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No. 142

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOLLY).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 30, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID W. JOLLY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### EXCHANGE INCLUSION FOR A HEALTHY AMERICA ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. The Pope visited America and he inspired a lot of people, even cynical Washington, D.C. For one, he inspired Speaker BOEHNER to wake up the next morning and announce his resignation.

As I said last week, it must be hard for a decent man like Speaker BOEHNER to be head of a new know-nothing party of increasingly extreme measures to cut health care for women and to

round up and deport millions of undocumented immigrants. It remains to be seen how Republicans in the House will conduct themselves without adult supervision, but the Speaker is going out on a high note.

Having the Pope speak to America from the floor of the House of Representatives was a crowning achievement for the Speaker. Now that his job is no longer on the line, I hope we will see immigration reform as the jewel in that crown and act before he steps down. But we all know that is unlikely. The concurrent hysteria on the campaign trail makes action by these Republicans or any Republicans unlikely.

Even though I still believe we have the votes—like we did for the last several years—to pass immigration reform in the House, I don't think the Speaker, even as a lame duck, will allow a vote. But the Pope's visit certainly inspired me to think about the moral example he sets.

Look, the Holy Father simply reminded Members of Congress about the Golden Rule—"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you"—and he could not even complete his sentence before he got a standing ovation.

If we had a daily reminder of the Golden Rule, we could cut through a lot of the bull in Congress and have a better country and a better world. It is the Golden Rule I am here to discuss. Treat your brother and your sister and your neighbor with compassion as you would like to be treated yourself.

And in the case of health care and access to health care, it is not simply out of a sense of moral altruism, although that is part of it. Rather, it is out of the reality that treating our brothers and sisters and neighbors as we want to be treated when it comes to health care and access to health care and access to health insurance is in our own self-interest as well.

That is why I am introducing the Exchange Inclusion for a Healthy Amer-

ica Act of 2015, a bill to give complete access to the Affordable Care Act regardless of their immigration status. The Exchange Inclusion for a Healthy America will extend healthcare insurance access to millions of our neighbors and family members who live here, work here, raise families here, and will probably live here for the rest of their lives, but who lack legal immigration status.

It gives them access to healthcare exchanges in ObamaCare under the ordinary rules of residency in the States in which they live and makes them eligible for subsidies if and when they file taxes, just like the rest of us. It also subjects them to the individual mandate that requires individuals to have health insurance.

The goal is to make integration and inclusion real for millions of families that are locked out under current law.

Now, if I remember correctly, the President was standing right here in 2009 talking about his healthcare reform proposal would exclude undocumented immigrants and one of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle interrupted him by shouting, "You lie" to the President of the United States of America, who, we should all note, was reelected comfortably in 2012.

I do not expect that Member of Congress to join me as a cosponsor. But, in fact, as we all know, he was dead wrong about the Affordable Care Act. In addition to death panels and a number of other fictions, the Republicans were wrong that undocumented immigrants were included in ObamaCare. They just weren't.

I am and have always been an advocate for the single payer approach to universal health coverage, and I fought to include all of the people who live in this country in the Affordable Care Act, but they were written out. As it stands right now, undocumented immigrants are not subject to the individual mandate and cannot buy into the

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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



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health insurance exchanges, even if they use their own money.

My legislation will change that. It says that we stand for inclusion. It says that we understand the principle that, if you are here, if you are working and caring for your family and contributing to society, you should be healthy. Not only that, but your health and your protection from diseases, injuries, and preventable illnesses impacts my health care and the health care of my family.

As a nation, we all benefit when we spread the risk, invite younger, healthier workers to join our exchanges, reduce the costs of compensating hospitals for caring for the uninsured, and reducing the number of uninsured who live and work here.

Doing unto others as you would have them do unto you means moving forward with no restrictions on which brother and sister and neighbor we think of as eligible or deserving or is, in fact, considered my neighbor, my sister or my brother.

My party and the vast majority of my country understands that getting immigrants on the books and into the system and integrating them into today's American society should be the goal, just as we have done with every other group of immigrants throughout our history. My legislation, the Exchange Inclusion for a Healthy America Act, is a step in that direction.

#### NORTH EAST BLUE RIBBON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend two schools in my district that were named this week as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2015.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools program was started by the United States Department of Education in 1982 and recognizes overall academic excellence or the success of the schools in closing achievement gaps in their student population.

Youngsville High School in Warren County and North East High School in Erie County both received this honor. They are among less than 20 schools in the State of Pennsylvania to be recognized, which is quite an accomplishment when you consider the many hundreds of schools in Pennsylvania's 500 school districts. Overall, 285 public schools across the Nation received this honor.

For Youngsville High School, this honor is many years in the making. The school has greatly improved its test scores and is using the collaboration of teachers, students, and staff, along with community members, to make sure its academic success continues to grow.

In Erie County, administrators at the North East High School say that their learning model is built on heart, trust,

and respect. School organizations such as National Honor Society, student council, and the school's Inspire group are intended to boost student performance in the classroom and highlight their service in the community.

I know that the administrators for both the Youngsville and North East High Schools have worked for many months toward this goal. I congratulate them, their students, and teachers on this major accomplishment.

#### TAX REFORM AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Politico yesterday had a fascinating story about CHUCK SCHUMER, widely expected to become the next Democratic leader in the Senate, in talks with Republican leaders in the House and Senate about a major tax and infrastructure deal.

It would give a lower tax rate on hundreds of billions of dollars parked overseas by international corporations and use the tax on those proceeds to finance a more robust 6-year transportation bill. What is not to like?

I have been working tirelessly for us to be able to finance America's failing infrastructure, having introduced the first gas tax increase on the Federal level in 22 years. I have been working with stakeholders, like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, organized labor, truckers, AAA, contractors, transit, the whole array of people who build, operate, use, and rely upon American infrastructure.

I am sympathetic to getting this job done. America is falling apart while we are falling behind. It doesn't work to try to pay for 2015 infrastructure with 1993 dollars.

The simple answer that Ronald Reagan successfully championed as President was raising the gas tax, in his case, 125 percent. It is taking hold around the country as even very red Republican States—six already this year—have raised their gas taxes, and our legislation in Congress is gaining more attention as people understand that this is the best way forward to solve the problem.

What is wrong with the deal that is being examined by Senator SCHUMER? Well, first of all, the path towards international tax reform is very complex and rocky, with many competing interests. No one disputes that the patchwork of our corporate tax system that we have currently is unfair to some and produces distorted results.

We have the highest stated statutory corporate tax rate in the world. But, for many corporations, that is not so much of a problem because they have been working to carve out their own exemptions and loopholes so that what the average that corporations pays is much less than the stated rate. But, for

some, particularly those that build and operate in the United States, they do pay that statutory rate and it is a problem and it is unfair.

There is also still the incentive for some to park more money overseas. Most of us think that it is going to require revenue to buy down the corporate rate, to reform it, and repatriated dollars would be a source to adjust that in a way that doesn't make the deficit much, much worse.

There is also a problem of competitiveness. Some organizations actually have offshore operations to be closer to their markets. If you are going to sell in China, for instance, it makes sense perhaps to manufacture it there rather than ship it halfway around the world with all the complexity and expense.

I have been meeting with a wide variety of corporate tax officers who ask the question about equity. Why should they with their overseas operations pay for domestic infrastructure that everybody benefits from? That is a great question.

This has the potential of actually costing the Treasury more in the long run, making it harder to have an equitable adjustment in corporate tax reform, and shift the burden that should be paid by all American users instead concentrated on a small portion of American taxpayers on their overseas operation. They ask where is the equity, and it is hard to see.

That is why we have the basic principle of a user fee: People use a service and they pay for it. The gas tax for decades has served that purpose since it was first introduced in my home State of Oregon in 1919 for road construction. It is still the simplest, most direct, most fair, easiest to administer, and would enable us to solve this problem in a matter of months.

Unfortunately, the path we are on is very uncertain as well as unfair. We are going to have the 35th short-term extension of the highway trust fund next month. No country has become great building its infrastructure 10 months at a time.

The answer is not an elaborate deal that is being discussed which makes it less likely we solve the problems. Why don't we just deal with it directly, put hundreds of thousands of people to work at family-wage jobs, actually reduce the deficit, increase the economy, and strengthen the quality of life in communities large and small all across America.

Let's not engage in gimmickry. Let's rebuild and renew America.

#### HONORING SPECIALIST KYLE GILBERT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HICE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of U.S. Army Specialist Kyle Gilbert.

Specialist Gilbert was recently killed in Afghanistan while serving our Nation just days before his 25th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my most sincere and heartfelt condolences to Kyle's family and to let them know that I and we have them in our thoughts and our prayers.

Kyle is survived by many loving family members and friends, including his mother and stepfather, Ceann and Clyde Tate; father and stepmother, Ralph and Sandra Gilbert; sisters, Sasha Ashley and Becky Bailey; brother, Myles Gilbert; as well as his grandmother, Jean Ann Carrington; his stepbrother, Chris Manning; as well as a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Mr. Speaker, Kyle was born in Lawrenceville, Georgia, and graduated from Mill Creek High School in 2009 and in 2013 joined the United States Army. He was a 10th Mountain Division soldier with the 2nd Battalion, the 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to share with you that Specialist Gilbert received the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon. Additionally, Mr. Speaker, Kyle received the Bronze Star, the Army Good Conduct Medal, and the NATO Medal.

□ 1015

Though I did not have the privilege of meeting Kyle personally, I would like to use this opportunity to sincerely thank him for his incredible service to the State of Georgia and to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, it has been relayed to me that Specialist Gilbert's deepest dream was to serve our Nation in the military, and I thank him for his incredible service and sacrifice so that so many others can share the American Dream. Kyle leaves a legacy of service, dedication, and kindness that will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, I humbly ask that you join me in praying for Specialist Gilbert's family during this time of their bereavement.

#### 21ST CENTURY WOMEN'S HEALTH ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the 21st Century Women's Health Act to increase access to reproductive health care and to provide compassionate care to survivors of sexual assault.

Funding for the government runs out in a matter of hours. Rather than crafting a bipartisan solution on the Nation's budget, House leadership has been focusing on denying women their right to make their own healthcare decisions.

This is 2015. We should be doing all we can to increase access to health

care for women. We should not be rolling back women's rights and cutting access to lifesaving cancer and preventative health screenings for women, men, and youth across the country.

As a mother, a daughter, and a Member of Congress, I understand the value of increasing access to health care for women; and that is why I am proud to introduce the 21st Century Women's Health Act, with my colleagues Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, Congresswoman DIANA DEGETTE, and with our leadership of our ally in the Senate, Senator PATTY MURRAY from Washington.

This comprehensive bill will increase access to preventative health services and contraception for low-income women, and it will help women report instances of inappropriate charges for birth control, a problem that affects too many women across the country. It will also expand the primary care workforce and ensure that survivors of sexual assault are provided with free emergency contraception and compassionate care.

I want my daughter and every woman in this country to live in a place where they have access to affordable healthcare providers like Planned Parenthood, a full range of reproductive choices, and, most importantly, the ability to make their own healthcare decisions.

Colleagues, I grew up before Roe v. Wade, and I know what our country looks like when women don't have access to a full range of reproductive healthcare options. We know that if abortion is restricted, it does not go away.

Let us not return to a time when women had to seek care in the shadows or the back alleys. Let us come together to prevent unwanted pregnancies, and let us champion our march forward toward a more equal society with the introduction of the 21st Century Women's Health Act.

I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors, and I look forward to working toward the passage of this important bill.

#### THANK YOU STATE SENATOR BRANDEN PETERSEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor State Senator Branden Petersen of Andover for his public service. Branden was elected to the Minnesota House in 2010 at the young age of 24 and then re-elected to serve his constituents, but this time in the Minnesota Senate in 2012. Recently, Branden resigned to spend more time with his young family. His leadership in the Minnesota Legislature will be sorely missed.

Branden represents portions of my district, and I have been honored to work with him and to know him. He is a man of great character and principle.

While in office, Branden worked hard to improve Minnesota's schools, economy, and budget, all while being part of a growing family that now includes three little ones at home. It has been wonderful to see Branden's dedication over the past 5 years, and I believe that the people of his district are so lucky to have benefited from his service. Branden's leadership will be truly missed, but I have no doubt that he will find success and happiness in his future endeavors.

Enjoy your time with your family, Senator. You deserve it.

MANUFACTURING DAY 2015

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Manufacturing Day and the importance of Minnesota's manufacturing industry.

Manufacturing is one of the main drivers of the economy in my district and my State. Manufacturers generate billions of dollars in revenue for my State each year, making them a key pillar of Minnesota's economy.

Minnesota is home to an impressive 292,000 manufacturing jobs, and the State's manufacturing industry has the second largest payroll of any business sector.

Minnesotans are hardworking people, and they deserve the best that life has to offer. They deserve a strong State economy, which allows for individual growth, prosperity, and the pursuit of happiness. That is why I will continue to emphasize the importance of manufacturing-friendly policies for as long as I serve in Congress.

I am proud to support Manufacturing Day in our country, but I want to make it clear that every day is Manufacturing Day in Minnesota.

HAL BECKER, A SERVANT TO DELANO

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hal Becker for his tireless service to the city of Delano and to wish him luck in his upcoming retirement.

Hal graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1977 with a degree in mathematics. Not long after completing his education, Hal began to work at Delano Municipal Utilities and served as the general manager there for 30 years. He was the perfect candidate for this position, as he also graduated from the St. Paul Public Schools electricity course, holds an electrician's license and a water supply system operator license.

Hal has done an outstanding job over the past 30 years, which is proven by the recognition he has received for his work. In 2013, he was the recipient of the impressive American Public Power Association's Larry Hobart Seven Hats Award.

Hal has been a great neighbor and member of our Delano community and, above all, our friend.

Hal, your shoes will be tough to fill, and we will all miss your service. I wish you a peaceful and happy retirement.

MARCO, INC., OF ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate

Marco, Inc., of St. Cloud, Minnesota, for making Fortune's list of best small- and medium-sized companies to work for.

Marco has an incredible story and is proof that the American Dream is alive and well. What began as a small typewriter shop in St. Cloud quickly evolved into one of the top technology providers in the country, with offices located throughout the Midwest.

However, what truly stands out about Marco is that they are one of the first companies to create an employee stock ownership plan, and they are among the few companies in this country to be 100 percent employee owned.

I truly commend Marco, Inc., for understanding that employees are the heart and soul of every company and that they must be taken care of and rewarded. Your quick rise and large success is undoubtedly due to the way you treat your employees and your positive work environment. I am proud to recognize you here today.

#### NORTH CAROLINA OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRIALIZATION CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great American, Howard Curtis Jones, a constituent and dear friend who is the founder and president of the Wilson, North Carolina, Opportunities Industrialization Center.

This past Monday, September 29, Mr. Jones was presented with the Outstanding Rural Leader of the Year award at an auspicious occasion in Raleigh, North Carolina, the highest award bestowed by the North Carolina Rural Center and the Rural Economic Development organization.

This recognition could not be awarded to a more deserving individual. Mr. Jones has long been an inspiration to many with his compassion and work. I am honored to call Howard Jones my friend of more than 45 years.

The Rural Leader award recognizes an individual who demonstrates remarkable commitment to improving the way of life in rural North Carolina by enhancing the community and positively impacting the quality of life for its residents.

Mr. Jones has been helping people from Wilson and surrounding communities for more than 40 years. He has earned this recognition through decades of hard work and community involvement.

Born in Sims, North Carolina, during the Depression in 1933 as one of 16 children, Howard has spent the majority of his life trying to empower disadvantaged populations in rural eastern North Carolina. He motivates them to reach their full potential by teaching vocational skills and helping them secure gainful employment.

In 1972, after returning to his home community from employment in New

York City, Mr. Jones started OIC of Wilson, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, with the goal of helping to empower individuals to find employment opportunities.

Wilson OIC, as we call it, provides services to disadvantaged youth and adults, including prevocational training, employment readiness and referral services, health educational programs, and programs to help dislocated workers transition to new careers.

Remarkably, Mr. Jones began OIC with little more than his faith in God and an unshakeable resolve and steadfast dedication that it could be done. He had no funding. He had no staff when he started except volunteers.

Over the years, Wilson OIC has expanded to employ 35 workers and place more than 200 citizens per year in jobs. Importantly, Wilson OIC adapts the services and training they provide through our changing world and assists clients in acquiring the skills needed to compete in the 21st century economy.

For 10 years, I had the honor of serving as board chair for Wilson OIC and was involved in helping to secure its present site, which was an abandoned elementary school in the city.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, to Mr. Jones' work with OIC, he has been a leader among OICs nationally and internationally. He was a personal friend and confidant of the national founder, the Reverend Dr. Leon Howard Sullivan, who must be remembered as the first African American to serve on the board of directors for General Motors and the author of the Sullivan principles, which led to the dismantling of South Africa's system of apartheid.

Mr. Speaker, Howard Jones has received more than 100 awards during his career: in 1987, he received the Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service; in 1987, he was recognized at the national level with the Thomas Jefferson Award; in 1997, President Clinton presented Mr. Jones with the Lifetime Achievement Jefferson Award; and in 2009, he received the First Community Stellar Award by Success Dynamics. The list goes on and on.

Finally, Howard Jones and Wilson OIC, four times each year, distribute thousands of pounds of food to low-income families in the community. When they conduct their food distribution program, hundreds of citizens literally line up through the night to receive these commodities. Howard Jones, Mr. Speaker, is an icon in our community. Howard has been married to his wife, Sylvia Neal Jones, for many years. He is the father of five adult children and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Howard Curtis Jones on being selected as Outstanding Rural Leader of the Year. He is most deserving of this honor. Mr. Jones is an example of how a single individual can make an immense positive

impact in his community, in his State, and in his country.

#### RUSSIA'S ATTACK ON SYRIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I had no intention of coming to the floor and actually speaking this morning—I have a committee hearing, in fact—until I saw the news.

Now, let me paint a picture just briefly. Every day there are men, women, and children that live in a nation called Syria that wonder if the next barrel bomb is going to come and drop in their neighborhood. Now, this isn't a barrel bomb targeted, by the way, at any real opposition. It is targeted at inflicting the maximum amount of pain on innocent civilians so that a brutal dictator by the name of Bashar al-Assad can ruthlessly, heartlessly keep power for himself in a country that does not want him.

We know that Bashar al-Assad used chemical weapons against his own people. Young kids were choking and gasping for air, knowing that this was their last breath and knowing that their dreams of becoming a doctor, a police officer, maybe a teacher was cut short by this ruthless, heartless man, Bashar al-Assad.

You know, Mr. Speaker, the President said a few years ago, almost divisively, that the opposition to Bashar al-Assad is just a bunch of doctors, lawyers, and pharmacists, as if that were a bad thing.

□ 1030

I believe that a bunch of doctors, lawyers, and pharmacists in charge of Syria today would be a very good thing. Mr. Speaker, about 2 weeks ago I stood in this Chamber and gave just a 1-minute address and said: Let me be clear. There is one reason and one reason only that Russia finds itself in the Middle East and one reason and one reason only that Russia finds itself in Syria, and that one reason is to prop up this brutal dictator Bashar al-Assad.

Now, let me remind people that ISIS would not exist in Syria had it not been for Bashar al-Assad brutally cracking down on the opposition, the peaceful opposition of his own people, but today we see that ISIS calls Syria home and we find ourselves engaged—albeit halfheartedly—in a war against ISIS because of this brutal dictator Bashar al-Assad. I stood in this Chamber and warned that the reason Russia is there is to prop him up.

Now, I told you that this morning I had no intention of coming onto the floor, Mr. Speaker, except this morning I saw the news that Russia has begun airstrikes in the Middle East. Now, if they were striking against ISIS, some could maybe argue that, hey, this is an opportunity to unite a world coalition. But it appears that, actually, the Russians have struck the doctors, lawyers,

and pharmacists that are the loyal opposition for a free Syria against Bashar al-Assad.

This is not a Russia interested in defeating ISIS for the sake of the peace of the world. This is a Russia interested in rebuilding the Soviet empire and propping up their dictators in the Middle East, regardless of that dictator having killed a quarter million of his own people. This is not a choice between Bashar al-Assad or ISIS. Mr. Speaker, to defeat ISIS, you must defeat Bashar al-Assad. The two choices are not separate. They are one and the same.

Sometimes in my party's Presidential debate I hear candidates, one or two in particular, that say Assad is our best choice in the Middle East. Mr. Speaker, if you would allow me, as a Christian, to say, as a follower of Jesus myself, no Jesus Christ I follow would call a man who brutally murders 250,000, at least, of his own people, especially women and children—no Christ I follow would call that man an ally or a friend in any way.

This is not a choice that is just one layer deep. This is a complicated situation in the Middle East that must be handled with American leadership. Mr. Speaker, I hope that the President sees this as an opportunity to reassert America's role in the Middle East. It doesn't mean he has to send 300,000 troops back into the Middle East. Not a single person I have heard on either side of the aisle has suggested even once another 300,000 troops in the Middle East.

What is being suggested is that, in the absence of American leadership, chaos, violence, death, and poverty follow suit. What we are seeing in the Middle East is a lack of American leadership and a situation spun out of control.

Mr. Speaker, I know George W. Bush has taken his licks for his policy in the Middle East, but at the end of the George W. Bush administration, if you looked at the Middle East then compared to the Middle East today, it is no comparison.

Mr. Speaker, I hope I wake up tomorrow and hear on the news that President Obama has said that America will reassert its leadership in the Middle East, but I won't hold my breath.

#### THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL has described the Republican House and Senate as a "responsible right-of-center governing majority." But how responsible is it that we are about to start a new fiscal year with no plan for how to fund our government? We are hours away from a shutdown, and Congress has yet to even begin budget negotiations.

Instead of doing the job the American people sent us here to do, we are celebrating that maybe we have found a way to keep the government open for 2 months—2 months. That is what we consider a bipartisan victory these days. Now, we may prevent a shutdown today, but let's be clear. Doing the bare minimum to keep the government from closing is not responsible. It is hardly governing at all.

The American people sent us here to take on the big issues and to get things done. They want us to fight for infrastructure, for education, for jobs, not just to keep the lights on. We are letting partisan games get in the way of governing, and it is not only hurting our government, it is hurting our constituents.

Unreliable, unpredictable short-term funding prevents the government from operating effectively and efficiently, and it costs taxpayers money. We are short-term funding, and we are ignoring changes in our policy priorities and restricting agencies from shifting dollars around to meet emerging challenges.

Defense officials recently warned that forcing the Pentagon to operate on a short-term CR would hurt our national security by restricting our ability to respond to new threats. Moreover, a CR severely limits the government's ability to plan ahead or start new projects. That is because there is no guarantee the money will be there in 2 months.

How do agencies manage this uncertainty? By freezing hiring and training, shortening terms for grants and contracts, forgoing maintenance, and delaying scheduled pay raises. In addition, agencies have to waste countless resources preparing for contingency plans for shutdowns that may or may not happen.

Republicans like to talk about running government more like a business. Is this how they would run a business? What successful business budgets 2 months at a time?

What we need and what Democrats have been demanding is for Republicans to sit down with us and craft a long-term, bipartisan budget so we can finally get rid of the harmful, across-the-board spending cuts of sequestration so we can reprioritize and restore funding in areas like education, R&D, infrastructure, and national security in a fiscally responsible way so we can plan for the future.

The best way to do that is to return to regular order. That means offering pro-growth budget resolutions that address our long-term fiscal challenges in a responsible way. No partisan austerity plans that keep the indiscriminate and harmful sequestration in place. It also means bringing appropriation bills to the floor free of ideological policy riders. There is a time and place to debate controversial issues. That is why we have authorizing committees.

I am confident that, as long as we can put partisan politics aside and ig-

nore obstructionist demands, we can get back to passing budgets under regular order, not a partisan budget that fails to address the sequester, not a CR that operates to keep agencies from planning more than 2 months out, and definitely not the threat of another shutdown.

My hope is with the new Republican leadership will come a renewed effort to bring back long-term budgeting under regular order. That is the kind of responsible government the American people expect of us. That is the kind of responsible governing that the American people deserve.

#### PROTECTING PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) for 5 minutes.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I have come to this floor numerous times to stand for a priority that I have committed myself to here as a Member of this Congress, and that is to stand up for individuals and protect the private property rights that our fellow American citizens enjoy in owning their properties, their homes, their family farms, and their other property that they have worked tirelessly to obtain.

I care about defending the constitutional rights given to all Americans and the generations that will follow us in the future. I fundamentally believe, Mr. Speaker, the American citizens' land is their land; it is not our government's.

Every day, Mr. Speaker, I am getting more and more input in our office about examples of Big Government taking people's property without just compensation and abusing the power of eminent domain. I have heard of family farms. I have heard of homes. I have heard of rights that have been squashed time and time by Big Government.

And individuals have nowhere to go. They essentially have two choices, either roll over, submit to the government and take what the government gives them or they try to fight and they use up their own precious resources while they fight a Big Government that seems to have endless amounts of resources and time, Mr. Speaker, on their side.

I want to put this in a personal perspective for my fellow Members and American citizens. This gentleman is a gentleman by the name of Charlie Birnbaum of Atlantic City, New Jersey. Mr. Birnbaum is the son of immigrants who came to America after surviving the brutality of the Holocaust. His parents bought a home, raised a family, and passed that home on to Charlie. They lived and are living the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, this is that home. This is something where they have raised their family, enjoyed family memories, and where Mr. Birnbaum is living the American Dream and providing resources by teaching piano lessons out

of this home and renting portions of it to tenants to make ends meet.

Since early 2014, the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority of New Jersey wants to take this home and give it to an unknown entity. They don't even have a plan to redevelop this home. They just want his property. That is not right, Mr. Speaker. That is not the American way of life. That is not the American Government that I am going to allow to abuse this man's precious home.

The solution is something that I have put together. The Defense of Property Rights Act is a piece of legislation that has come out of the Property Rights Caucus, working with my fellow Members from Maine to Alabama, to California, to stand up for private properties in America.

I introduced the legislation in January. The Defense of Property Rights Act would stand with people like Charlie and say: What America and the Big Government mentality of today is doing is wrong, and there are Members in Washington, D.C. who are joining us in the fight to say no more. We will force through that legislation accountability. We will make sure that government thinks about what it is doing before it destroys Charlie's American Dream and the Charlies across the country. Because, if it can happen to Charlie, Mr. Speaker, it can happen to anyone.

On my watch in Congress, I will do whatever I can to stand with those fellow American citizens and say: We are not going to let this happen.

#### HONORING FRED SIMON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. ASHFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend who has not only left his mark on a nationally recognized Omaha business, but also on the city itself. Fred Simon joined the family business Omaha Steaks back in 1959, helping to make it the household name and success story it is today.

But the memory of Fred Simon goes beyond the bottom line. Through his love of the arts, he spent many years helping propel the city of Omaha into a world-class community. Art lovers in Omaha have long recognized the role Fred played in elevating the city's cultural stature. It has been said that he knew that great cities need great art. With that goal in mind, Fred helped bring a full-time professional opera company to Omaha, and he didn't stop there.

Serving as Opera Omaha's board president, financially backing and attending the opera for more than four decades, Fred once said that he was sensitive to the meaning of words and the power of music. Fred, you will certainly be missed on many levels. Omaha thanks you for a life that has indeed been well lived.

#### JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF IRANIAN TERRORISM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3457, the Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act. Iran currently owes \$43.5 billion to victims of state-sponsored terrorism. Hundreds of Americans have personally felt the impact of Iranian terrorism. In the last 30 years, Americans studying abroad, teaching or traveling through the Middle East have been taken hostage, killed in suicide bombings and gunned down by members of the Islamic jihad.

The damages owed have been previously awarded by U.S. courts under Federal law, and the judgments remain unsatisfied by the Islamic Republic of Iran. Under the President's Iran deal, sanctions on Iran will be lifted, and an estimated \$150 billion in assets will be released to them, and not one single cent will be used to pay the debts owed to the victims of Iranian-sponsored terrorism.

□ 1045

H.R. 3457 holds Iran accountable to the victims of its terrorism by ensuring that not one cent of sanction relief goes to Iran until the victims are paid.

I am a proud cosponsor of Mr. MEHMAN's legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

#### UNWAVERING BOND WITH ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this morning, the United Nations will take yet another action that only serves to further undermine the prospects for peace between Israelis and Palestinians and underscores the lengths to which the United Nations and many of its member states will go in order to wrongly isolate and delegitimize the democratic Jewish State of Israel.

By raising the Palestinian flag for the first time ever at the U.N., that body is allowing Palestinians to continue with their scheme to achieve unilateral statehood without having to honor their obligations to reach a peaceful settlement through direct negotiations with Israel.

While addressing the U.N. General Assembly this week, President Obama had an opportunity to denounce this latest stunt and press for the United Nations to abandon its course of action and return to the principles of its own diplomatic agreements with regard to resolving the peace process; yet, as usual, the President remained silent. That silence speaks volumes about the administration's policy toward Israel, our closest friend and ally, and it will surely only serve to embolden Abu Mazen. Today, Abu Mazen will address

the U.N. General Assembly, and his speech will be nothing more than political theater.

In his speech later today, Abu Mazen will surely continue his ploy to achieve unilateral statehood recognition from sympathetic states and U.N. entities that are dominated by anti-Israel bias, like the Human Rights Council. What a misnomer. And, of course, he will blame Israel for not being able to achieve peace, when it is Abu Mazen who repeatedly has rebuffed overtures from Israel Prime Minister Netanyahu to return to the table to discuss a mutually agreeable resolution.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen over the past several years—a sight unseemly and unbecoming—the administration publicly admonish and insult our ally Israel and its leaders, applying a false moral equivalency between Israel and the Palestinians; yet when it comes to Abu Mazen's intransigence or Palestinian incitement, the Obama administration remains reserved in its condemnation, if it feigns the appearance of disapproval at all.

For peace, Abu Mazen must recognize Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state, must renounce the use of violence and put an end to the repeated rocket attacks and acts of terror, and must sit down with Israel to be an earnest partner for peace.

Abu Mazen, who is currently in his 10th year of a 5-year term as the leader of the Palestinian Authority, is only interested in self-preservation and self-interest. The onus lies with Abu Mazen and the Palestinian Authority to live up to their obligations and previous diplomatic agreements. If and when it doesn't—for surely, I know that they won't—the U.S. must be ready to cut off financial assistance to the Palestinians.

We must see that our assistance is used as leverage to ensure that the Palestinians honor their commitments and negotiate a peaceful two-state solution directly with Israel without any preconditions. We must also veto any attempts by the Palestinians to bring another resolution to the U.N. Security Council to advance their illegal unilateral statehood scheme and must make Abu Mazen pay for the consequences of these destructive actions.

The Obama administration will offer platitudes, and the administration officials will say that no other President has done more for Israel's security. But I caution that it isn't what the administration or the President says regarding Israel; it is what they don't say that we should also be paying attention to. That is why the President's silence on Israel and the Palestinians at the U.N. General Assembly this week is all too telling, and that is why it is up to us in Congress to do what we can to support Israel, to support the Jewish state's right to exist and its right to defend herself, and to use the leverage we have.

Ladies and gentlemen, nearly \$10 billion in U.S. taxpayer dollars, your

money, is being sent to the U.N. We must use that leverage at the U.N. to hold those entities accountable and to fight back this fraudulent unilateral statehood scheme and these efforts to delegitimize Israel.

We need to make every effort we can to signal to the world that our commitment is an unbreakable bond between the U.S. and the democratic Jewish state and that that bond is unwavering.

#### ARE WE IN OR OUT IN ELIMINATING ISIS?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on September 10, 2014, President Obama announced that the United States would “degrade and ultimately destroy” ISIS. ISIS has obviously not gotten the memo. This terrorist group keeps moving across the Middle East, killing those who stand in its way by raping, pillaging, and murdering those who disagree with them. ISIS controls half of Syria and large parts of Iraq. Civilized society is losing to these barbarians.

Despite the U.S. spending billions on a counterterrorism strategy, the terrorist group's numbers have not decreased. In fact, ISIS has grown in size, with affiliates all over the world, including Indonesia, Yemen, Egypt, and even Libya.

A \$3 billion U.S. airstrike campaign has been plagued with little measurable successful results. From the very beginning, military officials warned that airstrikes alone that relied on virtually no human intelligence or on-the-ground intelligence would not be successful. Without good intelligence, the number of airstrikes the U.S. has carried out have been few, and the results are uncertain.

Also, ISIS fighters killed by our airstrikes are just replaced by other jihadists. Our intelligence estimates that ISIS' numbers are the same as they were when our airstrikes began.

In addition, the administration's \$500 million train and equip program has proved to be a failure by anyone's measure. In July, officials reported they had identified 7,000 planned participants but only trained 60 of these mercenaries. Later that month, 54 fighters crossed into Syria to fight ISIS forces that numbered in the tens of thousands. Of those 54 mercenaries, virtually all were killed, captured, or scattered when attacked. We are now down to four or five U.S.-trained mercenaries, according to General Lloyd Austin of CENTCOM.

Despite this failed policy, just last week, we sent a second group of 70 U.S.-trained mercenaries into Syria. Just 1 day later, reports suggested that one of the officers defected and surrendered his arms to al Qaeda's Syrian affiliate, and several truckloads of weapons were allegedly traded to the terrorist group al-Nusra for safe passage.

It is time to abandon this failed train and equip program.

The reality is just as bleak on the on-line battlefield. ISIS has 30,000 to 40,000 social media accounts. It uses the Internet to spread propaganda, raise money, and find recruits as far away as Washington State.

In 2011, the administration promised a strategy to combat terrorist use of social media. Four years later, we still haven't seen that plan. No plan, no degrading ISIS, no defeating ISIS.

The intel given to the administration has also been doctored to cover up how badly the war against ISIS is going. Meanwhile, thousands of people are fleeing the Middle East—flooding Europe and demanding entry into other Western nations because of the ISIS carnage and the chaos in Syria as well.

In the face of our failure to destroy ISIS, we should be focusing on what we can do better and how we can improve our strategy without using U.S. ground troops.

ISIS' advances in Syria translate into more direct threats to our national security and interests, both abroad and at home. ISIS wants to destroy the United States and everything we stand for. ISIS fears no one—certainly not the United States—so it continues to murder in the name of its radical jihad. It has already killed innocent Americans.

We need a strategy that protects American people from this radical Islamic threat. So what is the plan? Let the Russians defeat ISIS and prop up the butcher of Syria, Assad, and let him remain in power? Who knows. The current U.S. plan seems to be like the war in Vietnam: don't win, don't lose.

The American people need to know if the U.S. is in or out in the fight against ISIS. If it is in the national security interest of the United States to degrade and defeat them, we need to define the enemy and defeat them.

And that is just the way it is.

#### SITUATION IN SYRIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I am not generally in the habit of agreeing with my friend from Texas, but I do thank him for posing some really challenging questions about our activities in Syria.

I think it is fair to say that the situation in Syria has gotten worse, not better. And only now that the chaos in Syria results in the flow of hundreds of thousands of people into Europe and into surrounding and delicately constructed countries, only now that we are having a conversation about how many Syrian refugees we will take in the United States are we beginning to take notice of the moral tragedy that has been with Syria for many, many years.

The civil war in Syria has resulted in the deaths of more than 300,000 people. It has created 4 million refugees and

displaced more than 6.5 million people into places like Jordan and Turkey—and now, in Europe and elsewhere around the world.

Sadly, it appears that the efforts that we have made, which my friend from Texas referred to, have been ineffectual, to put it mildly, and the situation grows worse. We watch now the Russians introducing military equipment into Syria, something that can only result in more violence, more death, and more refugees. We see, sadly—and I have watched this closely from my perch on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence—ISIS gaining in strength, not losing strength.

There are lots of conversations to be had about U.S. efforts to train and equip the so-called Syrian moderates. There are conversations to be had about how we deal with Russian influence in the area. But something we must focus on now, and something that is the subject of a letter that I and 54 of my colleagues have sent to the President of the United States, is that the only real solution in Syria, a solution that should be implemented today, is for the international community, all of the players that have a stake and influence in Syria, to come together today to begin the process of working out an international agreement, the terms of which will undoubtedly be uncomfortable for us, but an agreement that will bring an end to the civil war. This agreement should provide for the exit of Bashar al-Assad. He has lost all credibility as a global leader, but he remains there.

Apart from ending the humanitarian and moral crisis in Syria, that conference would allow us to finally align behind an objective that I believe is shared by pretty much everybody in the region, which is the destruction of ISIS.

Until we take this step of coming together around a table that, yes, will involve some unsavory characters, that, yes, will not lead to an agreement that we regard as perfect, until we do that, we will simply be managing chaos. And maybe we will manage chaos well, but it will still be managing chaos: hundreds of thousands of refugees and the destabilization that that will cause, more weaponry being introduced, more U.S. taxpayer dollars expended.

We can do that. That is what we have been doing. We can do it for more months and more years. Or we can do the obvious thing, which is get around a table—and I do call on the President of the United States to show American leadership in this—and say we don't leave the room until this moral tragedy is stopped.

This is what it would mean to be a leader in the world. We can bomb. We can send military equipment. We do that a lot. Real leadership will involve saying we will come together with people we like and people we don't to solve this problem.

I call on this House to assist me and others in the effort to make sure that

this becomes a national priority so we can finally bring this tragedy in the Middle East to an end.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate concurs in the House of Representatives amendment to the Senate amendment with an amendment to the bill (H.R. 719) "An Act to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes."

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

Reverend William Vanderbush, Cathedral of Praise, Austin, Texas, offered the following prayer:

My gracious Heavenly Father, I stand in awe and gratitude at Your goodness and Your grace for our Nation.

I pray today that You would grant our Congress, our Representatives, and our President a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of You and of Your love.

Fill them with Your Holy Spirit, and may You give them visions, dreams, and new ideas that will shape the course of history for Your glory.

May they display in every decision the States united and not divided. Jesus, let us be one with each other just as we are one with You.

I pray for their families, that You would bless them in their sacrifice and service. I declare healing, grace, wholeness, and peace for all of our Representatives and our Nation today.

Let Your kingdom come, and let Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

In Jesus' name, amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote

on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARNEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### WELCOMING REVEREND WILLIAM VANDERBUSH

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM) is recognized for 1 minute. There was no objection.

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Reverend Bill Vanderbush for serving as guest chaplain of this body today.

When I was a little girl living on a ranch in South Dakota, every Sunday morning, my dad would load us up in a big Oldsmobile four-door diesel car and drive us the long way into town to church. And every Sunday morning he religiously would turn on the radio to KWAT, and we would listen to the sound of Henry Vanderbush's voice fill the car all the way to town.

My dad loved Henry Vanderbush. He was proudly known as the "cow barn preacher," and he spoke to us every single Sunday growing up. When I hear his voice today still, my eyes fill with tears thinking of my dad and how much he loved him.

In a God-ordained meeting a few years ago, I had the opportunity to meet Bill Vanderbush, his son, on an airplane. They have prayed for me; they have encouraged; they have lifted me up, and they have been wonderful friends and prayer partners throughout that.

I want to thank him for coming today and opening this House floor with prayer.

I ask God to continuously bless him and his ministry. They are working to expand it, not only just to people in the country, but people in the city and people across the world. They carry a burden for people's hearts in their souls, and I appreciate them and ask God to richly bless them and their family.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### AN AMERICAN HERO

(Mr. STEWART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I sit by an American hero, my friend, SAM JOHNSON, to recognize three American heroes in my own hometown: a brave police officer and two sisters, Bre and Kaylie Lasley.

Last week, a man broke into their house and began to viciously attack these two sisters with a knife. They defended each other, they supported each other, and they fought for each other's lives.

Fortunately, a police officer was in the area and, when he heard their screams, he ran to the rescue. Just seconds before this intruder was expected to take Bre's life, this heroic police officer entered the scene and saved her.

Speaking of this officer, Bre said: "Right when we made eye contact, I knew that I was safe. It's a miracle that he had so much composure. He was our angel."

I am proud to serve in a country where police officers put their lives on the line every single day to save us. I am proud to serve in a country where we know that the country isn't great because of the actions of the government; it is great because of heroic and courageous actions of individuals, which is why I would like to present this police officer with my first Profile of Courage award.

#### MANUFACTURING DAY

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, this Friday, October 2, is Manufacturing Day, a day to celebrate the American manufacturing industry that has made our country great and to highlight emerging opportunities in the field of advanced manufacturing.

My home State of Rhode Island is the birthplace of the American industrial revolution. It was in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, where Samuel Slater opened our country's first successful cotton spinning factory that marked the beginning of a new era in American innovation.

From the textile mills in Woonsocket to the shipyards in Newport, good-paying manufacturing jobs helped build a thriving middle class in Rhode Island and all across our country.

Today, advanced manufacturing fields like 3-D printing, medical device production, and renewable energy offer the promise of new opportunities to a

new generation of Rhode Island and American workers. It is critical that we seize these opportunities to help our country lead the world in manufacturing.

Let's honor the great manufacturing history of America by investing in policies that create good-paying American jobs. I urge my colleagues to stand up for commonsense policies that will enable the American manufacturing industry to lead the world. Let's move forward in a bipartisan way with our Make It In America agenda.

#### GOLD STAR PARENTS

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this weekend was Gold Star Mother's Day, a day we set aside each year to honor the women who have lost a child or a grandchild who was actively serving in our great Nation's military. It is a time to honor their strength, will, and perseverance. It is also a time to honor the memories of their loved ones.

Freedom is not free. There is a cost, and that cost is paid first by our veterans and their families. That is why I am glad this week the House also did something to honor America's Gold Star Fathers with the Gold Star Fathers Act. This bill grants these men the same status as Gold Star Mothers, regardless of their eligibility for civil service.

To all Gold Star parents, please know your Nation supports you and that we are grateful for the service and sacrifice of your loved ones.

#### RECOGNIZING JIM GILLIAM, SR.

(Mr. CARNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and work of Mr. Jim Gilliam, Sr.

Mr. Gilliam was one of Delaware's most prominent leaders. He fought tirelessly for social justice, gave voice to the voiceless, and created opportunities for generations of Delawareans. We are unquestionably better off because of the work to which Mr. Gilliam devoted his life.

Mr. Gilliam served our country as a Buffalo Soldier in the U.S. Army. Afterwards, he served Delaware in many capacities, from being a peacemaker after the assassination of Martin Luther King to the director of New Castle County's Department of Community Development and Housing.

I was privileged to work with Mr. Gilliam in New Castle County, and since then, I have often sought and respected Mr. Gilliam's counsel. He never minced words or pulled punches when giving you his opinion.

I joined Mr. Gilliam for lunch recently, and he was as engaged as ever

in challenging me to do the right thing and take on those in Congress who are getting in the way of progress.

Mr. Gilliam was a real leader and great Delawarean whose legacy will live on through those who continue to fight for fairness and equal opportunity for all Americans.

#### HONORING HARRY WEBB

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a pharmacist in my district, Harry Webb, for his dedication to curbing the meth epidemic that has taken America by storm.

Meth has infected rural communities across America, consuming working class Americans who build meth labs in rural areas using household products and ingredients.

Make no mistake, Indiana's meth problem is appalling. In 2013, the Hoosier State had more meth incidents than any other State in the U.S.

Harry and his team, the Citizen Action Committee, are working to curb meth production by partnering with local and State officials and pharmacies to reduce pseudoephedrine sales, the active ingredient in producing meth. They have taken the initiative in marketing drug abuse resistant products to their customers.

This is a critical issue for the whole country, but I am grateful for Harry's dedication and work to reduce the amount of meth labs in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, once again, join me in honoring Harry Webb for his meth lab reduction program and his service to our State.

#### WEAR RED WEDNESDAY

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today is Wear Red Wednesday to bring back our girls. All summer we have heard reports of Boko Haram's atrocities. This summer of savagery and brutality left us fearful for the fate of Nigeria and the Chibok girls.

But with a change of the seasons comes renewed help. We have learned of the reopening of public schools in Borno State, the very region where the Chibok girls were kidnapped over 500 days ago simply because they wanted an education. This reopening of schools gives us hope that, once the girls are returned, they will receive the education Boko Haram tried to steal from them. There are also negotiations taking place for the release of the girls.

Until these precious girls are returned and Boko Haram is defeated, we will wear red every Wednesday and we will continue to tweet, tweet, tweet #bringbackourgirls.

Tweet, tweet, tweet #joinrepwilson.

#### RURAL CALIFORNIA HARMED BY OBAMACARE

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare is simply failing rural America. A recent report showed that rural residents are left with even higher skyrocketing costs and even more barriers to care.

A knee replacement in northern California, for example, is \$43,000, but the price tag for that same service for a knee replacement in Los Angeles is \$27,000. In addition, residents in northern California face a 7 percent increase, or a total of \$384 a month or \$4,600 a year, under Covered California.

Our health industry needs competition, the key to driving costs down and increasing options for quality care. Unfortunately, the ACA has only discouraged competition, especially in rural areas where more and more physicians and providers are closing up shop, citing difficulties to operate under arbitrary regulations coming out of D.C.

Mr. Speaker, rather than hindering small business with red tape, let's work to advance policies that encourage competition and location of doctors and nurses coming to rural America; and reward that innovation so we can tackle the issues plaguing rural health care, such as the staggering doctor and nurse shortage and increasing premiums and barriers to timely care.

□ 1215

#### CONGRESS NEEDS TO SIT DOWN AT THE TABLE

(Mr. KILMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, it looks like Congress will narrowly avoid another costly and unnecessary shutdown. That is the good news. The bad news is that Congress will have the same fight again just before the holidays start.

Why does this place keep playing the same dysfunctional record over and over? In my region, the last shutdown cost furloughs at our military installations; Olympic National Park closed its doors, hurting local employers; tribes and social service providers and others faced painful disruptions of funding. I don't want to see that happen again.

This place is spending a lot of time and energy obsessing about who the next Speaker will be. That is one job. We should be more concerned about the thousands of jobs we need to grow and keep not just in my region, but all around this country.

Congress needs to end the grandstanding and sit down at the table. Let's hammer out a budget agreement that finally ends the across-the-board sequestration cuts and focuses on this Nation's economy and its long-term growth.

**HONORING CHERYL THIBODEAU  
WITH THE FRIST HUMANITARIAN  
AWARD**

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of New Hampshire's leading citizens, Cheryl Thibodeau of Portsmouth Regional Hospital. The hospital, serving the sea-coast region of my State, awarded Cheryl its 2015 Frist Humanitarian Award for her service to the local community.

A nurse in the emergency ward, Cheryl is a consummate teammate to her coworkers, frequently going above and beyond the call of duty. Outside work, she donates her time as part of the Pease Greeters organization to welcome home returning troops at Portsmouth airport.

She is an active participant in Sarah's Ride, a charity that raises money for the Portsmouth Firefighters Charitable Association. Also in her spare time, Cheryl lends her medical expertise and friendly bedside manner to others in need of home care and she teaches New Hampshire's young about the valuable profession she is engaged in.

It seems that everyone has something positive to say about Cheryl and her efforts to make our State a better place. I have seen up close what she and the fantastic doctors and nurses at Portsmouth Regional Hospital do and could not be prouder of her work.

**DO YOUR JOB**

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans have brought us again to the brink of another government shutdown. Here we are, the last day of the fiscal year, and what we have before us today is a temporary, 2-month budget to keep the government open, basically kicking the can down the road, failing to take up the priorities of the American people, failing to bring any kind of a jobs plan, any kind of a plan to fix our roads and bridges in this country to put Americans back to work.

When I go home, I hear one thing over and over again, and I imagine other Members do, too. They tell us: Do your job. Do your job. You have had months to bring budgets to this floor. Do your job.

It is that simple. We may disagree on what the outcome looks like, but what we can't accept is the fact that the Congress of the United States fails to do the one thing that it is directed to do under this Constitution. Do your job.

This has gone on far too long. Democrats are ready to sit down and negotiate, to work together to try to come up with solutions to the big problems

we face, but we can't do it all by ourselves. We need a partner. Do your job.

**SPECIAL OPERATIONS  
APPRECIATION MONTH**

(Mr. ZINKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor October as Special Operations Appreciation Month. The significance of October dates back to the roots of the first Special Forces service, aka the Devil's Brigade. This unit, like others—Scouts and Raiders, Rangers, and Naval Demolition Units—is where modern Special Operations Forces draw their roots.

We should also recognize the sacrifices of the families of these warriors. From my own experience, having served 23 years as a Navy SEAL and commander at SEAL Team 6, my wife, Lola, was oftentimes both mom and father. At one time during the war in Iraq, my wife, Lola, was at home with our two young boys while her husband, daughter, and son-in-law were all forward deployed.

Special Operations Appreciation Month is just as much about the heroes at home as it is the heroes abroad. I ask you today to please join me in supporting and recognizing October as Special Operations Appreciation Month. May God bless America and the troops that defend her.

**DO THE BUSINESS OF THE  
AMERICAN PEOPLE**

(Mr. JEFFRIES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, from the moment that House Republicans came to power, the majority has failed to do its job. They have consistently abdicated their responsibility to govern. They have consistently taken the American people on reckless legislative joyrides guaranteed to crash and burn. As former New York Knick Michael Ray Richardson once famously observed as his team's season was headed in the wrong direction, this ship be sinking.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans need to end their obsession with the Affordable Care Act, end their obsession with hurting immigrant families, end their obsession with Planned Parenthood. It is time to end sequestration, to fully fund the government, and get back to doing the business of the American people.

**OUR NATION'S DEBT IS EATING US  
ALIVE**

(Mr. McCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's debt is eating us alive, and

without changing our disastrous fiscal course, the CBO warns that our interest costs will exceed our entire defense budget in just 8 years.

For the first time in a decade, this Congress has adopted a budget to restore fiscal solvency. Having set that course, we now must stay that course. That is what the appropriations process is all about.

For months, Senate Democrats have blocked consideration of any of the appropriations bills we have sent them unless we discard the budget and put our country back on the road to bankruptcy.

Today we have reached the fiscal deadline. A temporary funding bill is necessary to keep the government open, and I would support it if the House and Senate leadership announced a timetable to complete our work and pledged to keep to that timetable. Without that announcement, a short-term CR simply continues us on an unsustainable course.

**HUNGER TOUCHES EVERY  
COMMUNITY**

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, this September Feeding America's national network of food banks and hunger advocates took part in Hunger Action Month, yet here in Congress, as September comes to an end, I am not sure that Hunger Action Month ever began. Nearly 49 million Americans, including over 15 million children, live in food-insecure households. That is shameful.

Hunger touches every community—every community. In my own Florida district in Palm Beach and Broward Counties, about 15 percent of households are food-insecure. That is nearly half a million people who don't know where their next meal will come from.

Thankfully, the generosity of our community and the work of groups like Feeding South Florida help keep hungry families fed, but those with the greatest power to end hunger are right here in the United States Congress. As Pope Francis said to this Chamber just last week: The fight against poverty and hunger must be fought constantly and on many fronts. Let's heed his words.

This week I will introduce the Food Security Improvement Act of 2015, a bill to ensure SNAP benefits reflect the real costs of feeding a family in need. I invite my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this legislation. Let's mark the end of Hunger Action Month by taking action here in this House.

**NATIONAL PEDIATRIC BONE  
CANCER AWARENESS DAY**

(Mr. FARENTHOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise because September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Every year countless children are diagnosed with different cancers, altering their lives forever.

Fourteen-year-old Kaitlyn Jankovsky of Corpus Christi was diagnosed last year with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Although her cancer and treatment have been a challenge, Kaitlyn has shown great tenacity in her fight against cancer.

Our country should take inspiration from children like Kaitlyn and thousands of others living with cancer every day. It is why I have introduced H. Res. 102 to designate a day in September as National Pediatric Bone Cancer Awareness Day.

Today we wish Kaitlyn and all the other children living with pediatric cancer well. Treatment and survival rates for pediatric bone cancer have remained virtually unchanged for a quarter of a century. For Kaitlyn and other children, let's start changing that.

#### SICKLE CELL ANEMIA

(Ms. ADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a topic near and dear to my heart: sickle cell anemia. Sickle cell is an inherited blood disease where red blood cells are abnormally shaped, making it hard to deliver oxygen throughout the body, often causing extreme pain, damaging vital organs, and possible stroke.

I have seen these effects firsthand. My sister died from sickle cell just 2 weeks before her 27th birthday. I will never forget the many night trips to the emergency room to get care for her, since we didn't have health insurance.

Back then we didn't know much about sickle cell disease. Today medical treatment and research for sickle cell has evolved. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, more people now have health insurance, but we must still support Federal efforts to fund additional research and treatment opportunities.

That is why I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 1807, the Sickle Cell Research Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act, which supports funding for advanced medical treatment and research.

My colleagues, please join me in recognizing September as Sickle Cell Awareness Month by supporting legislation to treat this disease and by keeping our government running so critical sickle cell research and treatment can continue at the National Institutes of Health.

#### SEQUESTRATION IS HURTING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. RUPPERSBERGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to how sequestration and the current dysfunction in the House is hurting the American people, our infrastructure, our education, our national security, and our veterans. Sequestration has caused a severe slowdown in our job growth in this country, especially as it affects the middle class.

We have seen reduction of job growth resulting in the potential loss of close to 800,000 American jobs. These are jobs my constituents in Baltimore County region desperately need. Just yesterday my staff met with a constituent from Owings Mills, Maryland, who was laid off from a defense contractor due to sequestration cuts.

The current fiscal year 2016 transportation and housing appropriation bill cuts TIGER grants, which are used to fund critical highway, transit, and important investments, by approximately \$400 million. That is less than the fiscal year 2015 level and \$1.2 billion less than the President's request. We need this transportation money for jobs. Our infrastructure is failing.

We cannot stay competitive without investment. Sequestration is not the answer. Continuing resolutions are not the answer. Passing the buck is not the answer. It is time for Congress to stop the nip-and-tuck tactics and make tough decisions about our priorities.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

#### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPIRING AUTHORITIES ACT OF 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2082) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2082

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.
- Sec. 3. Scoring of budgetary effects.

#### TITLE I—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

- Sec. 101. Extension of authority for collection of copayments for hospital care and nursing home care.
- Sec. 102. Extension of requirement to provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities.
- Sec. 103. Extension of authorization of appropriations for assistance and support services for caregivers.
- Sec. 104. Extension of authority for recovery from third parties of cost of care and services furnished to veterans with health-plan contracts for non-service-connected disability.
- Sec. 105. Extension of authority for pilot program on assistance for child care for certain veterans receiving health care.
- Sec. 106. Extension of authority to make grants to veterans service organizations for transportation of highly rural veterans.
- Sec. 107. Extension of authority for DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund.
- Sec. 108. Extension of authority for joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund.
- Sec. 109. Extension of authority for pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service.

#### TITLE II—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO BENEFITS

- Sec. 201. Extension of authority for the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education.
- Sec. 202. Extension of authority for calculating net value of real property at time of foreclosure.
- Sec. 203. Extension of authority relating to vendee loans.
- Sec. 204. Extension of authority to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses.

#### TITLE III—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

- Sec. 301. Extension of authority for homeless veterans reintegration programs.
- Sec. 302. Extension of authority for homeless women veterans and homeless veterans with children reintegration program.
- Sec. 303. Extension of authority to provide housing assistance for homeless veterans.
- Sec. 304. Extension of authority to provide financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.
- Sec. 305. Extension of authority for grant program for homeless veterans with special needs.
- Sec. 306. Extension of authority for the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans.
- Sec. 307. Extension of authority for treatment and rehabilitation services for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans.
- Sec. 308. Extension of authority to provide referral and counseling services for certain veterans at risk of homelessness.

TITLE IV—OTHER EXTENSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF AUTHORITY

- Sec. 401. Extension of authority for transportation of individuals to and from Department facilities.
- Sec. 402. Extension of authority for monthly assistance allowances under the Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events.
- Sec. 403. Extension of authority for operation of the Department of Veterans Affairs regional office in Manila, the Republic of the Philippines.
- Sec. 404. Extension of requirement to provide reports to Congress regarding equitable relief in the case of administrative error.
- Sec. 405. Extension of authorization of appropriations for adaptive sports programs for disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces.
- Sec. 406. Extension of authority for Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans.
- Sec. 407. Extension of authority for temporary expansion of eligibility for specially adapted housing assistance for certain veterans with disabilities causing difficulty ambulating.
- Sec. 408. Extension of authority to enter into agreement with the National Academy of Sciences regarding associations between diseases and exposure to dioxin and other chemical compounds in herbicides.
- Sec. 409. Extension of authority for performance of medical disabilities examinations by contract physicians.
- Sec. 410. Restoration of prior reporting fee multipliers.
- Sec. 411. Extension of requirement for annual report on Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Interagency Program Office.
- Sec. 412. Modification of authorization of fiscal year 2008 major medical facility project at Department medical center in Tampa, Florida.
- Sec. 413. Authorization of major medical facility projects.

TITLE V—MATTERS RELATING TO MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT IN DENVER

- Sec. 501. Increase in authorization for Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility project previously authorized.
- Sec. 502. Project management of super construction projects.

TITLE VI—OTHER MATTERS

- Sec. 601. Technical and clerical amendments.
- SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.**

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

**SEC. 3. SCORING OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of

the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

**TITLE I—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

**SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR COLLECTION OF COPAYMENTS FOR HOSPITAL CARE AND NURSING HOME CARE.**

Section 1710(f)(2)(B) is amended by striking "September 30, 2015" and inserting "September 30, 2016".

**SEC. 102. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE NURSING HOME CARE TO CERTAIN VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.**

Section 1710A(d) is amended by striking "December 31, 2015" and inserting "December 31, 2016".

**SEC. 103. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR CAREGIVERS.**

Section 1720G(e) is amended—  
 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking "and";  
 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and  
 (3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) \$625,000,000 for fiscal year 2016."

**SEC. 104. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR RECOVERY FROM THIRD PARTIES OF COST OF CARE AND SERVICES FURNISHED TO VETERANS WITH HEALTH-PLAN CONTRACTS FOR NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY.**

Section 1729(a)(2)(E) is amended, in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking "October 1, 2015" and inserting "October 1, 2016".

**SEC. 105. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PILOT PROGRAM ON ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS RECEIVING HEALTH CARE.**

(a) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—Subsection (e) of section 205 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1144; 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended by striking "December 31, 2015" and inserting "December 31, 2016".

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Subsection (h) of such section is amended by striking "and 2015" and inserting " , 2015, and 2016".

**SEC. 106. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS TO VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION OF HIGHLY RURAL VETERANS.**

Section 307(d) of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1154; 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended by striking "2015" and inserting "2016".

**SEC. 107. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR DODVA HEALTH CARE SHARING INCENTIVE FUND.**

Section 8111(d)(3) is amended by striking "September 30, 2015" and inserting "September 30, 2016".

**SEC. 108. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR JOINT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITY DEMONSTRATION FUND.**

Section 1704(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2573), as amended by section 722 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3417), is amended by striking "September 30, 2016" and inserting "September 30, 2017".

**SEC. 109. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PILOT PROGRAM ON COUNSELING IN TREATMENT SETTINGS FOR WOMEN VETERANS NEWLY SEPARATED FROM SERVICE.**

(a) EXTENSION.—Subsection (d) of section 203 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus

Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1143) is amended by striking "December 31, 2015" and inserting "December 31, 2016".

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Subsection (f) of such section is amended by striking "and 2015" and inserting "2015, and 2016".

**TITLE II—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO BENEFITS**

**SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE VETERANS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.**

Section 3692(c) is amended by striking "December 31, 2015" and inserting "December 31, 2016".

**SEC. 202. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR CALCULATING NET VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY AT TIME OF FORECLOSURE.**

Section 3732(c)(11) is amended by striking "October 1, 2015" and inserting "October 1, 2016".

**SEC. 203. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO VENDEE LOANS.**

Section 3733(a)(7) is amended—  
 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "September 30, 2015" and inserting "September 30, 2016"; and

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking "September 30, 2015," and inserting "September 30, 2016,".

**SEC. 204. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE REHABILITATION AND VOCATIONAL BENEFITS TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH SEVERE INJURIES OR ILLNESSES.**

Section 1631(b)(2) of the Wounded Warrior Act (title XVI of Public Law 110-181; 122 Stat. 458; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended by striking "December 31, 2015" and inserting "December 31, 2016".

**TITLE III—EXTENSIONS OF AUTHORITY RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

**SEC. 301. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.**

Section 2021(e)(1)(F) is amended by striking "2015" and inserting "2016".

**SEC. 302. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS AND HOMELESS VETERANS WITH CHILDREN REINTEGRATION PROGRAM.**

Section 2021A(f)(1) is amended by striking "2015" and inserting "2016".

**SEC. 303. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.**

Section 2041(c) is amended by striking "September 30, 2015" and inserting "September 30, 2016".

**SEC. 304. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.**

Section 2044(e)(1)(E) is amended by striking "fiscal years 2013 through 2015" and inserting "fiscal years 2015 through 2016".

**SEC. 305. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.**

Section 2061(d)(1) is amended by striking "2015" and inserting "2016".

**SEC. 306. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS.**

Section 2066(d) is amended by striking "December 31, 2015" and inserting "December 31, 2016".

**SEC. 307. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS.**

(a) GENERAL TREATMENT.—Section 2031(b) is amended by striking "September 30, 2015" and inserting "September 30, 2016".

(b) ADDITIONAL SERVICES AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS.—Section 2033(d) is amended by striking "September 30, 2015" and inserting "September 30, 2016".

**SEC. 308. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE REFERRAL AND COUNSELING SERVICES FOR CERTAIN VETERANS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS.**

Section 2023(d) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

**TITLE IV—OTHER EXTENSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS OF AUTHORITY**

**SEC. 401. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TRANSPORTATION OF INDIVIDUALS TO AND FROM DEPARTMENT FACILITIES.**

Section 111A(a)(2) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

**SEC. 402. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR MONTHLY ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCES UNDER THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL VETERANS SPORTS PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS.**

Section 322(d)(4) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

**SEC. 403. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR OPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REGIONAL OFFICE IN MANILA, THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.**

Section 315(b) is amended by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”.

**SEC. 404. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE REPORTS TO CONGRESS REGARDING EQUITABLE RELIEF IN THE CASE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR.**

Section 503(c) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

**SEC. 405. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ADAPTIVE SPORTS PROGRAMS FOR DISABLED VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

Section 521A(g)(1) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

**SEC. 406. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MINORITY VETERANS.**

Section 544(e) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

**SEC. 407. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TEMPORARY EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES CAUSING DIFFICULTY AMBULATING.**

Section 2101(a)(4) is amended—  
(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30, 2016”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “each of fiscal years 2014 and 2015” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2014 through 2016”.

**SEC. 408. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REGARDING ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN DISEASES AND EXPOSURE TO DIOXIN AND OTHER CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS IN HERBICIDES.**

Section 3(i) of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-4; 38 U.S.C. 1116 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

**SEC. 409. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR PERFORMANCE OF MEDICAL DISABILITIES EXAMINATIONS BY CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.**

Subsection (c) of section 704 of the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003 (38 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2015” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

**SEC. 410. RESTORATION OF PRIOR REPORTING FEE MULTIPLIERS.**

Section 406 of the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-175; 38 U.S.C. 3684 note) is amended by striking “one-year” and inserting “two-year”.

**SEC. 411. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL REPORT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS INTERAGENCY PROGRAM OFFICE.**

Section 1635(h)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

**SEC. 412. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2008 MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT AT DEPARTMENT MEDICAL CENTER IN TAMPA, FLORIDA.**

(a) MODIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION.—In chapter 3 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 122 Stat. 2326), in the matter under the heading “Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—Construction, Major Projects”, after “Five Year Capital Plan” insert the following: “and for constructing a new bed tower at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Tampa, Florida, in lieu of providing bed tower upgrades at such medical center”.

(b) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

(2) DESIGNATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate, subsection (a) is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

**SEC. 413. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS.**

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility projects, with each project to be carried out in an amount not to exceed the amount specified for that project:

(1) Construction of a community living center, outpatient clinic, renovated domiciliary, and renovation of existing buildings in Canandaigua, New York, in an amount not to exceed \$158,980,000.

(2) Seismic corrections to the mental health and community living center in Long Beach, California, in an amount not to exceed \$126,100,000.

(3) Seismic correction of 12 buildings in West Los Angeles, California, in an amount not to exceed \$70,500,000.

(4) Construction of a spinal cord injury building and seismic corrections in San Diego, California, in an amount not to exceed \$205,840,000.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2015 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects, account, a total of \$561,420,000 for the projects authorized in subsection (a).

(c) LIMITATION.—The projects authorized under this section may only be carried out using—

(1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 2015 pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (b);

(2) funds available for Construction, Major Projects for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2015 that remain available for obligation;

(3) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2015 that remain available for obligation;

(4) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for fiscal year 2015 for a category of activity not specific to a project;

(5) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before 2015 for a category of activity not specific to a project; and

(6) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after 2015 for a category of activity not specific to a project.

**TITLE V—MATTERS RELATING TO MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT IN DENVER**

**SEC. 501. INCREASE IN AUTHORIZATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(a) of the Construction Authorization and Choice Improvement Act (Public Law 114-19; 129 Stat. 215), as amended by section 1 of Public Law 114-25, is further amended by striking “\$1,050,000,000” and inserting “\$1,675,000,000”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2016 authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to transfer discretionary unobligated balances appropriated for fiscal year 2015 and discretionary advance appropriations for fiscal year 2016 to fund the increase under subsection (a) of the authorization to carry out the medical facility construction project in Denver, Colorado, specified in section 2 of the Construction Authorization and Choice Improvement Act (Public Law 114-19; 129 Stat. 215).

(c) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS.—The Secretary may not transfer any amounts from the Veterans Choice Fund established under section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) to fund the increase under subsection (a) of the authorization to carry out the medical facility construction project described in subsection (b).

**SEC. 502. PROJECT MANAGEMENT OF SUPER CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8103 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e)(1) In the case of any super construction project, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with an appropriate non-Department Federal entity to provide full project management services for the super construction project, including management over the project design, acquisition, construction, and contract changes.

“(2) An agreement entered into under paragraph (1) with a Federal entity shall provide that the Secretary shall reimburse the Federal entity for all costs associated with the provision of project management services under the agreement.

“(3) In this subsection, the term ‘super construction project’ means a project for the construction, alteration, or acquisition of a medical facility involving a total expenditure of more than \$100,000,000.”

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to the following:

(1) The medical facility construction project in Denver, Colorado, specified in section 2 of the Construction Authorization and Choice Improvement Act (Public Law 114-19; 129 Stat. 215).

(2) Any super construction project (as defined in section 8103(e)(3) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)) that is authorized on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**TITLE VI—OTHER MATTERS**

**SEC. 601. TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**

Title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 111(b)—  
(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “subsection (g)(2)(A)” and inserting “subsection (g)(2)”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(C), by striking “(42 U.S.C. 1395(l))” and inserting “(42 U.S.C. 1395m(l))”;

(2) in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 5 of such title, by striking the item relating to section 521A and inserting the following:

“521A. Adaptive sports programs for disabled veterans and members of the Armed Forces.”;

(3) in section 1503(a)(5), by striking “subclause” and inserting “subparagraph” each place it appears;

(4) in section 1710(e)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “(as defined in section 1712A(a)(2)(B) of this title)”;

(B) in subparagraph (F)(viii), by striking “Myelodysplastic” and inserting “Myelodysplastic”;

(5) in section 1710D(c)(1), by striking “(as defined in section 1712A(a)(2)(B) of this title)”;

(6) in section 1720G(a)(7)(B)(iii), by striking “has” and inserting “have”;

(7) in section 1781(a)(4), by striking the semicolon and inserting a comma;

(8) in section 1832(b)(2), by striking “(b)(2)” and inserting “(b)(3)”;

(9) in section 2044(b)(1)(D), by striking “federal” and inserting “Federal”;

(10) in section 2101(a), by moving the margins of paragraph (2), and of the subparagraphs, clauses, and subclauses therein, 2 ems to the left;

(11) in section 2101(a)(2)(B) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following new clause (ii):

“(ii) The disability is due to—

“(I) blindness in both eyes, having only light perception, plus

“(II) loss or loss of use of one lower extremity.”.

(12) in section 2109(a) by striking “provisions of section” and inserting “provisions of sections”;

(13) in section 2303(c), by striking “internment” and inserting “interment”;

(14) in section 2411(e)(1), by striking “federal official” and inserting “Federal official”;

(15) in section 3108(b)(4), by inserting “the” before “rehabilitation program concerned”;

(16) in section 3313, by striking “1070a” each place it appears and inserting “1070a(b)”;

(17) in section 3313(e)(2)(A)(iii), by striking the second period;

(18) in section 3313(g)(3)(A)(iii), by inserting a comma after “books”;

(19) in section 3319, by striking “armed forces” each place it appears and inserting “Armed Forces”;

(20) in section 4102A(c)(9)(A)(ii)(III), by striking the quotation mark at the end;

(21) in section 5302A—

(A) by amending the enumerator and section heading to read as follows:

**“§ 5302A. Collection of indebtedness: certain debts of members of the Armed Forces and veterans who die of injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in a combat zone”; and**

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “(as that term is defined in section 1712A(a)(2)(B) of this title)”;

(22) in section 7309(c)(1), by inserting “the” before “Veterans Health Administration”;

(23) in section 7401(3)(A)(ii), by striking “that”;

(24) in section 7683(d), by inserting a period at the end; and

(25) in section 8162(a)(2), by inserting “if” after “housing and”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

□ 1230

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 2082.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, which is sponsored by our Senate colleague, Senator ISAKSON, chairman of the Senate VA Committee, would extend a number of expiring current authorities and critical programs at both the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Labor. These include extensions for veterans' health care and homeless programs; benefits for disabled veterans; vocational rehabilitation programs for servicemembers and veterans; home loan programs; and a variety of advisory committees, pilot programs, and medical facility projects.

Absent passage of this legislation today, these important and non-controversial authorizations and programs are set to expire at the end of this fiscal or calendar year. These are not new programs, and the costs have either been fully offset or have been assumed in the baseline budget for fiscal year 2016. Furthermore, both the majority and minority of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs have worked on this language and agree on the need to extend all of these programs.

In addition to the extensions that are included, this bill also contains language that would increase the total authorization for the Denver Replacement Medical Center project to \$1.675 billion. This is an increase of \$625 million above the amounts that have previously been authorized for this project.

To ensure that the many egregious mistakes the VA has made in Denver are not repeated in the future, this bill would put into place initial reforms for managing the most expensive VA construction projects. Namely, these reforms include creating a new classification category called a super construction project.

A super construction project would be defined as the construction, alteration, or acquisition of a VA medical facility involving the total expenditure of more than \$100 million. Each super construction project would be managed not by VA, but instead by a non-Department Federal entity, such as the Army Corps of Engineers. Importantly, the bill would classify the Denver project as a super construction project.

While I am supportive of the provisions of this bill up to this point, I vehemently oppose and disagree with the Department's proposal to cover some of the increased costs of the Denver

project. This bill could allow VA to proceed with the Department's proposed plan to use \$200 million in offsets from the medical services account and through delayed activations for other construction projects.

Mr. Speaker, to understand the magnitude of the management incompetence of the Department of Veterans Affairs as it relates to construction, I think a little history is in order.

The replacement of the existing Denver VA Medical Center began as a discussion item back in 1999. The project was first envisioned as a shared facility on the former Fitzsimons Army Base in Aurora, Colorado. The initial estimate for a shared facility was \$328 million.

After undergoing numerous scope changes over a period of several years, VA requested appropriations in 2010 for a stand-alone medical center replacement with a total estimated cost of \$800 million. However, in December of last year, with less than 50 percent of the facility complete and staring down the \$800 million authorization cap, the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals found VA to be in breach of its contract with its general contractor Kiewit-Turner. As a result, VA had no choice but to come to Congress and finally admit the severity of the mismanagement and the cost and schedule overruns that have come to characterize the Denver project.

In June, following an assessment to determine the probable cost of completing the project, the Army Corps of Engineers provided the final total required to finish the Denver project: \$1.675 billion.

Several weeks ago, VA provided the committee with their plan as to what budget resources would be made available to fund the remaining dollars necessary for this project. This bill assumes that VA's plan is an appropriate way to move forward on this project.

VA first proposes to use \$100 million in offsets derived from the higher than budgeted medical collections VA expects it will receive in fiscal year 2015 and 2016. Under law, VA medical care collection funds are retained by VA medical facilities to supplement their budgets to care for veterans. Thus, their proposed offset actually reduces VA's medical care budget by \$100 million in fiscal year 2016 to partially fund the remainder of the Denver project.

I would have reservations about reducing VA's medical care budget in any year, but I am particularly concerned this year, because just a few weeks ago, I am sure the Members will recall, VA sounded the alarm that the funds budgeted for hepatitis C medications and care in the community for fiscal year 2016 are short.

VA also stated that they would need to shut down the whole hospital system. The whole hospital system would have to be shut down if additional funds for fiscal year 2015 were not provided. As a result, Congress met VA's eleventh hour plea with an additional \$3.43 billion to ensure that veterans

were not denied the care that they had earned.

Obviously, VA's proposal to cut medical care funds to complete the Denver replacement hospital when the public record clearly reflects VA's previous testimony over lack of funding in the medical care account is entirely inconsistent and inappropriate. Frankly, it borders on an attempt to mislead this Congress.

Secondly, VA proposes to use \$100 million in offsets derived from reductions in construction and leasing activation costs due to schedule adjustments associated with several projects. When I asked what VA's plan was to address the funding for these adjustments, VA's response was that the Department would ensure that they request sufficient activation funding in future budget years to account for the reductions in the other projects.

In other words, it is not really an offset. They are going to ask for the money back. So by reducing other projects by \$100 million in one year only to ask Congress next year for the funds to be replaced strains credibility once again for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This isn't an offset. It is nothing more than a delayed supplemental request. In other words, VA is expecting the taxpayers to bail them out again. To agree to such a tactic would be akin to taking a child's allowance away for misbehavior, only to increase it later to make up for the reduction.

Offsetting the biggest construction failure in VA's history by cutting money from VA's medical services account and delaying facility activation costs until next year punishes the veterans of this Nation and the taxpayers for VA's incompetence.

Now, I appreciate the challenge VA has in identifying available money and producing a way ahead for this project that is fair to taxpayers and veterans alike in a tight fiscal environment. However, VA continues to be oblivious to the need to prioritize their spending.

For example, as I address this House this afternoon, VA officials from across the country have gathered 40 miles away in Leesburg for a leadership conference that is costing the Department \$1 million. That may seem like a small amount, but this is in addition to the \$33.4 million that VA reported spending on conferences so far through the end of the third quarter of this fiscal year. To repeat, VA has reported spending \$33.4 million so far through the end of the third quarter, with at least one and, likely, several other costly conferences that have yet to be accounted for.

What's more, Monday, the VA inspector general released a report on VA's relocation expenses program, which found that senior Veterans Benefits Administration officials had misused their positions for their own personal and financial benefit. These senior officials engineered the transfers of other senior officials as a way to increase

pay for themselves and to other senior executive service employees and work around the pay freezes and bans on performance awards for senior leaders. One VBA leader alone received almost \$300,000 in relocation expenses when she moved from Washington, D.C., to Philadelphia.

In total, VBA spent over \$1.7 million on reassignment expenses, including almost \$1.3 million on relocation expenses for senior executives for fiscal years 2013 through 2015.

And now yesterday, the VA Office of Inspector General substantiated allegations that the St. Louis VA Health Care System mental health clinic inappropriately changed the status of mental health consults to "complete" prior to a provider actually completing the appointment with a patient in 60 percent of sampled consults.

To make matters worse, the IG substantiated that, in a review of fiscal 2013 facility performance pay assessments, eight full-time outpatient psychiatrists received an average of nearly \$14,000 in performance pay. Seven of the eight psychiatrists met or exceeded the productivity goal, and, as a result, each received an average of around \$2,900 for what proved to be faulty productivity achievements.

This is in keeping with the wanton and abusive VA spending practices that the committee has uncovered at VA facilities across our country.

For example, the committee recently found that the VA Palo Alto Health Care System has spent at least \$6.3 million on art and consulting services. These projects include an art installation on the side of a parking garage that displays quotes by Abraham Lincoln and Eleanor Roosevelt in—wait for it—Morse code that cost \$285,000. It actually lights up; also, a large rock sculpture in the courtyard in the middle of the mental health center that cost \$1.3 million—for a rock; a stainless steel and aluminum sculpture in the aquatic center entrance that cost \$365,000; another sculpture that I am at a loss to describe in an exterior lobby that cost \$305,000; a sculpture in the shape of a half arc that is located inside the mental health center that cost \$330,000. As many of these projects are not yet complete, these costs actually could increase.

Let me be clear: spending money on conferences and relocation expenses for VA employees and on art installations for VA facilities is not more important than taking care of the veterans of this Nation, providing them the health care that they have earned. It is simply beyond me why VA would choose to pay to complete the Denver project by cutting medical services and medical facility dollars, but not the exorbitant conference spending, bloated relocation expenses, or art.

I remain committed to finding a way forward in Denver, and I am going to be supporting the bill today. However, I am equally convinced that we must ensure that the offsets that VA uses in

Colorado do not come at the expense of VA's most important mission: providing high-quality health care for veterans. Unfortunately, VA's plan offers no assurance.

I am also frustrated that the Department's plan, which this bill presumes is appropriate, offers no measure of accountability for those responsible for allowing this project to balloon out of control. The VA senior executives in charge of the Denver disaster collected massive bonuses as projected costs increased and delays stretched on for years. They have all retired with full retirement benefits. It is inexcusable.

To allow rewards, bonuses, and full retirement benefits to be retained, even when the facts indicate that an employee has not performed at the level expected, is not only wrong, it is a blatant and woeful misuse of taxpayer dollars.

□ 1245

I have said repeatedly that the great majority of VA employees are hard-working public servants who go to work every day and live up to President Lincoln's words, to provide quality health care and benefits to our Nation's veterans.

What's more, I believe that the majority of VA employees who are dedicated to the mission and purpose of the Department are just as frustrated and demoralized as we are when they see problem employees receiving bonuses or performance awards in spite of poor, unethical, and sometimes illegal job performance.

I just wish that this legislation could assure those quality employees that the veterans that they serve—that this Congress and this Department are committed to breaking VA's vicious cycle of ignoring and even rewarding poor performance.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 20 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Florida has 4½ minutes remaining.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 2082, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015.

This bill is an important and necessary bill for us to take up and pass today and send to the President. Let me repeat that. This bill is an important and a necessary bill for us to take up and pass today and send to the President.

S. 2082 makes sure that some of the vital programs we have in place to take care of our veterans continue past the end of the fiscal year and continue to help our veterans. I want to highlight just some of those importance programs.

S. 2082 ensures that several programs serving the homeless veterans continue, including the Homeless Veterans

and Homeless Veterans With Children Reintegration Programs.

S. 2082 ensures that there is adequate authorization levels for much-needed assistance and support service for veterans' caregivers.

S. 2082 continues a successful pilot program that counsels newly separated women veterans in retreat settings. This is an important program.

I have a bill, H.R. 1575, that would make this program permanent and has passed the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and I hope it will be brought to the floor soon so that we can vote for it.

S. 2082 also extends the authorization of the National Academy of Sciences to continue its research into the health consequences of Agent Orange exposure, providing the necessary link for the VA to make disability presumptions.

I am disappointed that the provision mandating the Secretary to make these presumptions is not in the bill, and I know that we will all work together to make sure that the VA does the right thing for our veterans.

S. 2082 extends the authorization for the VA to provide transportation grants for highly rural veterans and the ability of the VA to provide transportation to and from VA facilities. This is important to ensure that our veterans have access to care.

S. 2082 extends the authorization of the VA to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits for our wounded warriors.

And, finally, S. 2082 provides for an increase in the authorization level for the Denver Regional VA Medical Center. This center will provide specialty care for all VISN 19, which includes Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Utah, and Idaho. We need to finish this project and better provide health care for our veterans.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), a distinguished member of the committee.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2082, and I thank Chairman MILLER for his efforts to extend authority for various VA healthcare, benefits, disability, housing, education, job training, and other assistance programs.

Part of this bill also ensures that Colorado veterans will receive a completed, state-of-the-art new hospital in Denver.

In addition to funding the hospital, though, S. 2082 ensures that the type of construction mismanagement and cost overruns will not happen on future large-scale VA construction programs.

The VA has shown us on multiple projects, Denver being, unfortunately, the largest, that they are not properly equipped to handle these large construction projects with their own in-house capabilities.

The bill requires that the Army Corps of Engineers or NAVFAC or a

different construction agency, but not the VA, will take on the task of managing these large construction programs.

We must be good stewards of the taxpayers' money and use that money wisely to care for the veterans. This bill is a step in the right direction to get VA construction back on the right path, while fulfilling the promise made with the hospital to our Nation's veterans.

We have a sacred trust to take care of the men and women who have defended our country.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS).

Ms. TITUS. I thank the ranking member for yielding and for her leadership on the VA Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant support of this bill, S. 2082, the VA Expiring Authorities Act.

As my colleagues have outlined, this legislation will extend the authorization for some very good programs at the VA that provide valuable support and services for our Nation's heroes.

I have serious concerns, however, about one provision included in the bill. Title V raises the authorization for the Denver medical facility by more than \$600 million. This facility is already \$1 billion over budget and years behind schedule.

The bill, however, does not explain how we are going to pay for this increase. That will come later today when the House considers a continuing resolution to keep the government running for another 10 weeks. Buried in the CR is a provision that allows the VA to play a shell game within their budget to pay for the Denver project.

Now, we all believe that veterans everywhere, including in Denver, should have access to the best health care possible. But the funds for the Denver project should not come at the expense of veterans in Nevada and in other parts of the country.

Nonetheless, the VA has identified the \$600 million to pay for the Denver facility and has said that these specific cuts are designed to "minimize the impact on veterans."

Well, this couldn't be further from the truth, and it ignores reality. It is the epitome of robbing Peter to pay Paul.

Let me remind you that, in the summer of 2014, we passed an emergency CHOICE Act of some \$15 billion to help the VA with the healthcare backlog.

Then the VA came back to us this summer and said they would have to close hospitals if we didn't allow them to move some money out of the CHOICE Act.

Then the VA came back and said they needed \$200 million just to keep the Denver project going for a while. Now the VA is saying: Oh, no problem. We can just move \$600 million out of existing programs so we can help Denver without it hurting veterans.

How can they possibly do this?

The VA, I can tell you, has proposed cutting IT services, despite the fact that many of their IT systems are 30 years old and need to be replaced.

They want to cut funds for a program that helps recruit and retain the best personnel to serve veterans at a time when they are struggling to recruit and retain qualified employees, including specialists and doctors. They want to cut eight construction projects around the country, from operating rooms to a dialysis center.

Now, how can you say these cuts won't hurt veterans?

Now, we know a thing or two about sure things in Las Vegas. Well, I can tell you it is a sure thing that, soon enough, the VA will be coming back to Congress, proclaiming yet another doomsday if we don't refill these accounts that they are now robbing.

So I say to you Congress needs to do its job and actually pay for what we have bought. Wars are expensive. We need to recognize that. We can't keep playing budget games and nickel-and-dime the services that the brave men and women who fought in these wars need and deserve when they come home.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Denver (Mr. COFFMAN), an able co-chair of the committee who has been in the forefront of this entire fight looking at the cost overruns, the mismanagement, and trying to keep this project on schedule.

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my support for the Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015. This legislation will continue numerous programs of critical importance to our Nation's veterans, including a pilot program to increase women veterans' access to health care, nursing home care authorities, and measures to combat veteran homelessness.

I am proud that this legislation will allow for the completion of the VA replacement hospital in Aurora, Colorado, an absolutely critical project which will serve veterans not just in Colorado, but also in Utah, Montana, Wyoming and parts of four other States.

In spite of the incredible mismanagement of this project by the VA and a shocking lack of accountability for those responsible, completing the hospital in Aurora has been my number one legislative priority. We must not punish our Nation's veterans for the sins of incompetent VA bureaucrats.

Finally, this bill would accomplish a goal that I have worked towards for over a year, getting the VA out of the major construction business once and for all.

For decades, the Government Accountability Office has highlighted enormous construction management deficiencies by the VA.

After the GAO highlighted hundreds of millions in cost overruns in April of 2013, the House passed my legislation, which would have handed over the

worst VA projects to experts at the Army Corps of Engineers.

Worse, billions of dollars have been wasted by VA on mismanaged construction projects which could have gone instead towards veterans' health care and benefits.

I am proud that this bill will finally leave the construction management of large projects to the experts, organizations like the Army Corps of Engineers, and allow VA to focus back to its core competencies, providing health care and benefits to our veterans.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Denver, Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER), who really can give us a little institutional memory on the Denver regional hospital and who has been at the forefront of this hospital and this regional problem from the beginning.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. I thank Ranking Member BROWN for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the committee for bringing S. 2082 to the floor for debate and hearing today.

I rise today to support S. 2082, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act. The legislation before us passed the Senate unanimously last week and is important for a number of VA programs our veterans rely on day in and day out.

In addition to these important VA extensions, this legislation will authorize completion of the VA Medical Center under construction in Aurora, Colorado. This center is part of a major medical campus that includes the University of Colorado Medical School as well as Children's Hospital of Denver.

The professors at the University of Colorado are also many of the doctors at the VA Medical Center. The center will include a full range of medical, laboratory, research, and counseling services as well as a 30-bed spinal cord injury unit serving hundreds of thousands of veterans throughout the Rocky Mountain West.

As the chairman mentioned, this hospital's genesis began under President Clinton in 1999 with the Secretary of VA at that time. Under George Bush, it went through four Secretaries of the VA and, under President Obama, now two VA Secretaries.

□ 1300

It is moving forward and, with this bill, will continue to move forward.

There is no doubt the VA mismanaged this project from the start; and as disappointing and unacceptable as this situation has been, we are where we are. Under the leadership of Secretary McDonald and Deputy Secretary Gibson, the VA has admitted their mistakes on this project, and they are both personally involved in completion of this facility.

Today, construction continues on the project in earnest. The facility is more than 50 percent complete, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been

brought in to oversee completion of the medical center. Bringing in the Army Corps is important so we, as a Congress, can be certain that any additional funds spent on this project are spent appropriately and the facility is completed without further delay.

The contractor, Kiewit-Turner, and subcontractors have shown tremendous commitment to our Nation's veterans by building a world-class facility, and I am confident they will deliver this facility to our veterans throughout the Rocky Mountain West.

This bill requires the VA to use a non-VA Federal entity, like the Army Corps, to complete major construction projects valued at over \$100 million. This is critically important towards ensuring accountability and preventing these large projects from being mismanaged again.

I want to thank Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member BROWN, as well as Congressman CHARLIE DENT and Congressman BISHOP, for their work with me and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN), who now represents the district.

There has been a great deal of anger at the VA recently and much of it is well-deserved, but through the help of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the Appropriations Committee, Rocky Mountain veterans will eventually see this medical center completed and receive the health care that they earned by their service to the United States of America.

I thank my friend, the gentlewoman from Florida, for yielding.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) for working so closely with Mr. COFFMAN, a true bipartisan effort, to see this project to completion.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The gentleman from Florida has 1½ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from Florida has 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, might I inquire from Ms. BROWN if she would yield 5 minutes of her time.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, since I have 9 minutes remaining, and I have no further speakers, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida yields 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida.

Without objection, the gentleman from Florida will control those 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida is recognized.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM), a member of the committee that has worked very hard on this particular issue, especially the Expiring

Authorities bill, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

Mr. ABRAHAM. I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today in support of S. 2082; however, I would like to note that I am also deeply disappointed that we are not voting on the House bills which would have limited awards and bonuses to VA employees. It is my belief that we have missed an opportunity to bring much-needed accountability to the VA, and know that I will work tirelessly to bring accountability to the VA for the American people.

S. 2082, also known as the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015, includes multiple necessary provisions supporting our Nation's heroes, including veterans who are homeless, disabled, or suffering from PTSD.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, I introduced a particular provision in S. 2082 to extend contract exams for veterans applying for disability benefits. Extending contract exams is a commonsense measure to cut through the bureaucratic red tape and ensure our veterans are getting the care they need when they need it.

Many veterans undergo a VA medical examination in support of their application for disability benefits. The problem is that there are not enough examiners to perform these evaluations in a timely manner in the VA system.

Expanding contract exams will make it easier for the VA to arrange for the veterans to get disability examinations by permitting a licensed physician to conduct these examinations anywhere in the United States as long as the doctor is under a VA contract. This is common sense, and I urge passage of the bill.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the former chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, a stalwart supporter of America's veterans.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend for yielding, and I thank the gentlewoman from Florida, CORRINE BROWN, for her courtesy.

Mr. Speaker, I served on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee for a quarter of a century, including stints as vice chairman and full committee chair. I believe that our Nation's veterans are fortunate to have a great champion with the gentleman from Florida, Chairman MILLER, at the helm.

Chairman MILLER has led the committee with aggressive oversight and accountability of the often-troubled Department. He has shepherded numerous bills into law, including the VA Choice Program, which expands timely and local access to health care for veterans, and, working so closely in a bipartisan way with Ranking Member BROWN, ensured that the VA has the resources and the authorities to meet

evolving needs. The chairman always puts veterans and their dependents first.

Chairman MILLER has explained the bill. I will just take a brief moment to comment on title III.

Title III reauthorizes a number of provisions from a law that I wrote back in 2001 known as the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act, or Public Law 107-95. That law established the grant programs that included female veterans, homeless veterans with special needs, children, serious mental illnesses, and incarcerated veterans. The act authorized dental care. We learned through our hearing process that not only oral health—but overall health as well—is negatively affected with broken and diseased teeth and gums. And you don't get a job with busted teeth. Oral health was critical, so we put that into the bill. Job training and expanded domiciliary care programs were also expanded. It also authorized the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans and launched the national goal, which has now been replicated since 2010, of attempting to end chronic homelessness among veterans. We also did the Department of Labor's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program and the HUD-VASH program.

In 2001, the estimation from VA was that almost 300,000 veterans were homeless at some time during that year. By fiscal year 2013, that number had decreased to approximately 140,000 veterans. Of course we now have a different, altered way of calculating, but, unfortunately, on any given night last year, just under 50,000 veterans were still on the street.

This legislation will go far and do much so that no veteran is on the street and suffering homelessness. We need to bring them back into society.

Again, I thank Chairman MILLER for his strong leadership.

Thank you, Chairman MILLER, for your leadership on this bill and your staff's work to bring it to the floor in a timely manner to ensure that the VA continues to provide the services necessary for veterans to successfully transition back to civilian life and live independently.

Mr. Speaker, I served on the House Veteran's Affairs Committee for a quarter of a century, including stints as vice and full committee chair and I believe that our nation's veterans are fortunate to have a great champion with Chairman MILLER at the helm. Chairman MILLER led the committee with aggressive oversight and accountability of the often troubled Department. You have shepherded numerous bills into law including the VA Choice program which expands timely and local access to healthcare for veterans and you've ensured that the VA has the resources and authorities to meet evolving needs. You have always put veterans and their dependents—first.

Mr. Speaker, the bill we are voting on today will reauthorize over 30 critical programs that provide healthcare, education, and child care benefits to veterans and continue the VA's homeless veterans and caregiver assistance.

Since Chairman MILLER has explained the bill let me focus for a moment on Title III which extends many provisions first authorized

by landmark legislation I authored in 2001 known as the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act (Public Law 107-95).

That law established the grant programs we are reauthorizing today that focused on homeless female veterans; homeless veterans with special needs, children, serious mental illnesses, and incarcerated veterans. The Act authorized dental care—for better oral health and overall health—job training and expanded domiciliary care programs. It is hard to get a job if your teeth are cracked and deteriorated. It authorized the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans and launched the national goal of attempting to end chronic homelessness among veterans within a decade of the enactment of the Act. And among its many other provisions, it increased funding for two programs that were effective but seriously underfunded.

The first was the Department of Labor's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program—which helps homeless veterans reenter and stay in the labor force. Allowing more veterans access to this program was critical, as a steady job is key to successfully maintaining a residence.

The second is the HUD-VASH program, which combines rental assistance with case management and clinical services. After enactment, utilization of these services spiked and more veterans received the assistance that has led to self-sufficiency and independence.

Today, these programs continue to be a highly effective means of reducing homelessness among our veterans population.

In 2001, it was estimated that almost 300,000 veterans experienced homelessness that year. By fiscal year 2013, that number had decreased to approximately 140,000 veterans.

The VA and HUD have since changed how they calculate homeless veterans to a point-in-time estimate. The latest numbers show that we still have much work to do: on any given night last year, just under 50,000 veterans were on the street.

Of course one homeless veteran is one too many. Yet we are continuing to make progress and the numbers demonstrate how these programs, coupled with other recent and successful programs like the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program which we are reauthorizing today, are tangibly assisting homeless or potentially homeless women and men who served in our nation's armed forces. It is estimated that approximately 135,000 veterans and their families got assistance through SSVF in (FY) 2015 including funds to Soldier On and other initiatives in my state.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 2082, sending this important bill to the President so that the vital programs helping our veterans will continue past the end of this fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER).

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I thank Ranking Member BROWN for her courtesy in yielding an additional few minutes for some of our Members who wanted to speak.

I, too, think it is very important that we pass this piece of legislation today,

but our job here is not finished. We must ensure that the appropriators now do their job and make sure that VA doesn't, as the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) said, rob Peter to pay Paul. It is important that we not take necessary dollars away from veteran health care in order to pay for their massive mismanagement of this particular facility.

I urge a positive vote on this Senate bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my good friend from Florida for his work on the VA extenders bill. I appreciate his partnership as we continue to fight for our veterans.

However, Mr. Speaker, I remain deeply disappointed that this extenders bill does not include an extension of the Agent Orange Act.

As you know, Congress passed the Agent Orange Act in 1991 to ensure care and compensation to Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange. Before this bill, it was up to our veterans to prove their cancer or Parkinson's was connected to their service in Vietnam and their exposure to Agent Orange.

The Agent Orange Act changed all of that, shifting the burden of proof from the veteran to the VA. Under the Agent Orange Act, the IOM would study Agent Orange and determine which diseases were associated with exposure to Agent Orange. This process removed the burden of proof from our Vietnam veterans when they applied for disability compensation.

Over the years, the IOM has issued reports that have led to the presumption of service connection for diseases such as Parkinson's, B-cell leukemia and early onset peripheral neuropathy. Without these studies, thousands of Vietnam era veterans would have gone without the benefits they greatly deserve.

The Agent Orange Act is set to expire tomorrow, but IOM is still working on their last report.

And, despite the good the Agent Orange Act has done for our Vietnam veterans, Congress is going to let this bill expire tomorrow.

And it's all because it costs too much.

Mr. Speaker, it never costs too much to ensure justice for our veterans.

We should be ashamed that we are letting this bill expire and leaving it up to the VA to add new diseases to the presumption list.

The Agent Orange Act has worked for our veterans for over a decade, and it is irresponsible to let our oversight expire and simply leave it up to the VA's discretion.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot step away from our responsibilities and hand them over to an agency, simply because we do not like the price tag.

Instead, we should do the right thing and find an offset.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to demand Leadership go back and find an offset outside of the VA to ensure our veterans get the benefits they earned.

We have a responsibility to these veterans. They completed their mission in Vietnam, now we must complete ours.

By finding an offset and passing this extension, we will make certain that when the IOM's final report is published, the VA is obligated to review it and follow their recommendations.

We owe these heroes nothing less.

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my concerns regarding

two provisions in S. 2082, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015: Sec. 501 the increased authorization for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facility project in Denver, Colorado and Sec. 412 the modification of authorization for the VA medical facility project in Tampa, Florida which is designated as an emergency.

SEC. 501 INCREASED AUTHORIZATION FOR THE VA MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT IN DENVER, COLORADO

Originally budgeted to be an \$800 million dollar project, the VA is now requesting yet another funding transfer from Congress to bring the total price tag of this medical facility to an astounding \$1.675 billion, more than \$800 million dollars over budget. Mismanagement of construction projects, and the unacceptable waste of taxpayer dollars, unfortunately have been an ongoing problem at the VA. It is deplorable and should not be tolerated by Congress or the Administration.

This project is a perfect example of why the VA is in dire need of wholesale reform in addition to continued oversight by Congress to ensure that the VA is transparent, accountable, and ultimately able to best serve our nation's veterans. I fully support the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman JEFF MILLER's efforts to directly address the construction problems at the VA and other efforts by his Committee to enforce accountability agency-wide, including H.R. 1994, the VA Accountability Act of 2015, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives on July 29, 2015. I also applaud Chairman MILLER's version of an increased authorization for the Denver project bill, H.R. 3595, because it included offsets to help pay for the increase in costs at the Denver facility. These offsetting policies in H.R. 3595 are a clear indication that the U.S. House of Representatives is no longer willing to tolerate misbehavior and poor performance at the VA and include the following: limitation on awards and bonuses for VA employees, reduction of benefits for members of the Senior Executive Service at the VA convicted of certain crimes, and authority for the VA Secretary to recoup bonuses or awards paid to employees in the past if deemed appropriate pursuant to regulations. Unfortunately, S. 2082 does not include these offsets and allows the VA to decide which funds to transfer to the Denver project.

As Chairman of the House Committee on the Budget, I do not condone mismanagement by any Federal agency, especially an agency tasked with the heavy responsibility of taking care of the men and women who have served our country in uniform. Our veterans should not be punished by the lack of competence within the VA bureaucracy, which would be the effect of not approving the transfer of additional funds for this medical facility. However, the VA should not take the approval of this newest transfer of funds as an indication of congressional support for their mismanagement of the Denver facility. Further, the VA is hereby placed on notice that the Budget Committee will work closely with the Veterans' Affairs Committee in the months ahead to advance the long overdue efforts to reform the department's dysfunctional operations. Our veterans who have served this nation with honor and distinction deserve nothing less than Congress' commitment to fix the management problems at the VA.

SEC. 412 MODIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR THE VA MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT IN TAMPA, FLORIDA

S. 2082 calls for modifying the authorization for the Tampa facility from "providing bed tower upgrades," which was originally authorized and appropriated in the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-252), to "constructing a new bed tower" and designating this new purpose of the monies as an emergency requirement. The emergency designation, which is under the jurisdiction of the Budget Committee, is defined for needs that are urgent, unforeseen, and would result in imminent loss of life or property if left unmet. I do not believe that the authorization modification in S. 2082 meets these criteria since it is occurring seven years after the original emergency designation for this purpose in P.L. 110-252. I think most members of Congress would agree that this provision does not qualify as an emergency as defined by the Committee's criteria and I am disappointed that this emergency provision is included in S. 2082.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2082.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1409

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 79, DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 719, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE HOUSE AMENDMENT TO THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 719, TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

Mr. COLE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-272) on the resolution (H. Res. 448) providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 79) directing the Clerk of the House of

Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 719, and providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 719) to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 79, DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 719, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE HOUSE AMENDMENT TO THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 719, TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 448 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 448

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 79) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 719. All points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution are waived. The concurrent resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the concurrent resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except 20 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader or their respective designees.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 719) to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to adoption without intervening motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), my

good friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, earlier today the Committee on Rules met and reported a rule for consideration for both H. Con. Res. 79, directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 719, and H.R. 719, the Continuing Appropriations Act 2016.

The rule provides for consideration of H. Con. Res. 79 under a closed rule with 20 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and his designee and the minority leader or her designee. In addition, the rule makes in order a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 719, with 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. Speaker, first, this resolution allows for consideration of H. Con. Res. 79, which directs the Clerk of the House to include the text of the Defund Planned Parenthood Act of 2015 in the enrollment of H.R. 719. This would allow the House to again state its position in opposition to the funding of Planned Parenthood as it has already done by passage of both H.R. 3495 and H.R. 3134. In addition, Mr. Speaker, the rule provides for consideration of the short-term continuing resolution.

As a member of the Committee on Appropriations, I am always disappointed when we are forced to consider continuing resolutions, especially given the work this House has done in the appropriations process this year.

□ 1415

For the first time since 2009, the House Appropriations Committee was able to complete all 12 appropriations bills, and complete them before the August recess. Unfortunately, just as in years past, Senate Democrats prevented consideration of any appropriations bills on the floor of that body. This leads us to the unfortunate situation of having to put forward a short-term CR to fund the government through December 11.

This continuing resolution is simple. Most programs will continue being funded at their FY15 levels; however, it does adjust certain spending levels for critical needs, such as providing \$700 million for wildfire suppression activities in the West, and it extends several programs that would otherwise lapse, like the collection of recreation fees for public lands. In addition, it main-

tains the moratorium on State and local jurisdictions' taxation of the Internet.

I hope that in the weeks and months ahead the House, the Senate, and the President can come to an agreement on a path forward which ensures we are not in this same place in December.

Some of my colleagues have stated publicly that they cannot support this CR because it provides funding for Planned Parenthood. I want to assure my colleagues that no funding for Planned Parenthood is included in this legislation.

First, a majority of Planned Parenthood funding, about 90 percent, comes through Medicaid and is not subject to appropriations. Of the remaining 10 percent, the largest portion, roughly \$28 million, is funded through title X. These grant programs are competed for every year and are awarded in April, long past the length of this continuing resolution.

While I share the same disgust over the evidence seen in the atrocious videos that are so widely known, I want to assure my colleagues that no additional funds are provided for this organization in this bill.

I am encouraged by the hard work of Chairman ROGERS, Ranking Member LOWEY, and, of course, the Speaker, whose leadership has made all this possible.

One of the preeminent responsibilities we are tasked with as Members of Congress is to ensure that the government continues to function. While a continuing resolution is not the ideal vehicle, the alternative of a government shutdown is not what we have all been sent to Washington to do.

I urge support of the rule and the underlying legislation.

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

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, when the House shut down in 2013, I happened to be on the floor at midnight. Why, at this moment, eludes me. But I remember when the clock struck midnight that I made the comment that the great government of the United States of America was closed.

That 16-day exercise took \$24 billion out of this economy at a time when we were struggling, really, to get our economy back on track. That money mostly came from mom-and-pop stores that were in Federal buildings or in the national parks. The inconvenience to Federal employees was enormous. They did get paid, but they were worried to death whether they would be able to meet their mortgage payments or to meet the college tuition payments. And yet so many people were dispossessed, practically. Veterans came to Washington to visit their memorials, only to find them closed.

I certainly concur with Mr. COLE. We do not want to see that again. It was

foolish then; it would be doubly foolish now. We are now on the edge of what we are going to do because we couldn't get anything done.

I am obsessed today by what occurred last night on television. I want to explain it to you, because I have said on this floor so many times—mostly during the 54 times we voted to defund health care—that what was going on here was a gigantic hoax.

I said just this morning at the Rules Committee that what we do has only a passing resemblance to what we are supposed to do. And I want to read a quote from what was said last night on Fox News by Representative MCCARTHY, who is the presumptive new Speaker of the House. He said:

What you are going to see is a conservative Speaker, that takes a conservative Congress, that puts a strategy in place to fight and win. And let me give you one example.

Everybody thought Hillary Clinton was unbeatable, right? But we put together a Benghazi special committee, a select committee. What are her numbers today? Her numbers are dropping. No one would have known any of that happened had we not fought and made that happen.

Sean Hannity responds:

I agree. I'll give you credit for that.

I tell you what that means, Mr. Speaker. It means that this was used as a hoax. We concerned ourselves with that, and now we are going to see another one of these special committees. The Benghazi Committee has already spent \$4.5 million, on top of all the money that was spent in committees, to point out that there was nothing wrong in Benghazi.

And, once again, I was on the floor of the House for the rule talking about setting up special committees for Benghazi, when I got a call from the mother of one of the former Navy SEALs who had died in that awful attack saying that her son had been a Navy SEAL, he knew his risks, and would we please stop bringing this up over and over again.

We heard basically the same thing from the Ambassador's family, who said that he knew the language. He liked to be out with the people. He could not be confined behind a wall.

So what are we doing here today? More hoax? More money wasted? Perhaps.

I told the chairman of the Rules Committee this morning that we would be happy to give them the rule for the CR. We want a clean CR. We were pleased as all get out when the Senate sent us a clean CR. But no, we are not going to do that. We are going to pretend, as part of the CR rule, that we are going to defund Planned Parenthood, which Mr. COLE just pointed out has no money allocated to it directly in the Federal budget.

So what we are going to defund is I don't know what. HHS? Who knows. Maybe we will find out, maybe we won't. But they are doing this hoax again simply to fool some of the people on their side who obviously know

about it because it has been in every paper and on everybody's lips that I have talked to that we were going to have to probably do that. But putting that on the rule this morning meant that we cannot support it. Perhaps you have the votes to do it by hoaxing people, but I don't know.

We do know that that most conservative wing has harangued its leadership enough to add that vote on the bill even though, as I point out, we were very willing to give the votes on our side.

Now, the Senate had 78 majority votes to keep the Senate open and Congress moving, but we will not do that because we want to try to restrict a woman's access to health care. We do it all the time. We have already had 14 votes. We did two or three this week.

What in the world is it that makes this majority want to take health care away from people—54 times to kill health care, 14 times to kill choice, which is constitutionally protected, I must add.

So across the country, our constituents must be thoroughly surprised at what really is going on here. A lot of money is getting spent. It takes \$24 million a week to run the House of Representatives. And think of the Benghazi Committees. If you recall, at both Armed Services and Intelligence, their Republican chairs—and bless them for it—said there is nothing there.

But we find out last night that the whole purpose of all of it was never to do anything except to cause eternal grief to the families of the four people who lost their lives and to destroy a Presidential candidate. Could the Congress really stoop that low? I certainly hope not. The facts belie my hope.

So we will be back here in December, December 11, actually, when I suspect we will go through the same thing: Are we going to shut down the government or are we going to try to do our job? We do the same thing. We will have to put some things in to fool some people all the time so that they will think they are voting for something entirely different. Frankly, I am not going to try to explain why this is happening, because the people that it is meant to appease obviously know we are appeasing them. And it won't last, but it sure is expensive.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I want to, first, point out a couple of areas where my friend and I do disagree. We certainly disagree about the value of the Benghazi Committee. Frankly, I think it has been conducted professionally and seriously by Mr. GOWDY. I think we have already learned some things we wouldn't have known, including the fact that the former Secretary of State had a private server over which only she had access and control, a very unusual arrangement. So I will just let the committee continue its work and see where we end up at the end of the day.

I want to disagree with my friend, with all due respect, on Planned Parenthood. That is just an area where we have a difference of opinion. I don't think it is appropriate that they receive Federal funds. There are plenty of other ways. We provide \$3.5 billion to thousands of public healthcare centers and community healthcare centers around the United States. Those provide all these same services. That is appropriate, and we should do that.

But I also want to agree with my friend. I agree very much with her sentiments on a government shutdown. She is precisely right, in my view, about what happened in the last government shutdown. It should not have occurred. This is a sincere effort to make sure that doesn't occur now. The Appropriations Committee is certainly doing everything in its power to do that.

Obviously, we need the administration, the Senate, and the House leadership to sit down and give us a framework. We are trying to buy them that time. I think we are doing it in a very responsible way.

So, while my friend and I may have some disagreements in some areas, on the functioning of the government we have absolutely no disagreement whatsoever. I am pleased to be here working with her in those areas, and I am hopeful that the President, the Speaker, the majority leader, and the respective minority leaders can indeed come to a larger agreement that would allow a normal appropriations process to take place. First, an omnibus bill this year, and, hopefully, next year, an actual complete appropriations process such as we haven't seen around here in many, many, many years.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves in a precarious time. At midnight tonight, the Government of the United States will close yet once again. Mr. COLE and I certainly have strong agreement on that, and I am happy for that. He is a true gentleman and a scholar here in Congress. But I continue to say that it saddens me greatly, because all of us who were wanting to vote for a clean CR, because of this rule, we will not have an opportunity to do that.

I call for a "no" vote on the rule.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to thank my friend again for also emphasizing the areas where we agree, which is on the maintenance of the government. And while we may have a difference over the rule, I would hope that my friend and many of her colleagues on the CR that has been agreed to would look on that favorably and would be able to support the CR, itself, as opposed to the rule.

Mr. Speaker, passage of the CR is critical to prevent a government shutdown and to demonstrate to the American people that Congress can actually

govern. The CR abides within the budget caps and does not provide any additional funding for Planned Parenthood, as some have claimed. In addition, the rule provides for consideration of an enrollment correction bill that would again make the position of the House clear in opposition to any additional funding for Planned Parenthood.

I want to encourage my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying legislation. And, frankly, I want to encourage those who are now engaged in negotiations to arrive at a framework where the appropriations process can actually go forward, where we can sit down and seriously consider in a bipartisan way how best to fund the government in the coming year, and where, hopefully, we can get an agreement large enough that we can have a normal appropriations process next year where we actually bring bills individually to this floor, as we did 6 times, but actually do it for the full 12 that would be in order. That is my hope. That is what I am going to be working toward. I know my friend will be working in the same direction.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on adoption of the resolution will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 2082.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 239, nays 187, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 525]

YEAS—239

Abraham	Clawson (FL)	Forbes
Aderholt	Coffman	Fortenberry
Allen	Cole	Foxx
Amash	Collins (GA)	Franks (AZ)
Amodei	Collins (NY)	Frelinghuysen
Babin	Comstock	Garrett
Barletta	Conaway	Gibbs
Barr	Cook	Gibson
Barton	Costello (PA)	Gohmert
Benishek	Cramer	Goodlatte
Bilirakis	Crawford	Gosar
Bishop (MI)	Crenshaw	Gowdy
Bishop (UT)	Curbelo (FL)	Granger
Black	Davis, Rodney	Graves (GA)
Blackburn	Denham	Graves (LA)
Blum	Dent	Graves (MO)
Bost	DeSantis	Griffith
Boustany	DesJarlais	Grothman
Brat	Diaz-Balart	Guinta
Bridenstine	Dold	Guthrie
Brooks (AL)	Donovan	Hanna
Brooks (IN)	Duffy	Hardy
Buchanan	Duncan (SC)	Harper
Buck	Duncan (TN)	Harris
Bucshon	Ellmers (NC)	Hartzler
Burgess	Emmer (MN)	Heck (NV)
Byrne	Farenthold	Hensarling
Calvert	Fincher	Herrera Beutler
Carter (GA)	Fitzpatrick	Hice, Jody B.
Carter (TX)	Fleischmann	Hill
Chabot	Fleming	Holding
Chaffetz	Flores	Huizenga (MI)

Hultgren	Miller (FL)	Scalise	Rangel	Serrano	Tsongas	Cummings	Hurt (VA)	Newhouse
Hunter	Miller (MI)	Schweikert	Rice (NY)	Sewell (AL)	Van Hollen	Curbelo (FL)	Israel	Noem
Hurd (TX)	Moolenaar	Scott, Austin	Richmond	Sherman	Vargas	Davis (CA)	Issa	Nolan
Hurt (VA)	Mooney (WV)	Sensenbrenner	Roybal-Allard	Sinema	Veasey	Davis, Danny	Jackson Lee	Norcross
Issa	Mullin	Sessions	Ruiz	Sires	Vela	Davis, Rodney	Jeffries	Nugent
Jenkins (KS)	Mulvaney	Shimkus	Ruppersberger	Slaughter	Velázquez	DeFazio	Jenkins (KS)	Nunes
Jenkins (WV)	Murphy (PA)	Shuster	Rush	Smith (WA)	Visclosky	DeGette	Jenkins (WV)	O'Rourke
Johnson (OH)	Neugebauer	Simpson	Sánchez, Linda T.	Speier	Walz	Delaney	Johnson (OH)	Olson
Johnson, Sam	Newhouse	Smith (MO)	Sanchez, Loretta	Swailwell (CA)	Wasserman	DeLauro	Johnson, E. B.	Palazzo
Jolly	Noem	Smith (NE)	Sarbanes	Takai	Schultz	DelBene	Johnson, Sam	Pallone
Jordan	Nugent	Smith (NJ)	Schakowsky	Takano	Waters, Maxine	Denham	Jolly	Palmer
Joyce	Nunes	Smith (TX)	Schiff	Thompson (CA)	Watson Coleman	Dent	Jones	Pascrell
Katko	Olson	Stefanik	Schrader	Thompson (MS)	Welch	DeSantis	Jordan	Paulsen
Kelly (MS)	Palazzo	Stewart	Scott (VA)	Titus	Wilson (FL)	DeSaulnier	Joyce	Payne
Kelly (PA)	Palmer	Stivers	Scott, David	Tonko	Yarmuth	DesJarlais	Kaptur	Pearce
King (IA)	Paulsen	Stutzman		Torres		Deutch	Katko	Pelosi
King (NY)	Pearce	Thompson (PA)				Diaz-Balart	Keating	Perlmutter
Kinzinger (IL)	Perry	Thornberry				Dingell	Kelly (MS)	Perry
Kline	Pittenger	Tiberi	Brady (TX)	Johnson (GA)	Reichert	Doggett	Kelly (PA)	Peters
Knight	Pitts	Tipton	Culberson	Kelly (IL)	Ryan (OH)	Dold	Kennedy	Peterson
Labrador	Poe (TX)	Trott	Hudson	Meeks		Donovan	Kildee	Pingree
LaHood	Poliquin	Turner				Doyle, Michael F.	Kilmer	Pittenger
LaMalfa	Pompeo	Upton				Duckworth	Kind	Pitts
Lamborn	Posey	Valadao				Duffy	King (IA)	Pocan
Lance	Price, Tom	Wagner				Duncan (SC)	King (NY)	Poe (TX)
Latta	Ratcliffe	Walberg				Duncan (TN)	Kinzinger (IL)	Poliquin
LoBiondo	Reed	Walden				Edwards	Kirkpatrick	Polis
Long	Renacci	Walker				Ellison	Kline	Pompeo
Loudermilk	Ribble	Walorski				Ellmers (NC)	Knight	Posey
Love	Rice (SC)	Walters, Mimi				Emmer (MN)	Kuster	Price (NC)
Lucas	Rigell	Weber (TX)				Engel	Labrador	Price, Tom
Luetkemeyer	Roby	Webster (FL)				Eshoo	LaHood	Quigley
Lummis	Roe (TN)	Wenstrup				Esty	LaMalfa	Rangel
MacArthur	Rogers (AL)	Westerman				Farenthold	Lamborn	Ratcliffe
Marchant	Rogers (KY)	Westmoreland				Farr	Lance	Reed
Marino	Rohrabacher	Whitfield				Fattah	Langevin	Renacci
McCarthy	Rokita	Williams				Fincher	Larsen (WA)	Ribble
McCaul	Rooney (FL)	Wilson (SC)				Fitzpatrick	Latta	Rice (NY)
McClintock	Ros-Lehtinen	Wittman				Fleischmann	Lawrence	Rice (SC)
McHenry	Roskam	Womack				Fleming	Lee	Richmond
McKinley	Ross	Woodall				Flores	Levin	Rigell
McMorris	Rothfus	Yoder				Forbes	Lewis	Roby
Rodgers	Rouzer	Yoho				Fortenberry	Lieu, Ted	Roe (TN)
McSally	Royce	Young (AK)				Foster	Lipinski	Rogers (AL)
Meadows	Russell	Young (IA)				Fox	LoBiondo	Rogers (KY)
Meehan	Ryan (WI)	Young (IN)				Frankel (FL)	Loeb sack	Rohrabacher
Messer	Salmon	Zeldin				Franks (AZ)	Lofgren	Rokita
Mica	Sanford	Zinke				Frelinghuysen	Long	Rooney (FL)
						Fudge	Loudermilk	Ros-Lehtinen
						Gabbard	Love	Roskam
						Galego	Lowenthal	Ross
						Garamendi	Lowey	Rothfus
						Garrett	Lucas	Rouzer
						Gibbs	Luetkemeyer	Roybal-Allard
						Gibson	Lujan Grisham	Royce
						Gohmert	(NM)	Ruiz
						Goodlatte	Luján, Ben Ray	Ruppersberger
						Gosar	(NM)	Rush
						Gowdy	Lummis	Russell
						Graham	Lynch	Ryan (WI)
						Granger	MacArthur	Salmon
						Graves (GA)	Maloney,	Sánchez, Linda T.
						Graves (LA)	Carolyn	
						Graves (MO)	Maloney, Sean	Sanchez, Loretta
						Grayson	Marchant	Sanford
						Green, Al	Marino	Sarbanes
						Green, Gene	Massie	Scalise
						Griffith	Matsui	Schakowsky
						Grijalva	McCarthy	Schiff
						Grothman	McCaul	Schrader
						Guinta	McClintock	Schweikert
						Guthrie	McCollum	Scott (VA)
						Gutiérrez	McDermott	Scott, Austin
						Hahn	McGovern	Scott, David
						Hanna	McHenry	Sensenbrenner
						Hardy	McKinley	Serrano
						Harper	McMorris	Sessions
						Harris	Rodgers	Sewell (AL)
						Hartzler	McNerney	Sherman
						Hastings	McSally	Shimkus
						Heck (NV)	Meadows	Shuster
						Heck (WA)	Meehan	Simpson
						Hensarling	Meng	Sinema
						Herrera Beutler	Messer	Sires
						Hice, Jody B.	Herrera Beutler	Slaughter
						Higgins	Miller (FL)	Smith (MO)
						Hill	Miller (MI)	Smith (NE)
						Himes	Moolenaar	Smith (NJ)
						Hinojosa	Mooney (WV)	Smith (TX)
						Holding	Moore	Smith (WA)
						Honda	Moulton	Speier
						Hoyer	Mullin	Stefanik
						Huelskamp	Mulvaney	Stewart
						Huffman	Murphy (FL)	Stivers
						Huizenga (MI)	Murphy (PA)	Stutzman
						Hultgren	Nadler	Swailwell (CA)
						Hunter	Napolitano	Takai
						Hurd (TX)	Neal	Takano
							Neugebauer	Thompson (CA)

## NOT VOTING—8

□ 1500

Mr. SARBANES changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mrs. GRANGER and Mr. WENSTRUP changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EXPIRING AUTHORITIES ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2082) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 423, nays 0, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 526]

YEAS—423

Abraham	Boyle, Brendan	Chaffetz
Adams	F.	Chu, Judy
Aderholt	Brady (PA)	Cicilline
Aguilar	Brat	Clark (MA)
Allen	Bridenstine	Clarke (NY)
Amash	Brooks (AL)	Clawson (FL)
Amodei	Brooks (IN)	Clay
Ashford	Brown (FL)	Cleaver
Babin	Brownley (CA)	Clyburn
Barletta	Buchanan	Coffman
Barr	Buck	Cohen
Barton	Bucshon	Cole
Bass	Burgess	Collins (GA)
Beatty	Bustos	Collins (NY)
Becerra	Butterfield	Comstock
Benishek	Byrne	Conaway
Bera	Calvert	Connolly
Beyer	Capps	Conyers
Bilirakis	Capuano	Cook
Bishop (GA)	Cardenas	Cooper
Bishop (MI)	Carney	Costa
Black	Carson (IN)	Costello (PA)
Blackburn	Carter (GA)	Courtney
Blum	Carter (TX)	Cramer
Blumenauer	Cartwright	Crawford
Bonamici	Castor (FL)	Crenshaw
Bost	Castro (TX)	Crowley
Boustany	Chabot	Cuellar

## NAYS—187

Adams	DeSaulnier	Langevin
Aguilar	Deutch	Larsen (WA)
Ashford	Dingell	Larson (CT)
Bass	Doggett	Lawrence
Beatty	Doyle, Michael F.	Lee
Becerra	F.	Levin
Bera	Duckworth	Lewis
Beyer	Edwards	Lieu, Ted
Bishop (GA)	Ellison	Lipinski
Blumenauer	Engel	Loeb sack
Bonamici	Eshoo	Lofgren
Boyle, Brendan F.	Esty	Lowenthal
Brady (PA)	Farr	Lowey
Brown (FL)	Fattah	Lujan Grisham
Brownley (CA)	Foster	(NM)
Bustos	Frankel (FL)	Luján, Ben Ray
Butterfield	Fudge	(NM)
Capps	Gabbard	Lynch
Capuano	Galego	Maloney,
Cardenas	Garamendi	Carolyn
Carney	Graham	Maloney, Sean
Carson (IN)	Grayson	Massie
Cartwright	Green, Al	Matsui
Castor (FL)	Green, Gene	McCollum
Castro (TX)	Grijalva	McDermott
Chu, Judy	Gutiérrez	McGovern
Cicilline	Hahn	McNerney
Clark (MA)	Hastings	Meng
Clarke (NY)	Heck (WA)	Moore
Clay	Higgins	Moulton
Cleaver	Himes	Murphy (FL)
Clyburn	Hinojosa	Nadler
Cohen	Honda	Napolitano
Connolly	Hoyer	Neal
Conyers	Huelskamp	Nolan
Cooper	Huffman	Norcross
Costa	Israel	O'Rourke
Courtney	Jackson Lee	Pallone
Crowley	Jeffries	Pascrell
Cuellar	Johnson, E. B.	Payne
Cummings	Jones	Pelosi
Davis (CA)	Kaptur	Perlmutter
Davis, Danny	Keating	Peters
DeFazio	Kennedy	Peterson
DeGette	Kildee	Pingree
Delaney	Kilmer	Pocan
DeLauro	Kind	Polis
DelBene	Kirkpatrick	Price (NC)
	Kuster	Quigley

Thompson (MS)	Velázquez	Westerman
Thompson (PA)	Visclosky	Whitfield
Thornberry	Wagner	Williams
Tiberi	Walberg	Wilson (FL)
Tipton	Walden	Wilson (SC)
Titus	Walker	Wittman
Tonko	Walorski	Womack
Torres	Walters, Mimi	Woodall
Trott	Walz	Yarmuth
Tsongas	Wasserman	Yoder
Turner	Schultz	Yoho
Upton	Waters, Maxine	Young (AK)
Valadao	Watson Coleman	Young (IA)
Van Hollen	Weber (TX)	Young (IN)
Vargas	Webster (FL)	Zeldin
Veasey	Welch	Zinke
Vela	Wenstrup	

## NOT VOTING—11

Bishop (UT)	Johnson (GA)	Reichert
Brady (TX)	Kelly (IL)	Ryan (OH)
Culberson	Larson (CT)	Westmoreland
Hudson	Meeks	

□ 1507

Mr. BLUMENAUER changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3457, JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF IRANIAN TERRORISM ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1735, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. BYRNE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-273) on the resolution (H. Res. 449) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3457) to prohibit the lifting of sanctions on Iran until the Government of Iran pays the judgments against it for acts of terrorism, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PERMISSION TO POSTPONE PROCEEDINGS ON MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the question of adopting a motion to concur pursuant to House Resolution

448 may be subject to postponement as though under clause 8 of rule XX.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION  
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 719, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 448, I call up the bill (H.R. 719) to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment thereto, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment.

The text of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following:  
*The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2016, and for other purposes, namely:*  
SEC. 101. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary, at a rate for operations as provided in the applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2015 and under the authority and conditions provided in such Acts, for continuing projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this Act, that were conducted in fiscal year 2015, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the following appropriations Acts:

(1) *The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division A of Public Law 113-235), except section 743 and title VIII.*  
(2) *The Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division B of Public Law 113-235).*

(3) *The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2015 (division C of Public Law 113-235), except title X.*

(4) *The Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division D of Public Law 113-235).*

(5) *The Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2015 (division E of Public Law 113-235).*

(6) *The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 114-4).*

(7) *The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division F of Public Law 113-235).*

(8) *The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related*

*Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division G of Public Law 113-235), except title VI.*

(9) *The Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2015 (division H of Public Law 113-235).*

(10) *The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division I of Public Law 113-235).*

(11) *The Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2015 (division J of Public Law 113-235), except title IX.*

(12) *The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (division K of Public Law 113-235).*

(13) *Section 11 of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235).*

(b) *The rate for operations provided by subsection (a) is hereby reduced by 0.2108 percent.*

SEC. 102. (a) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used for: (1) the new production of items not funded for production in fiscal year 2015 or prior years; (2) the increase in production rates above those sustained with fiscal year 2015 funds; or (3) the initiation, resumption, or continuation of any project, activity, operation, or organization (defined as any project, subproject, activity, budget activity, program element, and subprogram within a program element, and for any investment items defined as a P-1 line item in a budget activity within an appropriation account and an R-1 line item that includes a program element and subprogram element within an appropriation account) for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2015.

(b) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate multi-year procurements utilizing advance procurement funding for economic order quantity procurement unless specifically appropriated later.

SEC. 103. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 104. Except as otherwise provided in section 102, no appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any project or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this Act.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs: (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this Act; (2) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016 without any provision for such project or activity; or (3) December 11, 2015.

SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this Act shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this Act may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing in this

Act may be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, for those programs that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of fiscal year 2016 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this Act that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 110. This Act shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in the Act shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2015, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be continued at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015, to be continued through the date specified in section 106(3).

(b) Notwithstanding section 106, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2015 but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 106(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 112. Amounts made available under section 101 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such department or agency, consistent with the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2015, except that such authority provided under this section shall not be used until after the department or agency has taken all necessary actions to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative expenses.

SEC. 113. Funds appropriated by this Act may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91-672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)).

SEC. 114. (a) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of such Act or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act, respectively.

(b) The reduction in section 101(b) of this Act shall not apply to—

(1) amounts designated under subsection (a) of this section; or

(2) amounts made available by section 101(a) by reference to the second paragraph under the heading “Social Security Administration—Limitation on Administrative Expenses” in division G of Public Law 113-235; or

(3) amounts made available by section 101(a) by reference to the paragraph under the heading “Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Account” in division G of Public Law 113-235.

(c) Section 6 of Public Law 113-235 shall apply to amounts designated in subsection (a) for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism.

SEC. 115. During the period covered by this Act, discretionary amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2016 that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts shall be available in the amounts provided in such Acts, reduced by the percentage in section 101(b).

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for “Department of Agriculture—Domestic Food Programs—Food and Nutrition Service—Commodity Assistance Program” at a rate for operations of \$288,317,000, of which \$221,298,000 shall be for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

SEC. 117. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Agriculture—Rural Housing Service—Rental Assistance Program” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to pay ongoing debt service for the multi-family direct loan programs under sections 514 and 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484 and 1485): Provided, That the Secretary may waive the prohibition in the second proviso under such heading in division A of Public Law 113-235 with respect to rental assistance contracts entered into or renewed during fiscal year 2015.

SEC. 118. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Commerce—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Procurement, Acquisition and Construction” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain the planned launch schedules for the Joint Polar Satellite System.

SEC. 119. (a) The first proviso under the heading “United States Marshals Service—Federal Prisoner Detention” in title II of division B of Public Law 113-235 shall not apply during the period covered by this Act.

(b) The limitation in section 217(c) of division B of Public Law 113-235 on the amount of excess unobligated balances available under section 524(c)(8)(E) of title 28, United States Code, shall not apply under this Act to the use of such funds for “United States Marshals Service—Federal Prisoner Detention”.

SEC. 120. (a) The authority regarding closeout of Space Shuttle contracts and associated programs provided by language under the heading “National Aeronautics and Space Administration—Administrative Provisions” in the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111-8) shall continue in effect through fiscal year 2021.

(b) This section shall be applied as if it were in effect on September 30, 2015.

SEC. 121. (a) Notwithstanding section 1552 of title 31, United States Code, funds made available, including funds that have expired but have not been cancelled, and identified by Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbol 13-0910-0554 shall remain available for expenditure through fiscal year 2020 for the purpose of liquidating valid obligations of active grants.

(b) For the purpose of subsection (a), grants for which the period of performance has expired but are not finally closed out shall be considered active grants.

(c) This section shall be applied as if it were in effect on September 30, 2015.

SEC. 122. The following provisions shall be applied by substituting “2016” for “2015” through the earlier of the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense:

(1) Section 1215(f)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81; 10 U.S.C. 113 note), as most recently amended by section 1237 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291).

(2) Section 127b(c)(3)(C) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 123. (a) Funds made available by section 101 for “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund” may be appor-

tioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid disruption of continuing projects or activities funded in this appropriation.

(b) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 3 days after each use of the authority provided in subsection (a).

SEC. 124. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, the District of Columbia may expend local funds under the heading “District of Columbia Funds” for such programs and activities under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2015 (title IV of division E of Public Law 113-235) at the rate set forth under “District of Columbia Funds—Summary of Expenses” as included in the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Request Act of 2015 (D.C. Act 21-99), as modified as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 125. Notwithstanding section 101, no funds are provided by this Act for “Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board—Salaries and Expenses”.

SEC. 126. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Small Business Administration—Business Loans Program Account” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to accommodate increased demand for commitments for general business loans authorized under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)).

SEC. 127. Sections 1101(a) and 1104(a)(2)(A) of the Internet Tax Freedom Act (title XI of division C of Public Law 105-277; 47 U.S.C. 151 note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “October 1, 2015”.

SEC. 128. Section 101 shall be applied by assuming that section 7 of Public Law 113-235 was enacted as part of title VII of division E of Public Law 113-235.

SEC. 129. The authority provided by section 831 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 130. Section 401(b) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 131. Section 610(b) of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1993 (8 U.S.C. 1153 note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 132. Subclauses 101(a)(27)(C)(ii)(II) and (III) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(C)(ii)(II) and (III)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 133. Section 220(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994 (8 U.S.C. 1182 note) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 134. Section 810 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6809) is amended by striking all that follows after “shall terminate” and inserting “September 30, 2017.”.

SEC. 135. In addition to the amount otherwise provided by section 101 for “Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management”, there is appropriated \$700,000,000 for an additional amount for fiscal year 2016, to remain available until expended, for urgent wildland fire suppression activities: Provided, That such funds shall only become available if funds previously provided for wildland fire suppression will be exhausted imminently and the Secretary of Agriculture notifies the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate in writing of the need for these additional funds: Provided further, That such funds are also available for transfer to other appropriations accounts to repay amounts previously transferred for wildfire suppression:

Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, except that such amount shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates such amount and transmits such designation to the Congress.

SEC. 136. The authorities provided by sections 117 and 123 of division G of Public Law 113-76 shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 137. (a) The authority provided by subsection (m)(3) of section 8162 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2000 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note; Public Law 106-79) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

(b) For the period covered by this Act, the authority provided by the provisos under the heading "Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission—Capital Construction" in division E of Public Law 112-74 shall not be in effect.

SEC. 138. Section 3096(2) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 is amended by inserting "for fiscal year 2015" after "\$37,000,000".

SEC. 139. Funds made available in prior appropriations Acts for construction and renovation of facilities for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention may also be used for construction on leased land.

SEC. 140. Subsection (b) of section 163 of Public Law 111-242, as amended, is further amended by striking "2015-2016" and inserting "2016-2017".

SEC. 141. Section 101 shall be applied by assuming that section 139 of Public Law 113-164 was enacted as part of division G of Public Law 113-235, and section 139 of Public Law 113-164 shall be applied by adding at the end the following: "and of the unobligated balance of amounts deposited or available in the Child Enrollment Contingency Fund from appropriations to the Fund under section 2104(n)(2)(A)(i) of the Social Security Act and the income derived from investment of those funds pursuant to 2104(n)(2)(C) of that Act, \$1,664,000,000 is rescinded".

SEC. 142. Section 114(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011c(f)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for "September 30, 2015".

SEC. 143. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, there is appropriated for payment to Tori B. Nunnelee, widow of Alan Nunnelee, late a Representative from the State of Mississippi, \$174,000.

SEC. 144. Of the discretionary unobligated balances of the Department of Veterans Affairs from fiscal year 2015 or prior fiscal years, or discretionary amounts appropriated in advance for fiscal year 2016, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may transfer up to \$625,000,000 to "Department of Veterans Affairs—Departmental Administration—Construction, Major Projects", to be merged with the amounts available in such account: Provided, That no amounts may be transferred from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget, the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, or the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010: Provided further, That no amounts may be transferred until the Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a request for, and receives from the Committees written approval of, such transfers: Provided further, That the Secretary shall specify in such request the donor account and amount of each proposed transfer, the fiscal year of each appropriation to be transferred, the amount of unobligated balances remaining in the account after the transfer, and the project or program impact of the transfer.

SEC. 145. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for "Department of Vet-

erans Affairs—Departmental Administration—General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" at a rate for operations of \$2,697,734,000.

SEC. 146. Notwithstanding section 101, section 226(a) of division I of Public Law 113-235 shall be applied to amounts made available by this Act by substituting "division I of Public Law 113-235" for "division J of Public Law 113-76" and by substituting "2015" for "2014".

SEC. 147. Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for "September 30, 2015".

SEC. 148. Amounts made available by section 101 for "Broadcasting Board of Governors—International Broadcasting Operations", "Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Economic Support Fund", "International Security Assistance—Department of State—International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement", "International Security Assistance—Department of State—Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs", and "International Security Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Foreign Military Financing Program" shall be obligated at a rate for operations as necessary to sustain assistance for Ukraine to counter external, regional aggression and influence, including for the costs of authorized loan guarantees.

SEC. 149. Section 1334 of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6553) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for "October 1, 2015".

SEC. 150. (a) Funds made available by section 101 for "Department of Housing and Urban Development—Management and Administration—Administrative Support Offices" may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain the planned schedule for the New Core Shared Services Project.

(b) Not later than 3 days before the first use of the apportionment authority in subsection (a), each 30 days thereafter, and 3 days after the authority expires under this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report specifying each use of the authority through the date of the report.

This Act may be cited as the "Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016".

MOTION OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the motion.

The text of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Rogers of Kentucky moves that the House concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 719.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 448, the motion shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present H.R. 719, a short-term continuing resolution to keep the government open

and operating after the end of the fiscal year on September 30.

This necessary measure funds government and services at the current rate through December 11 of this year. As in previous years, the CR also includes a small across-the-board reduction to keep within the fiscal year 2016 cap level set by the Budget Control Act.

Mr. Speaker, this is a responsible measure that prevents a harmful government shutdown, while allowing time for a larger budget agreement to be reached, and time to complete the full year appropriations work for 2016.

It also includes a few responsible provisions to prevent disastrous, irreversible damage to government programs or to address current urgent needs. These changes are limited in scope and noncontroversial. For instance, these provisions extend the authority for critical Department of Defense activities that fight terrorism, increase funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs to help address the disability claims backlog, and provide emergency funding to the Forest Service to help respond to the disastrous wildfires that are devastating our Western States.

While I firmly believe this legislation is the best path forward at this time, it is also my strong opinion that Congress should do its job and enact actual, line-by-line, separate appropriations bills ahead of our September 30 deadline. Clearly, this is not an option at this time, so we must resort to a temporary measure like this CR.

A CR doesn't reflect our most current budgetary needs. It creates uncertainty across the whole government and does not adequately address our national security obligations, and it causes needless waste when taxpayer dollars are spent inefficiently and ineffectively.

So it is to my great dismay, Mr. Speaker, that we have arrived at this point once again requiring a temporary Band-aid to buy us time to do our constitutionally mandated duty.

The House this year got off to a great start—beginning our appropriations work at the earliest date since 1974—the current Budget Control Act's anniversary—and passing six of our 12 bills by July of this year. My committee reported out all 12 bills for the first time since 2009. And yet, the Senate refuses to act, giving us no choice but to try a continuing resolution.

□ 1515

But now, with progress stalled, it is clear that all sides must come together to find some sort of agreement that addresses our current fiscal situation in a comprehensive way. This CR, while not ideal, is the next step toward that end, keeping the government's lights on as we work to find a solution.

With current funding set to expire just hours from now, I urge my colleagues to do the responsible and reasonable thing and support this continuing resolution today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, we may temporarily avert this most recent crisis if we can get this bill to the President tonight, just hours before the entire Federal Government shuts down, but it is certainly not a cause for celebration.

This very short-term continuing resolution avoids the most immediate crisis. But what is step two? After we enact this stopgap measure, are there any firm plans to begin negotiating the full-year appropriations bills we should be passing today? I remain deeply concerned about the potential of finding ourselves facing a government shutdown again in December.

The stakes are very high. We have an economy that is genuinely recovering. Unemployment is down. Economic growth is up. But we still have progress to make. The uncertainty and unnecessary tumult of playing games right up to the brink of a government shutdown is not helpful to our fragile economy. The last shutdown cost the economy \$24 billion in GDP, according to Standard & Poor's.

This continuing resolution buys us 10 weeks and takes care of only a handful of the most pressing Federal responsibilities: Provides desperately needed emergency firefighting funds to address the cataclysmic fires raging in the West; provides additional resources for processing disability claims at the Veterans Administration; increases the authorization in the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program to ensure new loans can be administered to help small businesses across the country; and extends several expiring authorizations for programs within the Department of Homeland Security.

Notably, the continuing resolution does not address other key priorities that could bolster our economy, such as the expired authority of the Export-Import Bank, which has created or sustained 1.5 million private sector jobs at no cost to the taxpayer since 2007 and supported billions in American economic activity.

By settling on this short-term extension, we fail to provide proposed increases for medical research at the National Institutes of Health and the Nation's aging transportation system and infrastructure. The President's request for defense funding is shortchanged, which would put our national security at risk in a long-term CR.

Leaving our Federal agencies on autopilot without the line-by-line, year-by-year adjustments that should come from this committee and this Congress is irresponsible and hurts our ability to grow our economy, create jobs, and give hard-working families the services they need.

Yet, with the Republican dysfunction that has driven a change in the majority's leadership on the brink of a government shutdown, the prospects for forging a reasonable, responsible solution by December are not good.

One more indication of the dire outlook is the cynical gimmick—an "enrollment correction"—the majority has put forward today to supposedly defund Planned Parenthood. Fortunately, it will have no practical effect on the CR for two reasons. First, the Senate will ignore it. Second, there is no need for a correction since, as my friend Mr. COLE noted this weekend, "there is no money" in the CR for Planned Parenthood. PolitiFact even confirmed this claim.

I will strongly oppose this attack on women's health today as I support the temporary continuing resolution and urge all of my colleagues to do the same so we can at least avoid a worst-case scenario.

But I again implore outgoing and incoming Republican leadership to please engage with the President and House Democrats immediately on an agreement to replace the sequester-level caps, avert the next crisis just weeks away, stop playing political games with women's health, and invest in American economic growth and security.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), a very valued member of my committee who happens also to be the chairman of the Labor HHS Subcommittee.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, first, I want to begin by congratulating both my chairman and my ranking member for the exceptional job they have done this year in getting all 12 appropriations bills through the full committee for the first time since 2009. So we really have on the Appropriations Committee done our work. Six of those bills have come across the floor.

And, frankly, I think we would have had more across the floor if our friends in the Senate, who are blocked by the Democratic minority, had an opportunity to bring their bills to the floor. I think we are here, in part, because the inaction by the minority in the United States Senate has ground the whole process to a halt.

But I am very pleased to see both my chairman and my ranking member here making the argument to keep the government funded. I think we all know that shutting down the government is always a mistake. It is a political mistake, frankly, for people that want to use it to achieve some political tactic.

But, more importantly, it is simply the wrong thing to do for the American people. They send us here expecting us to get our work done. The fact that some amongst us has kept that from happening is regrettable and I think a disservice to all of our constituents.

I also believe, in this particular case, that we have an opportunity, if we pass this continuing resolution for those that are, as I like to say appropriately, above our pay grade—that is, the President, the Speaker, the majority leader, and the two minority leaders—to have

time to negotiate the framework for a larger deal, for a larger understanding, that would allow us to move ahead and actually have an omnibus bill where we actually—not as good as moving it across the floor—but had a large bill where we looked at every line, we made concessions to one another, we made agreements, we moved the ball forward, and it could open up a possibility for a normal appropriations process next year.

In that regard, I was very heartened by Majority Leader MCCONNELL's recent remarks that he is interested in a 2-year deal, somewhat similar to Ryan-Murray in terms of its duration. Again, that would allow this House next year to move appropriations bills across the floor one at a time in a give-and-take bipartisan manner. I think that is extraordinarily important.

If you look at where this committee was at in terms of frozen activity before my good friend, the chairman, became the chairman, he and, again, with my good friend, the gentlewoman from New York, have brought us back a long, long way. If we don't finish that journey in the next 2½ months, we have got several things that are going to happen, the worst of which will be a sequester of \$40 billion, roughly, on the American military.

That is an unacceptable outcome. And, frankly, that is something that the Commander in Chief and the respective leaders on both sides of the aisle in this body need to make sure doesn't happen.

I promise you, if the administration, the Senate, and the House can get to a larger agreement, I have no doubt that my chairman and my ranking member and their counterparts in the United States Senate will then introduce a normal negotiating process and we will get to the right place.

So we have a moment, an opening, a little bit of bipartisanship here. I would expect, when this bill is actually voted on, we will have large majorities on both sides of the aisle that actually support it.

So I urge the other Members—again, both Democrat and Republican—to seize this opportunity, to not just focus on where there are differences, but focus here where we have come together, bought the time, and then, frankly, where they can use their influence on both sides of the aisle in both Chambers and with the President to make sure that an adequate deal is arrived at and that we spare the country and certainly the men and women in uniform that defend us each and every day from the agony of dealing with a second sequester.

This is not the time for that to happen. It is a dangerous world. We have not Russia relitigating the borders of Eastern Europe. We have got China building islands in the South China Sea. We have got ISIL having established a caliphate of sorts in the Middle East. We have a dangerous Iran.

The worst thing in the world would be to not do this CR and then not carry

it through to a fuller agreement and undercut our military. So I think the stakes of what we are doing are very, very high here.

I want to conclude again by commending my chairman and commending our ranking member for working together, as they have this entire year, so we could get our bills across, as they are doing now in this process, to buy our leaders time, and, frankly, as I know they will do in normal negotiation on an omnibus bill at the end of this process and then, hopefully, on a regular appropriations process next year.

Again, I urge my fellow Members on both sides of the aisle to pass this very important piece of legislation.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), a distinguished member of the committee.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed in this bill. We are faced with this continuing resolution in order to avert a government shutdown. This is no way to govern. America deserves better than a month-to-month government, forever on the brink of a shutdown and held back by needless budget constraints.

Those who call this a clean continuing resolution are mistaken. In fact, it puts in place yet more indiscriminate cuts. It cuts .2 percent across the board for most discretionary programs. Apparently, we have not learned our lesson about mindless austerity.

Instead of fighting over women's health care, we should use the next month to negotiate a budget agreement that addresses the single biggest economic issue that we face in this country. Today working men and women in the United States are in jobs that don't pay them enough money. Real wages have been stagnant for 30 years.

We need to stop spending hundreds of billions of dollars every year on tax loopholes for the wealthy and for big corporations. We need to invest once more in education and job training and health and all the other priorities that American families hold dear.

Right now we cannot meet their needs. Poor children are struggling. Their vocabularies are, on average, one-third those of their middle income peers. But since 2010, we have cut over \$1 billion in real terms from education.

Workers need help learning the right skills, finding work in a tough economy, so that they can support their families, but we have cut more than \$1 billion from job training programs.

Millions of Americans depend upon lifesaving medical research to cure disease and to improve the quality of life. I stand here as a survivor of ovarian cancer. I am here because of the grace of God and biomedical research. Yet, we will continue to cut biomedical research. We have cut more than \$3.5 billion from the National Institutes of Health.

The list of failures goes on and on. We are failing our workers. We are failing working families. We are failing students and medical researchers and first responders and veterans and families and millions of others.

Our job in this body is to provide opportunity for people. During this economic struggle that we have, we ought to be focused like a laser on the issues that work to better the economic situation of working families in this country.

□ 1530

What we do here is to continue to hold a cap on what we need to move forward, and, more importantly than that, what we do from the other side of the aisle is to threaten the government shutdown over the issue of women's health.

Who are we? What are we about? Where are the great values of this Nation that helped to provide an opportunity so that families could join the middle class of this country and continue to make it strong?

That is what our job is today to do, not to be involved in these mindless exercises that the other side of the aisle continues to move forward on.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT), a hardworking member of the Appropriations Committee, the chairman of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, and, coincidentally, the chairman of the House Ethics Committee.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of passing a clean continuing resolution, the one the Senate sent over to us. We should do that immediately.

It would be utterly reckless to let the government shut down for any reason, regardless of one's feelings about Planned Parenthood. Whether you like them or not isn't the point. We should never shut the government down over that or, frankly, any other issue at this time.

It is imperative that we pass this CR so that it will give us the time and space we need to enter into a broader budget agreement, hopefully, for this fiscal year and the next and so that we can then, also, pass the appropriations bills.

As our very fine Chairman ROGERS mentioned, I am the chair of the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies. This CR is essential to making sure that veterans' services go uninterrupted. It also makes sure that we can continue moving forward on many of the projects that are ongoing within the VA system through the anomalies. Nevertheless, we need to move forward on this for that reason.

Also, I want to make a point that we need to stop lurching from one budget crisis to the next. The events of the last few weeks have been very dismaying to me, personally. That said,

we are not going to have a government shutdown, and that is good news, but we need to get on with the business of this budget agreement.

Also, I wanted to point out—I heard my friend and colleague from Connecticut made a comment about biomedical research—in the bill that we had passed out of the Labor, Health, and Human Services Subcommittee, we actually did increase funding for the National Institutes of Health by \$1.1 billion. I do hope that, in the event that we do come to a budget agreement and move the appropriations bills, we will be able to see an increase in funding for the NIH. We will be able to provide for our veterans and, in my case, also the military construction projects.

Also, our friends who are serving overseas, our men and women serving overseas in the Armed Forces, are very much depending on us to do the right thing, to pass appropriations bills, a long-term continuing resolution, not the one we are voting on today. If we are to do one after December 11, it would have real impacts on our force readiness and the ability for our troops and our men and women overseas to do the jobs that we have asked them to do.

So for all these reasons, I am urging people to vote for this CR today, keep the government functioning, do our duty, and then set up a process where we can complete the appropriations process in December and take care of the responsibilities that have been entrusted to us.

I want to thank Chairman ROGERS and, also, Ranking Member LOWEY for their strong leadership on the Appropriations Committee. They are doing all that they are doing to try to help us work together and make sure that Congress maintains its power of the purse and does exactly what we promised the American people we would do, and that would be to govern.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL).

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my very good friend and colleague from New York, Ranking Member LOWEY.

Mr. Speaker, I have a tremendous amount of respect for the chairman, the gentleman from Kentucky. I have great personal admiration for him and his leadership, and I thank him for his earnest, hard work; but what we are doing today is a disappointment to the American people, and it is a disappointment to those of us who are on the Appropriations Committee. Success can't be defined as avoid catastrophe, and all we are doing today is avoiding catastrophe. The majority's triumph today is not shutting down the government.

Mr. Speaker, there is not a small-business owner anywhere in America who would say "had a good day because I am not shutting down," "had a good day because I am not throwing my employees out of work," "had a good day

because I am not telling my customers they can't come for services.' That is not success. That is failure. That is, by itself, a catastrophe.

Mr. Speaker, the managers of those small businesses are judged by their performance and success. The managers of this Congress, the majority, are judged in the same way. They are judged by their ability, as the majority, to produce bills, to pass budgets, to do the work of the American people.

It is time for them to do their jobs, to stop the gimmicks, to pass a long-term budget that invests in the education of our children, that supports job skills for people and careers, that protects our veterans and our national security. It is time to do their jobs, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. McCOLLUM), a distinguished member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, this Republican majority has driven the expectations of the American people so low that the very act of funding government operations has become a significant achievement. Unfortunately, the cost extraction by the Republican extremists for this 3-month clean CR was the resignation of Speaker BOEHNER, a good man who has served this House honorably.

Passing this CR, however, will keep the government working, which is critical to American families, their economy, and the safety and security of our Nation, and it continues to protect by providing healthcare coverage for women.

In 2013, when the Republicans shut down the government for 16 days, the U.S. economy lost \$24 billion, and more than 100,000 Americans lost their jobs. The American people cannot afford another Republican shutdown. Passing this 3-month CR is the first step toward responsibly meeting the needs of the American people.

As a ranking Democrat on the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, I am pleased that this bill includes \$700 million in emergency funds for Forest Service to fight wildland fires in Western States. This is critical funding.

The CR will keep our national parks open to the public, keep Native American healthcare and education programs operating, and prevent the furloughing of tens of thousands of Federal employees in the Department of the Interior and EPA.

I am going to vote to pass this continuing resolution, and I applaud all the Democrats and Republicans who will vote to pass the CR, but we need to work to find a bipartisan path forward to fund the government for the coming year. Our job is to serve the American people. The American people expect Congress to do their job. Today, I hope

all Members will do their job and vote to pass this CR.

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

I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close if the gentlewoman is prepared.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I was thinking about that, except, I believe, we have some distinguished members of our committee who are running a little late.

So I would just like to say, Mr. Speaker, that I am very pleased that we are here today, and I do hope that there will be strong bipartisan support for the continuing resolution.

This has been a difficult year. I know how hard our distinguished chairman has worked, trying to put together a bipartisan appropriations bill. Although I am very pleased that we are passing a continuing resolution today, it is really amazing that we should be celebrating in the United States of America, the most distinguished country, supposedly representative of our great democracy, that we are keeping the government open.

I feel very confident, Mr. Speaker, that if members of the Appropriations Committee, both Democrats and Republicans, would sit down very seriously, we could work out an arrangement whereby we would lift the sequester, just as we did with Ryan-Murray.

I was on that committee with some distinguished members of the party, and we had some good discussions. We had some differences of opinion; we had some lively debates; but at the end of the day, we came up with a product that we could be proud of.

So, Mr. Chairman, I do hope that after this continuing resolution has passed—and I think you have another speaker who would like to speak while we are waiting for our speaker.

In closing, I would just like to say that I am cautiously optimistic that, after the CR is passed, we can really do our work and come up with a good, strong omnibus bill that reflects our values.

I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), our distinguished leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I thank her for her leadership, as well as that of our distinguished chairman, Mr. ROGERS, to bring us to the floor today where we can vote in a bipartisan way to keep government open without doing harm to women's health in our country.

To shut government down is a really bad decision for this Congress to make. The last time we did that, we lost \$24 billion. The last time this Congress voted to shut down government, we lost \$24 billion to our economy, 120,000 jobs in our workforce. Our Federal workforce, which contains more than 30 percent of veterans in its composition, was furloughed or worse. The American people deserve better.

So as we go forward from this continuing resolution, which is a good outcome of the conversations that have gone back and forth—a strong bipartisan vote in the Senate, and I hope a strong bipartisan vote in the House—let us take heed of the words of Pope Francis, who just, not even 1 week ago, spoke to us in this Chamber.

Pope Francis asked us to work together for the common good of the people. He urged and said a good leader would have a spirit of openness and pragmatism, again, to get the job done for the American people.

□ 1545

As we go forward, we will have some difficult choices to make. We all share the values of strengthening our national security, investing in our children's future, reducing the deficit as we go forward, but as we do so, there are some important differences that we share.

Let's hope that we recognize a good idea, wherever it springs from. Let us also recognize what our responsibilities are to the American people first and foremost.

I consider this a very positive action we are taking today. I wish that we were finished with all of our appropriations work. As an appropriator, I know that that is always the goal of our chairman and ranking member.

I thank our ranking member, Congresswoman LOWEY, for her leadership, but also for the optimism she just expressed, that, as we go forward, we will do so in a timely fashion, maybe long before December 11, so we will have removed all doubt in the public's mind that government will work, that it will function, as the Pope had asked us, for the good of the American people.

There are important decisions ahead, though, in terms of what our priorities are in a budget. A budget should be a statement of our national values, and what is important to us should be reflected on how we allocate those resources. We have the omnibus bill to deal with.

We also have investments in the infrastructure of our country and our transportation. That will be an important bill that we will be debating at the same time, but has a relationship in terms of how we offset, how we pay for that.

We have the issue of the Ex-Im Bank, a great job creator for our country and, yet, still unauthorized, long overdue for us to authorize it.

Before Thanksgiving probably we will have the issue of a vote on honoring the full faith and credit of the United States of America. The last time that was put into doubt, it was unfortunate because it lowered our credit rating, even though we didn't follow through with it. Even though the full faith and credit ended up being honored, just the threat, the suspicion, that it could be undermined lowered our credit rating.

We have really important work to do for the good of the people. Again, let us

honor our responsibilities in the beautiful spirit of Saint—Pope Francis. I say Saint Francis because that is the patron saint of my city, of San Francisco, and the namesake also of Pope Francis.

But Pope Francis instructed us as to what good leaders do, and good leaders have a sense of humility to respect the views of other people and not be condescending in terms of our views are the only ones that matter.

In that spirit, I look forward to working with you, Mr. Chairman, with the Speaker, with others, and certainly under the leadership of our distinguished ranking member, Congresswoman LOWEY.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY), a member of our committee.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, my compliments to the chairman and to the ranking member for shepherding us thus far into this year.

I often say the first job of Congress is to govern, and that means keeping the government open. I think what we are doing today is honoring the responsibility we have, our article I responsibilities to keep the government open.

We talk a lot about Congress having the power of the purse, but with the power also comes responsibility. So as we have hard conversations as a country and as a Congress about whether we fund certain programs, whether we fund certain entities, that is an appropriate conversation to have, and I think we have handled that appropriately thus far.

You sometimes would not know that based on comments on the other side of the aisle because they continue to try to score political points and use political capital to suggest we are on the brink of a shutdown. The simple fact is we are not.

Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have acknowledged today that they intend to vote for what is a responsible continuing resolution that will ensure that our government remains funded.

The irony of some of the criticisms that often come—and this comes from colleagues on our committee—is that, to finally reach a deal, to finally have responsible governance, it takes a willing partner on the other side of the aisle and it takes intellectual honesty on both sides of the aisle of every member of our committee.

I would respectfully point out to those on the other side of the aisle who serve on the committee that we had a debate over and over and over with each markup about the Budget Control Act and the caps that are in place by statute. There were very good suggestions from both sides of the aisle about where taxpayer dollars should be invested, which programs they should be invested in, from defense to transportation, to education, to healthcare research, and so forth.

The irony is that, for each good idea on the other side of the aisle about where to invest money, there was a willful ignorance of the fact that any additional investment must come with an offset under the Budget Control Act. There were good amendments in the committee, and, frankly, many of them would have passed if they had included responsible offsets. But there were no offsets.

I point that out only for this, not to relitigate all the markups we had in committee, but to suggest that somehow it is the Republicans' issue that somehow we have to resolve this. We have not had a willing partner throughout the markup of all of these bills.

Just as the spirit of cooperation is here on the floor—and rightfully so—and we are going to pass the CR that funds the government and keeps it open—that highway of goodwill has to go both ways. Rather than just talk about what is not funded, let's talk about how we are going to operate under what is a statute, what is the law of the land that was signed by this President and, frankly, recommended by this President.

As we talk about where spending comes between now and December 11, we have to recognize and be honest with the American people that we operate under a budget agreement that has statutory caps signed by this President. There are great ideas on both sides of the aisle about where to spend money, but if we ignore the fact that they are required to be offset, then we have not advanced this conversation one day.

It is important that we keep the government open. I am glad that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and enough colleagues on this side of the aisle are saying: Yes, we have to keep the government open. We have to keep the Department of Defense funded. Our men and women in uniform who carry the flag for us every day, we have to ensure that they are funded. Our first responders, DHS, coastguardsmen, coastguardswomen, our transportation programs, education, critical healthcare research is all that we will continue to fund through this responsible continuing resolution.

We all wish we had a full-year bill that we were considering today, but we do not have that. The responsible action by this body is to pass this bill with sufficient numbers on both sides of the aisle. I would charge those on my side of the aisle who care deeply about certain extraneous issues involved in the debate this week, we have responsible ways to continue to address how we provide critical nonabortion-related women's healthcare service in underserved communities, while we still act today to keep the government open. It is a responsible path forward.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for bringing this forward.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I just want to reiterate again to my col-

leagues that I look forward to working in a bipartisan way with the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Appropriations to move the process forward.

I particularly think, because it was just mentioned by the previous speaker, that for us not to increase the appropriations to the National Institutes of Health—this is just one area of the bill that came through the committee in the committee process. This means research for a whole range of illnesses, whether it is autism or diabetes or heart.

We have a responsibility to lift these caps, negotiate a really good bill, and provide adequate funding for the American people. This is important for their health, for their work life. We have to be sure we are investing so we are creating jobs and keep the economy moving. I look forward to that process.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I shall be brief.

I appreciate the work of my colleague, Mrs. LOWEY, ranking member on the committee, and all of the people on her side of the aisle and, of course, on our side of the aisle as well. This is a good bill. It is a responsible bill. It does not do anything controversial.

It does do one important thing, and that is keep the government operating. We can't afford to abandon our soldiers, particularly those overseas in harm's way. We can't abandon the people that depend upon the programs that our Federal Government provides.

I urge Members to vote "yes" on this bill. It is a good bill, and it keeps the government operating.

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this continuing resolution, which will allow us to avoid another completely unnecessary and potentially devastating government shutdown. My vote in favor of the CR does not mean I support the irresponsible sequestration-level budget resolution that has made it impossible to pass FY 2016 appropriations bills, much less the reckless manner in which the majority continues to manage the budget process.

The Republican budget announced this spring made no room for the critical investments in infrastructure, housing, research, health care, and education that our country needs to thrive. In fact, it made deeply damaging reductions.

Defense appropriators were able to avoid sequestration levels only by using the so-called OCO gimmick, amounting to a \$38 billion sleight of hand.

It was evident from the beginning that we would have to negotiate new budget numbers—if not a comprehensive agreement of the sort that balanced the budget in the 1990s, then at least a more modest deal like the Ryan-Murray agreement of the last two

years—in order to pass our appropriations bills. I and other Democratic colleagues took to the floor again and again to decry these unacceptable budget numbers that simply set us up for failure. Our leaders have been offering to negotiate for months, knowing full well that President Obama would be forced to veto any appropriations bills passed under the Republican budget. Will it take a government shutdown, we asked, to make us do our job?

Apparently the answer is “yes”. The Senate couldn’t pass a single appropriations bill. The House passed a few with Republican votes alone, and then the process collapsed under the weight of the Confederate battle flag debate. That was a particularly disgraceful episode, but the process was already on life support. It was never going to work, and Republican leaders have known that all year.

Despite the failure of the appropriations process, as represented by this short-term CR, all hope is not lost. We can still salvage the hard bipartisan work of my and other appropriations subcommittees, if, when this CR expires, we can stitch together an omnibus appropriations bill for the balance of the year.

The Appropriations Committee still avoids some of the ideological battles that divide this body, and I have been able to work closely with Chairman DIAZ-BALART to negotiate a framework for transportation and housing funding. I know that many of the other subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members have made similar progress. Given realistic funding levels, these bills can relatively quickly be converted into acceptable appropriations legislation.

So I once again join my colleagues in urging Speaker BOEHNER to resume bipartisan budget negotiations and produce reasonable, responsible funding levels that can allow the appropriations process to move forward. Today, we’re buying ourselves a couple of months. Instead of lurching toward another crisis in December, let’s actually come to a consensus on the kind of investments in our future that a great country must make.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 448, the previous question is ordered on the motion to concur.

The question is on the motion to concur by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 719

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 448, I call up the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 79) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 719, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 448, the concurrent resolution is considered read.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 79

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 719, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following corrections:*

(1) Insert after the enacting clause (before section 1) the following:

#### “DIVISION A—TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015”.

(2) Insert after section 8 (before the statement of appropriations) the following:

#### “DIVISION B—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2015”.

(3) Insert after section 150 (before the short title) the following new section:

“SEC. 151. Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference in this division to ‘this Act’ shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of this division.”.

(4) Add at the end the following new division:

#### “DIVISION C—DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD ACT OF 2015

##### “SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

“This division may be cited as the ‘Defund Planned Parenthood Act of 2015’.

##### “SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

“Congress finds the following:

“(1) State and county health departments, community health centers, hospitals, physicians offices, and other entities currently provide, and will continue to provide, health services to women. Such health services include relevant diagnostic laboratory and radiology services, well-child care, prenatal and postpartum care, immunization, family planning services (including contraception), cervical and breast cancer screenings and referrals, and sexually transmitted disease testing.

“(2) Many such entities provide services to all persons, regardless of the person’s ability to pay, and provide services in medically underserved areas and to medically underserved populations.

“(3) All funds that are no longer available to Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc., and its affiliates and clinics pursuant to this division will continue to be made available to other eligible entities to provide women’s health care services.

“(4) Funds authorized to be appropriated, and appropriated, by section 4 are offset by the funding limitation under section 3(a).

##### “SEC. 3. MORATORIUM ON FEDERAL FUNDING TO PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION OF AMERICA, INC.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For the one-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this division, subject to subsection (b), no funds authorized or appropriated by Federal law may be made available for any purpose to Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc., or any affiliate or clinic of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc., unless such entities certify that Planned Parenthood Federation of America affiliates and clinics will not perform, and will not provide any funds to any other entity that performs, an abortion during such period.

“(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to an abortion—

“(1) if the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or

“(2) in the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself.

“(c) REPAYMENT.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture shall seek repayment of any Federal assistance received by Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc., or any affiliate or clinic of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc., if it violates the terms of the certification required by subsection (a) during the period specified in subsection (a).

##### “SEC. 4. FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER PROGRAM.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated, and appropriated, \$235,000,000 for the community health center program under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b), in addition to any other funds made available to such program, for the period for which the funding limitation under section 3(a) applies.

“(b) LIMITATION.—None of the funds authorized or appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) may be expended for an abortion other than as described in section 3(b).

##### “SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

“Nothing in this division shall be construed to reduce overall Federal funding available in support of women’s health.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The concurrent resolution shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and minority leader or their designees.

The gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks, and to include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 79.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 79, a concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 719. This resolution directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make several corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 719, the Continuing Appropriations Act 2016, including by adding at the end of the text of the House-passed version, H.R. 3134, the Defund Planned Parenthood Act of 2015.

The House passed H.R. 3134 by a vote of 241–187 on September 18. The bill precludes any Federal funds from being authorized or appropriated for 1 year for any purpose to Planned Parenthood Federation of America or any affiliate or clinic of that organization unless entities certify that affiliates and clinics will not perform and will not provide any funds to any other entity that performs elective abortions during such period. The bill also redirected funding from Planned Parenthood facilities to federally qualified health centers to provide women’s health services.

This resolution and the related enrollment process sends a signal about

this House's commitment to bar funding for Planned Parenthood and gives the Senate the opportunity to limit funding in the continuing resolution.

Mr. Speaker, this is actually the exact same language in the Defund Planned Parenthood Act sponsored by my friend, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK), which the House passed earlier this month. Mrs. BLACK is a tireless defender of the unborn, and I have been privileged to work with her on several pro-life measures, including a very similar defund correction to the spending bill back in 2011.

So why this correction? My colleagues might be wondering if I just saw what happened in the Senate. Why take up this bill when the votes just aren't there in the Senate? The answer is simple. Because I believe, as long as there is an opportunity before us to defund Planned Parenthood, we should take it because, when it comes to this fight, I want to leave it all on the field.

I understand that, so far, we have lacked the votes in the Senate to include defund language in the continuing resolution, and I realize this is a last-ditch effort to do this and that the chances of this correction maneuver succeeding in the Senate are low. But I believe, Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have to fight until the very end.

□ 1600

I have always been up front with those I represent about the low likelihood of defunding Planned Parenthood, especially in a stopgap spending bill. Pro-life advocates in my State and around this country understand the math; and while they hope that Senate Democrats will change their hearts, they don't really expect them to. What they do expect is for us to try, to fight to the very end, and to exhaust every possible option in our effort to stop tax dollars from flowing to this organization.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House and in the Senate to support this defund correction and to join me to fight until the very end to defund Planned Parenthood.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

This "enrollment correction" is yet another procedural maneuver. It is designed to destroy health care for millions of American women. It is unacceptable, and we will not stand for it.

The disgraceful rightwing assault on reproductive freedom has become an all-out war on the health and the well-being of millions of low-income American women. Each year, Planned Parenthood provides 2.7 million people, men and women, with lifesaving services.

I would hope that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would open their hearts—open their hearts—to healthcare services for women who don't have the wherewithal to go to the same kinds of private doctors that the

men and women of the United States House of Representatives have the opportunity to do. Open your hearts, because for many, Planned Parenthood is their only way of receiving these healthcare services.

The president of the American Congress of OB-GYNs has warned that, without Planned Parenthood, many patients will be left without a doctor; and that is what these attacks are designed to achieve. The rightwing does not want poor women to have health care, period. It is spiteful, it is cruel, and it is wrong.

We know what happens when funding is taken away from Planned Parenthood. In Scott County, Indiana, a full-scale HIV epidemic was triggered that has been declared a public healthcare emergency. Do we want more people to die? Are we really prepared to see that picture repeated across the country?

The American people have made it clear that they will not accept any bill that cuts funding for women's health care or compromises reproductive freedoms. Let us in this body respect and trust the healthcare decisions that women make.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. DELAURO. I yield myself an additional 10 seconds.

Let's respect and trust the healthcare decisions that women make. We must respect their wishes. I urge my colleagues to vote against this disgraceful bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. ROBY. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), someone who has spent her entire career working at issues that help working families with their health care, and particularly women.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, this resolution is more political theater: all sound and fury, signifying nothing and going nowhere. We are proceeding to debate this resolution even though there is no money—zero money—in the CR for Planned Parenthood and even though we all understand that if the Senate also adopts this resolution, it will effectively shut down the government, slowing economic growth and job creation.

Planned Parenthood provides essential preventive health services, including birth control, lifesaving cancer screenings, well-women exams, and advice on family planning to nearly 3 million women each year.

Community health centers are not an alternative to Planned Parenthood. The California Primary Care Association noted: "Eliminating Planned Parenthood from our State's comprehensive network of care would put untenable stress on remaining providers. We do not have the capacity for such an increase in care."

I urge a "no" vote on the resolution.

Mrs. ROBY. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS)

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a woman who is angry. These attacks on Planned Parenthood aren't about some deceptive videos. It is about a woman's right to make decisions about her own body. Women's reproductive rights are decisions she should make. It should be between a woman, her doctor, and her family, not a male-dominated Congress.

So let's be clear. Attacking Planned Parenthood is part of a ploy to roll back women's rights. What hypocrisy. I wish my colleagues on the other side of the aisle cared this much about the millions of women and children who go hungry every day or the educational inequities that exist in our most vulnerable communities.

I stand with Planned Parenthood for the services they provide. Last year, they served more than 2.7 million across our Nation, and more than 31,000 in North Carolina just through nine centers. More than 21,000 patients received safe contraception; more than 18,000 STI tests were conducted, and more than 3,500 Pap tests and more than 2,500 breast exams. Real women getting real preventive care.

I will continue to advocate for women's comprehensive health care and their right to control their own body. The war on women must stop.

Ms. DELAURO. I would inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Connecticut has 5 minutes remaining.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. First, I want to thank Congresswoman DELAURO for yielding and for her tremendous leadership on so many issues important to women and the entire country.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H. Con. Res. 79, which once again attempts to defund Planned Parenthood for 1 year. This callous action would leave millions of women across the country without access to critical healthcare services. This shameful resolution is the 15th anti women's health vote this year.

We know that Planned Parenthood centers are essential to the health and well-being of women and their families. They serve as primary care facilities for women seeking birth control, comprehensive family planning services, and cancer and STI screenings.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, in 21 percent of counties where Planned Parenthood operates health centers, it is the county's only family planning provider. Mr. Speaker, for these communities, there are no other options. Defunding Planned Parenthood would hurt the communities that need help the most: low-income women and women of color.

Politicians have no business interfering with a woman's personal health

decisions that are best for her and her family, and she needs family planning centers to exercise all of her options as it relates to her health care.

This resolution is deceitful and it is wrong. It is past time to end this war on women, and it is past time for Republicans to listen to the American people, develop a responsible budget, and stop their attacks on women's health.

Vote "no" on this very backward, egregious resolution. It is going to harm women. It is going to hurt women. It does not protect the health and safety of women.

Ms. DELAURO. I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. I thank my good friend for her incredibly excellent work on this bill.

A threat to shut down the government over funding Planned Parenthood's contraceptive and preventative care measures looms again in 3 months, although 73 percent of the public is against forcing a shutdown over Planned Parenthood.

I am grateful for the high-quality coverage Planned Parenthood gives women's health across the board, including abortion services, not funded by the Federal Government. The District of Columbia is the only jurisdiction Congress denies the full reach of *Roe v. Wade* to low-income women, by denying the local government the right to spend its own local funds on abortion services for poor women.

For the Nation, to cut government funds for Medicaid, family planning, and preventative care would cut off our collective noses to spite our faces. Every public dollar spent on family planning services alone saves \$7 in undesired births and other preventative care.

For all the heat generated by Republicans, Planned Parenthood is regarded more favorably now than it was before the current fight began. The reason is, for nearly a century, Planned Parenthood's incredibly effective work for women's health has won it a strong following across our country from both parties.

Ms. DELAURO. I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Let me thank the gentlewoman from Connecticut for her kindness. As well, let me thank the chair and ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, because we know the work that they have done.

Mr. Speaker, let me just simply say that I am very disappointed that we are now settling for a CR that continues to have a sequester that cuts across and denies Border Patrol agents, Customs and Border Protection, Secret Service, and leaves the American people vulnerable.

So, the first order of business is that we are not doing what we are supposed to do in providing for the American people. Now we move to another un-

seemingly legislative initiative that is attacking women's health. And what does that mean? We use it under the guise of Planned Parenthood.

Planned Parenthood has any number of clinics in almost 50 States that deal with women's health, contraception, sexually transmitted disease; places where women who are impoverished can go when they cannot go anywhere else.

In a hearing yesterday, someone was debating why they don't do mammograms. Women know that when we go to any doctor, the doctor refers mammograms.

So this is a bad bill. It is against women's health. The sequester is bad. Vote down both bills.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H. Con. Res. 79.

We are here again wasting valuable time on measures we know are having no real chance of survival beyond these debates.

I strongly oppose this continued effort to drag women's health issues and women's rights through this political circus.

At what point will the Majority step back and get regal about substantive and genuine legislation.

The amount of legislative time we have wasted on these offensive messaging bills is ridiculous and must end.

Our constituents deserve better.

Our legislative and public service roles demand more.

And as we approach yet another deadline for piecemeal fiscal fixes, we should be focused on passing a comprehensive and cost-savings budget.

Yet, we are here today debating another measure that threatens millions of Americans' access to preventative care and could end up costing taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

However, we know H. Con. Res. 79 is not a serious attempt at passing real legislation.

As such, it is simply being offered here today as a shameless political decoy to attack the legal rights of women.

Politicians are continuing to try to sneak around the Constitution and four decades of Supreme Court precedent with sham laws that do nothing to improve women's health care and only make it more difficult, if not impossible, to obtain safe and legal abortion.

Restricting all access to reproductive and women's health services only exacerbates a woman's risk of an unintended pregnancy and fails to accomplish any meaningful overthrow of *Roe v. Wade*.

In recent years, state policymakers have passed hundreds of restrictions on abortion care under the guise of protecting women's health and safety.

Fights here in Congress have been no different.

In my state of Texas a law that would have cut off access to 75 percent of reproductive healthcare clinics in the state was challenged before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2014 and 2015.

On October 2, 2014, the Supreme Court struck down as unconstitutional a Texas law that required that all reproductive healthcare clinics that provided the full range of services would be required to have a hospital-style surgery center building and staffing requirements.

This requirement meant that only 7 clinics would be allowed to continue to provide a full spectrum of reproductive healthcare to women.

Any woman facing an unintended pregnancy needs to be able to make her own decisions and weigh all her options—and these laws take those options away.

Texas has 268,580 square miles only second in size to the state of Alaska.

The impact of the law in implementation would have ended access to reproductive services for millions of women in my state.

In 2015, the State of Texas once again threatened women's access to reproductive health care when it attempted to shutter all but 10 healthcare providers in the state of Texas.

The Supreme Court once again intervened on the behalf of Texas women to block the move to close clinics in my state.

It seems every month we are faced with a new attack on women's access to reproductive health care, often couched in deceptive terms and concern for women's health and safety.

And in fact we are here today supposedly to talk about the safety of women—but we know that's not really the case.

If my colleagues were so concerned about women's health and safety, they would be promoting any one of the number of evidence-based proactive policies that improve women's health and well-being.

Instead, they are proposing yet another attempt to ban abortion.

That is their number one priority. This is certainly not about protecting women's health, it's about politics.

We must separate the personal views of abortion from the legal issues and fundamental constitutional rights.

Undisputable, every woman has the constitutional right to make personal health care decisions so basic that it must be equally protected for all.

Restricting access to women's reproductive health care providers makes it increasingly difficult—and sometimes impossible—for women who have decided to end a pregnancy to get the safe, legal, high-quality care they need.

The result is not the elimination of abortions, but higher costs, longer delays, and extra steps for women seeking abortion care, and in the process punish women for their decision to exercise their constitutional right to end a pregnancy.

History tells us that unsafe and late-term abortions did not cease to exist without adequate access to clinical service. Rather, the exact opposite—as we know limited and restricted access only leads to unsafe and dangerous practices.

Today, countless women in states like Texas and Mississippi, Wisconsin, Alabama, Tennessee, and Louisiana—where state laws are already gravely impacting women's access to health care providers—women are being forced to travel upwards of hundreds of miles or cross state lines to access their constitutional right to an abortion.

These restrictions create sharp disparities in access to care that are troublingly reminiscent of the time before *Roe v. Wade*, when access depended on a woman's social status, where she lived or her ability to travel to another state.

In an effort to undermine what they could not otherwise overturn, politicians are attempting to "turn back the clock" to the pre-*Roe* era

by shuttering reproductive health care clinics and cutting off women's access to safe and legal abortion care.

Yet, far too many women who cannot afford to travel elsewhere will face an impossible choice between carrying an unintended pregnancy to term or seeking drastic options outside the law.

A right that only exists on paper is no right at all.

Simply, restricting a women's right and access to legal abortion services discriminately endangers the lives of women.

Congress should be doing everything it can to ensure that women have access to preventive care, not eliminating it.

This is a legislative assault on all progressive health care, service, and advocacy organizations who aim to provide vital care and services to women and men across this country.

Hundreds of thousands have already spoken up, including leading groups and communities such as the growing voice of our millennial generation.

For instance, the nearly 60,000 OB-GYN physicians and partners in women's health warn that this bill would scare providers away from providing comprehensive, compassionate care to women, in a time where America desperately needs more ob-gyns participating in Medicaid programs.

Physicians and experts in the field have long argued that these damaging measures serve no medical purpose, interfere in the doctor/patient relationship, and do nothing to promote women's health.

My colleagues should not be closing the door to health care services.

Rather, my colleagues should be doing more to connect our youth and women to services that help them reduce their risk of unintended pregnancies and STD's, and improve their overall health through preventative screenings, education and planning, and not restricting their access to lawfully entitled family planning and private health services.

I urge all Members to vote against the continued attack on women's health and rights.

Ms. DELAURO. I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) for the purpose of a unanimous consent request.

(Mr. HASTINGS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this measure.

Mr. DeLAURO. May I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Connecticut has 1½ minutes remaining.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

What we are facing here today and what this is about, this so-called enrollment correction, is a procedural maneuver because the United States Senate sent over a continuing resolution that continues to fund Planned Parenthood. Because the majority is interested in defunding the opportunity for healthcare services for women, they have asked for this procedural maneuver to defund Planned Parenthood.

It is simply about taking funds away from American women. Think about it.

Think about shutting the government down because of women's health. The lack of care and concern, first and foremost, about the 2.7 million men and women that Planned Parenthood serves every year is a grave consequence. But in addition, shutting down the Federal Government the last time cost \$24 billion to American taxpayers, held up disability checks for veterans, and, in fact, held back people's IRS rebates.

Their preoccupation with denying women's health is cruel, it is spiteful, it is wrong, and it does great harm to this great Nation. Vote against this bad piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1615

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

Mr. Speaker, not everyone, I recognize, in this country is pro-life, like I am. But those who are should not be forced to have their tax dollars fund an organization that aborts more than 350,000 unborn babies every year.

Federal law has long prohibited public funds from being used to actually perform abortions. However, Planned Parenthood gets millions in grants and reimbursements for other services that they provide, like pregnancy tests, birth control, Pap smears, STD tests, and other various treatments.

Of course, low-income women should have access to these critical services. But why is it necessary—why is it necessary—for those services to be funded at the Nation's largest abortion provider?

It isn't actually, but the abortion industry and its supporters—it is what they want you to think it is. And they talk about women's health because they don't want to talk about abortion.

They don't want to talk about how ugly it is and how painful it is not just to the mother having to make the decision, but to the unborn baby who doesn't have a voice, who doesn't have a say.

When it comes to funding, they like to pretend, Mr. Speaker, that abortion doesn't exist and that Planned Parenthood is the only place where low-income women can get health care.

Taking away Federal funding from Planned Parenthood means attacking women's health, they say. That is not true.

The truth is that there are more than 13,000 federally qualified and rural health centers throughout this country that offer low-cost health care to women. In fact, these centers outnumber Planned Parenthood clinics 20-1.

If those who defend Federal funding of Planned Parenthood truly just wanted to make sure that low-income women have access to health care and not abortion, then why not simply support these noncontroversial community health centers instead?

If this argument is really about making sure women have access to health care, then we would all agree right

here, right now, to support these community health centers.

But you see, Mr. Speaker, that is not what this is about. You see, while federally qualified and rural health centers provide a wide range of medical services, they don't perform abortions. That is what they really want. They want to preserve the pipeline of funding to the Nation's largest abortion provider.

This talk of women's health is nothing but a charade, a false pretense, that I believe more and more Americans are realizing is phony.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this concurrent resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 448, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the concurrent resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the order of the House of today, this 15-minute vote on adoption of the concurrent resolution will be followed by 5-minute votes on adoption of the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 719, and agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 241, nays 185, answered "present" 1, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 527]  
YEAS—241

Abraham	Conaway	Graves (GA)
Aderholt	Cook	Graves (LA)
Allen	Costello (PA)	Graves (MO)
Amash	Cramer	Griffith
Amodei	Crawford	Grothman
Babin	Crenshaw	Guinta
Barletta	Cuellar	Guthrie
Barr	Curbelo (FL)	Hardy
Barton	Davis, Rodney	Harper
Benishek	Denham	Harris
Bilirakis	DeSantis	Hartzler
Bishop (MI)	DesJarlais	Heck (NV)
Bishop (UT)	Diaz-Balart	Hensarling
Black	Donovan	Herrera Beutler
Blackburn	Duffy	Hice, Jody B.
Blum	Duncan (SC)	Hill
Bost	Duncan (TN)	Holding
Boustany	Ellmers (NC)	Huelskamp
Brat	Emmer (MN)	Huizenga (MI)
Bridenstine	Farenthold	Hultgren
Brooks (AL)	Fincher	Hunter
Brooks (IN)	Fitzpatrick	Hurd (TX)
Buchanan	Fleischmann	Hurt (VA)
Buck	Fleming	Issa
Bucshon	Flores	Jenkins (KS)
Burgess	Forbes	Jenkins (WV)
Byrne	Fortenberry	Johnson (OH)
Calvert	Fox	Johnson, Sam
Carter (GA)	Franks (AZ)	Jolly
Carter (TX)	Frelinghuysen	Jones
Chabot	Garrett	Jordan
Chaffetz	Gibbs	Joyce
Clawson (FL)	Gibson	Katko
Coffman	Gohmert	Kelly (MS)
Cole	Goodlatte	Kelly (PA)
Collins (GA)	Gosar	King (NY)
Collins (NY)	Gowdy	Kinzinger (IL)
Comstock	Granger	Kline

Knight  
Labrador  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Latta  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lummis  
MacArthur  
Marchant  
Marino  
Massie  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McSally  
Meadows  
Meehan  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Mullin  
Mulvaney  
Murphy (PA)  
Neugebauer  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nugent  
Nunes

Olson  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Paulsen  
Pearce  
Perry  
Peterson  
Pittenger  
Pitts  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin  
Pompeo  
Posey  
Price, Tom  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Renacci  
Ribble  
Rice (SC)  
Rigell  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Rooney (FL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Royce  
Russell  
Ryan (WI)  
Salmon  
Sanford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Shimkus

Shuster  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Stefanik  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Stutzman  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Tiberi  
Tipton  
Trott  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Walters, Mimi  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Westrup  
Westerman  
Westmoreland  
Whitfield  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)  
Young (IN)  
Zeldin  
Zinke

Sewell (AL)  
Sherman  
Sinema  
Sires  
Slaughter  
Smith (WA)  
Speier  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takai  
Takano

Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Tsongas  
Van Hollen  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela

Thompson (CA)  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth

Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Gibson  
Graham  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Gutiérrez  
Hahn  
Hanna  
Hardy  
Hastings  
Heck (NV)  
Heck (WA)  
Herrera Beutler  
Higgins  
Himes  
Hinojosa  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Huffman  
Hurd (TX)  
Israel  
Issa  
Jackson Lee  
Jeffries  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nolan  
Jolly  
Joyce  
Kaptur  
Katko  
Keating  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger (IL)  
Kirkpatrick  
Kline  
Knight  
Kuster  
LaMalfa  
Lance  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Loeb sack  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowe y  
Lucas

Lujan Grisham (NM)  
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)  
Lynch  
MacArthur  
Maloney  
Carolyn  
Maloney, Sean  
Matsui  
McCarthy  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McNerney  
McSally  
Meehan  
Meng  
Miller (MI)  
Moore  
Moulton  
Mullin  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Newhouse  
Noem  
Nolan  
Norcross  
Nunes  
O'Rourke  
Pallone  
Pascrell  
Paulsen  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pingree  
Pitts  
Pocan  
Poliquin  
Polis  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Reed  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Rigell  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Roybal-Allard  
Royce  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)

Ryan (WI)  
Sánchez, Linda T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Scalise  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schradler  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano

## ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

King (IA)

## NOT VOTING—7

Brady (TX)  
Culberson  
Hudson

Kelly (IL)  
Meeks  
Pingree

Reichert

□ 1647

Mr. LOEBSACK changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. DUNCAN of South Carolina and PERRY changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION  
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to concur on the bill (H.R. 719) to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes, offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to concur.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 277, nays 151, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 528]

YEAS—277

Adams  
Aguilar  
Ashford  
Bass  
Beatty  
Becerra  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Brady (PA)  
Brown (FL)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cárdenas  
Carney  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Courtney  
Crowley  
Cummings  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Dent  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Dold

Doyle, Michael F.  
Duckworth  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Esty  
Farr  
Fattah  
Foster  
Frankel (FL)  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Graham  
Grayson  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Gutiérrez  
Hahn  
Hanna  
Hastings  
Heck (WA)  
Higgins  
Himes  
Hinojosa  
Honda  
Hoyer  
Huffman  
Israel  
Jackson Lee  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Kuster  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Loeb sack

Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowe y  
Lujan Grisham (NM)  
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)  
Lynch  
Maloney, Carolyn  
Maloney, Sean  
Matsui  
McCollum  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meng  
Moore  
Moulton  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Nolan  
Norcross  
O'Rourke  
Pallone  
Pascrell  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Pocan  
Polis  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Rangel  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Sánchez, Linda T.  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schradler  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano

Adams  
Aguilar  
Amodei  
Ashford  
Barletta  
Bass  
Beatty  
Becerra  
Benishke  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Bishop (MI)  
Cole  
Collins (NY)  
Comstock  
Connolly  
Conyers  
Cook  
Cooper  
Costa  
Brownley (CA)  
Buchanan  
Bustos  
Cramer  
Crenshaw  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Curbelo (FL)  
Davis (CA)

Davis, Danny  
Davis, Rodney  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Denham  
Dent  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Diaz-Balart  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Dold  
Donovan  
Doyle, Michael F.  
Duckworth  
Edwards  
Ellison  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Esty  
Farr  
Fattah  
Fitzpatrick  
Foster  
Frankel (FL)  
Frelinghuysen

Abraham  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Amash  
Babin  
Barr  
Barton  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (UT)  
Black  
Blackburn  
Blum  
Boustany  
Brat  
Bridenstine  
Brooks (AL)  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Burgess  
Byrne  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Chabot  
Chaffetz  
Clawson (FL)  
Collins (GA)  
Conaway  
Crawford  
DeSantis  
DesJarlais  
Duffy  
Duncan (SC)

Duncan (TN)  
Ellmers (NC)  
Emmer (MN)  
Farenthold  
Hunter  
Fleischmann  
Fleming  
Flores  
Forbes  
Fortenberry  
Foxy  
Franks (AZ)  
Garrett  
Gibbs  
Gohmert  
Goodlatte  
Gosar  
Gowdy  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guinta  
Guthrie  
Harper  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Hensarling  
Hice, Jody B.  
Hill

Holding  
Huelskamp  
Huizenga (MI)  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Hurt (VA)  
Jenkins (KS)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jones  
Jordan  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
King (IA)  
King (VA)  
Labrador  
LaHood  
Lamborn  
Latta  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Luetkemeyer  
Lummis  
Marchant  
Marino  
Massie  
McCaul  
McClintock  
Meadows  
Messer  
Mica  
Miller (FL)  
Moolenaar

Mooney (WV)	Roby	Stewart
Mulvaney	Roe (TN)	Stutzman
Murphy (PA)	Rogers (AL)	Wagner
Neugebauer	Rokita	Walberg
Nugent	Rooney (FL)	Walker
Olson	Roskam	Walorski
Palazzo	Ross	Webster (TX)
Palmer	Rothfus	Webster (FL)
Pearce	Rouzer	Wenstrup
Perry	Russell	Westerman
Pittenger	Salmon	Westmoreland
Poe (TX)	Sanford	Williams
Pompeo	Schweikert	Wilson (SC)
Posey	Sensenbrenner	Wittman
Price, Tom	Sessions	Yoder
Ratcliffe	Shuster	Yoho
Renacci	Smith (MO)	Young (IN)
Ribble	Smith (NJ)	
Rice (SC)	Smith (TX)	

After consultation with counsel, I will make the determination required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

ELEANOR H. NORTON,  
Member of Congress.

Seychelles as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) program.

Section 506A(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2466a(a)(1)) authorizes the President to designate a country listed in section 107 of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3706) as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country eligible for the benefits described in section 506A(b) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2466a(b)), if the President determines that the country meets the eligibility requirements in section 104 of the AGOA (19 U.S.C. 3703), subject to the authority granted to the President under subsections (a), (d), and (e) of section 502 of the 1974 Act.

Pursuant to section 502(e) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that Seychelles has become a "high income" country and its designation as a beneficiary sub-Saharan country is no longer within the authority granted to the President under section 502 of the 1974 Act. Accordingly, pursuant to section 506A(a)(1) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2466a(a)(1)), I have determined that Seychelles is no longer eligible for benefits as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country for the purpose of section 506A of the 1974 Act, effective January 1, 2017.

BARACK OBAMA.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, September 30, 2015.

PUNISHMENT FOR MILITARY WHISTLEBLOWER WAS WRONG

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I was shocked and outraged to learn recently that a decorated Green Beret was dismissed from the military for blowing the whistle on a child rapist who was a member of the Afghan forces.

When our forces are abroad, our military should strive to uphold American values, and that is exactly what Sergeant First Class Charles Martland did when he confronted Afghan officials engaging in perverse actions. However, instead of being commended, Sergeant Martland was punished for his actions and was taken out of the region, despite being a soldier that was critical to the mission.

As someone who has worked to protect children and keep them safe from sexual exploitation, it is disheartening to see the military look the other way when children are being assaulted by our allied forces. This has to change. Steps must be taken to ensure that our military uphold American values while overseas.

Mr. Speaker, our military should not be looking the other way when our allies are engaging in wrongful acts.

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

NOT VOTING—6

Brady (TX)	Hudson	Meeks
Culberson	Kelly (IL)	Reichert

□ 1657

Mr. ROHRBACHER changed his vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion to concur was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROSELEHTINEN). The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

□ 1700

HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE ELEANOR H. NORTON, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Iowa) laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable Eleanor H. Norton, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, September 30, 2015.  
Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have received a subpoena, issued by the Superior Court for the District of Columbia, in connection with a particular criminal case, that I produce certain official documents and appear to testify at trial on official matters.

INTENT TO TERMINATE SEYCHELLES, URUGUAY, AND VENEZUELA AS BENEFICIARY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES UNDER THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES PROGRAM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114-59)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 502(f)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2462(f)(2)), I am providing notification of my intent to terminate the designations of Seychelles, Uruguay, and Venezuela as beneficiary developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program. Section 502(e) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(e)) provides that if the President determines that a beneficiary developing country has become a "high income" country, as defined by the official statistics of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the World Bank (the "World Bank"), the President shall terminate the designation of such country as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP program, effective on January 1 of the second year following the year in which such determination is made.

Pursuant to section 502(e) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that it is appropriate to terminate the designations of Seychelles, Uruguay, and Venezuela as beneficiary developing countries under the GSP program, because they have become high income countries as defined by the World Bank. Accordingly, their eligibility for trade benefits under the GSP program will end on January 1, 2017.

BARACK OBAMA.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, September 30, 2015.

INTENT TO TERMINATE SEYCHELLES AS A BENEFICIARY SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRY UNDER THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT PROGRAM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114-60)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am providing notification of my intent to terminate the designation of

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored once again today to serve as a Congressional co-chair of National Preparedness Month. National Preparedness Month reminds us that we cannot become complacent in our efforts to build and improve emergency preparedness capabilities.

Coming from the 10th Congressional District of the State of New Jersey, which had experienced Hurricane Sandy and the September 11 attacks, I know that disasters can strike at any time.

As the ranking member of the Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee, I have also observed a concerning gap in coordination between communication of emergency response plans for children and schools. Each day more than 65 million children are separated from their parents during work-hours, but roughly 42 percent of the parents do not know where to reunite with their children after a school evacuation.

Parents, teachers, and emergency responders should engage with community partners so that responsibilities and resources are in place when disasters strike.

**PRESIDENT MUST IMMEDIATELY SUSPEND ALL ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY**

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, if we didn't already have enough proof that the Palestinian Authority is not an honest partner for peace with Israel, Abu Mazen's speech at the U.N. General Assembly today confirmed it and showed that he is a self-serving autocrat who is more interested in delegitimizing Israel, the Jewish state, than in building up a future Palestinian state.

Abu Mazen's message was clear. He intends to scuttle any prospects for peace, pursue Israel at the International Criminal Court, and continue his ploy for achieving unilateral statehood at the U.N.

President Obama must immediately suspend all assistance to the Palestinian Authority.

If the Palestinians do move to join additional international conventions and organizations, the U.S. law is unambiguous. We must suspend all funding to any of these bodies that accept a nonexistent state of Palestine to its membership.

Mr. Speaker, the President has been seeking ways to circumvent and waive these provisions for years, but we must see to it that the President implements the full intent and letter of the law. Suspend all aid now.

**CONTINUING RESOLUTION**

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a responsible Member of Congress concerned for the American people, today I voted for a continuing resolution that will take us to December 11, but that is not the responsible way to handle the business of this Nation.

It is time now for this Congress to put aside partisanship and to begin to have the Republican leadership and Republicans to sit down with members of the Democratic Caucus and talk about a real funding bill.

Yes, we have kept the doors open and provided for our employees, but we have undermined defense and the preparedness of our men and women. We have cut \$1.7 billion from the Children's Health Insurance Program, and we are barely hanging on for other necessary items.

Yes, we have allowed for wildfire funding and disaster funding. Other items dealing with law enforcement and provisions for transportation and the environment are all cut by something called the sequester.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better, and we need to get busy starting next week and put forward an appropriations process that funds this government, responds to those who are in need, prepares our young men and women in the military, and as well restores that children's health insurance money. Shame on us. We need to do it now.

**HONORING COACH TONY NAPOLET**

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Coach Tony Napolet, who was a great man, a person of God, and a great coach.

We sent him off this morning at his funeral mass at St. Mary's, and I wanted to take a few moments here on the House floor to say thank you on behalf of all of those who coached with him, played for him, and in some way he helped shape so many lives.

To Natalie and Harold and Mario—his children—Aunt Norma, Aunt Marie, Manlio, Christopher, the entire crew, we want to say that we sent a great man to heaven today who embodied John F. Kennedy High School, Kennedy football.

The one lesson he always taught, Mr. Speaker, was to have a strong faith in God, make God your best friend, and treat others the way you would like to be treated. He left a major, major impression in the Mahoning Valley in Trumbull County in the State of Ohio.

God bless you, Coach Napolet. You will be missed.

□ 1715

**NATIONAL MANUFACTURING DAY**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 6, 2015, the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, before I begin this evening, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, joined this evening with colleagues on both sides of the aisle, to celebrate the upcoming October 2 National Manufacturing Day.

Manufacturing in the U.S. is something that I support fully. U.S. manufacturing is something that, I think, shares bipartisan support across the country, coast to coast, north to south, east to west, because it is about real, family-sustaining jobs where we build things in America, where we can actually manufacture our products here to sell not only to the American economy, but to the world economy.

Mr. Speaker, as I co-chair the U.S. Manufacturing Caucus here in Congress, I wanted to ask my colleague on the U.S. Manufacturing Caucus to rise and open us up on this Special Order this evening to celebrate U.S. manufacturing.

I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), a good friend and my co-chair on the Manufacturing Caucus.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York. This is a great opportunity for us to share, I think, as Democrats and Republicans.

My friend from New York represents upstate New York, and that area of our country and the State of New York have a long history of manufacturing. I represent northeast Ohio, which also has a long history of manufacturing.

I think we recognize the importance of manufacturing jobs and how to create policies that will further allow for investment in manufacturing and for workforce development within the context of manufacturing.

Also, I think we recognize, as we have seen the transition over the last 20 or 30 years in our country, how much we miss these manufacturing jobs. They pay a higher wage, more of a solid pension for most manufacturers, better benefits, and are where people can learn a craft, learn a skill, get into a good company, and make a good, honest living; and that is what we are celebrating here today.

Through our Manufacturing Caucus, Congressman REED and I try to stimulate some conversations and bring real people from our congressional districts to help educate us on what the best process, what the best issues, what the best approaches would be for the United States Congress to try to

incentivize manufacturing here in the United States.

I know I will be doing an event on Friday back in Youngstown, Ohio, and further celebrating in my community. I know you will, as well.

So I just want to say thank you to my friend. I look forward to us continuing—not just the old-line manufacturing that we know a lot about and have lost of lot of those jobs, not just the advanced manufacturing either—to work on the issue of making sure that we create more of these institutes to try to nurture new ways of manufacturing, but also the additive manufacturing piece, which is happening in Youngstown, Ohio, at America Makes, where the 3-D printing movement, the Maker Movement is happening and burgeoning in an old warehouse in downtown Youngstown. I mean, it doesn't get better than that, to have millions of dollars of equipment in the downtown of an iconic city that is really leading our community forward in this new line of manufacturing.

I want to thank you for your leadership. I appreciate your friendship, and I appreciate the opportunity to say a few words here tonight.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio. He truly is a friend, and he is just as committed to U.S. manufacturing as I am. I have seen it firsthand. I have seen him in his district in action supporting U.S. manufacturers.

The 3-D printing hub, the advanced manufacturing center that you reference and that we are so supportive of—working with JOE KENNEDY here in the House and ROY BLUNT and SHERROD BROWN on a bipartisan, bicameral basis, getting that legislation signed, which was a priority of the administration—and having that type of advanced manufacturing center in Ohio, in your home State, obviously has demonstrated his commitment and his belief in U.S. manufacturing.

As the gentlemen indicated, it is not just advanced manufacturing. It is the traditional manufacturing. It is the manufacturing that we believe in where the American spirit is alive and well, where the American Dream can be reached and obtained.

I mean, as my good friend from Ohio indicated, these are good, solid, family-sustaining, middle class jobs to a large extent that put food on the table for our fellow Americans and put roofs over their heads and allow families to maybe pass on to the next generation a little bit better lifestyle or a little bit better American Dream than they enjoyed by having a little bit of money to invest in a college education for their kids and to try to enjoy and live that American Dream that I know my friend from Ohio believes in.

So I applaud my friend, and I appreciate my friend for all the work you do on U.S. manufacturing. This is what gives me continued optimism here in the United States Congress that we can get things done, because we have come

across the aisle and we have joined together to promote U.S. manufacturing.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. It is hard not to get a little bit nostalgic. I think a lot of times those of us who advocate for manufacturing spend a little too much time in the nostalgia phase and not enough time, I think, working in the space where we are trying to enhance, grow, and create new opportunities in manufacturing.

And I am not going to get political, but to go back to all of the elections, whether Republicans won or Democrats won, if you go back 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, I think the economic insecurity, in my analysis, was at the heart of each of those elections.

As we have seen the decline in manufacturing, we have seen the increase in anxiety for families to be able to make ends meet. So I am thankful that we can try to promote this together and try to find an issue like manufacturing that garners 60 to 70 percent support from regions, demographics all over the United States.

I think there is an inherent understanding of making something. I start it, and then I pass it to your company. You add value to it, and then you pass it to someone else. They add value to it, and it goes through that supply chain, tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3, and everybody benefits.

Back in the day, you know, we had a manufacturing facility for General Motors that had 15,000 or 16,000 people that now has 3,000 or 4,000. We had a supplier to General Motors, Packard Electric and then Delphi, that had 13,000 employees, and now it is down to 2,000 or 3,000. Those were all solid, middle class jobs. I know you could probably give similar examples in Corning and other places.

So I think, if we have an industrial policy, if we continue through the Tax Code and other ways to make sure that we incentivize investment in these areas, that we can help regrow those new-age manufacturing jobs that everybody, I think, is looking for, as you said, to make a good living, have a solid retirement, have good benefits, and not have to work so hard that you miss the soccer match, you miss the baseball game, or you can't go on a vacation. We can help regrow those middle class jobs where you can still have time with your family, which ultimately is the most important thing anyway.

So I appreciate the opportunity to be here and continue to work with you.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman points out, you know, what manufacturing represents is opportunity, an opportunity to so many Americans, so many people.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleague from Ohio will agree with me that U.S. manufacturing is positioned on a precipice of rebirth here in America.

Now, my friend points out some areas that we need to continue to work on to make U.S. manufacturing even more

competitive than what we are finding today.

When we see the energy rebirth here in America with the shale revolution for oil and natural gas coming online and the feedstock and the utility costs going down and going lower and lower, it is positioning U.S. manufacturing to be in a competitive position on the world economic stage. To me, that is such a hopeful, optimistic position of time for the United States of America to be in.

I can tell you story after story, Mr. Speaker. When I talk to U.S. manufacturers, they talk about the lessons that they have learned over the years of maybe chasing that cheap labor dollar, maybe chasing that overseas market, the whole issue of outsourcing.

What I hear from U.S. manufacturers today is that they want to come back to America, because in America we have the best workforce and we have the best work ethic across the world.

What we have in America, also, is the rule of law. So many of these manufacturers that have looked overseas and relocated overseas, they are finding that their intellectual property is disregarded. Those innovative ideas, those new ideas, those inventions that are going to spur that next product growth of tomorrow, they just get ripped off.

They have no recourse to enforce what we in America, as the cornerstone of our philosophy, respect, and that is property rights and that is the rule of law and saying that, if you invent it, you own it. That is something that is critical for us as we go forward is to recognize the opportunity—and I know my good friend shares this—that U.S. manufacturing has right now with the competitive nature of the American marketplace.

There are some things we can do. Serving on the Ways and Means Committee here in the House of Representatives, in charge of tax policy, trade policy, and health care, to a large degree, one of the things I think we have a shared commitment to is fixing our broken Tax Code. I don't know of anyone across America that will stand up and take that 70,000 pages of Tax Code and say this is working and this is putting our manufacturers in a competitive position on the world stage.

I hear it time and time again that we need to fix that Tax Code. Because if we do that, that is another piece to advance U.S. manufacturing to that rebirth, that renaissance that I know—and I know my good friend from Ohio shares—can happen and will happen, because this is America where that opportunity can rise again.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we all know that there are the larger manufacturers who can hire accountants and all the rest to figure it out, but it is the small- and medium-sized tier 3, tier 4 suppliers, you know, that maybe have 50 or 100 people and it is a family business and people aren't making a ton of dough, and to have to deal with the increased complexity of a Tax Code

for the small business, I think it is appropriate for us to try to simplify that and make it a little bit easier for them.

I am glad you mentioned natural gas. Especially in our region, in western New York, western Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, it is a huge opportunity for us. We should all be beating on the doors of the European companies to try to say, you know, move your manufacturing base into our region because of what the opportunities are going to be into the future.

We have talked about this, and I think we have had a hearing about it through our caucus, is how do we get young people and their parents to recognize and see manufacturing as a real opportunity for them. A lot of people think, parents think: Well, I don't want my kids going into manufacturing. You know, they picture the steel mill in Youngstown where there were 20,000 people coming out dirty, in hard hats with a metal lunch bucket. Now, today, you walk into a manufacturing facility, it is about metrology and it is about precision manufacturing. You could eat off the floor because it is so clean. It is a whole different idea of what manufacturing is.

We have got to figure out how to work with guidance counselors and teachers in the STEM areas about how to get kids engaged in this area earlier, because kids are naturally inclined—I think of my 12-year-old son, Mason. He is always building, creating, trying to use his hands the best he can, or even if he is on the computer, how he is organizing, you know, his troop alignments in some of the war games that he plays. But it is all about constructing something and putting something together, building things, and how do you create that.

These young kids just naturally gravitate toward that. So the more we can get them engaged at a very, very young age about designing and building, the more we are going to unleash the creative potential of that generation to further build out the manufacturing base here in the United States.

□ 1730

Mr. REED. Reclaiming my time, I couldn't have said it better. I know the gentleman has shared stories that I have experienced myself.

When we look at the present state of U.S. manufacturing, these are not the days of smoke-filled rooms where safety wasn't a concern and that it was a dirty, drudgery type of environment that they existed in. This is cutting-edge. This is a safe workplace. This is where safety is paramount and where skills are so necessary.

One of the things that I still see today that we have to fight—and I think the gentleman will share this position with me—is I do a lot of work back in the district going to local high schools, standing in front of juniors and seniors and having conversations with those kids about what they want to be when they get older.

I remember vividly one story. It was the first time when I asked the question, "What do you want to be when you get older?" The kids' hands went up. You have got the lawyers. You have got the doctors. You have got the people that want to be like the Al Rokers. They want to be the weatherman or on the broadcast TV, that type of thing.

I said, "That is all fine and good. That is great." Then one young man, who was a senior, said, "Congressman, I am going to be a welder." I went over the Moon with that young man.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. You are going to have a job.

Mr. REED. I said, "Do you understand"—to the rest of his class—"I just left a steel facility in this district where they are going to start welders at \$60,000 a year starting pay?"

I said, "This young man is going to be able to have a career. This is a career. He is going to be able to have a little extra money in his pocket. He is going to be able to maybe get married and raise a family." He got it, as a senior. I was so excited.

As I walked out of that room and I was walking and exiting the building, I had one of the school officials, a guidance counselor, say, "Oh, Congressman, that was great. You made that young man's day. There is no doubt about it. He is going to remember that day for the rest of his life." "But," she said, "we really don't try to promote those types of careers, though."

I went almost through the roof, Mr. Speaker. I said, "That is the problem. We have to change that concept, that stigma, that manufacturing historically carries with it." I know we are doing it. I know the gentleman from Ohio is working with us, Mr. Speaker, to get that done.

What I see is, when you explain the opportunities to that next generation, when you talk to mothers and fathers and say this is really what is out there, their eyes light up. The burden is lifted from their shoulders to see that their kids are choosing to go into a career that they want to and that they recognize is rewarding, safe, and productive.

I will tell you I am going to continue the efforts to promote U.S. manufacturing because it is not just the manufacturers. As my good friend from Ohio indicated, it is all those supply chains, all those mom-and-pops, those small businesses, that are not only supplying the pieces or the raw material to the manufacturers, but you think about the restaurants, you think about the service folks that are cleaning the facilities, you think about all that it takes to put that together. That is a vibrant, growing economy, Mr. Speaker.

That is what we are promoting here with U.S. manufacturing. That is why I am so glad that October 2 is National Manufacturing Day, so that we, as a nation, could maybe take a moment on Friday and say, "You know what. We are going to believe in American manufacturing again. We are going to make

it here to sell it around the world, make it with our hands, create wealth, create something." I know that my friend from Ohio shares that passion.

One of the things that I am so committed to when we talk about this is the STEM, the science, technology, engineering, mathematics need of education policy going forward. That is what our advanced manufacturing bill with JOE KENNEDY was all about.

And working with the Senate in a bicameral and getting it signed into law was to take these public-private partnerships, to take our schools, our universities, our colleges, work with our manufacturers to develop those skills that are necessary to do this manufacturing.

Because, as my good friend who has been in many of the manufacturing facilities, just as I have—when you go and you look at these machines, you look at how these operations and assembly lines occur, you need high education. This is highly skilled stuff. You can just see the pride in the workers when they explain to me how they learned that computer program or they learned how to do that assembly line work. I will tell you, it is inspiring.

I yield to the gentleman if he has got any stories.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Yes. It is not like it is a 4-year degree either. It is something that can be learned in a year or two because you are focused on exactly where you are going to be.

And you talk about a welder maybe starting at \$60,000-plus. You think about, if you could do that, start making \$60,000 a year at 20—it takes a lot of people, schoolteachers, for example—how long does it take in Corning, New York, or Youngstown, Ohio, to get to \$60,000? It is a little while.

So that is money you can begin to save, invest, put in your retirement, whatever, your kids' college. I mean, you have that money not starting at \$30,000, but starting at \$60,000 or \$70,000. And that can go vertical, too.

The more skills you get and if you are in the right position in the right company, you can start making upwards of \$100,000 as a welder. That is a lot of money that, if you plan your finances properly, you can have a lot of savings.

To that point as well, I was at Stark State Community College, which is just outside of Canton, a few weeks ago, and there were kids there from Barberton High School and Norton High School, about 10 or 15 of them. They just started a program where these kids in high school were earning credits for the welding certificate.

With this program, those kids can earn 13 credit hours for a 30-hour certificate. So by the time you graduate from high school, if you get in as a junior and you do it your junior and senior year, you will have 13 of 30 credits. So you don't need much longer. You are over a third of the way to your certificate, and you just graduated from high school.

Those are the kind of innovative things I think we need to continue to figure out how to incentivize and create. Part of it is the awareness that we were talking about, that it is okay for your kid to be a welder because of what we have already talked about.

But how do we create incentives to streamline the education process, to get kids on a track so, when they are 18, 19, 20 years old, they have a job and they are not sleeping in our basements?

Mr. REED. Reclaiming my time, yeah, think about this. As we see the cost of colleges and your college degree, kids coming out of school—I came out of law school at the end of the day owing over \$110,000. I was raised by a single mother. I am the youngest of 12. I have 8 older sisters and 3 older brothers. To start life after school with a \$110,000 mortgage on my head was a very difficult thing.

You talk to these young men and women who are going into these programs—it is not just welding. It is manufacturing. It is HVAC. It is plumbing. It is all of the things that go into U.S. manufacturing—and they are getting through school with these guaranteed programs or these community college programs.

We have got a couple manufacturers in the district that have a certification process system that they put together where they guarantee 100 percent hiring at the end of the certificate program for these kids after—I think it is 24 weeks, if I remember correctly.

They are getting into that job, making that type of salary, and have no debt to pay for that college degree. That is a win-win-win. And they enjoy it. And they enjoy it. I am sure the gentleman knows these stories and has seen those people firsthand.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. This has been great. Let's keep it rolling and figure out what we can do moving forward in a bipartisan way like you and Congressman KENNEDY did.

I think that is essential with growing the ecosystem around different kinds of manufacturing in auto and additive and all the rest. We stand ready to work with you on the Democratic side to make that happen.

Mr. REED. From this side of the aisle, on behalf of the people that we represent in western New York, you have that commitment, that I will continue to fight with you, stand with you to fight for U.S. manufacturing. I will not fight against you, but fight together so that we can advance U.S. manufacturing.

It has been a pleasure to call you a friend. It has been a pleasure to be part of this caucus. Our caucus is strong, Mr. Speaker. We have bipartisan representation across the country.

As we started this conversation tonight, in celebrating National Manufacturing Day this Friday, this is not a partisan issue. I go across the entire country, and people always tell me they appreciate the work we do in the

caucus, in the Congress, when it comes to U.S. manufacturing.

I again commit to you that we will continue to make this a priority so that we can make it here to sell it around the world again, bring those jobs back to American soil and create these middle class jobs to a large extent so that families, men and women, sons and daughters, can enjoy the American Dream. I appreciate the gentleman for joining us this evening.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Thank you, sir.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to summarize some of the numbers that are associated with U.S. manufacturing.

Manufacturing supports an estimated 17.6 million jobs in the United States. That is about 1 in 6 private sector jobs. More than 12 million Americans are employed directly in manufacturing. They earn almost \$15,000 more annually than the average worker.

This is what U.S. manufacturing is all about. It is about creating wealth. It is about creating opportunity for generations to come.

I will tell you, as we continue our career here in Washington, D.C., I will be a voice for U.S. manufacturing every day. We will break down barriers across the world so that we can have an even playing field, so that we can make those products, build those products here, access those markets where 95 percent of the world's consumers live outside of America's borders so that we have a vibrant economy not only servicing the American demand, but the world demand.

I think, if we get our policies right here, if we get that trade policy done correctly, if we get that tax policy done where we have a Tax Code that is simple, fair, and is competitive for the 21st century—I am very confident, Mr. Speaker, that what we will create is an opportunity not just for U.S. manufacturing, but all American citizens, but, in particular, U.S. manufacturing to prosper and grow for generations to come.

I am excited to be here this evening, Mr. Speaker. I am excited to share with such a good man from the State of Ohio a passion and commitment to a priority issue of U.S. manufacturing.

Mr. Speaker, I just ask all of my fellow American citizens to take a moment this Friday, October 2, and celebrate National Manufacturing Day. Let's come together to have a great opportunity for the future generations of America to come.

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

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of illness.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill

of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3614. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

#### SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 136. An act to amend chapter 21 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that fathers of certain permanently disabled or deceased veterans shall be included with mothers of such veterans as preference eligibles for treatment in the civil service.

S. 139. An act to permanently allow an exclusion under the Supplemental Security Income program and the Medicaid program for compensation provided to individuals who participate in clinical trials for rare diseases or conditions.

S. 565. An act to reduce the operation and maintenance costs associated with the Federal fleet by encouraging the use of remanufactured parts, and for other purposes.

S. 2082. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

#### BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on September 29, 2015, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 2051. To amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to extend the livestock mandatory price reporting requirements, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, October 1, 2015, at 9 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2966. A letter from the Acting Director, Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees (RIN: 0572-AC34) received September 29, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

2967. A letter from the Comptroller, Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter reporting a violation of the Antideficiency Act, Navy case number 14-02, as required by 31 U.S.C. 1351; to the Committee on Appropriations.

2968. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, OSD(AT&L), Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Electronic Copies of Contractual Documents (DFARS Case 2012-D056) [Docket No.: DARS 2015-0009] (RIN: 0750-AI29) received September 28, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2969. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, OSD(AT&L), Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Contract Debts-Conform to FAR Section Designations (DFARS Case 2015-D029) [Docket No.: DARS 2015-0047] (RIN: 0750-AI70) received September 28, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2970. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing Rear Admiral John N. Christenson, United States Navy, to wear the insignia of the grade of vice admiral, in accordance with 10 U.S.C. 777a; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2971. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Patricia D. Horoho, United States Army, and her advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list in accordance with 10 U.S.C. 777a; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2972. A letter from the Comptroller, Under Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's semi-annual Defense Cooperation Account report, period ending March 31, 2015, and semiannual Coalition Contributions: Personal Property report period ending March 31, 2015, as required by 10 U.S.C. 2608; to the Committee on Armed Services.

2973. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Providence County, RI, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2015-0001] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8399] received September 29, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Financial Services.

2974. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for the use of Secs. 506(A)(1) and 552 (C)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide commodities and services for immediate assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2975. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Office of the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 03-15, informing of an intent to sign the Memorandum of Understanding Among the Department of National Defence of Canada, the Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the Department of Defense of the United States of America for Standard Missile In-Service Support, pursuant to Sec. 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Executive Order 13637; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2976. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions of Sec. 1003 of Pub. L. 100-204 regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization Office; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2977. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, as required by Sec. 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and Sec. 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2978. A letter from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Cuban Assets Control Regulations received September 29, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2979. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting Statement of Disbursements For The Period July 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 104a; Public Law 88-454; (H. Doc. No. 114-61); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

2980. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final specifications — Pacific Island Fisheries; 2015 Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures [Docket No.: 141009847-5746-02] (RIN: 0648-XD558) received September 29, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2981. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary final rule — Revisions to Framework Adjustment 53 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan and Sector Annual Catch Entitlements; Updated Annual Catch Limits for Sectors and the Common Pool for Fishing Year 2015 [Docket No.: 150623545-5545-01] (RIN: 0648-XE015) received September 29, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2982. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Dusky Rockfish in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 140918791-4999-02] (RIN: 0648-XE169) received September 29, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2983. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Several Groundfish Species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 141021887-5172-02] (RIN: 0648-XE144) received September 29, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

2984. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury providing an update regarding the Treasury's ability to continue to finance the government and the extraordinary measures taken to avoid default; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

2985. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Depart-

ment's report entitled "Report to Congress: Evaluations of Hospitals' Ambulance Data on Medicare Cost Reports and Feasibility of Obtaining Cost Data from All Ambulance Providers and Suppliers", in accordance to Sec. 604(d)(3)(A) of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1880. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico (Rept. 114-271). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COLE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 448. Resolution providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 79) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make corrections in the enrollment of H.R. 719, and providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 719) to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-272). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BYRNE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 449. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3457) to prohibit the lifting of sanctions on Iran until the Government of Iran pays the judgments against it for acts of terrorism, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (Rept. 114-273). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2168. A bill to make the current Dungeness crab fishery management regime permanent and for other purposes (Rept. 114-274). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1541. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to make Hispanic-serving institutions eligible for technical and financial assistance for the establishment of preservation training and degree programs; with an amendment (Rept. 114-275). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SHUSTER (for himself, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. DENHAM, and Mr. CAPUANO):

H.R. 3651. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for the extension of certain deadlines related to positive train

control, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Ms. LEE, and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 3652. A bill to expand programs with respect to women's health; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Ms. ESTY):

H.R. 3653. A bill to authorize funding for, and increase accessibility to, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, to facilitate data sharing between such system and the National Crime Information Center database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to provide incentive grants to help facilitate reporting to such systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. ROYCE):

H.R. 3654. A bill to require a report on United States strategy to combat terrorist use of social media, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WESTMORELAND (for himself, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia):

H.R. 3655. A bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 with respect to Federal Government liability and to require reimbursement to the Judgement Fund for certain claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself and Mr. TAKAD):

H.R. 3656. A bill to prohibit the sale or distribution of tobacco products to individuals under the age of 21; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 3657. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require that supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits be calculated with reference to the cost of the low-cost food plan as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. BURGESS):

H.R. 3658. A bill to provide grants to better understand and reduce gestational diabetes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GUTIERREZ (for himself and Ms. JUDY CHU of California):

H.R. 3659. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to remove citizenship and immigration barriers to access the Exchanges under such Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H. Con. Res. 80. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress on Hunger in our Communities; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FINCHER:

H. Res. 450. A resolution providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 597) to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Mr. HUNTER):

H. Res. 451. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Sergeant Charles Martland, a decorated member of the Special Forces, should be reinstated in the United States Army; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ASHFORD:

H. Res. 452. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require the Clerk of the House to conduct the election of the Speaker of the House by secret ballot; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. PLASKETT (for herself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ENGEL, and Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California):

H. Res. 453. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States Government should provide additional relief and assistance to the island of Dominica; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SHUSTER:

H.R. 3651.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce among the several States).

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 3652.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 3653.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 3654.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. WESTMORELAND:

H.R. 3655.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 3656.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 3657.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. ENGEL:

H.R. 3658.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. GUTIERREZ:

H.R. 3659.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 167: Ms. STEFANIK, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. DOLD.

H.R. 213: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 241: Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 343: Mrs. COMSTOCK.

H.R. 546: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 649: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 662: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 699: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. HARPER.

H.R. 814: Mr. CLAWSON of Florida and Mr. FINCHER.

H.R. 840: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 868: Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 879: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 921: Mr. HURD of Texas and Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 969: Mr. RICHMOND and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 997: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 1062: Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 1089: Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 1124: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 1197: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 1221: Mrs. WALORSKI and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 1232: Ms. BASS.

H.R. 1258: Mr. DELANEY.

H.R. 1266: Mr. JOLLY and Mr. MESSER.

H.R. 1272: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 1399: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. JOYCE.

H.R. 1401: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 1441: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 1447: Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 1475: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1550: Mr. MULVANEY and Mr. POLIQUIN.

H.R. 1571: Mr. HUFFMAN and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 1600: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 1603: Mr. MOULTON, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. HECK of Nevada.

H.R. 1610: Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 1644: Mr. JOYCE and Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 1666: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 1671: Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. HANNA, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BUCK, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mrs. BLACK.

H.R. 1683: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 1716: Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 1752: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 1786: Ms. TITUS and Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 1877: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 1948: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 2016: Ms. GABBARD.

H.R. 2025: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 2050: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 2090: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 2156: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 2241: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. STIVERS, and Mr. TED LIEU of California.

- H.R. 2254: Mr. KILMER and Mr. CONNOLLY.  
H.R. 2257: Mr. PETERS.  
H.R. 2290: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.  
H.R. 2408: Mr. HUFFMAN and Ms. TITUS.  
H.R. 2441: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.  
H.R. 2463: Mr. PETERS.  
H.R. 2494: Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. HASTINGS.  
H.R. 2515: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.  
H.R. 2521: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 2567: Mr. JORDAN.  
H.R. 2597: Mr. ASHFORD.  
H.R. 2602: Mr. MOULTON.  
H.R. 2622: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.  
H.R. 2624: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 2646: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SCALISE, and Mr. ISRAEL.  
H.R. 2669: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 2671: Mr. BARR.  
H.R. 2672: Mr. BARR.  
H.R. 2673: Mr. BARR.  
H.R. 2674: Mr. BARR.  
H.R. 2698: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.  
H.R. 2726: Mr. LOEBSACK.  
H.R. 2739: Mr. TROTT and Mr. RANGEL.  
H.R. 2759: Mr. WALZ, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Ms. MATSUI.  
H.R. 2855: Mr. KILMER.  
H.R. 2858: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. POLIS.  
H.R. 2866: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CARNEY, and Mr. GALLEGO.  
H.R. 2896: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. ROSS.  
H.R. 2903: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
- H.R. 2944: Ms. ESTY, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.  
H.R. 3016: Mr. BLUMENAUER.  
H.R. 3094: Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.  
H.R. 3119: Mr. GIBBS and Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 3129: Mr. ROUZER.  
H.R. 3137: Ms. PINGREE.  
H.R. 3150: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.  
H.R. 3151: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.  
H.R. 3177: Mr. DOLD.  
H.R. 3180: Mr. KATKO.  
H.R. 3183: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.  
H.R. 3225: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.  
H.R. 3268: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. POMPEO, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. AGUILAR, and Ms. EDWARDS.  
H.R. 3309: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.  
H.R. 3381: Mr. FARENTHOLD and Mr. LANGEVIN.  
H.R. 3412: Mr. POCAN and Mrs. DAVIS of California.  
H.R. 3423: Mr. JOLLY.  
H.R. 3429: Mr. BRADY of Texas.  
H.R. 3457: Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, and Mr. POSEY.  
H.R. 3473: Mr. ROTHFUS.  
H.R. 3475: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. CLAY, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. FUDGE, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.  
H.R. 3515: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mr. ROUZER.  
H.R. 3516: Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
H.R. 3518: Mr. POLIS.  
H.R. 3523: Mr. RANGEL.  
H.R. 3532: Mr. ROUZER, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, and Mr. CRAMER.
- H.R. 3542: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Mr. ELLISON.  
H.R. 3555: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.  
H.R. 3573: Mr. NEWHOUSE.  
H.R. 3579: Ms. PINGREE.  
H.R. 3590: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.  
H.R. 3611: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.  
H.R. 3635: Mr. FORBES.  
H.R. 3641: Mr. CARSON of Indiana and Ms. LEE.  
H.J. Res. 51: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.  
H. Con. Res. 65: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. Michael F. Doyle of Pennsylvania, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TSONGAS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, and Mr. JEFFRIES.  
H. Con. Res. 75: Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. DOLD, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. FORBES.  
H. Res. 394: Mr. PETERS and Ms. BASS.  
H. Res. 416: Mr. RIGELL, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. KIND.  
H. Res. 428: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. LOWENTHAL.  
H. Res. 438: Miss RICE of New York and Mr. TAKANO.  
H. Res. 443: Mr. HONDA and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.  
H. Res. 445: Ms. MATSUI.