to enhance the lives of those who will follow us, especially the most vulnerable.

H.R. 5 guts education funding, while diverting funds away from high-poverty schools by freezing funding at FY 2015 levels for six years, which represents over \$800 million in cuts to these programs compared to pre-sequester funding.

Mr. Chair, what does it say about our commitment to our youth that we are willing to cut funding for the future leaders of America?

For decades, we threw money at education without making sure our schools were actually improving, or whether we were giving teachers the tools they need, or whether our taxpayer dollars were being used effectively.

And our students too often paid the price.

The bill as it exists now allows for the establishment of separate, lower standards for students with developmental disabilities.

As a result of these standards, opportunities available for students with disabilities later in life would suffer considerably.

H.R. 5 converts much of the funding currently directed at English learners, migrant students, or at-risk students into block-grants, which would enable those funds to be spent outside the target populations.

Support for these students would also be eroded by suspending requirements that school districts improve the English-speaking ability of such students.

It is my concern as H.R. 5 is currently drafted abdicates the historic Federal role in elementary and secondary education of ensuring the educational progress of all of America's students, including students from low-income families, students with disabilities, English learners, and students of color.

'No Child Left Behind' needs to be fixed, but Republicans are pushing a bill that would gut education funding, eliminate and weaken protections for disadvantaged students, does not provide a well-rounded education for all students, and does not support educators.

The Statement of Administration Policy from the Obama administration agrees on the need for high-quality statewide annual testing as required in H.R. 5, so parents and teachers know how children and schools are doing from year to year and to allow for consistent measurement of school and student performance across the State.

However the administration has stated that this bill should do more to reduce redundant and unnecessary testing, such as asking States to limit the amount of time spent on standardized testing and requiring parental notification when testing is consuming too much classroom learning time.

In its current state the Obama administration recommends a veto of H.R. 5.

It is sobering to me, as the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus and someone who has long advocated on behalf of young people from all backgrounds, to see a bill that would have such a negative impact on the very children who need our help the most.

In addition to these sad truths, the bill currently under consideration would strike a devastating blow to our schools' ability to provide

the variety of programs that our children deserve.

It repeals dedicated funding for programs such as student safety, after and summer school programming, STEM education, education technology, arts education, literacy and block-grants support, forcing high-need districts to choose between funding vital services.

It should not be overlooked that one of these programs that is considered expendable is STEM-focused education, an area of importance both nationally and to my constituents in Houston.

The Houston region is one of the most important industrial bases in the world and was recently ranked the No. 1 U.S. manufacturing city by Manufacturers' News Inc.

Houston is also home to the largest medical complex in the world—the Texas Medical Center—and provides clinical health care, research and education at its 54 institutions.

These jobs, and truly the middle class of this decade as a whole, are dependent on workers who get the right STEM education and job training today.

Brookings' Metropolitan Policy Program's report "The Hidden STEM Economy" reported that in 2011, 26 million jobs or 20 percent of all occupations required knowledge in 1 or more STEM areas.

The same report stressed that fully half of all STEM jobs are available to workers without a 4 year degree and these jobs pay on average \$53,000 a year, which is 10 percent higher than jobs with similar education requirements.

To eliminate federal funding aimed at enhancing STEM education is to cripple an entire generation of America's youth, leaving them without skills that may be essential in securing their own future and the economic prosperity of our nation.

Finally, it must be addressed that the defining characteristic of our primary and secondary education system has been to prepare our students for college.

H.R. 5 does not contain any provisions that states consult with institutes of higher education in order to ensure that their academic standards are consistent with what will be demanded of those students once they graduate.

As a result, many students, even after receiving a high school diploma, will find themselves unprepared to pursue a college degree if they choose to.

We must look at the environments in which we are asking these students to succeed and ensure we have the best protections in place to provide safe educational institutions.

Amendment #93 of this bill, Jackson Lee Amendment, supports accountability-based programs and activities that are designed to enhance school safety, which may include research-based bullying prevention, cyberbullying prevention, disruption of recruitment activity by groups or individuals involved in violent extremism, and gang prevention programs as well as intervention programs regarding bullying.

H.R. 5 eliminates the current requirement that districts take action when their schools are under resourced and unable to meet the needs of all students.

Together with the lack of consideration and support for at-risk and low-income youth, this will result in those students being marginalized and denied educational opportunity rather than given the support and resources they so desperately need.

I urge all my colleagues to join with me and oppose the passage of H.R. 5.

CONGRATULATING ELDON HIGH SCHOOL ON ITS BRONZE MEDAL AWARD

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Eldon High School on its Bronze Medal Award as a top Missouri High School from U.S. News and World Report.

This school's administration, teachers, and students should be commended for all of their hard work throughout the past year and for their commitment to education.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Eldon High School for a job well done.

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes:

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, federal funding for biomedical research has been stagnant over the past several years, another victim of unwise and shortsighted sequestration and budget cuts that put deficit reduction before investments that can save lives.

With no increase to counter the effects of inflation and increased cost of research, NIH has lost 22 percent of its purchasing power over the last decade. NIH has been forced to cut or deny funding for thousands of promising studies that could hold the key to incredible breakthroughs.

We should do everything we can to bring cures to patients as quickly as possible. Far too many people suffer from rare, serious and deadly diseases, and its outrageous cures could be found except for the lack of funding. It's also important we make sure drugs are safe and actually do what they are intended to do. I have concerns with some of the proposed changes to FDA's approval process designed to speed drugs and devices to market. We need to be certain that the proposed changes will not subject patients to a high level of risk. I expect the Senate will review and fix those provisions when they take up the bill.

HR. 6 does what Congress has been unable to do because the Republican majority refuses to understand a simple fact: Funding biomedical research, just like investing in our roads and bridges, is an investment, not wasteful spending.

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to accelerate the discovery, development, and delivery of 21st century cures, and for other purposes:

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support for H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act which will help advance the discovery, development, and delivery of new treatments and cures for patients and will foster private sector innovation here in the U.S.

Arriving here today has been a long journey—full of lots of steps and some twists and turns along the way. I especially want to thank Legislative Counsel for their tireless efforts in helping translate our legislative aims into legislative language. They worked nights and weekends and were consummate professionals throughout the process. Specifically, I want to thank the following: Warren Burke, Ed Grossman, Jessica Shapiro, Michelle Vanek, and Jesse Cross.

I also want to thank the health care staff of the Congressional Budget Office for all their help in recent months. In addition to their role in estimating the budgetary effects of numerous policies in the bill, they were instrumental in helping us shape a number of proposals the Committee considered. I specifically want to thank Holly Harvey, Tom Bradley, Chad Chirico, and all their colleagues for their diligence and assistance through the process.

And I would be remiss if I did not again thank the outstanding team on Energy and Commerce, and most especially the Health team, led by Chief Health Counsel, Clay Alspach, supported by Josh Trent, Paul Edattel, John Stone, Robert Horne, Carly McWilliams, Michelle Rosenberg, Katie Novaria, Adrianna Simonelli, Traci Vitek and Graham Pittman—without whose expertise, wisdom and counsel, this legislative work would not be possible.

H.R. 6 was reported from Energy and Commerce Committee by a vote of 51–0 and advances conservative fiscal and regulatory reforms. Every dollar of advanced appropriations in the bill (which will sunset at the end of FY 2020) is offset with other permanent reforms—including billions of dollars in mandatory entitlement savings in Medicare and Medicaid.

But this is no ordinary mandatory spending—like the kind we usually see in entitlement spending such as Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and Obamacare. This mandatory spending is for five years only and then stops or sunsets. This mandatory spending is fully paid for with mandatory spending cuts elsewhere that will not stop in five years, but are permanent reforms resulting in real savings. By comparison, the Ryan-Murray budget deal for health care savings yielded much less.

This innovative hybrid approach allows us to cut mandatory spending (entitlement spending) and use the savings to fund what would otherwise be a discretionary project—but in this case is 5-year dedicated spending on medical research.

Congressional Budget Office determined that H.R. 6 will reduce the deficit by \$500 mil-

lion over the first ten years, and at least another \$7 billion over the second decade.

The funds provided to the National Institutes for Health (NIH) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will be subject to explicit review and reprogramming through the annual appropriations process. Congress can review the dedicated funding and allocate it for specific initiatives.

Additionally, all the important policy riders that accompany federal funding through appropriations will be included—such as the Hyde Amendment and the Dickey-Wicker Amendment.

This bill also includes a policy that excludes authorized generics from Average Manufacturers' Price. This is a commonsense policy from the President's budget proposal, intended to ensure the appropriate calculation of Medicaid brand name rebates paid by manufacturers. The policy is not intended to effect Medicaid programs' pharmacy reimbursements. Instead, the provision, which many states support, will result in an increase in manufacturer rebates under Medicaid and thus save money for states and the federal government.

H.R. 6 will help America to innovate its way out of our entitlement crisis. The regulatory reforms included in H.R. 6 will accelerate the pace of discovery, development and delivery of new treatments and cures, thereby providing significant health care savings to the federal budget that will only grow over time.

By modernizing clinical trials, eliminating duplicative administrative requirements, and perhaps most importantly, making FDA less bureaucratic by advancing the voice and needs of patients in the drug and device approval process—H.R. 6 will make lasting, positive changes to the entire ecosystem of Cures. Over 250 patient groups have enthusiastically said “yes” and endorsed Cures.

I urge all of my colleagues to think of the patients and vote “AYE” in support of H.R. 6.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 6, 21ST CENTURY CURES
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2015

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am the Ranking Member of the Rules Committee. Rules, as you know, is the process committee.

Whether you are a majority or a minority member, you have rights, but they have been trampled on and abused with increasing regularity under this majority, and we have two glaring examples of that just today.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is important to all of us, and we all agree on the importance of putting more money into major research in the United States, we are falling behind other countries in finding the cures and the innovation for which we have been known for centuries. This is an important step that we are taking. This is a critically important bill, but process matters.

Mr. Speaker, after the Energy and Commerce Committee had voted out this bill unanimously, major changes were made with no committee input at all. They include a reduction of the amount of money that the com-

mittee had said would be put into the National Institutes of Health by \$1.250 billion, a very substantial sum.

They added some policy riders that literally made no sense. Why in the world would you put an abortion rider on a bill for medical research? As far as I know, the NIH and most medical universities doing this research do not perform abortion procedures. It was simply a way, again, to mollify members and make them vote for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, despite the importance of this bill, despite the fact that it came out of committee unanimously, despite the fact that so many people have worked on it, and despite the fact that good things were in it, the process was completely changed after it was over by rewriting major portions of it. That doesn't appear anywhere in the rules of the House.

Now, let's also think about what happened here last night during the debate on the Interior bill, which was considered under an open rule. After the Ranking Member, BETTY MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, had yielded back her time, a new amendment was offered at the request of Republican leadership in order to pick up enough votes to ensure final passage. This new amendment sought to undo two already adopted amendments that would restrict the display of the Confederate flags in National Park Service cemeteries. These amendments were initially noncontroversial—as they should have remained. In fact, they were adopted by voice vote. However, following a revolt by Members of the Republican Conference, Republican leadership offered this new amendment without any warning in order to gain more votes. In the end, the Majority pulled the entire bill in order to avoid taking a vote on their effort to place Confederate flags in U.S. cemeteries.

Mr. Speaker, and then this morning the Majority chose to send Leader PELOS's resolution to committee in order to avoid taking a vote on it. Her resolution would have required the removal of state flags containing the Confederate battle flag from the House wing of the Capitol, unless the flag is flown by an individual Member. Mr. MCGOVERN stated quite precisely that the resolution will die in committee—we will never see that one again. Unfortunately, that's what happens here, but Mr. Speaker, it is time it was stopped.

I was born in a border State, in Kentucky. I lived there most of my life. I was educated there. I never saw a Confederate flag in all those years. These battle flags that they are putting up appeared in the South after the civil rights legislation. They were the products of Strom Thurmond and the Dixiecrats. That is when they started to bloom all over. It is a symbol of pure hate or fear. It needs to go.

RECOGNIZING THE 2015 OFFICERS
OF THE OCCOQUAN WOODBRIDGE
LORTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DE-
PARTMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 2015 Officers of the Occoquan Woodbridge Lorton Volunteer Fire Department. The 2015 officers and members of the