

HILL), a very hardworking member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. HILL. I thank the chairman and appreciate his work on bringing this important bill to the floor, and I thank my friend, Chairman ROYCE, from California, for sponsoring the House version of this measure, H.R. 2243, and I stand in full support with the Senate version tonight, S. 2036.

Mr. Speaker, since being placed in voluntary conservatorship, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, in my judgment, has really abdicated their responsibility with the Treasury in acting truly as a conservator. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have received almost \$200 billion in government assistance, by far our costliest taxpayer bailout resulting from the financial crisis.

This is also not the first time that the GSEs, the government-sponsored enterprises, were placed in conservatorship and that the FHFA has been scrutinized for awarding increased pay to the CEOs. That has been previously discussed in detail here. And largely in response to that criticism of FHFA's failure to properly administer these entities in conservatorship, the GSE's CEO compensation was capped in 2012 at \$600,000. Now, miraculously, they are being approved for millions in pay increases despite the fact that these entities are still, Mr. Speaker, in conservatorship.

It is for that reason, Mr. Speaker, on July 30 that I wrote Mel Watt, the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and awarded him my monthly Golden Fleece Award for poor stewardship of taxpayer resources. I include my letter to Mr. Watt in the RECORD.

JULY 30, 2015.

Hon. MEL WATT,  
Director, Federal Housing Finance Agency,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR DIRECTOR WATT: I write today to inform you of my recent Golden Fleece Award to the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) for its approval of approximately \$4 million in raises for each of the CEOs of the government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Since being placed in voluntary conservatorship by FHFA in 2008, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have received almost \$200 billion in government assistance, by far the costliest taxpayer bailout resulting from the financial crisis. This is also not the first time since the GSEs were placed in conservatorship that FHFA has been scrutinized for awarding increased pay to their CEOs. In 2009, FHFA approved \$42 million in pay packages to the GSEs' top 12 executives. In 2011, FHFA approved \$12.79 million in bonus pay for some of the top executives at Fannie and Freddie. Largely in response to this criticism, the GSEs' CEO compensation was capped in 2012 at \$600,000.

Both the U.S. Treasury Department and the White House have also opposed FHFA's decision to raise Fannie and Freddie CEOs' salaries. Specifically, Treasury recommended that "existing limits on compensation continue given the taxpayers' ongoing backstop of both enterprises," while White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest stated that "the reason that these entities are different than some of the financial entities that you see in the private sector is they benefit significantly from a backstop that's

provided by that taxpayers. And because of that taxpayer assistance, I think it is entirely legitimate for the executives of those institutions to be subject to compensation limits." Additionally, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew stated in his June 17, 2015 testimony before the House Financial Services Committee that "the risk is being borne by taxpayers on an ongoing basis and the conservatorship is not over." Despite this opposition, FHFA has once again raised these salaries to \$4 million.

While the recovery of the housing market has helped Fannie and Freddie repay the federal government, and I fully support the private sector compensating its executives as it sees fit, Fannie and Freddie still have taxpayer backing, are not private companies, and should not be compensated as such.

While Congress still must work to enact necessary reforms to our GSEs, FHFA must be accountable and responsible for ensuring the protection of our hardworking taxpayers' dollars. I am committed to eradicating this type of inefficient and ineffective policy and regulation by our federal agencies, and today's Golden Fleece highlights the clear lack of judgement by FHFA in approving these raises. I invite your immediate attention to this issue, and please keep me apprised of your efforts at improvement.

Sincerely,

FRENCH HILL,  
Member of Congress.

Mr. HILL. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew has given his opposition, the White House has provided a statement of opposition, and yet Mel Watt continues. It is for these reasons that I fully support the effort of Mr. ROYCE and Mr. VITTER in capping the compensation until these entities are returned to financial health.

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

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the day where we can work to have a sustainable housing finance system in America, one that is sustainable for homeowners so they are not put into homes they cannot afford to keep; one that is sustainable for our economy, so that we promote economic growth and reduce our tendency to have these recessions; and certainly one sustainable for the taxpayers, because the taxpayers should never ever again be called upon to bail out government-sponsored enterprises to the tune of almost \$200 billion.

Regardless of how effective the current CEOs are of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, \$4 million compensation packages are not part of a sustainable housing finance system. Again, they are under government conservatorship. The taxpayer is still at risk. This does not pass the smell test, it doesn't pass the laugh test, and it certainly doesn't pass the taxpayer protection test.

So I am very happy with the work by the gentleman of California (Mr. ROYCE) that provided the House language that was underpinning the Senate language that we are debating tonight. I am glad that this is bipartisan. I don't often find myself in agreement with the administration, but I am prepared to take "yes" for an answer, and I urge all of my colleagues to adopt this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2036.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SUPERSTORM SANDY RELIEF AND DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 208) to improve the disaster assistance programs of the Small Business Administration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

Senate amendments:

(1) On page 2, strike lines 1 through 5 and insert the following:

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

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the "Recovery Improvements for Small Entities After Disaster Act of 2015" or the "RISE After Disaster Act of 2015".

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

Sec. 1. *Short title; table of contents.*

#### DIVISION A—SUPERSTORM SANDY RELIEF AND DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

Sec. 1001. *Short title.*

Sec. 1002. *Findings.*

#### TITLE I—DISASTER ASSISTANCE IMPROVEMENTS

1101. *Revised disaster deadline.*

1102. *Use of physical damage disaster loans to construct safe rooms.*

1103. *Reducing delays on closing and disbursement of loans.*

1104. *Safeguarding taxpayer interests and increasing transparency in loan approvals.*

1105. *Disaster plan improvements.*

#### DIVISION B—RECOVERY IMPROVEMENTS FOR SMALL ENTITIES

Sec. 2001. *Short title.*

#### TITLE I—IMPROVEMENTS OF DISASTER RESPONSE AND LOANS

Sec. 2101. *Additional awards to small business development centers, women's business centers, and SCORE for disaster recovery.*

Sec. 2102. *Collateral requirements for disaster loans.*

Sec. 2103. *Assistance to out-of-State business concerns to aid in disaster recovery.*

Sec. 2104. *FAST program.*

Sec. 2105. *Use of Federal surplus property in disaster areas.*

Sec. 2106. *Recovery opportunity loans.*

Sec. 2107. *Contractor malfeasance.*

Sec. 2108. *Local contracting preferences and incentives.*

Sec. 2109. *Clarification of collateral requirements.*

#### TITLE II—DISASTER PLANNING AND MITIGATION

Sec. 2201. *Business recovery centers.*

#### TITLE III—OTHER PROVISIONS

Sec. 2301. *Increased oversight of economic injury disaster loans.*

Sec. 2302. GAO report on paperwork reduction.  
Sec. 2303. Report on web portal for disaster loan applicants.

### **DIVISION A—SUPERSTORM SANDY RELIEF AND DISASTER LOAN PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS**

#### **SEC. 1001. SHORT TITLE.**

This division may be cited as the “Superstorm Sandy Relief and Disaster Loan Program Improvement Act of 2015”.

#### **SEC. 1002. FINDINGS.**

(2) On page 3, strike line 5 and insert the following:

#### **TITLE I—DISASTER ASSISTANCE IMPROVEMENTS**

#### **SEC. 1101. REVISED DISASTER DEADLINE.**

(3) On page 3, line 14, insert “nonprofit entity,” after “homeowner.”

(4) On page 4, line 9, strike the quotation marks and the second period and insert the following:

“(C) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—Not later than 6 months after the date on which the Administrator begins carrying out this authority, the Inspector General of the Administration shall initiate a review of the controls for ensuring applicant eligibility for loans made under this paragraph.”

(5) On page 4, line 10, strike “SEC. 4.” and insert “SEC. 1102.”

(6) On page 4, line 24, insert “, if such safe room or similar storm shelter is constructed in accordance with applicable standards issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency” after “disasters”.

(7) On page 5, strike lines 1 through 21 and insert the following:

#### **SEC. 1103. REDUCING DELAYS ON CLOSING AND DISBURSEMENT OF LOANS.**

Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting before the undesignated matter following paragraph (9) the following:

(8) On page 5, line 22, strike “(11)” and insert “(10)”.

(9) On page 6, strike lines 5 through 8 and insert the following:

#### **SEC. 1104. SAFEGUARDING TAXPAYER INTERESTS AND INCREASING TRANSPARENCY IN LOAN APPROVALS.**

Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting before the undesignated matter following paragraph (10), as added by section 1103 of this Act, the following:

(10) On page 6, line 9, strike “(12)” and insert “(11)”.

(11) Beginning on page 6, strike line 14 and all that follows through page 7, line 20, and insert the following:

#### **SEC. 1105. DISASTER PLAN IMPROVEMENTS.**

(12) Beginning on page 8, strike line 6 and all that follows through page 9, line 6, and insert the following:

### **DIVISION B—RECOVERY IMPROVEMENTS FOR SMALL ENTITIES**

#### **SECTION 2001. SHORT TITLE.**

This division may be cited as the “Recovery Improvements for Small Entities After Disaster Act of 2015” or the “RISE After Disaster Act of 2015”.

#### **TITLE I—IMPROVEMENTS OF DISASTER RESPONSE AND LOANS**

#### **SEC. 2101. ADDITIONAL AWARDS TO SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS, WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS, AND SCORE FOR DISASTER RECOVERY.**

Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting before the undesignated matter following paragraph (11), as added by section 1104 of this Act, the following:

“(12) ADDITIONAL AWARDS TO SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS, WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS, AND SCORE FOR DISASTER RECOVERY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administration may provide financial assistance to a small business development center, a women's business center described in section 29, the Service Corps of Retired Executives, or any proposed consortium of such individuals or entities to spur disaster recovery and growth of small business concerns located in an area for which the President has declared a major disaster.

“(B) FORM OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—Financial assistance provided under this paragraph shall be in the form of a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement.

“(C) NO MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED.—Matching funds shall not be required for any grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this paragraph.

“(D) REQUIREMENTS.—A recipient of financial assistance under this paragraph shall provide counseling, training, and other related services, such as promoting long-term resiliency, to small business concerns and entrepreneurs impacted by a major disaster.

“(E) PERFORMANCE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in cooperation with the recipients of financial assistance under this paragraph, shall establish metrics and goals for performance of grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements under this paragraph, which shall include recovery of sales, recovery of employment, reestablishment of business premises, and establishment of new small business concerns.

“(ii) USE OF ESTIMATES.—The Administrator shall base the goals and metrics for performance established under clause (i), in part, on the estimates of disaster impact prepared by the Office of Disaster Assistance for purposes of estimating loan-making requirements.

“(F) TERM.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The term of any grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this paragraph shall be for not more than 2 years.

“(ii) EXTENSION.—The Administrator may make 1 extension of a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this paragraph for a period of not more than 1 year, upon a showing of good cause and need for the extension.

“(G) EXEMPTION FROM OTHER PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—Financial assistance provided under this paragraph is in addition to, and wholly separate from, any other form of assistance provided by the Administrator under this Act.

“(H) COMPETITIVE BASIS.—The Administration shall award financial assistance under this paragraph on a competitive basis.”

#### **SEC. 2102. COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DISASTER LOANS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(d)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(d)(6)) is amended in the third proviso—

(1) by striking “\$14,000” and inserting “\$25,000”; and

(2) by striking “major disaster” and inserting “disaster”.

(b) SUNSET.—Effective on the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, section 7(d)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(d)(6)) is amended in the third proviso—

(1) by striking “\$25,000” and inserting “\$14,000”; and

(2) by inserting “major” before “disaster”.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days before the date on which the amendments made by subsection (b) are to take effect, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall submit to Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the effects of the amendments made by subsection (a), which shall include—

(1) an assessment of the impact and benefits resulting from the amendments; and

(2) a recommendation as to whether the amendments should be made permanent.

#### **SEC. 2103. ASSISTANCE TO OUT-OF-STATE BUSINESS CONCERNS TO AID IN DISASTER RECOVERY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21(b)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(3) At the discretion” and inserting the following:

“(3) ASSISTANCE TO OUT-OF-STATE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—At the discretion of the Administrator, the Administrator may authorize a small business development center to provide advice, information, and assistance, as described in subsection (c), to a small business concern located outside of the State, without regard to geographic proximity to the small business development center, if the small business concern is located in an area for which the President has declared a major disaster.

“(ii) TERM.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—A small business development center may provide advice, information, and assistance to a small business concern under clause (i) for a period of not more than 2 years after the date on which the President declared a major disaster for the area in which the small business concern is located.

“(II) EXTENSION.—The Administrator may, at the discretion of the Administrator, extend the period described in subclause (I).

“(iii) CONTINUITY OF SERVICES.—A small business development center that provides counselors to an area described in clause (i) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure continuity of services in any State in which the small business development center otherwise provides services.

“(iv) ACCESS TO DISASTER RECOVERY FACILITIES.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the Administrator shall, to the maximum extent practicable, permit the personnel of a small business development center to use any site or facility designated by the Administrator for use to provide disaster recovery assistance.”

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, subject to the availability of funds, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration should, to the extent practicable, ensure that a small business development center is appropriately reimbursed for any legitimate expenses incurred in carrying out activities under section 21(b)(3)(B) of the Small Business Act, as added by subsection (a).

#### **SEC. 2104. FAST PROGRAM.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 34(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657d(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (9) as paragraphs (4) through (10), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) CATASTROPHIC INCIDENT.—The term ‘catastrophic incident’ means a major disaster that is comparable to the description of a catastrophic incident in the National Response Plan of the Administration, or any successor thereto.”

(b) PRIORITY.—Section 34(c)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657d(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B)(vi)(III), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) shall give special consideration to an applicant that is located in an area affected by a catastrophic incident.”

(c) ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Section 34(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657d(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR CATASTROPHIC INCIDENTS.—Upon application by an applicant that receives an award or has in effect a cooperative agreement under this section and that is located in an area affected by a catastrophic incident, the Administrator may—

“(A) provide additional assistance to the applicant; and

“(B) waive the matching requirements under subsection (e)(2).”

**SEC. 2105. USE OF FEDERAL SURPLUS PROPERTY IN DISASTER AREAS.**

Section 7(j)(13)(F) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(j)(13)(F)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “(i)” after “(F)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii)(I) In this clause—

“(aa) the term ‘covered period’ means the 2-year period beginning on the date on which the President declared the applicable major disaster; and

“(bb) the term ‘disaster area’ means the area for which the President has declared a major disaster, during the covered period.

“(II) The Administrator may transfer technology or surplus property under clause (i) on a priority basis to a small business concern located in a disaster area if—

“(aa) the small business concern meets the requirements for such a transfer, without regard to whether the small business concern is a Program Participant; and

“(bb) for a small business concern that is a Program Participant, on and after the date on which the President declared the applicable major disaster, the small business concern has not received property under this subparagraph on the basis of the status of the small business concern as a Program Participant.

“(III) For any transfer of property under this clause to a small business concern, the terms and conditions shall be the same as a transfer to a Program Participant, except that the small business concern shall agree not to sell or transfer the property to any party other than the Federal Government during the covered period.

“(IV) A small business concern that receives a transfer of property under this clause may not receive a transfer of property under clause (i) during the covered period.

“(V) If a small business concern sells or transfers property in violation of the agreement described in subclause (III), the Administrator may initiate proceedings to prohibit the small business concern from receiving a transfer of property under this clause or clause (i), in addition to any other remedy available to the Administrator.”

**SEC. 2106. RECOVERY OPPORTUNITY LOANS.**

Section 7(a)(31) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(31)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by redesignating clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) as clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv), respectively; and

(B) by inserting before clause (ii), as so redesignated, the following:

“(i) The term ‘disaster area’ means the area for which the President has declared a major disaster, during the 5-year period beginning on the date of the declaration.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(H) RECOVERY OPPORTUNITY LOANS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may guarantee an express loan to a small business concern located in a disaster area in accordance with this subparagraph.

“(ii) MAXIMUMS.—For a loan guaranteed under clause (i)—

“(I) the maximum loan amount is \$150,000; and

“(II) the guarantee rate shall be not more than 85 percent.

“(iii) OVERALL CAP.—A loan guaranteed under clause (i) shall not be counted in determining the amount of loans made to a borrower for purposes of subparagraph (D).

“(iv) OPERATIONS.—A small business concern receiving a loan guaranteed under clause (i) shall certify that the small business concern was in operation on the date on which the applicable major disaster occurred as a condition of receiving the loan.

“(v) REPAYMENT ABILITY.—A loan guaranteed under clause (i) may only be made to a small

business concern that demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the Administrator, sufficient capacity to repay the loan.

“(vi) TIMING OF PAYMENT OF GUARANTEES.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which a request for purchase is filed with the Administrator, the Administrator shall determine whether to pay the guaranteed portion of the loan.

“(II) RECAPTURE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, unless there is a subsequent finding of fraud by a court of competent jurisdiction relating to a loan guaranteed under clause (i), on and after the date that is 6 months after the date on which the Administrator determines to pay the guaranteed portion of the loan, the Administrator may not attempt to recapture the paid guarantee.

“(vii) FEES.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Unless the Administrator has waived the guarantee fee that would otherwise be collected by the Administrator under paragraph (18) for a loan guaranteed under clause (i), and except as provided in subclause (II), the guarantee fee for the loan shall be equal to the guarantee fee that the Administrator would collect if the guarantee rate for the loan was 50 percent.

“(II) EXCEPTION.—Subclause (I) shall not apply if the cost of carrying out the program under this subsection in a fiscal year is more than zero and such cost is directly attributable to the cost of guaranteeing loans under clause (i).

“(viii) RULES.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this subparagraph, the Administrator shall promulgate rules to carry out this subparagraph.”

**SEC. 2107. CONTRACTOR MALFEASANCE.**

Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting before the undesignated matter following paragraph (12), as added by section 2101 of this Act, the following:

“(13) SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR CONTRACTOR MALFEASANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If a contractor or other person engages in malfeasance in connection with repairs to, rehabilitation of, or replacement of real or personal property relating to which a loan was made under this subsection and the malfeasance results in substantial economic damage to the recipient of the loan or substantial risks to health or safety, upon receiving documentation of the substantial economic damage or the substantial risk to health and safety from an independent loss verifier, and subject to subparagraph (B), the Administrator may increase the amount of the loan under this subsection, as necessary for the cost of repairs, rehabilitation, or replacement needed to address the cause of the economic damage or health or safety risk.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The Administrator may only increase the amount of a loan under subparagraph (A) upon receiving an appropriate certification from the borrower and person performing the mitigation attesting to the reasonableness of the mitigation costs and an assignment of any proceeds received from the person engaging in the malfeasance. The assignment of proceeds recovered from the person engaging in the malfeasance shall be equal to the amount of the loan under this section. Any mitigation activities shall be subject to audit and independent verification of completeness and cost reasonableness.”

**SEC. 2108. LOCAL CONTRACTING PREFERENCES AND INCENTIVES.**

Section 15 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644) is amended by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f) CONTRACTING PREFERENCE FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS IN A MAJOR DISASTER AREA.—

“(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘disaster area’ means the area for which the

President has declared a major disaster, during the period of the declaration.

“(2) CONTRACTING PREFERENCE.—An agency shall provide a contracting preference for a small business concern located in a disaster area if the small business concern will perform the work required under the contract in the disaster area.

“(3) CREDIT FOR MEETING CONTRACTING GOALS.—If an agency awards a contract to a small business concern under the circumstances described in paragraph (2), the value of the contract shall be doubled for purposes of determining compliance with the goals for procurement contracts under subsection (g)(1)(A).”

**SEC. 2109. CLARIFICATION OF COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS.**

Section 7(d)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(d)(6)) is amended by inserting after “which are made under paragraph (1) of subsection (b)” the following: “: Provided further, That the Administrator, in obtaining the best available collateral for a loan of not more than \$200,000 under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (b) relating to damage to or destruction of the property of, or economic injury to, a small business concern, shall not require the owner of the small business concern to use the primary residence of the owner as collateral if the Administrator determines that the owner has other assets of equal quality and with a value equal to or greater than the amount of the loan that could be used as collateral for the loan: Provided further, That nothing in the preceding proviso may be construed to reduce the amount of collateral required by the Administrator in connection with a loan described in the preceding proviso or to modify the standards used to evaluate the quality (rather than the type) of such collateral”.

**TITLE II—DISASTER PLANNING AND MITIGATION**

**SEC. 2201. BUSINESS RECOVERY CENTERS.**

Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting before the undesignated matter following paragraph (13), as added by section 2108 of this Act, the following:

“(14) BUSINESS RECOVERY CENTERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, acting through the district offices of the Administration, shall identify locations that may be used as recovery centers by the Administration in the event of a disaster declared under this subsection or a major disaster.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS FOR IDENTIFICATION.—Each district office of the Administration shall—

“(i) identify a location described in subparagraph (A) in each county, parish, or similar unit of general local government in the area served by the district office; and

“(ii) ensure that the locations identified under subparagraph (A) may be used as a recovery center without cost to the Government, to the extent practicable.”

**TITLE III—OTHER PROVISIONS**

**SEC. 2301. INCREASED OVERSIGHT OF ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is amended by inserting before the undesignated matter following paragraph (14), as added by section 2201 of this Act, the following:

“(15) INCREASED OVERSIGHT OF ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS.—The Administrator shall increase oversight of entities receiving loans under paragraph (2), and may consider—

“(A) scheduled site visits to ensure borrower eligibility and compliance with requirements established by the Administrator; and

“(B) reviews of the use of the loan proceeds by an entity described in paragraph (2) to ensure compliance with requirements established by the Administrator.”

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO USING EXISTING FUNDS.—It is the sense of Congress

that no additional Federal funds should be made available to carry out the amendments made by this section.

**SEC. 2302. GAO REPORT ON PAPERWORK REDUCTION.**

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report evaluating steps that the Small Business Administration has taken, with respect to the application for disaster assistance under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)), to comply with subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the "Paperwork Reduction Act") and related guidance.

**SEC. 2303. REPORT ON WEB PORTAL FOR DISASTER LOAN APPLICANTS.**

Section 38 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657f) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(c) REPORT ON WEB PORTAL FOR DISASTER LOAN APPLICATION STATUS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report relating to the creation of a web portal to track the status of applications for disaster assistance under section 7(b).

"(2) CONTENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include—

"(A) information on the progress of the Administration in implementing the information system under subsection (a);

"(B) recommendations from the Administration relating to the creation of a web portal for applicants to check the status of an application for disaster assistance under section 7(b), including a review of best practices and web portal models from the private sector;

"(C) information on any related costs or staffing needed to implement such a web portal;

"(D) information on whether such a web portal can maintain high standards for data privacy and data security;

"(E) information on whether such a web portal will minimize redundancy among Administration disaster programs, improve management of the number of inquiries made by disaster applicants to employees located in the area affected by the disaster and to call centers, and reduce paperwork burdens on disaster victims; and

"(F) such additional information as is determined necessary by the Administrator."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on July 13, this Chamber overwhelmingly passed H.R. 208,

which was a corrective measure for those who suffered twice: first, by a disaster and, second, by the SBA's inability to provide disaster assistance. Since that time, we have experienced more natural disasters, with the President issuing major disaster declarations for the wildfires in California and across the country in South Carolina for the severe storms and flooding that recently occurred.

As we know too well, a major natural disaster can happen anywhere, at any time, and to anyone in this great Nation. A natural disaster exposes us to the worst nature has to offer, yet it oftentimes brings out the best in people. Communities band together, neighbors help neighbors, and volunteers donate their time and energy, all in an effort to rebuild.

Over the last decade, America has faced some of its worst natural disasters, with Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and, more recently, Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

In the aftermath of any disaster, it is imperative that Federal Government programs operate efficiently and effectively so victims are able to rebuild and return their lives to normal as soon as possible.

Following both Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Sandy, there have been startling reports regarding the Small Business Administration's inability to properly administer the disaster loan program. The bill before us today, as amended by the Senate, has the great fortune of being authored by two individuals who have seen firsthand how challenging the SBA disaster loan process is in the aftermath of these catastrophic storms.

The amendment we seek to concur in today comes from Senator VITTER, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, who, as we all know, represents the great State of Louisiana, which was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Senator VITTER's amendment strengthens the already strong underlying bill, which was authored by our committee's ranking member, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, whose district in New York City was ravaged by Superstorm Sandy.

I would like to thank them both for their leadership and hard work on these issues and for working together to craft legislation which takes into account the needs of disaster victims and taxpayers.

□ 2015

This amendment further ensures that the SBA will be able to respond quickly to the needs of disaster victims. It makes commonsense improvements to the program, such as allowing SBA's resource partners who already have a presence in the disaster area to engage with small businesses as soon as the area is declared a disaster, meaning small businesses can resume operating faster and getting people back to work.

It also recognizes that sometimes those resource partners will have been

affected by the disaster and allows small-business development centers, SBDCs, from other States to go into affected areas temporarily and to aid victims. I know in my home district, Ohio's First District, having Kentucky so close, this would be essential if either State's SBDC suffered due to a natural disaster.

Further, the amendment builds on the underlying bill's concerns regarding the SBA's struggle with electronic disaster loan applications following Superstorm Sandy. This amendment ensures that Congress will be informed of the status of the electronic application web portal so that we can provide oversight and prevent failures that happened in previous disasters from recurring. These changes, among others, will ensure that the SBA is fully capable of responding to the next disaster.

Again, I want to offer a special thanks to our committee's ranking member, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, for her insight and leadership on this issue and for working in a bipartisan, bicameral manner, as she does.

I have seen that as chair of the Small Business Committee that I chair now, but I have also been the ranking member under her when she was chair, and it was always bipartisan. We have worked together in a very collegial manner, and I thank her for that.

I want to thank her for this bill and developing it. It will help to ensure those affected by disasters can rebuild quickly and that the interests of the taxpayers are protected. This legislation, as amended and passed by the Senate, has broad bipartisan support.

I urge my colleagues to support and concur on H.R. 208, as amended by the Senate.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, when Hurricane Sandy made landfall in 2012, New York City was one of the hardest hit areas. Thousands of homes suffered damage, infrastructure was disrupted, and our city's small businesses were impacted physically and economically.

After a disaster like this, it is not uncommon for as many as 40 percent of impacted small businesses to fail, depressing commerce and slowing the community's recovery.

The Small Business Administration's disaster lending functions are meant to provide quick credit to small businesses and homeowners that have been impacted by catastrophes.

With entrepreneurs' and homeowners' livelihoods at stake, it is vital that the SBA's disaster programs operate effectively. That is why in 2008, after Katrina, Congress passed reforms meant to improve SBA's disaster response.

It became evident following Hurricane Sandy that there is still much work to be done. The Government Accountability Office, the inspector general, and Small Business Committee

Democrats have all documented shortcomings in SBA's administration of the disaster loan program.

Our committee found, for instance, that small businesses waited 46 days to get their application processed by SBA, a threefold increase over previous Atlantic storms. The IG found the agency lacked clear guidance which resulted in confusion for borrowers, inconsistent application of underwriting criteria, and loans going to ineligible entities.

H.R. 208 addresses these shortcomings and ensures those affected by Hurricane Sandy are treated fairly. To begin, the bill would allow businesses to apply again for loans. As SBA was so unprepared for a disaster of this scale, it is important that those impacted have another chance at securing assistance.

This bill would also correct many of the problems identified by the IG. SBA will be required to provide up-front notification to borrowers on necessary documentation as well as establish clear written policies for loan officers. By clearing up confusion for both borrowers and SBA staff, H.R. 208 will ensure funds flow more swiftly to businesses after future catastrophes.

Lastly, the measure incorporates a number of bipartisan reforms from our Senate colleagues. Under these provisions, for instance, businesses would no longer be prohibited from posting their assets as collateral. This is important as, previously, many entrepreneurs have had to use personal assets for loan collateral.

Mr. Speaker, this is a truly bipartisan, bicameral effort that focuses on better assisting small businesses impacted by natural disasters.

I want to thank Chairman CHABOT for his leadership and support on this legislation. I also wanted to thank Chairman VITTER, Ranking Member SHAHEEN, and Senators MENENDEZ and BOOKER for their hard work in crafting this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

When disasters strike, getting small businesses back on their feet quickly can help local economies recover. For that to happen, the SBA's disaster lending initiatives must work as intended, providing emergency capital to firms that have suffered physical and economical damage.

H.R. 208 would allow businesses that encounter delays to reapply for assistance and be made whole. It also improves how the agency functions going forward, speeding help to small businesses and homeowners when they are most in need. This is a bipartisan bill, and it will do much good for entrepreneurs impacted by Sandy and for businesses impacted by future disasters.

I want to thank Chairman VITTER, Ranking Member SHAHEEN, Senators

MENENDEZ and BOOKER, and especially Chairman CHABOT for working in a bipartisan manner to get this bill to the President.

I also would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for the Senate Small Business Committee and our staff for the House Small Business Committee: Adam Minehardt, Justin Pelletier, Emily Murphy, Barry Pinelas, and Corey Cooke.

I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes."

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we never know when or where the next disaster will strike. But, unfortunately, we do know that there will be another disaster. In fact, there will be more disasters. Given this, we must ensure that the SBA is truly prepared to help victims in the aftermath of those disasters.

H.R. 208 rights the wrongs imposed by the SBA on those who suffered from the effects of Sandy. But H.R. 208 does more than just correct past mistakes. It imposes obligations on the SBA to ensure the agency learns from history and does not repeat those mistakes.

I urge my colleagues to vote to concur on the Senate amendment H.R. 208.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 208.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

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

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, this week is American Education Week.

Today I rise to choose my bill, the Equity and Excellence in American Education Act, which will move us towards a more equitable education funding system. We can wait no longer to act, knowing we are not providing each and every child with a quality education.

My legislation is a starting point to establish equity as a foundational principle of our education system, especially in funding. Each and every child deserves to have an enriched education based on equity. Equity acknowledges all children are different with different needs. Equity means supporting families and students at the beginning with quality preschool and K-5 educational strategies based on equity.

Rather than saying, "What can we do with the funding we traditionally receive?", we instead start with the question, "How much do we need to meet

the needs of each and every child?" and build a system which reflects that funding. This will be a challenge, but one we must take on.

#### HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE NOVEMBER 13, 2015, TERROR ATTACK IN PARIS

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I stand in the well of the House witnessed by the portraits of George Washington and his protege, an invaluable ally to America, the Marquis de Lafayette.

On Friday, November 13, the world watched in horror as they witnessed the terrorist attacks in Paris that claimed the lives of 129 civilians from over 15 different countries.

These brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, friends and loved ones, whose lives were taken away too soon from us and those who were gravely wounded from this attack will not be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their families and friends, and the strong resilient people of France.

This massacre at the hands of barbarous terrorists was an attack on the civilized world, and we will not let these horrific actions stand. We stand strong.

Today the flags at the U.S. Capitol fly at half-staff. We stand in solidarity with France, honor the victims of this attack, and in the call to combat this massing menace, place our undying faith in our two democracies bound together by young Lafayette's faithful and courageous service.

#### HONORING REVEREND RONALD B. CHRISTIAN

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, back in my home State of New Jersey, we had the honor of having a going-home celebration for a remarkable individual from my community. He was known as Reverend Ron. His name was Ronald B. Christian.

Reverend Ron's ministry was unique because Reverend Ron looked at the least of us and took them in without judgment to help them with their ills, whether they have drug issues or issues with the criminal justice system.

He never, never judged because he had seen the worst that life could show you because he had gone through some of it himself. And one day God stood him up and said: Now serve my people.

This great man passed away several weeks ago, but I wanted to honor him on the floor of the United States Congress. He was a unique individual. He was one of God's children.

On the outside of his church, it said "Sinners welcome," and he never wavered, and he never turned his back.