

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 719

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H. Con. Res. 79, which seeks to add language to the underlying Continuing Resolution before it is sent to the President to eliminate federal funding for Planned Parenthood and its affiliates for one year.

H. Con. Res. 79 is nothing more than a political exercise in futility, and yet another attempt to appease extremists in the Republican Conference who are determined to limit women's access to critical health care services.

This concurrent resolution is substantively identical to both the language in H.R. 3134, which the House has already passed and the Senate has refused to consider, and the Continuing Resolution that was rejected by a bipartisan majority of 47 to 52 in the Senate last week. With just hours left to pass legislation to keep our government open, we should not be hindering access to women's health care.

Mr. Speaker, opposition to these political gimmicks is not limited to Democrats in Congress. Earlier this week the fight over defunding Planned Parenthood and similar scuffles facilitated by fringe elements of the Republican party lead to the resignation of the Speaker of the House, and has divided the Republican conference so fervently that we can again expect a very real threat of a government shutdown in December.

The reality is, the Continuing Resolution we are currently considering does not provide one cent of federal funding for Planned Parenthood, as my Republican friend Representative TOM COLE, Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, astutely points out. Knowing this, I am both bewildered and outraged that we are using precious time considering another bill designed to restrict the constitutional reproductive rights of women to satisfy the extreme political agenda of a few in Congress.

Planned Parenthood has long served as a critical health safety net for millions of men and women. Over 90 percent of the services it provides are preventative in nature, including cancer screenings, testing for sexually transmitted infections, and family planning services. Indeed, each year Planned Parenthood centers provide an average of 400,000 cervical cancer screenings, 500,000 breast cancer screenings, and nearly 4.5 million tests and treatments for sexually transmitted infections. Defunding this important organization and its affiliates would do an immeasurable disservice to millions of Americans.

Like it or not, the Supreme Court's ruling in *Roe v. Wade* conferred upon women the right

to do with their own bodies what they determine best until the point of viability. This decision acknowledges the notion that the choice to have an abortion is excruciatingly difficult, and belongs exclusively with a woman, in consultation with her doctor and god. To subject this right to the ideological whims of politicians flies in the face of years of Supreme Court jurisprudence and is an unconscionable affront to women's health.

TSA OFFICE OF INSPECTION
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stop the government from shutting down.

What we are doing today is budgeting or appropriating but a desperate Hail Mary to save thousands of jobs and prevent another waste of \$24 billion in lost economic productivity like we saw the last time House Republicans succeeded in shutting down the government.

Today I will vote for H.R. 719 even though it goes against sound fiscal practice by including the budget gimmickry known as sequestration, a fiscal bludgeon that makes across the board cuts in funding for the valuable services depended upon by American children, seniors, workers, veterans, students, and small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 719, "Continuing Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2016," which extends current Fiscal Year 2015 government funding for nearly all agencies through December 11, 2015, at a rate equal to an annual level of \$1.017 trillion, a level consistent with the combined top-line post-sequester discretionary spending caps for Fiscal Year 2016 set by the Budget Control Act.

H.R. 719 also provides funding for Overseas Contingency Operations, which are exempt from the BCA caps, at a rate of \$74.8 billion, an amount roughly equal to a continuation of the Fiscal Year 2015 level.

Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that we have again been placed in the position of having to fund the government through the device of a continuing resolution rather than through the normal appropriations process of considering and voting on the twelve separate spending bills reported by the Committee on Appropriations.

Although the House considered and passed several of the annual spending bills, none of them received consideration in the Senate because of the refusal of the House leadership to reach agreement with the Senate on an appropriate framework for all appropriations bills that does not harm our economy or require draconian cuts to middle-class priorities.

Without such an agreement, House Republican appropriation bills will result in:

1. hundreds of thousands of low-income children losing access to Head Start programs,

2. tens of thousands of children with disabilities losing federal funding for their special education teachers and aides,

3. thousands of federal agents who will not be able to secure the border, enforce drug laws, combat violent crime or apprehend fugitives; and

4. thousands of scientists without medical grants to conduct research to find new treatments and cures for diseases like breast cancer and Alzheimer's.

As a result of the failure to reach a budget agreement, we now find ourselves facing the Hobson's choice of rejecting the Continuing Resolution now pending which likely will result in a cessation of government operations or approving the Continuing Resolution and continuing adherence to the draconian spending limits imposed by the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Faced with this dilemma, I reluctantly will vote for H.R. 719 because in the circumstances it would be irresponsible to do otherwise.

H.R. 719 is not perfect—far from it—but it is a modest and positive step toward preventing Republicans from shutting down the government again and manufacturing crises that only harm our economy, destroy jobs, and weaken our middle class.

The government shutdown of 2013, which was manufactured by the Republican majority lasted 16 days and cost taxpayers \$24 billion.

The cost to federal employees and the people they serve cannot be calculated.

Mr. Speaker, as with any compromise there are some things in the agreement that I support and some things that I strongly oppose.

For example, I support the provisions in the Continuing Resolution ensuring that funding for appropriated entitlements continue at a rate maintaining program levels under current law.

I also support the provisions allowing the State Department, USAID, BBG, and related agencies to expend funds in the absence of an authorization, and authorizing continuation of certain intelligence activities.

I support the provisions in H.R. 719 that provide \$700 million in emergency funding for government efforts to fight wildfires in Western states and that give the VA budget flexibility to finish construction of a facility in Denver.

Finally, I am very pleased that House Republicans have jettisoned any serious efforts to shut down the government over the obsession with defunding Planned Parenthood and opposition to women's reproductive rights.

On the other hand, I am very disappointed that the Continuing Resolution again misses the opportunity to reauthorize two critical programs: the Export-Import Bank and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The Export-Import Bank provides critical financing assistance—at no cost to taxpayers—to small, medium, and large-sized U.S. businesses, helping them to create jobs at home and sell products overseas.

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