

placing at risk the timely funding of our troops. Defense appropriations bills are historically the most protected type of legislation considered by the United States Congress. The Defense bill is usually the first piece of appropriations legislation passed by the House and Senate, and its language is kept clean from unnecessary and non-germane add-ons and amendments. That is why the addition of ANWR was so surprising to so many Members.

Prior to the vote earlier this week, I wrote a letter to the Rules Committee chairman expressing in the strongest terms possible my opposition and disappointment at the decision to place ANWR in the bill before the House. Mr. Speaker, I was not alone in my concern. Prior to Senate debate on the House-approved Defense bill, a group of high-ranking officers, including General Anthony Zinni, United States Marine Corps, sent a letter stating their concern over ANWR's inclusion in the legislation.

They wrote, and I quote: "With 160,000 troops fighting in Iraq, another 18,000 in Afghanistan and tens of thousands more around the world defending this country, Congress must finish its work and provide them the resources they need to do their job. We believe that any effort to attach controversial legislative language authorizing drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to the Defense appropriations conference report will jeopardize Congress's ability to provide our troops and their families the resources they need in a timely fashion."

They continued, saying that "the passion and energy of the debate about drilling in ANWR is well known, and a testament to vibrant debate in our democracy. But it is not helpful to attach such a controversial nondefense legislative issue to a Defense appropriations bill. It only invites delay for our troops as Congress debates an important, but controversial, nondefense issue on a vital bill providing critical funding for our Nation's security."

As I speak, our brave men and women in the Armed Forces are serving in every corner of the globe. The work our servicemen and -women do each day will create a safer world, a world where liberty and democracy will take root in regions of the world untouched by freedom and choice. Our military deserves our support and the best equipment, training, armament, and reward our government can offer them. That is why I am here today, to lend my strong support to the legislation. The Senate made the right choice yesterday to strip this bill of unnecessary ornaments. ANWR does not belong in the Defense bill, and I am proud to support the Senate version without it.

The Defense appropriation bill being considered by the House today is a good bill. It will enable our troops to stand down as Iraqi security forces stand up. This legislation provides \$403.5 billion for our troops during this transition, equipping them with \$8 bil-

lion to replace damaged equipment, \$1.2 billion for force protection, and \$500 million to train new security forces in Iraq and in Afghanistan. Also, this legislation provides an essential 3.1 percent military pay increase for our soldiers effective January 1, 2006. This legislation honors our military and is deserving of all of our support.

As good as this legislation is, Congress must remain vigilant in our responsibility to support our troops. The Associated Press recently ran an article questioning the amount of money needed to address emergency combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The article reported that the military informally indicated to the House Armed Services Committee that they would need an additional 80 to \$100 billion to fund operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. This request is made in addition to the \$50 billion appropriated through the Defense bill. This request is still being drafted by the Department of Defense and will most likely come to the floor as an additional spending package after we return next year.

I call on my colleagues to support this additional funding when it arrives in the House. We cannot afford to leave our military unprotected and underfunded, especially at this important time in our Nation's history.

Next week, Mr. Speaker, I will travel to Iraq to see the progress the Iraqi security forces are making to take the fight to the insurgents and to take their nation's future into their own hands. I will also visit our troops to give them our thanks from a grateful Nation for the work that they are doing to fight the terrorists, to secure the nation and pave the way for a new and vibrant democracy in Iraq. Our troops must have a clear understanding that our support for them is unwavering. The American people must know that our support for our Armed Forces is strong. That is why this legislation must pass clean, devoid of any needless add-ons. I call on my colleagues to support the legislation and pass the Defense appropriation bill.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 74

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring).* That, in the enrollment of the bill (H.R. 2863) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following corrections:

Strike Division C, the American Energy Independence and Security Act of 2005 and Division D, the Distribution of Revenues and Disaster Assistance.

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2005

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today pursuant to this order, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. on Monday, December 26, 2005, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 326, in which case the House shall stand adjourned sine die pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2005 (BOOK II) AT PAGE H12641

#### CHAPTER 7

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

#### FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

#### FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAYS

#### (HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

#### (RESCISSION)

The conference agreement includes a rescission of \$1,143,000,000 of the unobligated balances of funds apportioned to the States under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, excluding safety programs and funds set aside within the State for population areas. The conferees direct the Federal Highway Administration to administer the rescission by allowing each State maximum flexibility in making adjustments among the apportioned highway programs.

#### FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

#### EFFICIENCY INCENTIVE GRANTS TO THE

#### NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

#### (RESCISSION)

The conference agreement rescinds \$8,300,000 from Efficiency Incentive Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation and repeals section 135 of Division A of Public Law 109-115.

#### CHAPTER 8

#### GOVERNMENT-WIDE RESCISSIONS

The conference agreement includes a 1 percent across-the-board rescission to discretionary budgetary resources provided in fiscal year 2006 regular appropriations Acts, as well as to any previously enacted fiscal year 2006 advance appropriation and to any contract authority subject to limitation. The rescission does not apply to the Department of Veterans Affairs or spending designated as an emergency requirement.

#### TITLE IV—HURRICANE EDUCATION RECOVERY ACT

#### SUBTITLE A—ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION HURRICANE RELIEF

The conference agreement includes language that authorizes assistance to elementary and secondary students and schools impacted by the hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico in calendar year 2005. Funding to carry out this authority is included in chapter 6 of title 1.

#### SUBTITLE B—HIGHER EDUCATION HURRICANE RELIEF

The conference agreement includes temporary waivers to and modifications of certain higher education act requirements in order to provide flexibility to and ease financial burdens on postsecondary students and institutions impacted by the hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico in calendar year 2005.