

YOUNG, Ranking Member OBEY and every Member of this House for fulfilling the commitment that was made to New York in the wake of 9/11. While there are many controversial issues in this supplemental, the funding for New York is not one of them. This bill fulfills President Bush's commitment to spend a minimum of \$20 billion in New York to help my City recover from the devastating attack of September 11th, and for that I say thank you.

This disaster is like no other in our nations history. An urban area has been devastated due to an act of terrorism. Many federal agencies have stepped in to help New York recover including FEMA, HUD, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Justice. And while we appreciate all they have done, I must ask the Members of this House to continue to stand with New York to ensure that the EPA does a proper environmental clean-up of indoor air and that FEMA continues to exercise maximum flexibility to help the individuals, families and institutions that continue to suffer as a result of 9/11. I must ask this House to be patient if the New York delegation needs to return in the coming months and years to ask that the money in this bill is reprogrammed or redirected to ensure it has a positive impact on New York. I must ask this House to understand that we are grateful for your support, for your generosity, and for your compassion, but please help us finish the job in a proper, efficient, and as cost-effective manner as possible.

Again, thank you to every Member of this House—New Yorkers look forward to your continued support.

2002 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FURTHER RECOVERY FROM AND RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4775) making supplemental appropriations for further recovery from and response to terrorist attacks on the United States for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Chairman, it is with great reluctance that I am voting in favor of this bill.

This supplemental left the Appropriations Committee with strong bi-partisan support after careful consideration and compromise by Members on both sides of the aisle. Then, the leadership presented us with a rule that adds four self-executing provisions which had not been subject to any debate by the Committee. All four of these additions are unrelated to the purpose of this supplemental, which was to meet immediate and critical funding shortfalls, most prominently those related to our military operations in support of the war on terrorism.

Of the four unrelated new provisions, the most troublesome is language which in essence allows increases to the government's debt ceiling without formal consideration by all Members of the Congress. This approach to

our nation's fiscal crisis, which will soon be putting us in deficit spending, is unconscionable and irresponsible. Perhaps most disturbing is that the language being introduced is so open-ended, it could be construed as meaning that we will no longer have the opportunity to review debt ceiling changes in the future.

On the other hand, any further delay on passing the crucial funding provisions threatens the well-being of our courageous military forces who are currently dedicating themselves to our national defense in harsh and dangerous environments outside our borders. In addition, the measure provides much needed funding to crucial activities including: homeland security, Pell Grants, September 11th investigations, first responder health precautions, highway funding, the WIC program, and veterans' medical needs. Rather than hold these needs hostage to a partisan effort by the leadership to avoid putting itself on record over raising the debt ceiling, I am voting for this bill with the understanding that this is simply the first step in getting a bill approved and I remain hopeful this entire issue will be stripped from the legislation as it makes its way through the final process.

2002 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FURTHER RECOVERY FROM AND RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4775) making supplemental appropriations for further recovery from and response to terrorist attacks on the United States for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of Supplemental Appropriations Act. Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO and I would have offered an amendment to reclassify the hospitals in Connecticut's Fairfield and New Haven Counties into the New York City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Unfortunately, we were not able to offer this amendment, but I hope in the future we will be able to address this issue.

Fairfield County borders the New York state line and is only 30 miles from Manhattan. There are six hospitals in the county, four of which have been periodically reclassified on a temporary basis into the New York MSA.

Despite paying wages which are only 10 percent less than the wages paid by hospitals in the New York MSA, Fairfield County's wage index is 17 percent less than the New York MSA. The Fairfield County hospitals need to be on a level playing field with the New York hospitals to be able to attract and retain highly skilled clinical staff.

Fairfield County is widely recognized as being part of the New York Metropolitan Area geographically, economically and socially. In fact, the Census Bureau counts Fairfield County in the same Consolidated Metropolitan

Statistical Area (CMSA) as New York City. This determination is based on population figures, commuting patterns, employment data, and the overall economic and social integration of the surrounding areas with the City. In fact, fully 11 percent of Stamford Hospital's labor pool resides in New York.

In addition, the Federal Reserve Bank, the Department of Labor, and the Bureau of Transportation Statistics all include Fairfield County with New York City for statistical purposes. A letter from Rae Rosen of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York states, "A significant portion of Fairfield County commutes to New York City where a significant portion of the county's income is earned."

The National Association of Realtors groups Fairfield County housing prices with other New York metropolitan area housing prices because the markets are similar in many ways and provide the housing for the greater New York metropolitan area labor market.

Mr. Chairman, by not reclassifying these hospitals, they are being penalized for efficiency. They have gone to great lengths to control costs, especially personnel costs by re-vamping their labor skill mix. However, rather than be rewarded for these cost-containment measures, Stamford, Norwalk and Bridgeport are penalized by the Medicare reclassification thresholds.

The six hospitals in Fairfield County are the type of hospital that Congress intended to help when it created the geographic reclassification process.

Mr. Chairman, I support this legislation and I would urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

2002 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FURTHER RECOVERY FROM AND RESPONSE TO TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4775) making supplemental appropriations for further recovery from and response to terrorist attacks on the United States for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise to strike the requisite number of words.

Support from Congress and the President has been essential in recent months in working to secure New York's recovery after 9/11.

The significant funds committed from Congress and the President are deeply appreciated by those in New York who were so personally affected by catastrophic terrorism.

But simply appropriating aid has proven far different than actually delivering these funds in a timely manner to the people who really need help in New York.

Sadly, Mr. Chairman, the agency charged with the disbursement of these funds FEMA—has on several occasions refused to help or stalled in helping specific people and institutions in New York, from the public school system, to utilities and private universities, to the