

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, four of the seven appropriations bills considered by the House this year have passed with bipartisan support. Those votes harken back to the spirit of cooperation that brought an end to last year's reckless government shutdown and the subsequent Bipartisan Budget Agreement that restored some of the harmful cuts from sequestration. Unfortunately, this week's consideration of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act for next year diverges sharply from that practice. I have multiple objections with the agenda House Republicans are advancing with this bill, and I want to highlight a few of them.

For starters, this bill continues the Majority's assault on the mission and personnel of the Internal Revenue Service. The bill, as introduced, cuts \$340 million from the IRS and comes on heels of \$850 million in cuts over the past four years. Making matters worse, an amendment was adopted during debate Monday night that would cut another \$788 million or 10% from IRS enforcement activities. I remind my colleagues that the IRS plays a critical role in helping taxpayers to understand and comply with our nation's complex tax code and ensuring that those tax laws are enforced fairly.

Unfortunately both of those activities have suffered in the last few years because of these punitive cuts. Basic assistance for taxpayers has dropped off sharply because of a reduction in workforce of 8,000 positions, and training for those that remain has been cut 87% in the last four years. As a result, caller wait times have almost doubled and the number of unanswered calls has increased by half. It's no wonder public frustration has increased. Tax enforcement has also suffered. The amount of staff devoted to enforcing our tax laws has been cut by 15% since 2010. As a result, revenue collected by enforcement actions has fallen off by \$4 billion during that time.

Yet, some of my colleagues have shown no shame in criticizing the IRS for not maintaining its email files when it is their actions that have left the agency stretched so thin. Rather than adequately fund the IRS—which generates nearly \$6 in revenue for every \$1 invested—House Republicans have starved the agency, crippling its ability to meet demands and leaving \$300 billion to \$400 billion per year in uncollected taxes. That's more than half of the projected deficit of \$583 billion for this fiscal year.

In addition to that contradiction, Mr. Chair, I would note that the conservative crowd that says, "the level of government closest to the people governs best," is poised to overturn a decision by the local government right here in the District of Columbia. Twenty-three states—nearly 1/3rd of which have Republican governors—and the District have decriminalized the limited use of marijuana. In fact, the home state of this provision's sponsor is one of those states, but the reach of Congressional Republicans under this bill does not allow them to interfere with the decision of his home state or that of other states. They can, however, restrict the use of funds provided to DC, and so we're doing so simply because we can. There is no merit or consistency in this action, which is nothing more than a raw power grab by House Republicans, who continue to block attempt by the citizens of the District of Columbia to exercise local control.

Finally, Mr. Chair, I take exception to the fact that this bill does not sufficiently support the Administration's Information Technology Oversight and Reform initiative, known as ITOR. That program is funded \$11 million below the request of \$20 million—a relatively modest amount in light of the considerable savings of \$2.4 billion this office has already achieved in the last four years. Under the direction of the U.S. Chief Information Officer, ITOR is leading the Federal Government's efforts to improve the effectiveness of digital services to provide citizens and businesses with world class user experiences; reduce waste in Federal IT acquisitions; and identify savings that can be re-programmed to better serve taxpayers and optimize the use of scarce agency resources.

In addition to these important activities, ITOR also supports recruiting and training the next generation of talented Federal IT personnel, and it supports the Office of Management and Budget's coordination of Federal cybersecurity programs. As the recent cyber breach at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management highlights, we must be vigilant in continuously monitoring Federal IT systems to safeguard sensitive information national security information.

As the Committee notes, ITOR has notched commendable achievements in enabling agencies to more efficiently utilize cloud computing and begin optimizing and consolidating Federal data centers. Of course, much work remains to be done. I appreciate and share the Committee's concern over recent Federal IT failures. In recent decades, taxpayers have been forced to foot the bill for massive IT program failures that ring up staggeringly high costs but exhibit astonishingly poor performance. The deplorable rollout of the HealthCare.gov site last year is a symptom of a broader disease that ITOR is helping to address—the broken Federal IT acquisition process. The annual price tag of this wasteful spending on IT programs is estimated to be approximately \$20 billion. That status quo is unacceptable and unsustainable.

That is why I joined the Chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee to develop a comprehensive, bipartisan, Federal IT acquisition reform legislative proposal—commonly referred to as the Issa-Connolly bill, or "FITARA." Our bipartisan bill represents the most dramatic overhaul of Federal IT procurement policy since the seminal Clinger-Cohen Act was enacted nearly two decades ago, and it would directly support and complement the mission and aims of ITOR. It enhances CIO authorities, empowers CIOs to recruit and retain talented IT staff, and accelerates data center optimization and strengthens the accountability and transparency of Federal IT programs. The Issa-Connolly bill has now passed the House three times—twice as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act and once as a standalone bill. The Senate recently passed a similar version of the bill, and we are working with our Senate colleagues to harmonize the differences.

While I am pleased that a bipartisan consensus is finally forming around the urgent need to streamline and strengthen how the Federal government acquires and deploys IT, this bill would actually underfund in those programs that are proven to save money over the long term.

Mr. Chair, as I said at the outset, this bill veers sharply from the bipartisan model we

had been working toward. By attempting to disinvest in the IRS, House Republicans are actually disinvesting in our taxpayers and undermining our efforts to enforce the law and reduce the deficit. They are further eroding the notion of local control by continuing to meddle in the local decision making of the District of Columbia. And they are making a shortsighted decision to not invest more in IT reforms that have proven to save money. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the bill before us today.

RECOGNIZING SECOND LT. ELLEN AINSWORTH

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2014

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Second Lt. Ellen Ainsworth for her bravery, service and sacrifice on February 10th, 1944, in Anzio, Italy.

Second Lt. Ainsworth hailed from the small Wisconsin town of Glenwood City, where she is remembered for her service. In 1942 she entered the United States Army Nurse Corps and deployed to Tunisia, then to Anzio, Italy. Although the risk of serving in this high actions area was great, Lt. Ainsworth did not waiver from her commitment to serve her country.

On February 10th, 1944 Lt. Ainsworth's hospital tent came under heavy artillery fire in an area many described as "hell's half acre". With complete disregard for herself, she brought to safety forty-two patients to lessen the chance of their further injury. Lt. Ainsworth was hit by enemy fire and succumb to her wounds six days later. At just twenty-four years old she was the only Wisconsin service woman to make the ultimate sacrifice during World War II, due to enemy fire.

Second Lt. Ellen Ainsworth was recognized posthumously for her gallant actions by being awarded with a Silver Star, Purple Heart, and a Red Cross Bronze Medal.

As Glenwood City and the town of Anzio, Italy commemorate the 70th anniversary of her death this year, Lt. Ainsworth's courageous actions are witnessed today by the children of the soldiers she saved, who would not be with us if not for her heroic sacrifice. She personified American heroism and for that, Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Lt. Ainsworth for her acts of valor.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY RESOLUTION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2014

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity's centennial anniversary. My good friend, the Gentlewoman from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), is sponsoring the Senate companion to this resolution.

As a Sigma brother, I am proud that this fraternity has grown into a worldwide institution.