September 8, 2017
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE
H7191

for those who oppose the Republican majority’s agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. SESSIONS. 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 resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**REINFORCING EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY IN DEVELOPMENT ACT**

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 509, I call up the bill (H.R. 601) to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of assistance provided under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to promote quality basic education in developing countries, to better enable such countries to achieve universal access to quality basic education and improved learning outcomes, to eliminate duplication and overstates, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment to the House 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 thereto, and ask for its immediate consideration.

Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment.

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

“(C) there is the greatest opportunity to reduce childhood and adolescence exposure to or engagement in violent extremism or extremist ideologies.”

**DIVISION B—SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER RELIEF REQUIREMENTS**

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 instrumentalities of Government for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes, namely:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

For an additional amount for “Disaster Relief Fund” for expenses declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), $7,400,000,000, to remain available until expended:

(1) the face amount of obligations issued during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on December 9, 2017.

(2) the face amount of such obligations outstanding on December 9, 2017, shall not apply for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on December 9, 2017.

SEC. 101. (a) In General.—Section 310(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall not apply for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on December 9, 2017.

(b) Special Rule Relating to Obligations Issued During Extension Period.—Effective December 9, 2017, the face amount of such obligations outstanding on December 9, 2017, shall not apply for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on December 9, 2017.

SEC. 102. (a) Extension Limited to Necessary Obligations.—An obligation shall not be taken into account under section 101(a) unless the issuance
the applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2017 and under the authority and conditions provided in such Acts. (1) The commencement of operations, projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this Act, that is, fiscal year 2017, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the following appropriations Acts:

SEC. 101. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary, at a rate for operations as provided in the applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2017 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 is, fiscal year 2017, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the following appropriations Acts:


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 agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2018, 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 2017 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 is, fiscal year 2017, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the following appropriations Acts:


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(b) Notwithstanding section 101, the third proviso under the heading “Power Marketing Administrations—Operation and Maintenance, Western Area Power Administration,” in division D of Public Law 115–31 shall be applied by substituting “$31,000,000” for “$31,000,000.”

SEC. 123. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, the District of Columbia may expend local funds under the heading “Department of the Interior—National Park Service Operations—Children and Families Services Programs” in division A of Public Law 115–31 to carry out programs and activities under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2017, as included in the Fiscal Year 2018 Local Budget Act of 2017 (D.C. Act 22–99), as modified as of September 30, 2017.

SEC. 124. (a) Funds made available by section 101 for “Department of Energy—Energy Programs— Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund” may be appropriated up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain the schedule and deliver the required data according to statutory deadlines in the 2020 Decennial Census Program.

(b) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees of both Houses of Representatives and the Senate no later than 3 days after each use of the authority provided in this subsection.


SEC. 126. Amounts made available by section 101 for “U.S. Customs and Border Protection Operations and Support”,”U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Operations and Support”, “Transportation Security Administration—Operations and Support”, and “United States Secret Service—Operations and Support” shall be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain not less than the number of staff achieved on September 30, 2017.

SEC. 127. 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. 128. Section 404 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–281; 124 Stat. 2950), as amended, shall be applied in subsection (c) of section 106(3) for “September 30, 2017.”

SEC. 129. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Homeland Security—Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief Fund” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to carry out response and recovery activities under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

SEC. 130. Sections 1309(a) and 1319 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4016(a) and 4026) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2017.”


SEC. 132. The authority provided by subsection (m)(3) of section 8162 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2000 (40 U.S.C. 3903 note; Public Law 106–79) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 133. In addition to the amounts otherwise provided,”the amount specified in subsection (d) shall be applied for “Environmental Protection Agency—Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program Account” for administrative expenses and for guaranteed loan programs, not to exceed $503 million of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, at a rate for operations of $7,000,000,000.

SEC. 134. (a) The following sections of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution:

(1) subparagraphs (C) through (E) of section 4 of Public Law 114–95 (7 U.S.C. 136a–1(c));

(2) section 4(c)(3) (7 U.S.C. 136a–1(c)(3));

(3) section 4(k)(4) (7 U.S.C. 136a–1(k)(4)); and

(4) section 33(c)(3)(B) (7 U.S.C. 136w–8(c)(3)(B)).

(b) (1) Section 4(i)(1) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136a–1(e)(1)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution for “September 30, 2017.”

(2) Notwithstanding section 33(m)(2) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136w–8(m)(2)), section 33(m)(1) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 136w–8(m)(1)) shall be applied by the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution for “September 30, 2017.”

(c) Section 408(m)(3) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 346a(m)(3)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution for “September 30, 2017.”

SEC. 135. Section 114(d) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011(c)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this joint resolution for “September 30, 2017.”

SEC. 136. The second proviso under the heading “Department of the Interior—National Park Service—Operation and Maintenance” in division G of Public Law 115–31 shall be applied during the period covered by this Act if the following were struck from such proviso: “(I), of which $80,000,000 shall be available for a cost of living adjustment not-withstanding section 640(a)(3)(A) of such Act.”

SEC. 137. The proviso at the end of paragraph (1) under the heading “Department of Labor—Employment and Training—State Unemployment Insurance and Employment Service Operations” in title I of division G of Public Law 113–235 shall be applied through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act by substituting “seven” for “six.”

SEC. 138. In making Federal financial assistance, the National Institutes of Health shall continue through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act to apply the provisions relating to indirect costs in part 75 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations, including with respect to approval of deviations from negotiated rates, to the same extent and in the same manner as the National Institutes of Health applied such provisions in the third quarter of fiscal year 2017. None of the funds provided in this Act may be used to develop or implement a modified approach to such provisions, or to intentionally or substantially expand the fiscal effect of the approval of such deviations negotiated beyond the proportional effect of such approvals in such quarter.

SEC. 139. (a) Section 529 of division H of Public Law 114–95 shall be applied by substituting “prior to the beginning of fiscal year 2018 under section 2104(n)(3)” for “from the appropriation to the Fund for the first semiannual allotment period for fiscal year 2017 under section 2104(n)(2)(A)(ii)”;

(b) section 533 of division G of Public Law 115–31 shall be applied by substituting “$2,552,000,000” for “$1,132,000,000.”

SEC. 140. Notwithstanding 2 U.S.C. 4577, amounts made available by section 101 for “Legislative Branch—Salaries and Expenses—Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain current Senate cybersecurity capabilities.

SEC. 141. (a) The remaining unobligated balances of funds made available under the heading “Department of Veterans Affairs—Department Administration—Major Projects” in division A of the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 and Sandy Recovery
Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a Senate amendment to H.R. 601. As Texas and Louisiana begin the first steps of recovery from Hurricane Harvey, Congress must ensure that the funding is available to meet the short- and long-term needs of the hundreds of thousands of victims of that terrible storm. As we are all seeing unfold before our eyes, the next hurricanes could cause even more terrible devastation. This legislation is the first step in what will be long and difficult recoveries.

As our fellow Americans recover and rebuild their lives, we must come together to support the victims, the volunteers, the first responders on the ground from around the Nation, and Congress must ensure that the Federal Government provides the help they need.

With FEMA resources running low and Hurricane Irma on Florida’s and the South’s door, providing this additional funding is critical. As I said before, our committee is ready and willing to address any additional funding needs that may arise as a result of Hurricane Harvey, Irma, and other major disasters.

In addition to providing this desperately needed emergency aid, this bill also extends funding for the entire Federal Government operations until December 8 of this year. This continuing resolution will ensure that the Federal Government remains open for business and that important programs and services are maintained beyond the end of the fiscal year on the 30th of this month.

While I don’t believe that a continuing resolution is the best way to fund our government, it is imperative to give us time to go to conference and complete our 12 full-year appropriations bills with the Senate. It is essential that all of these bills be signed into law and that our Nation avoids the uncertainty caused by a threat of a shutdown.

In addition, the bill also contains a short-term increase in the Federal debt limit and a reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program. All of these actions will allow for more certainty and stability for the Nation and for the communities and families suffering from these disasters. I urge my colleagues—and may I say I do that knowing that I have the full support of a member, Mrs. LOWEY, who I have had the pleasure of working with.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER), the chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the supplemental bill for Hurricane Harvey relief. This bill will provide initial funding to begin the process of rebuilding and recovery for those severely affected by these devastating storms. This supplemental bill is not only a critical first step to provide basic needs of food, shelter, and water for those in immediate need, but it also provides initial funding to begin the process of rebuilding and recovery for those communities devastated by Hurricane Harvey.

Further resources and hard work will be required. I will continue to work closely alongside my colleagues and the Appropriations Committee to meet the present and emerging needs of our neighbors across the South. My thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by these devastating storms. This bill addresses the urgent needs of those affected by Hurricane Harvey. It sends a powerful message to all that we are here for them and we will be working hard for their immediate and long-term recovery. Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage a vote on this bill.

As an aside, I grew up in Houston, Texas. I was born there, I grew up there. I remember floods, but I never remember floods that washed away people’s homes and their livelihood. This is a once-in-a-lifetime situation down there, may we all pray, and it is time to get it done.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. JACKSON Lee).

Ms. JACKSON Lee. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the supplemental appropriations for disaster relief, and I
thank the appropriators and all of my colleagues. I reflect on the bipartisan meeting of our Texas delegation. We said we would not be divided and we would not be divided amongst our friends from Florida and those who may be affected by Hurricane Irma.

I do want to acknowledge that when we got up that Sunday morning and 12 inches had fallen at that time, part of the 50 inches of the most catastrophic storm on the Continental United States, Hurricane Harvey, we saw the lives of people shatter—some were dead, some were in shelters as these pictures depict. The road to recovery is going to be long.

I introduced a $174 billion hurricane appropriations bill to be able to address Hurricane Harvey. I am grateful for the $15.3 billion that gives us money for housing. That is the greatest need, along with the infrastructure, and if we can begin to expedite those dollars into our cities and counties, our mayors and county leaders will be grateful.

There are people who are homeless now, there are people whose homes are in despair, there are people who do not have insurance. The reason is because these individuals were flooded in a 500-year flood area and 1,000-year flood area. It is important to note at the same time, Mr. Speaker, that these individuals are elderly and disabled.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 601, which authorized $13.3 billion in supplemental appropriations as the Congress’s initial response to the massive damage inflicted on Southeast Texas and Louisiana by Hurricane Harvey and authorizes appropriations to continue funding for federal government operations through December 8, 2017.

The legislation also suspends the current $19.8 trillion limit on federal borrowing through December 8, 2017, which will enable the Treasury to continue to borrow money to pay bills, and set the new debt limit as the amount reflected in all outstanding U.S. debt as of December 9, 2017.

I also strongly support the legislation before us because it extends through December 8, 2017, FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which offers insurance policies to property owners in areas with significant flood risks.

The bill authorizes FEMA to borrow as much as $30.4 billion from the Treasury general fund if it does not collect sufficient revenue from premiums and surcharges to cover claims payments.

Without this extension, FEMA would not be able to issue new flood insurance policies after September 30, 2017, and its borrowing authority will be reduced to $1.5 billion.

That would be particularly devastating to many of the constituents I represent who have or will be seeking flood insurance policies under the FEMA Flood Insurance Program.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend the bipartisan leadership of both chambers for the speed with which the Hurricane Harvey relief package and the FY2018 Continuing Resolution was negotiated, drafted, and shepherded to the floor.

These bills serve for the major challenges that must be met and overcome if the victims of Hurricane Harvey are to recover from the storm’s awful wrath and rebuild their decimated communities.

I thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Ranking Member LOWEY, and Speaker RYAN and Democratic Leader PELOSI, and their Senate counterparts because this initial Hurricane Harvey aid package sends a strong signal to the people of Texas and Louisiana that the American people stand in solidarity with them in their moment of heartbreak and anguish.

On Wednesday, September 6, 2017, the House approved $7.85 billion for relief efforts in Texas and Louisiana, consisting of $7.4 billion for the FEMA Disaster Recovery Fund (DRF) and $450 million for the SBA Disaster Loan program.

To this amount the Senate added $7.4 billion in funds to be distributed to states and communities through HUD’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. These CDBG funds can be used for disaster relief, long-term recovery, infrastructure restoration, and economic revitalization.

FEMA’s DRF funding is mostly allocated for three programs:

1. Public Assistance Program, which helps communities cover the costs of repairing and replacing public buildings, infrastructure, and utilities, as well as emergency costs for debris removal and other needs;

2. Individual Assistance Program, which provides funding for temporary housing, property repairs, medical treatment, moving costs, and other needs; and

3. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which offers funding to reduce damages from future disasters.

Typically, FEMA covers 75 percent of the costs for DRF projects so I am very pleased that the President agreed that in the unprecedented circumstances of this case, a higher reimbursement level was warranted and acceded to my request that FEMA be authorized and directed to reimburse Harris County and other affected local governments 90 percent for debris removal, include indirect Federal assistance; and 100 percent for emergency protective measures for 30 days from the start of the incident period and at 90% thereafter.

Mr. Speaker, it is not an exaggeration to regard as unprecedented the damage wrought on Southeast Texas by Hurricane Harvey beginning 14 days ago, on August 25, 2017, when it made landfall for the first time in the state of Texas, just north of the city of Corpus Christi.

Before it was finished, Hurricane Harvey dropped 21 trillion gallons of rainfall on Texas and Louisiana, most of it on the Houston Metropole.

To put in perspective the devastation wrought by Hurricane Harvey, the volume of water that fell on Houston and other affected areas of Texas and Louisiana could fill more than 24,000 Astrodomes or supply the water for the raging Niagara Falls for 15 days.

Whole sections of Houston, Beaumont, Bayou City, Galveston, and other cities were underwater for days.

Hurricane Harvey was a 1,000 year storm that has to date claimed the lives of at least 30 persons, including a 34-year veteran of the Houston Police Department and a family of six who perished in Greens Bayou while trying to evacuate their flooded home and community.

It also claimed the life of a Dreamer, Alonso Guileen, a young Houstonian who came to Texas from Mexico as a teenager, and who died when his boat capsized while he was rescuing survivors of the flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey.

Neither Houston nor any city in the nation has ever experienced flooding of the magnitude caused by Hurricane Harvey.

The statistics are staggering:

- 21 trillion gallons of rainfall fell in Texas and Louisiana in the first five days of the storm.

- The estimated maximum sustained winds exceeded 130 miles per hour as the hurricane made landfall near Rockport, Texas on August 25.

A record 4,323 days, which is nearly 12 years, elapsed since a major hurricane (Category 3 or above) made landfall in the United States prior to Hurricane Harvey; the last Category 3 hurricane to hit the United States was Hurricane Wilma in 2005, the same year Hurricane Katrina destroyed much of New Orleans.

The city of Cedar Bayou received 51.88 inches of rainfall, breaking the record for rainfall from a single storm in the continental United States; my city of Houston received more than 50 inches of rainfall.

More than 13,000 people have been rescued in the Houston area and more than 30,000 persons are expected to be forced out of their homes due to the storm.

More than 8,800 federal personnel were still deployed to help with Hurricane Harvey, supplying approximately 2.9 million meals, 2.8 million liters of water, 37,000 tarps, and 130 generators.

In the first three days of the storm, more than 49,000 homes that had suffered flood damage and more than 1,000 homes were completely destroyed in the storm.

And today, two weeks later, thousands of Texans are still without permanent and stable housing situations.

That is why the additional $7.4 billion in CDBG funding provided in the legislation is desperately needed.

Mr. Speaker, valiant emergency responders in my state worked to exhaustion, with an invaluable assist from citizen volunteers, to rescue their neighbors and save lives.

That is who Texans are and this is what we do.

We do not yet know the full cost in human lives exacted by Hurricane Harvey.

But what we do know is that the costs of recovery and reconstruction will far exceed any natural disaster in memory; best estimates place the cost in the range of $150-200 billion.

Mr. Speaker, there is much more work to be done in my city of Houston, and across the areas affected by the terrible, awesome storm that will be forever known simply as Hurricane Harvey.

That is why I strongly support the legislation pending before us appropriation $15.3 billion as the initial response of the Congress to the damage caused by an epic storm.

I must emphasize that what we are considering here is the initial response because much more funding will be needed for Houston—the nation’s fourth largest city—and Southeast Texas to recover and rebuild.

And it is also why I have introduced, joined by more than 40 House colleagues, H.R. 3686, the Hurricane Sandy Supplemental Appropriations Act, which, when passed by Congress and signed into law, would provide $174 billion in aid to assist the areas affected by
Hurricane Harvey recover, rebuild, and restore their communities to their previous greatness.

I urge all Members to join me in support of H.R. 601 and to commit to providing our fellow Americans in Texas and Louisiana all of the help and support they need to restore their communities to their previous greatness.

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL).

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, as I stand in support of this legislation, it is important to acknowledge that it not only addresses the needs of the residents who are cleaning up after Harvey, but it ensures that we will also avoid a future default on the full faith and credit of the United States.

What is important about this moment is the following: We are adhering to what is known as the national principle, and the national principle means that, if there is an earthquake in California, we rise to the aid of the people of California. If there is a hurricane in Texas, we rise to the aid of the people in Texas. If there is a tornado in Springfield, Massachusetts, as there was a few years ago, we all come to the aid of the people of Springfield, Massachusetts. If there were horrific forest fires in the State of Alabama, as happened a few years ago, we all come to the aid of the people of Alabama.

Now, why is that important? Because we don’t check gender, and we don’t check race, and we don’t say: Is it a blue State or a red State or what is the political affiliation of those who are affected?

Instead, we say: The national principle ensures that this is about the American family in moments of great challenge and great difficulty, and we don’t use the opportunity to remind people of what the budget might look like at that moment. Instead, we come to their assistance and we figure out how to pay for it later on.

So on this occasion, there is a very important consideration that is married, and it includes the idea that, with the Trump administration and congressional Republicans and Democrats on this side, we are going to not only do what we are supposed to do in terms of raising the national debt, but we will come to the assistance of members of the American family, as I, a moment ago, described.

Now, let me point out something else as well. We need to stop playing games with the national debt limit. We had tax cuts here in 2001 and 2003 that cut Federal revenue to 15 percent of gross domestic product, despite the fact that the historic postwar norm average is closer to 18.5 cents on the dollar—a reasonable expenditure. But instead, as those numbers slipped to 15 percent, the argument became somehow that it was about future payments.

The argument over the debt limit is about expenses incurred, what we have obligated ourselves to with veterans benefits, a war in Afghanistan, a war in Iraq, a war in Iraq. And even though we were voting against the war in Iraq, we need to come to the aid of those veterans and those veterans hospitals, and we need to come to the assistance of those 1 million new veterans who were created because of it. And again, note, is it a blue State expenditure? Is it a red State expenditure? It is about the national principle.

The idea that we would cast doubt on the full faith and credit of the United States to earn a few political points and to try to convince people that this is about future spending, it is not about future spending. This is about the credit card having come due for, in most instances, reasonable expenditures, the length of which includes the obligations we have to Social Security, Medicare, and our senior citizens.

So this agreement that we have rendered today is a reasonable and sensible agreement before the next election and we should use this as an example and as a template for what we might do going forward to address many of the challenges that are going to confront the American people.

And be assured of this: Whether it is in Florida or it is in Houston, the expenditure requirements here are going to bulge, and we should not be dismissive of that. So raise the debt limit and come to the aid of the American family today.

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

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask for adoption of H.R. 601 to move funds quickly to those in need, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THORNBERY. Mr. Speaker, I support providing immediate emergency assistance for those affected by recent natural disasters and was glad to vote for such a bill earlier this week. I believe that raising the debt limit for only three months is a mistake because it does not provide the certainty that financial markets and our economy need.

But most concerning to me, and the reason I am voting against this bill, is that it forces our military to operate under a stopgap continuing resolution—once again.

Continuing resolutions do enormous, lasting damage to the American military. We are witnessing an alarming increase in accidents, growing evidence of a force under stress, and an eroding technological position when compared with our adversaries. Not only does this bill fail to remedy those problems, it makes them worse.

This bill, like other CRs, allows no new starts—the Pentagon must spend the same money on the same things as last year. But the world is not standing still. In fact, the threats from North Korea and others grow every day. Yet, this CR prevents us from responding.

The Constitution places on Congress the responsibility to “raise and support”, “provide and maintain” the military forces of the United States. It is morally wrong for our nation to send brave men and women out on mission—even routine training or operations—without the very best equipment, the very best training, the very best support our country can provide. The dysfunction in the budget process means that we have not provided them with the best and that we have not been meeting our responsibilities. This bill is more of the same.

There is plenty of blame to go around between both parties and both the Executive and Legislative branches of government. But this negligence must stop. We must fulfill our duty. We must do better.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the hundreds of thousands of victims of Hurricane Harvey in Houston and Harris County and all along the Texas Gulf Coast, and urge Congress to immediately pass the $15.25 billion dollar emergency aid bill before us today.

For six days, the Texas Gulf Coast was hammered by Hurricane Harvey, bringing destruction beyond anything witnessed in living memory in our state.

The storm dropped four feet of rain on Greater Houston. Over 100,000 homes and residences were flooded in Harris County alone. Authorities believe at least 70 Texans were killed due to Harvey, and that number will continue to rise.

Houstonians and Texans are a proud and independent people. We take pride in our can-do attitude, as witnessed by our brave first responders and countless volunteers who rescued neighbors during the worst of the flooding.

Full recovery from this unprecedented disaster will take years, but right now we need Congress to pass this emergency relief bill that will help the people of Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast sustain current relief efforts and onto the road to recovery.

God bless America and God bless Texas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 509, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the motion by the gentlelwoman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN).

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. 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 agreeing to the motion to concur will be followed by a 5-minute vote on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 316, nays 90, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 480]

YEAS—316

Blum [NJ]

Adams Blumenauer

Barragan [CA]

Bass Blumenthal

Beatty [OH]

Berea [OH]

Berman Rost

Beyer Boyle, Brendan

Bish 9A F

Bish [MI]

Barletta Bishop (UT)

Brady (PA)

Brady (TX)

Allen Arrington

Abraham Beyer

Adams Arrington

Aguilar Bish 9A

Anderholt Bish [MI]

Allen Barletta

Amodei Bish [MI]

Boyle, Brendan Arrington

Bishop (GA) Brady (PA)

Bishop (MI) Brady (TX)

* Remarks by the Speaker are not printed in the Record.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 504 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3554, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes.

Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROYDNEY DAVIS) kindly take the chair.

In the Committee of the Whole

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3554) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, with Mr. ROYDNEY DAVIS of Illinois (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, September 7, 2017, amendment No. 68 printed in House Report 115-297 offered by the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. LAMBORN) had been disposed of.

Announcement by the Acting Chair

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 115-297 on which further proceedings were postponed in the following order:

Amendment No. 55 by Mrs. BLACKBURN of Tennessee.
Amendment No. 56 by Mr. PALMER of Alabama.
Amendment No. 57 by Mr. CARRAJAL of California.
Amendment No. 63 by Mr. PEARCE of New Mexico.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote in this series.

Amendment No. 55 offered by Mrs. BLACKBURN of Tennessee.

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) on which further proceedings were postponed in the following order:

Amendment No. 55 by Mrs. BLACKBURN of Tennessee.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 1, rule 1, the Journal stands approved.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FERGUSON). The unfinished business is the question on agreement 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 1, the Journal stands approved.