

their families, as well as military retirees. It includes a 2.7 percent pay increase for military personnel. This is higher than what the DOD requested, and much-needed increases to end-strength numbers.

It blocks a controversial DOD recommendation as well to increase TRICARE fees and deductibles for military retirees and also extends TRICARE eligibility for reservists, two issues that have been very important to my constituents.

I thank the committee leadership for their efforts to accomplish all of these important goals.

Now, I am particularly pleased that H.R. 5122 addresses the current crisis in our submarine industrial base. Mr. Speaker, our Navy right now has no plans to develop a replacement for the *Virginia* class which I believe threatens to cause our design and engineering base to disappear. Now, if we lose design capability, we will do irreparable harm to our shipbuilding industry.

The bill also includes \$400 million to expedite the construction schedule for the *Virginia* class so that we can start building two submarines per year as early as 2009. This is critically important. The submarines current shipbuilding plan would have our submarine fleet drop to dangerously low levels and this bill clearly states that we cannot allow that to happen.

I commend the chairman and ranking member for all those provisions. That is the good news.

The bad news, however, I remain troubled by provisions regarding fee increases for certain prescription drugs under the TRICARE program as well as controversial language regarding religious expression by military chaplains. I hope that we will be able to consider amendments tomorrow to address these topics.

But overall, however, the underlying bill addresses many urgent needs of our military, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Rhode Island's bipartisan remarks about the legislation.

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

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan collaboration between Chairman HUNTER and Ranking Member SKELTON has yielded a thoughtful, balanced defense authorization bill that seeks to meet our current and future defense needs. They should be commended for their hard work. However, there are still areas within this bill that can be improved. As we move to floor consideration, we have an opportunity to make this bipartisan bill even better.

Still pending before the Rules Committee are more than 90 amendments covering a host of critical issues. This includes Ranking Member SKELTON's proposal on TRICARE prescription

drug copays and Mr. ISRAEL's correction to the guidelines for military chaplains.

Other amendments not yet allowed on the floor concern our Nation's Iraq policy, abuses of military contracting, and boosts to our critical nonproliferation initiatives.

It is my hope that when the Rules Committee reports out the second and final rule today these amendments will be made in order. Allowing these amendments to be debated on the floor will continue the committee's bipartisan precedent, something this body would benefit from, as well as show the issues addressed in this legislation, so critical to our Nation's well-being, the respect they deserve.

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

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to remind our Members that this rule and the underlying legislation is not about us or our interests. It is fundamentally about the long-term interests of our Nation, the security and stability of our military, and the welfare of our deployed servicemen and women.

Mr. Speaker, no generation undertakes a war lightly. Certainly, the World War I and World War II generations and the Cold War generations did not do so, and it is clear that historically there is always dissent. That is good and it is American. However, the previous generations understood that if they were not firm in their commitment, unwavering in their support for the troops and sure in their convictions, America would be the worse for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, we face the very same challenges as these previous generations. Today is the day that we must support our forces to secure the peace for our progeny and to spread freedom around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, we are very fortunate at this particular moment in our history to have men like Chairman HUNTER and Ranking Member IKE SKELTON heading and cooperating so closely on this very important committee, one in which whatever our differences may be, we come together as Americans to support those Americans who defend our freedom and who put themselves in harm's way for our benefit.

Mr. Speaker, I would encourage my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying legislation. It is critical for America, for the cause of freedom, and for the success of the brave men and women who proudly wear the uniform of the United States.

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 SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JINDAL). The question is on the resolution.

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

Ms. MATSUI. 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, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 5143, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 805, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 806, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

H-PRIZE ACT OF 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 5143, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5143, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 6, answered "present" 1, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 131]

YEAS—416

Abercrombie	Boren	Clyburn
Ackerman	Boswell	Coble
Aderholt	Boucher	Cole (OK)
Akin	Boustany	Conaway
Alexander	Boyd	Conyers
Allen	Bradley (NH)	Cooper
Andrews	Brady (PA)	Costa
Baca	Brady (TX)	Costello
Bachus	Brown (OH)	Cramer
Baird	Brown (SC)	Crenshaw
Baker	Brown, Corrine	Crowley
Baldwin	Brown-Waite,	Cubin
Barrett (SC)	Ginny	Cuellar
Barrow	Burgess	Culberson
Bartlett (MD)	Burton (IN)	Cummings
Barton (TX)	Butterfield	Davis (AL)
Bass	Buyer	Davis (CA)
Bean	Calvert	Davis (FL)
Beauprez	Camp (MI)	Davis (IL)
Becerra	Campbell (CA)	Davis (KY)
Berkley	Cannon	Davis (TN)
Berman	Cantor	Davis, Jo Ann
Berry	Capito	Davis, Tom
Bilirakis	Capps	Deal (GA)
Bishop (GA)	Capuano	DeFazio
Bishop (NY)	Cardin	DeGette
Bishop (UT)	Carnahan	Delahunt
Blackburn	Carson	DeLauro
Blumenauer	Carter	DeLay
Blunt	Case	Dent
Boehlert	Castle	Diaz-Balart, L.
Boehner	Chabot	Diaz-Balart, M.
Bonilla	Chandler	Dicks
Bonner	Chocoma	Dingell
Bono	Clay	Doggett
Boozman	Cleaver	Doilittle