

outpatient services, cut payments for unpaid health care debts, shrink the prevention and public health fund, and impose an increase in Medicare Part B premiums for certain beneficiaries. These cuts threaten to restrict access of low-income Minnesotans and seniors to needed health care services.

The House Republican majority had other options for offsetting the costs of H.R. 3630. Among those options was a small and temporary increase on the amount of taxes paid by those Americans least affected by the Great Recession. House Democrats will attempt to improve H.R. 3630 today during floor debate by replacing cuts to health care and unemployment insurance with a 3.6 percent surcharge on incomes over \$1 million a year. At a time when income inequality in America is at an all-time high, this is a necessary step to restore economic fairness and opportunity. I will support this motion when it comes to a vote this afternoon.

This Democratic motion is also important because it includes language requiring Members of Congress to publicly disclose their personal trading activity in the stock market. Increasing transparency to prevent Members of Congress from inappropriately profiting from insider knowledge is a common-sense reform that should be immediately enacted. If these improvements to H. R. 3630 are not included, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the legislation.

This bill is likely to be a missed opportunity for true compromise. It does important things, such as extending the payroll tax cut for 160 million Americans and preventing a 27.4 percent cut to Minnesota physician reimbursements with a two-year fix. In addition, it extends the physician work geographic adjustment, which ensures Minnesota providers are not additionally penalized by the Medicare payment system. Yet, the decision to pay for these measures with cuts to seniors, low-income families and unemployed Americans was entirely avoidable and thus, completely unacceptable.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, in the FY12 NDAA a drafting error was uncovered in section 1045.

Subsection (c) of section 1045 reads "If, during any year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the President makes a proposal described in subsection b" the Commander of STRATCOM shall take a prescribed action.

This provision should have read, "If, during any year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, the President makes a proposal described in paragraph 2" the Commander of STRATCOM shall take a prescribed action.

As the Joint Statement of Managers to the Conference Report makes clear:

Finally, the conference agreement would, in any year in which the President makes a

proposal to reduce the number of nuclear weapons in the active or inactive stockpiles of the United States to a level that is lower than the level on the date of enactment of this Act, require the Commander of U.S. Strategic Command to conduct a net assessment of the current and proposed nuclear forces of the United States and of other countries to determine whether the proposed U.S. nuclear forces would be capable of meeting U.S. objectives of nuclear deterrence, extended deterrence, assurance of allies, and defense. The Secretary of Defense would be required to submit the Commander's unaltered net assessment, together with any explanatory views of the Secretary, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives. In any such year, the Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration would also be required to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, a report describing the current capacities of the U.S. nuclear weapons infrastructure to respond to strategic developments or technical problems in the nuclear weapons stockpile.

While Congress addresses this, and any other technical corrections needed in the bill, I urge STRATCOM and the Administrator of the NNSA to construe this legislation per the clear intent.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012. This legislation, which provides \$662 billion in funding for fiscal year 2012, is not perfect but I will vote in favor of it for three principal reasons. First, it provides for troop and equipment readiness. Second, it provides much needed help and support for military families. Third, it authorizes critical investments in technology to ensure that the United States is prepared to defend against emerging threats now and in the future.

Mr. Speaker, it is of utmost importance that our troops deployed in Afghanistan, Iraq, and around the world have the equipment, resources, authorities, training, and time needed to successfully complete their missions and return home. This bill does that.

H.R. 1540 also provides their families with the resources and support they need and deserve. Specifically, the bill provides for enlistment and reenlistment bonuses, retention and accession pay for critical skills, and hazardous duty pay. As my colleagues across both aisles would agree, it is our responsibility to ensure that our troops that have sacrificed for us receive the resources they need for success and the benefits they deserve.

Further, the bill recognizes the importance of investing in future capability and technology to meet emerging challenges on the battlefield of today and in the future. We live in an age in which the security challenges facing our nation are ever-evolving and increasing in technological sophistication and complexity. We must take the necessary steps to ensure that

the United States stays in the forefront of technological advances and is equipped with vigorous capabilities in order to be able to successfully detect, deter, and defeat terrorist plots, cyber attacks, and other emerging threats. The bill before us will help us meet these challenges.

Let me briefly highlight some of the key provisions included in this legislation which I support:

I. TROOP AND EQUIPMENT READINESS

1. Provides \$22.8 billion for the training of all active-duty and reserve forces to increase readiness;
2. Authorizes \$396.8 million for C-17 modernization;
3. Provides \$6.3 billion to fund Navy ship and aircraft depot maintenance;
4. Provides \$4.5 billion for Army and Marine Corps equipment reset and depot maintenance;
5. Provides \$7.7 billion for Air Force weapon system sustainment;
6. Allocates just under \$1 billion to support the Army's planned return to full-spectrum training; and
7. Provides \$13 billion for Military Construction, base realignment and closures, and military family housing.

II. HELP FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

1. Provides a 1.6 percent military pay raise
2. Ensures fair TRICARE premiums

III. INVESTING IN FUTURE TECHNOLOGY

1. Extends important budget authorities to allow defense laboratories to recruit and retain the brightest scientists;
2. Expands developmental test and evaluation management for major defense acquisition programs;
3. Directs an assessment of mechanisms to employ non-U.S. citizens with critical scientific and technical skills; and
4. Expands pilot program for the integration of technology protection features during research and development to include contractor cost-sharing.

Mr. Speaker, I do not support the provisions in the bill regarding the treatment of detainees suspected of terrorism. I believe they are decidedly unhelpful and thus agree with the administration and those distinguished legal scholars who assert that mandatory military custody is "undue and dangerous," and that these provisions would "severely and recklessly undermine" our Nation's counterterrorism efforts.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I support the NDAA for FY 2012 because it authorizes the needed investments to keep our nation safe and enhances our defense infrastructure, along with taking care of our military personnel, and authorizing continued funding for the C-17 air transport.

REMEMBERING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF MARTIAL LAW IN
POLAND

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission and Co-Chairman of the Congressional Poland caucus, to remember the declaration of martial law in Poland 30 years ago