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No. 128

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member except the majority leader, the minority leader or the minority whip limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate extend beyond 10:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

REPRESENTATIVE LEACH FOR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO UNITED NATIONS

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I reflect on the gentleman from Iowa's almost four decades of public service, 30 of them as a distinguished Member of this House of Representatives. I am referring to my friend, JIM LEACH.

For many of the 12,000 men and women privileged to serve in the House of Representatives since the founding of the Republic, their careers are distinguished by service in this Chamber. JIM LEACH is one of those rare individuals for whom Congress itself is distinguished by his service. There is no one from whom I have learned more by his words, his deeds and his friendship. He is one of the few among us who, when he speaks on the floor of the House, people who care about substance listen. He consistently chooses the right words, and invites people to be part of the process. He listens. He is never drawn into petty partisan politics that too often rear their ugly heads.

For 30 years we have been privileged to watch his conscientious and

thoughtful work on the Financial Services and International Relations committees. JIM predicted the savings and loan crisis, and was spot on in his observations about American diplomacy from the Middle East to North Korea.

He was always dignified and principled, one of the few people who navigated the legislative halls successfully without being mired in partisan politics.

Indeed, in his congressional campaigns, he refused PAC contributions, didn't want out-of-State donations, he wouldn't run negative ads, and he rejected outside groups who tried to run negative ads on his behalf. He may have actually won his election by playing by the rules widely accepted as the norm and by which most prefer to operate. He may have won, but it wouldn't have been JIM LEACH and we all would have been the poorer.

While Iowa has lost JIM's service to Congress, America need not lose his service, his intellect and his unique talents. Ambassador John Bolton's appointment to the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations expires at the end of the year, and the United States cannot afford a gap in our representation. We desperately need a strong, positive direction to guide multilateral diplomacy in the United Nations.

There is not another American who is better suited to advancing United States interests in that important forum by temperament, experience or intellect than JIM LEACH. Remember, as a young foreign service officer, he actually served at the United Nations under then-ambassador George H.W. Bush before returning to Iowa as part of his family's business, and then on to 30 distinguished years of service in this body.

If anything, JIM may be better suited as a diplomat than at partisan politics. He is the most diplomatic politician I have ever met. Black and white was

not JIM's view of the world, especially if grays and even colors were part of the picture.

This week my colleague JIM WALSH and I will be circulating a "Dear Colleague" letter to Members of the House of Representatives on both sides of the aisle, a letter that would urge President Bush to consider the appointment of JIM LEACH as our Permanent Representative to the United Nations. It is a nomination that no doubt would be greeted by acclaim. It would pass the United States Senate I predict unanimously, and we would all be the better off.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join us in signing this letter for the nomination of JIM LEACH.

CONSERVATISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, voters did not reject the core values of traditional conservatism: Lower taxes, smaller government, traditional family values, and strong national defense. They did not reject that when they went to the polls on November 7. In the words of George Will, "Republicans were punished not for pursuing, but for forgetting conservatism."

This election represents neither a defeat for conservatism nor a victory for liberalism. The American people are a conservative people. While the election results put a majority in power in both the House and Senate for the first time in 12 years, we see that 36 percent of the American electoral describes itself as "conservative." That is double the number that consider themselves "liberal." We are a conservative nation.

A Rasmussen poll conducted after the election found that 61 percent of

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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the American people think that higher taxes will hurt the economy. We are a conservative Nation, Madam Speaker. And I would tell you that what the voters said on Election Day is that they want conservative policies in place. Voters opted for the more conservative candidate and more conservative side of most issues. Nine States passed measures to restrict the government's ability to take land through eminent domain, taking private property for government use or public use.

Voters in Colorado, Idaho, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin passed constitutional amendments to define marriage as between one man and one woman. Now a majority of States have enacted those constitutional protections stopping liberal judges from redefining marriage. We are a conservative Nation, Madam Speaker, and similar amendments on marriage have passed across the country in previous elections and will continue to happen going forward.

Previous Democratic wins in 1974 and 1986 swept into office new and very liberal freshman classes. If we look at the new Democrat freshman class of 2006, they are not liberals, Madam Speaker. What is striking is that this freshman class campaigned as conservatives. In fact, I know of one candidate who went out and advocated for certain principles. They might ring true to me as a Republican. He said he is pro-life, he is pro-gun. He is for traditional marriage, tax cuts, and for balancing the budget and a strong national defense. Sounds like a Republican to me, but he is a registered Democrat.

Pro-life Democrats were elected in North Carolina, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania, just to name a few. Pro-gun Democrats were elected in Florida, Indiana, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Vermont. Wow, those are conservative principles, and I will tell you that it is a call to conservatives, to Republicans, to be true to those conservative issues we ran on originally.

After the Republicans' last electoral disaster, then-California Governor Ronald Reagan spoke before the Conservative Political Action Conference and said, "Our people look for a cause to believe in. Is it a third party we need, or is it a new and revitalized second party, raising a banner of no pale pastels, but bold colors, which make it unmistakably clear where we stand on all of the issues troubling the people."

Madam Speaker, Ronald Reagan said that in 1975. These bold colors underpin our conservative platform, and that is what we must return to as a governing majority in the next election. As Republicans, that is what we should stand for.

Ronald Reagan went on to say, "We have just heard a call to arms based on that platform, and a call to us to really be successful to communicating and reveal to the American people the difference between this platform and the

platform of the opposing party, which is nothing but a revamp and a reissue and a running of a late, late show of the thing that we have been hearing from them for the last 40 years."

He said that 30 years ago. So I would submit to you today the Democrat platform is just what it has been for the last 70 years, but the new freshman class advocated a platform similar to what the Republicans have been advocating for the last 50 years.

Madam Speaker, I would tell you this election was a wake-up call for us to return to those bold colors and return to conservative values.

WAR ON TERRORISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, the people have spoken. The election is over and they have said to us that they have given us their marching orders.

For 40 months American soldiers have been suffering, working, and dying for their country in the Iraq war. Since that day, 2,800 Americans have been killed. More than 20,000 have been wounded, most in gruesome fashion, and we have spent \$450 billion when Secretary Wolfowitz told us the Congress would pass only \$3 billion in appropriations to fund this curious exercise.

According to the National Intelligence Estimate, we have been made less safe. The other members of the axis of evil, Iran and North Korea, have developed or are developing nuclear weapons. We have forgotten our mission in Afghanistan where a democratically elected government is slowly losing control of the country.

The war in Iraq has produced more terrorists. According to the National Intelligence Estimate, it has found that the Iraq war has created more terrorists and terrorist sympathizers than have been destroyed. Iraq has become the central front in the war on terrorism, simply because this administration has made it so.

Vice President CHENEY said the insurgency was on its last throes, and more Americans die every month than did when the actual war itself was going on. Again, the National Intelligence Estimates said that fanatical terrorism has metastasized and spread across the globe.

At each and every turning point: The toppling of Saddam Hussein's statue; the dissolving the Iraqi Army; the creation of the Iraqi constitution; the vote for the constitution; the parliamentary elections; the capture of Saddam; or the death of Zarqawi, the Bush administration has told us victory is at hand.

Meanwhile, the bloodshed intensifies, hope dims, and more Americans come home with terrible wounds or in body bags.

Madam Speaker, this Nation has to have a plan and it is time that the President, whose war this is, come forward with such plan as to how we can win. Staying the course has failed. Americans will support what has to be done to get us out with honor and dignity and to win. Now the President can claim that he has the power to do these things, and clearly under the Constitution he does; but the President also has the duty to come forward with a plan that can be understood, accepted, carried out, implemented and successful for the American people.

If we are committed to staying in Iraq, the President must face the American people and adequately prepare them for the truth: The truth that his desires for Iraq will take more soldiers, more money, and cost more lives.

The American people respect and admire leadership and honesty. They admired it in Roosevelt, in Truman and in Ronald Reagan. Honesty begins with making an honest accounting of the costs and coming forward with a truthful statement of where we are and what we must do. If this Nation needs more equipment for our soldiers or needs more soldiers over there, then we must be told that and the President must face that, and we must do what has to be done to see to it that we have the proper forces there to prevail.

This war is being charged to our children and grandchildren. We need to examine whether or not it is just and proper for us to do that. We must pursue with vigor the diplomatic front. The countries in the area must be involved, and certainly little sign of that taking place is visible to all of us.

We have to swallow our pride. Let us talk to everyone, reengage the Syrians and the Iranians, in addition to those countries who are our allies in the region. And as we approach the fourth year of this war, and it must be observed that is longer than we were committed to the war in Europe in 1945, Syria and Iran have to be explored as possible participants in the solution to the problems which exist there.

The President must look the American people directly in the eye and he must deal honestly with our people. He must provide the generals with what they need and not shortchange our troops. We have only one option, and that is to either win or to get out.

Mr. President, your country asks you if Iran is so central to our security in the future, why haven't you made it possible to win and why have you not provided our military with the assets and the strategy that they need to win at the earliest time?

I was a soldier in World War II. Our purpose then was to win quickly, to win strongly, and to do so at the least cost to our people. Victory was our goal, and we were committed to it and we worked for it.

In this world the only thing that will count in this matter is success. In this war there has not been strong leadership from the White House to achieve

our goals. As the President dithers, American soldiers are killed and maimed. Let's win or get out.

REMEMBERING BOB GOLDWATER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning in remembrance of a great American and great Arizonan, Bob Goldwater. If the last name sounds familiar, it should. The brother of Arizona's favorite son, Bob Goldwater labored alongside his brother in the family business in Phoenix, Goldwater's Department Store, and Bob was his own unique contributor to his brother Barry's political success and to the continued success of Goldwater's Department Store.

Bob Goldwater possessed a laconic wit. Madam Speaker, in my first campaign for public office, I was honored to have Bob Goldwater and former Governor Jack Williams, and the former Republican leader of this House, John J. Rhodes, cosponsor an event for me in the White Mountains of Arizona. This was at a time when I aspired to represent the Sixth Congressional District, an area in square mileage almost the size of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and so to get from suburban Phoenix up to the White Mountains was quite an undertaking that was made a bit more difficult by an incredible thunderstorm because this was during what we call the monsoon season in the summertime in Arizona.

The late great Governor Williams, a former broadcaster, was a stickler for time. The event was supposed to start at 7 p.m. I blew in the door at 7:05. There stood Governor Williams and Leader Rhodes and brother Goldwater. Governor Williams said, "HAYWORTH, 7:00; it's 7:05," to which Bob Goldwater replied, "Oh, heck, keep your shirt on, Jack, booze isn't going to spoil."

At the memorial service for his brother Barry, Bob Goldwater spoke not only of Barry Goldwater, the public servant, but of Barry, his brother. He reminisced how both he and Barry played for their church in a youth basketball league and how Barry suggested that the jerseys they wore should bear the letter "P." Bob recalled that he asked Barry why, and Barry responded, "You know, Bob, P for 'Piscopalian.'"

Perhaps a function of age and time, but the passing of other noteworthy Arizonans would bring Bob Goldwater into the public eye and he, above all other Arizonans, could deliver a heartfelt, humorous, poetic and practical remembrance. I don't have those abilities here today, but I just felt compelled in a moment perhaps of personal indulgence but perhaps more accurately a moment of official reflection, to bring notice to the passing of Bob Goldwater,

bring insight into the very human and humorous way he described others.

And also, to make this note: To my knowledge, Bob Goldwater never ran for public office, although he hailed from an Arizona family synonymous with public service. A lesson that has been impressed upon me through the years and especially in recent days is this fact, that public service is not always defined by public office, that it is what a person does in his fellowship of faith, in his community, in his business that can distinguish that person, a good lesson to remember in these days, a lesson typified by the life and times of Bob Goldwater.

Madam Speaker, those of us who knew Bob count ourselves not lucky but blessed to have a man who championed the success of his brother politically but added immeasurably to the lives of Arizonans in terms of commerce and public service, and as the father of our Phoenix Open.

Rest in peace, Bob Goldwater, you won't be forgotten.

AUTHORIZING GOVERNMENT TO NEGOTIATE LOWER PRICES WITH DRUG COMPANIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, last week America went to the polls and sent Washington a message that they wanted a new direction. Unfortunately, when it comes to the Bush administration, it seems as though the voters' call for change has fallen upon deaf ears.

Yesterday, the New York Times reported that the President and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Mike Leavitt, were "strenuously opposed to legislation that would authorize the government to negotiate with drug companies to secure lower drug prices for Medicare beneficiaries."

This is not groundbreaking news. They have said all along that they oppose negotiated prices in the Medicare program. Still, given the outcome of last week's election, it is disappointing that this administration would not even take a moment to reconsider its misguided policies.

Mr. Levitt went on to say, "I don't believe I can do a better job than an efficient market." I agree that the secretary hasn't done such a good job so far, but he shouldn't get too down on himself, he is not entirely to blame. His Republican friends here in Congress have kept him from realizing his potential by legally prohibiting him from negotiating with drug makers.

However, if a Democratic Congress passed a law granting him authority to negotiate prices with drug manufacturers, I am certain we could achieve enormous savings in the Medicare program which could be passed on to

America's elderly and disabled in the form of more generous coverage. Indeed, there is a lot of evidence to support this conclusion.

Take, for instance, a study considered earlier this year by the consumer group FamiliesUSA. They compared prices under private prescription drug plans participating in Medicare part D to the prices available through the Department of Veterans Affairs' health system. Their research showed that the government could help lower costs substantially. From November 2005 to April 2006, FamiliesUSA found that virtually all of the part D plans raised their prices for the majority of the top 20 drugs in this study. The median price increase among part D plans for the top 20 drugs prescribed to seniors was 3.7 percent.

Furthermore, for all of the top 20 drugs prescribed to seniors, VA prices in April were lower than the lowest prices charged by part D plans. The median price difference was 46 percent. In other words, Madam Speaker, for half of the 20 drugs, the lowest price charged by any part D plan was at least 46 percent higher than the lowest price secured for the VA. This is what the secretary must be referring to when he talks about the magic of the market.

My Republican friends argue that allowing the secretary to negotiate lower drug prices cannot actually work because the government will act to set prices. This is just more of the same old excuses we have been hearing all along. The truth of the matter is that the President, Secretary Leavitt, and Republicans in Congress are opposed to negotiated prices simply because they want to preserve the profits of the pharmaceutical industry which this program was really written for.

I have to be honest here. The American taxpayer is being ripped off by the Republican prescription drug law. Pharmaceutical companies have reaped record profits since Medicare part D was implemented while the American taxpayer has been left holding the bill.

Before the Republican law went into effect this year, more than 6.5 million low-income Americans received help for their prescription drug bills through Medicaid. Under the Medicaid system, however, States can purchase drugs at the lowest available prices or the best price. While this was good news for the taxpayer, it certainly cut into the profit margins of the pharmaceutical industry. So now those same 6.5 million Americans have been moved into the Republican prescription drug plan. They are no longer receiving the lower prices, and the higher costs, adding up to as much as \$2 billion this year alone, will be passed on to the American taxpayer.

This is why American voters rejected the Republican platform last week. Republican policies over the past decade have served special interests like the pharmaceutical industry, and now the American taxpayer is paying the price. Clearly voters are fed up, and they

want us in Washington to implement change. Democrats are going to heed their call, Madam Speaker.

We have said from the beginning of our campaign for a new direction that one of the first things we will do when we take back the House is to pass a law that will authorize the government to negotiate lower drug prices. We intend to live up to that promise. The savings from that program can be used to help eliminate the infamous “doughnut hole” that millions of seniors have fallen into over the past few months.

While the President and his cronies are threatening to oppose such legislation, I think they would be better served to reconsider. It is time for us to take a long and hard look at the Medicare part D program and see where we can make some improvements. Democrats are not calling for repeal of this law, but we are calling for some changes, changes that the American voters clearly support. I hope that my Republican friends will join us as we work together to improve the Medicare program on behalf of America's seniors.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 29 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 11 a.m.

□ 1100

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON) at 11 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

God of power and mercy, You are Lord of all creation, yet You bend to every human need, and are always attentive to our prayer. Bless this Nation and the endeavors of Congress today. Give us freedom of spirit and health of mind and body that we may serve the people we represent and work to establish the values of Your kingdom here on Earth.

May your revealed presence in our midst carry over to the way we deal with one another in mutual respect, and confront the problems we face together. We pray, calling upon Your holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. STUPAK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to work together to provide effective immigration reform. I am pleased the Secure Fence Act of 2006 was signed into law. Securing our borders must be our first step to stop the flow of illegal aliens into the United States.

One thing is clear, we must work to uphold the law. Congress must not provide a path to citizenship or any type of amnesty for those who have crossed our borders illegally. In 1986, Congress passed a comprehensive immigration reform bill that included amnesty.

This was a failure. It did not reduce illegal immigration or permanently solve any of the immigration problems we face today. Rather, it provided the incentive to come here legally by rewarding illegal aliens with amnesty.

As Members of Congress, we took an oath to uphold and defend our laws in the Constitution. There is a solution to the problem of illegal immigration, but the answer is not to reward those who violated the laws of the United States.

9/11 COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, on November 7, the American people voted resoundingly in favor of a Congress that would make implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission a top priority. They voted for a Democratic Congress.

For months, the Republican leadership in this body has sat on the 41 recommendations the 9/11 Commission gave for improving the security of our Nation. The Republican Congress did nothing when the expert bipartisan group released a scathing report card on the lack of progress that has been made and gave our government Ds and Fs for failing to take steps necessary to ensure we would never face another tragedy like 9/11.

Democrats believe it is unacceptable that 5 years after the 9/11 terrorist attacks our Nation's first responders are still without interoperable radios and have planes flying across our country that are loaded with cargo that is rarely ever inspected.

Madam Speaker, Democrats know how important it is for us to make our Nation as safe as possible. That is why we will implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission next year so that we can be better prepared to protect our Nation against potential terrorist attack. I know, as I was a first responder for 11 years.

VETERANS ESTABLISH FREEDOM

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this past weekend we celebrated Veterans Day, and it is appropriate to acknowledge today that because of our veterans, freedom and democracy are more widely spread than ever before.

Fifty million people have been liberated by our courageous troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Last week was the 17th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, confirming the success of President Ronald Reagan. From Estonia to Bulgaria, from Mongolia to Hungary, hundreds of millions of people have emerged from communism and are now free.

Earlier this year I visited Liberia, which is still celebrating the election of the first female African leader. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was elected after the dictator Charles Taylor fled at the urging of President Bush.

Today, America's veterans can be prouder than ever of their success as they are freeing oppressed people around the world.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM DESERVE OUR HELP

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Yesterday, permanent trade relations for Vietnam was brought before the House with no committee hearings and under suspension of the rules. I spoke against the bill and demanded a rollcall vote, and last night the bill failed to get the necessary two-thirds, so it was defeated.

Now, the people of Vietnam deserve our help. The United States actually has a moral obligation of a long-standing nature with respect to Vietnam that we don't really need to elaborate on, because we understand what this Nation did to Vietnam. If you care about Vietnam, you should care to know that the permanent trade relations would have this effect, this bill. It would cause millions of peasants to be thrown off the land as agricultural supports are withdrawn.

Millions of workers losing their jobs at State enterprises wither in the face of foreign competition or downsize and

speed up operations in an effort to stay competitive. As a result of these and other factors, there would be a surge in income and wealth inequality, exacerbating dangerous trends already under way.

Until we have a trade policy that has workers rights, human rights and environmental quality principles, all that free trade means for nations like Vietnam is more exploitation of the country and of the workers. That is why we need to vote down this bill when it comes back this week.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW CITY OF JOHNS CREEK, GEORGIA

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am so pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate the mayor and city council and citizens of the newly created City of Johns Creek in Georgia. In accordance with the bill passed by the Georgia General Assembly and signed by Governor Sonny Perdue, the community of Johns Creek will be officially incorporated as a city on December 1, 2006.

This is a wonderful and gratifying time for the people of Johns Creek. Those residents fought diligently to make this day a reality. They have chosen to honor Mr. Mike Bodker as the first mayor of their new city.

Johns Creek is a vibrant, engaged and dynamic community. They have seized the opportunity to have a more direct impact on their future, and this achievement also comes with many new responsibilities.

I am confident that the citizens will successfully embrace these new challenges, as our 10th largest city, Johns Creek, will also be a leader in our larger Georgia community.

Madam Speaker, thank you for the privilege of bringing the recognition of this House of Representatives as we congratulate the people of Johns Creek, Georgia and wish them the very best during this exciting transition.

AMERICANS DEMANDING CHANGE IN WASHINGTON AND DEMOCRATS BRINGING CIVILITY TO D.C.

(Mr. CLEAVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, last week, the American people spoke loudly and clearly. They want a change here in Washington, and they want Democrats and Republicans to work together to solve the problems they confront on a daily basis. During the campaign this year, Democrats promised to change the tone of the debate here in Washington, and work cooperatively on behalf of all Americans.

Because we will not be the party of anger politics, Democrats will honor our pledge. We will treat the Repub-

licans in the minority in a manner compatible with the interests of the voting public. In the past, Democrats have been shut out of the debate. This is not how a Democratic form of government is supposed to work.

But the campaign is over, and we are not going to focus on the past. Democrats pledge, therefore, to preside over the most open and honest Congress in history. We want to pass solid ethics legislation that the public is actually demanding. We are here to represent only our constituents, and we need to make that clear.

Madam Speaker, change is coming to Washington.

ED DAVIS TRIBUTE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, Admiral Chester Nimitz, in describing the bravery of Americans battling for Iwo Jima, said, "Uncommon valor was a common virtue."

Captain Ed Davis, who died last week at age 67, was a man of most uncommon valor. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Captain Davis was shot down over Vietnam in 1965, and he would spend the next 7½ years as a prisoner in Hanoi.

When finally released from captivity, he said, "When I first saw that flag"—meaning the U.S. flag—"I knew it was all worth it."

To those of us who knew him, his death is a great loss. But his passing is also a great loss to the country he loved.

Captain Davis won three silver stars, the Legion of Merit with Combat Citation, five air medals, two purple hearts, as well as numerous other honors both military and civilian.

Our thoughts and our prayers and those of a grateful Nation go out to his family. May he rest in peace.

IRAQ

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, last week the American people voted for new ideas and a new direction in Iraq. Changing the Secretary of Defense was a good first step, but we have a long way to go, and the situation is getting worse.

Last week, I went to Amman, Jordan, to listen to a cross-section of moderate secular leaders from the region. They gave me their ideas for stabilizing Iraq. It is a way forward and it comes from the people in the region closest to the chaos.

These leaders believe the U.S. should redeploy our soldiers to the borders between Iraq and Syria and Iraq and Iran. These leaders believe strategic redeployment can stop the infiltration of

violence and get U.S. soldiers out of harm's way in Baghdad.

The leaders gave me a four-point plan they believe will save American and Iraqi lives and their country. Strategic redeployment is a key element. We should do it.

In medicine, doctors are taught to listen to the patient. The saying is, "Listen to the patient. He's telling you what's the matter." Too often we have gone in like a doctor who had an idea that they knew what was wrong and how to fix it.

We, the Congress, must listen to those moderate secular leaders in Iraq.

ISSUES FACING TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 22

(Ms. SEKULA GIBBS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SEKULA GIBBS. My name is SHELLEY SEKULA GIBBS. I am the new Congressmember from Texas Congressional District 22.

As the winner of the special election, I promise to roll up my sleeves and work hard over the next 2 months to move our country forward and to support the hardworking people in my district who have put their faith in me.

Some of the key issues for my district are:

Reducing the size of government and lowering taxes; to help seniors in their search for more choice and security in health care and have a stable source of funding for Medicare; to enhance Ellington Field as the linchpin of homeland security for the Houston region; to also help fund NASA/Johnson Space Center, the return to the Moon and onward to our voyage to Mars. Space is at the epicenter of our Nation's future.

As a physician, wife and mother who respects life from conception to natural death, I look for ways to support the sanctity of life.

Texas shares a long border with our neighboring country Mexico. I will work to honor my commitment to the people of my district by seeking ways to stop illegal immigration while streamlining the process of legal immigration.

I look forward to serving the district and the opportunity to serve my Nation.

□ 1115

DEMOCRATS TO REINSTATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO REQUIREMENTS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, for too long in this country Republicans have governed without a strong dedication to fiscal responsibility and without using the pay-as-you-go method. The President and his friends here in Congress

have squandered the Clinton administration's projected 10-year surplus of \$5.6 trillion and have put us into a projected deficit of \$3.5 trillion.

Last Tuesday, the American people told the Republicans that enough is enough and demanded a change in the way that Congress does business. They voted in a Democratic majority to return our country to a path of strong fiscal responsibility and back to the pay-as-you-go system.

Madam Speaker, the current Republican leadership has incurred more foreign debt in these 6 years than the previous 42 Presidents combined incurred. When we assume the majority in January, Democrats are committed to fiscal responsibility, and we will reinstate pay-as-you-go, working effectively as we did in the 1990s when President Clinton and the Congress balanced the budget.

MAKING IT FIRM THAT IT IS ILLEGAL TO BE IN AMERICA WITHOUT PERMISSION

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, according to the Dallas Morning News, "Farmers Branch, Texas, on Monday adopted strict measures against illegals, requiring apartment renters to provide proof of citizenship or residency and making English the city's official language."

"The city also unanimously agreed to let police apply to participate in a Federal program that would enable them to check the residency status of suspects that they arrest and initiate deportation proceedings in certain cases. These measures, believed to be the first of their kind in the State of Texas, brought cheers from some supporters, but sparked anger among some Hispanics."

Madam Speaker, cities across the Nation are taking positive action in dealing with illegals. These are common-sense steps the Federal Government has refused to take for political reasons.

Of course, the pro-illegal immigrant crowd has threatened lawsuits. It seems odd that illegals can use American courts to prevent cities from enforcing laws against illegal entry.

The example of Farmers Branch, Texas, is a statement that cities cannot and will not continue to bear the costs in education, health care and social services of illegals. This Nation must be firm that it is illegal to be in America without permission.

And that's just the way it is.

PROVIDING PROPER OVERSIGHT OF THE ADMINISTRATION

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, since the beginning of the war in Iraq, con-

gressional Republicans have refused to provide any oversight of the Bush administration in its handling of the war.

When no weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq, House Republicans refused to investigate how the intelligence could have been so bad.

When the administration sent our troops into combat without the proper body armor, House Republicans refused to hold anyone in the administration accountable.

When milestone after milestone passed without things getting better in Iraq, congressional Republicans refused to hold oversight hearings and allowed the Bush administration to continue with the status quo when a change was clearly needed.

Today, our Nation desperately needs for Congress to do its job and provide real oversight of the administration. When Democrats take control of Congress in January, we vow to provide proper oversight of the actions of this administration. It is something that is required of us all by the U.S. Constitution.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO HELP LOWER PRESCRIPTION DRUGS PRICES FOR AMERICA'S SENIORS

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, millions of American seniors are trying to make the best of the Medicare prescription drug plan that congressional Republicans and President Bush signed into law 3 years ago.

Today, seniors are demanding changes in this program. They want a plan that does not create a giant gap in coverage, where they can lose coverage for months on end and where they still must pay their monthly payments.

The giant doughnut hole, as we call it, leaves many seniors in the predicament of paying for groceries, paying their rent or the drugs they need to live healthier and longer lives. They may cut their pills into two or take them every second or third day. That is a recipe for disaster, and this is not a decision that seniors should have to make in America today.

Democrats have long opposed this doughnut hole, and one of our top priorities next year is to eliminate it by making prescription drugs cheaper. How are we going to do this? It is simple. We are going to do the same thing the Veterans Administration does today, and that is, give the Secretary of Health and Human Services the ability to negotiate on behalf of all seniors for lower drug prices.

Today, American veterans pay 42 percent less for their drugs because of this negotiating authority. If we make prescription drugs cheaper, we can fill in the doughnut hole so seniors no longer fall into it. This is one of our top priorities as we become the majority party in Congress next year.

DEMOCRATS WANT TO WORK WITH REPUBLICANS TO HELP MIDDLE CLASS AMERICANS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, now that the elections are over, it is time for Democrats and Republicans to come together to work in a bipartisan fashion to help all Americans.

Throughout this year, Democrats have talked about a forward-looking agenda, one that encompasses all Americans. We want to expand economic opportunity to millions of Americans who have been left behind by increasing the minimum wage for the first time in 9 years. We want to expand educational opportunities to teens who want to attend college, by cutting interest rates on student loans so that they can better afford college. We also want to help seniors better afford their prescription drugs by cutting drug prices and filling the doughnut hole.

Democrats touted these plans, but that doesn't mean Republicans can't join us in implementing them when the new Congress convenes in January. Raising the minimum wage, helping college students better afford their education and helping seniors pay for their prescription drugs is something we all, Democrats and Republicans alike, should be interested in. We will have the opportunity to follow through on this agenda in January.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 860. An act to provide for the conveyance of the reversionary interest of the United States in certain lands to the Clint Independent School District, El Paso County, Texas.

H.R. 5842. An act to compromise and settle all claims in the case of Pueblo of Isleta v. United States, to restore, improve, and develop the valuable on-reservation land and natural resources of the Pueblo, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3501. An act to amend the Shivwits Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Water Rights Settlement Act to establish an acquisition fund for the water rights and habitat acquisition program.

S. 3687. An act to waive application of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to a specific parcel of real property transferred by the United States to 2 Indian tribes in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

AMENDING TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE, TO EXTEND CERTAIN EXPIRING PROVISIONS OF LAW

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6314) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law and to expand eligibility for the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 6314

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN EXPIRING PROVISIONS OF LAW ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **AUTHORITY FOR HEALTH CARE FOR PARTICIPATION IN DOD CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE TESTING.**—Section 1710(e)(3)(D) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “December 31, 2005” and inserting “December 31, 2007”.

(b) **GRANT AND PER DIEM GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.**—Section 2011(a)(2) of such title is amended by striking “September 30, 2005” and inserting “September 30, 2007”.

(c) **TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FOR SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS.**—Section 2031(b) of such title is amended by striking “December 31, 2006” and inserting “December 31, 2007”.

(d) **ADDITIONAL SERVICES FOR HOMELESS AND SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL VETERANS.**—Section 2033(d) of such title is amended by striking “December 31, 2006” and inserting “December 31, 2007”.

(e) **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS.**—Section 2066(d) of such title is amended by striking “December 31, 2006” and inserting “December 31, 2007”.

(f) **GOVERNMENT MARKERS IN PRIVATE CEMETERIES.**—Section 2306(d)(3) of such title is amended by striking “December 31, 2006” and inserting “December 31, 2007”.

(g) **ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE FOR WORK-STUDY.**—Section 3485(a)(4) of such title is amended in subparagraphs (A), (C), and (F) by striking “December 27, 2006” and inserting “June 30, 2007”.

SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SURVIVORS' AND DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) **EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY.**—Section 3501(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (A) and inserting a semicolon;

(2) by striking the comma at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting a semicolon;

(3) by striking “, or” at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting a semicolon;

(4) by striking the comma at the end of subparagraph (D) and inserting “; or”;

(5) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

“(E) the spouse or child of a person who at the time of application by such spouse or child for educational assistance under this chapter is a member of the Armed Forces

who, as determined by the Secretary, has a total disability permanent in nature incurred or aggravated in the active military, naval, or air service;”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Such title is further amended—

(1) in section 3511—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)—

(i) by striking “Each eligible person” and inserting the following: “Each eligible person, whether made eligible by one or more of the provisions of section 3501(a)(1) of this title.”;

(ii) by striking “a period” and inserting “an aggregate period”; and

(iii) by striking the second sentence;

(B) in subsection (b)(3), by striking “section 3501(a)(1)(D)” and inserting “subparagraph (D) or (E) of section 3501(a)(1)”;

(C) in subsection (c), by striking “or 3501(a)(1)(D)(i)” and inserting “3501(a)(1)(D)(i), or 3501(a)(1)(E)”;

(2) in section 3512—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “an eligible person (within the meaning of section 3501(a)(1)(A) of this title)” and inserting “an eligible person whose eligibility is based on the death or disability of a parent”;

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(I) by inserting after “section 3501(a)(1) of this title” the following: “or a person made eligible by the disability of a spouse under section 3501(a)(1)(E) of this title”;

(II) by striking “or 3501(a)(1)(D)(ii) of this title” and inserting “3501(a)(1)(D)(ii), or 3501(a)(1)(E) of this title”;

(ii) in paragraph (1)(B), by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iii) The date on which the Secretary notifies the member of the Armed Forces from whom eligibility is derived that the member has a total disability permanent in nature incurred or aggravated in the active military, naval, or air service.”; and

(iii) in paragraph (2), by striking “or (D) of this title” and inserting “(D), or (E) of this title”;

(3) in section 3540, by striking “and (D)” and inserting “(D), and (E)”;

(4) in section 3563, by striking “each eligible person defined in section 3501(a)(1)(A) of this title” and inserting the following: “each eligible person whose eligibility is based on the death or disability of a parent”;

(5) in section 3686(a)(1), by striking “or (D)” and inserting “(D), or (E)”;

(6) in section 5113(b)(3)(B), by striking “or (D)” and inserting “(D), or (E)”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to a payment of educational assistance for a course of education pursued after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today I rise and urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 6314, a bill that would extend several existing Department of Veterans Affairs benefits provisions.

This bill will extend these provisions of health care services to veterans exposed by chemical and biological testing under Projects 112 and SHAD, and treatment and rehabilitation programs for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans until December 31, 2007. The

bill would also extend VA's homeless grant and per diem programs until September 30, 2007, and extend additional services for mentally ill and homeless veterans until December 31, 2007. It would extend VA's Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans, as well as the program which is providing government markers in private cemeteries until that date.

The work/study provisions of the legislation allowing veterans to assist VA and other government agencies would be extended until June 30, 2007. The work/study program is an increasingly popular benefit that provides veterans with an alternative use of their GI Bill if they choose not to go to college.

The bill also provides education benefits for the family members of severely injured veterans who are undergoing long-term convalescence while on active duty. Spouses and children of servicemembers who are determined by the VA to be permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected cause or causes would be eligible to receive Chapter 35 education benefits while the servicemember is still on active duty while undergoing treatment. This Chapter 35 provision would enable spouses and dependent children of severely wounded servicemembers to access their Dependents' Educational Assistance benefits while the servicemember is going through extended convalescence prior to discharge.

Under the current law, these beneficiaries must wait until the member is discharged, and since the spouses of these members most often become the primary breadwinner, I believe it is important to give them as much of a headstart as possible on becoming more competitive in the job market. The amount of the benefit remains the same.

I thank the Blinded Veterans Association for bringing this important issue to the attention of myself and members of the committee. We met with Army Sergeant 1st Class Jeffrey Mittman and his wife Christine. Sergeant 1st Class Mittman was blinded by an IED and is undergoing extensive rehabilitation and facial reconstruction.

Madam Speaker, this young soldier is articulate, has a very positive outlook on his life and is truly an inspiration. One look at his wife and you can immediately pick up the burdens she is bearing in caring not only for her husband, but also for her children. His wife Christy is a model of the love and support that she is providing to her husband as they face these challenges together. In fact, I think of this as the Christine Mittman provision, a provision not only that would help Christy, but also other spouses lessen the financial stress.

So, in essence, while Christy is providing leadership and mentoring for her children, caring for her husband instead of waiting until he completes all of the facial reconstruction and rehabilitation necessary, she can start her educational opportunities now.

I think this is the right thing to do. We all know he is going to be 100 percent disabled. She wants to become a nurse, so let's give her and others who are likewise situated to have these opportunities.

Madam Speaker, the committee is currently also undergoing bipartisan negotiations on a number of bills, not only with my House counterparts, but also with the Senate counterparts.

Among these bills are H.R. 3082, the Veterans Small Business and Memorial Affairs Act of 2006. It passed the House on July 24, 2006. We have informally been discussing provisions since July 28. The bill improves the status of veterans and disabled veterans small businesses when competing for contracts with the Department of Veterans Affairs. It allows Tribal government to participate in the VA's State Cemetery Grants Programs, authorizes the VA Secretary to provide the family of a veteran interred in a private cemetery with government markers, which we are doing now. It also requires the Veterans Employment Training Service, otherwise known as VETS, to establish nonmandatory guidelines for disabled veterans outreach programs. There are a lot of things in this bill, and I am hopeful we are going to get this done and negotiated.

There is another bill, H.R. 4061, the Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Management Improvement Act. It would centralize VA's IT organizational structure so that it reports directly to the Department's chief information officer.

Ultimately, the bill would empower the CIO with the authority over the IT budgets, equipment and personnel. While the House passed this bill with widespread bipartisan support, and I appreciate the leadership of Mr. FILNER and others on this legislation, the Senate is even yet to take action on that bill.

There is another bill, H.R. 5815, the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Authorization Act of 2006, that would ensure that we will efficiently provide the right facilities with the right places for veterans' health care. Given the current veteran population and those which we can expect in the coming years, it would authorize \$2.5 billion for major implementation projects and \$51 million for facilities leases. This is an important bill, and we are getting close on these negotiations.

We have another bill, H.R. 5835, the Veterans Identity and Credit Security Act, as amended. This bill requires notification to Congress and individuals in the event of a data breach. All of us Members understand and remember the data breach.

□ 1130

And we had extensive oversight on the committee. Mr. FILNER and I were able to lead over eight hearings in a 6-week time frame, and we are perfecting change in our cooperation with the ad-

ministration. This is a good bill and I am hopeful that we can get this bill done.

This bill also included a scholarship and loan repayment program to provide the Secretary with a recruitment and retention tool to attract qualified people in the areas of information technology and management so they can work in these security areas. As I said, this bill received widespread bipartisan support here in the House and I am most hopeful that we can move to the Senate and achieve our work.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am also pleased to rise in support of H.R. 6314, which would, as we have heard, extend expired and expiring authorization for the Department of Veterans' Affairs and expand eligibility for survivor and dependent educational assistance.

I want to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER), the chairman of our committee, and my other colleagues for working together on this very important legislation. I also would like to remind us all of the work of Ranking Member LANE EVANS. His integrity, leadership, and advocacy for veterans will be missed as we move into the next session of Congress.

This bill extends important authorities for the Department of Veterans Affairs to take care of our veterans. From 1962 through 1973, the Department of Defense conducted biological and chemical warfare tests on active duty servicemembers. These tests were known as Project 112 and Project SHAD. The Department of Defense has acknowledged that it did not keep patient care records to archive health effects of the tests nor did they get, I am sure, informed consent on these tests.

Just recently, in 2003, in response to concerns from veterans that their illnesses may be a result of these exposures, Congress did act. We authorized the VA to provide priority care to veterans who participated in these tests and did not require them to provide medical evidence that any of the illnesses are attributable to the testing.

This legislation before us today does the right thing for these veterans. It would extend the VA's authority to provide priority care for them through the end of next year.

I am disappointed that we have not extended VA's authority to give priority care to veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange. Just like those veterans who were subject to Project 112 and Project SHAD tests, veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and probably got cancers and other maladies as a result deserve priority care, which may be a result of this exposure. They have provided service to the Nation. They were not given full information. They deserve our help and care today.

The administration has requested that we extend VA's authority with re-

spect to veterans exposed to Agent Orange, and I will work certainly in the next Congress to pass that extension.

The bill today also helps the over 200,000 male and female veterans who each night are sleeping in a doorway, under a bridge, in an alley, a box, a barn, a car, or a homeless shelter. Through a network of local nonprofit or public agencies, VA's grant and per diem program for homeless veterans offers homeless veterans a safe haven that is free of drugs and alcohol.

Last year roughly 300 programs across the Nation were able to give 14,000 homeless vets the help they needed to recover, rehabilitate, and obtain the skills necessary to reintegrate back into society. This legislation means that the VA can continue to support these hundreds of community shelters. But let me remind us all, as I will continue to do next year, that this covers barely 5 percent of the homeless veterans. We owe as a Nation help and care to the almost 200,000 others that remain on the streets tonight.

This bill extends the authority to treat seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans. More than one out of three veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan who have turned to the VA for health care has received an initial diagnosis for a mental health disorder. Many more have such a disorder but did not come to the VA. Many did not check the boxes that would indicate this because they just want to get home to their families. We have a lot of work to do in this country to help those with mental health disorders.

This bill, though, will ensure that the VA has the authority it needs to provide our recent veterans, as well as veterans from previous conflicts, with this mental health care that they need.

As the chairman said, this legislation also extends certain work study opportunities for veterans who are students through June of 2007. Helping veterans who are attending college or vocational training to earn while they learn makes good sense. This bill will allow veterans who are students to receive work study allowances for working at VA hospitals and domiciliaries, at State veterans homes, and at national and State veterans cemeteries. While I am disappointed that we could not extend authority for this program beyond next June, I am glad that this legislation will allow veterans who are participating in this program to continue through the end of their academic year.

A small number of permanently and totally disabled servicemembers are kept on active duty status to help them recover and rehabilitate from their injuries. When these servicemembers are discharged, their spouses and dependent children are then eligible for VA's educational assistance program. This bill, though, accelerates eligibility in cases where a disability rating of permanent and total disability is delayed because the servicemember has not officially yet been discharged from

military service. I am proud and I am grateful that this legislation will help families of these very severely wounded veterans by providing early education benefits.

I appreciate the chairman's enumerating other bills that need to pass through the Senate. As he said, a lot of good things are waiting. And this is one of them. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6314.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend Mr. FILNER for his comments.

You are absolutely right. We have a lot of good work product that hopefully we can get done.

At this point I would like to yield 2 minutes to a friend of America's veterans, the Honorable MICHAEL BILIRAKIS. MICHAEL will be retiring and leaving us here at the end of this Congress, and his work and leadership will be missed.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BUYER. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I don't know if this is the last statement that Mr. BILIRAKIS will make on the floor, but I just want to say how much we all appreciate your work. We are looking forward to another Bilirakis joining us. But your advocacy on areas such as no offsets between pension and disability that we call concurrent receipt, you kept that issue alive and made sure that we would do justice. So we want to thank you for that. And we want to thank you for the civility that you have exhibited through your whole career and especially on this committee, which sometimes especially this gentleman needed.

So we hope that you have a good retirement, Mr. BILIRAKIS. We will be missing you, but we really appreciate your service to this committee and to this Nation.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman. We will have one more opportunity, I am hopeful, to speak about Mr. BILIRAKIS' efforts.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I thank you, BOB, for those kind comments and also the chairman.

I do rise in support of H.R. 6314, introduced by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs chairman, STEVE BUYER.

For the past 24 years, Madam Speaker, I have had the pleasure of serving in this body and also the honor, true honor, of being a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. During that service I have helped create and advance numerous programs that benefit our Nation's veterans. This Congress, as chairman of the committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, I have monitored and scrutinized billions of dollars of programs and projects that benefit veterans.

Today I stand before you and ask that we extend expiring provisions of

current law that provide health care, housing, educational, and other assistance that help veterans and their families. By supporting H.R. 6314, we will ensure the continuation of many of the programs and benefits that our Nation's veterans have earned.

H.R. 6314 is an important bill that is truly worthy of our full support. I urge my colleagues to continue meeting our obligations to our Nation's defenders by approving this measure.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD).

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for his time. I also want to thank Mr. BILIRAKIS for his time here working in a strong bipartisan manner on veterans issues.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6314. I commend the chairman of the committee, STEVE BUYER, for his work on this legislation. This bill does deserve bipartisan support.

As a member of this committee and as citizens, we are united in our dedication to address the needs of veterans and their families. Ensuring that the Department of Veterans Affairs has the authority and resources to provide veterans with the medical care and benefits they have earned is a mission that we will continue in the next Congress.

H.R. 6314 is an important bill with a number of must-pass provisions. This legislation improves transition assistance for severely disabled service personnel. It is important that we do all we can to help the individuals and their families to regain their independence and economic security. This legislation also puts VA's specialized programs for homeless veterans on a more secure footing.

I am proud that this Congress is acting to extend the soon-to-expire authorization of VA's grant and per diem program for homeless veterans. I am glad that we are extending the authorization for VA's treatment of severely mentally ill veterans. By acting to reauthorize these fundamental VA programs, we give veterans and their families hope for recovery and having a better life.

Extending the authorization for these programs until the end of 2007 is an important first step, but it is not enough. In our great Nation, it is unacceptable that even one veteran should be homeless or go hungry. I am shocked that last year the VA's health care program for homeless veterans served nearly 600 veterans who returned from Iraq and Afghanistan. It is troubling that more than one in three returning veterans who come home to the VA for medical care has received an initial diagnosis for a mental health disorder. Homeless veterans and those with psychological wounds should not be left behind. They have served our Nation and deserve a rich and full life. In this Congress I introduced legislation to improve VA's capacity to help homeless veterans recover, rehabili-

tate, and return to a full life in our society. I plan to reintroduce my bill in the next Congress to help homeless veterans. We must keep the faith that we can end homelessness among veterans.

This September, the Health Care Subcommittee heard about how posttraumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries are emerging concerns for veterans from the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. I support H.R. 6314 because it helps keep our promise to veterans with these injuries. The Committee on Veterans' Affairs and this Congress must continue to address veterans' mental health care needs in the future. Next Congress I plan to reintroduce an updated version of Ranking Member LANE EVANS' comprehensive bill on mental health. LANE EVANS has been a great leader and mentor. His legacy is measured in the millions of veterans and their families who have benefited from his determination to fight for the needs of veterans. I will deeply miss him and so will this institution.

I also want to thank Chairman BROWN for his work in a bipartisan manner on issues dealing with veterans affairs. I enjoyed his service and will look forward to working with him in the upcoming Congress.

Madam Speaker, this is a good bill. I want to thank Mr. FILNER for his leadership on this legislation as well.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6314.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from the First District of South Carolina, the chairman of the Health Subcommittee, HENRY BROWN.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding this time.

Let me begin by thanking our esteemed committee chairman, Mr. BUYER, for his hard work in this Congress. Under his leadership this committee has fought to do what is right for veterans. And I would like to also extend my thanks to Mr. MICHAUD, what a great gentleman, the ranking member of the Health Subcommittee. It has been a real pleasure in working with him.

And, Mr. FILNER, we certainly appreciate your leadership on this committee. It has been great working in a nonpartisan fashion. We have always said when you come into that committee room, veterans is a nonpartisan issue, and it is great working in a nonpartisan fashion. I look forward to next year.

I especially want to applaud Chairman BUYER's willingness and attempts to look outside the box and push forward new and innovative initiatives to keep pace with the emerging health care needs of those who have faithfully served this country. The chairman has championed opportunities to improve the quality of the care delivered to our veterans through collaborative partnerships.

Collaboration is becoming increasingly essential in delivering health care across the Nation.

□ 1145

So long as we remain true to the distinct identity of the VA, and so long as we ensure the continued quality associated with VA care, VA collaboration on joint ventures with extensive medical university affiliations and the Department of Defense can be mutually advantageous for all organizations.

I am hopeful that the diligent and bipartisan work of the committee and its jurisdiction over VA construction matters will carry into the next Congress. The bill we are considering today will extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The legislation includes provisions to extend the authority for the grant and per diem assistance programs for homeless veterans and programs for the treatment and rehabilitation for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans.

The VA is the Nation's largest single provider for integrated and specialized services for homeless veterans. On behalf of the homeless veterans who need and depend on the services in achieving successful outcomes, it is our duty to assure that the continuity of these services is not interrupted.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY), who is a staunch advocate for the veterans throughout her State, and who is the ranking Democratic member of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, before I begin my remarks, I also would like to thank Chairman BUYER, Ranking Member EVANS, who we will miss very much, and Acting Ranking Member FILNER for moving forward on this bill.

I am supporting this legislation, but I feel that I need to make note of the fact that several of the provisions important to our veterans and their families have already expired. This should not have been allowed to happen.

In addition, there are other provisions that will expire before the end of the year. I want to particularly mention a provision in this legislation which extends through December 31, 2007, the Department of Veterans Affairs authority to provide a grave marker or headstone when a veteran is buried in a marked grave.

Veterans who served our country honorably should not lose their eligibility for recognition in death merely because the grave in which they are buried has a nonmilitary marker. I have a long record of interest in providing the burial benefits provided to our Nation's veterans, and this provision is truly a step in the right direction. We ought to make it permanent.

I joined Chairman MILLER in introducing legislation to extend this authorization. Although the VA and Members on both sides of the aisle supported making the authorization permanent, the committee was not able to fund the cost of a permanent authorization. I hope that we will be able to do so in the next Congress.

Eligibility for a headstone or a marker should not depend on whether a VA marker is provided before or after the placement of a private marker. As I stated, I am supporting this legislation, but I must make note that there are a number of other matters which should be acted on. I am especially disappointed that lease authorization for four clinics in Las Vegas on leases that will soon expire is not included, and it is going to have to be in order to provide health care to the veterans that live in southern Nevada.

Las Vegas' veterans are forced to rely on a string of clinics as the community awaits a new VA medical complex to be completed. It is at least 3 years out from being completed, even though we did break ground in October, which is a step in the right direction.

I have got 80-year-old veterans standing in 110-degree temperature going from clinic to clinic in order to get their health care needs met. That is why we are getting a full-service VA medical complex. But the fact is we need four leases approved by the end of the year. I hope we are going to do that before we recess for the year.

As I stated, Madam Speaker, I do support this legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Ms. BERKLEY. I want to thank you for your leadership on this bill. Thank you for working with NANCY JOHNSON, JEB BRADLEY. This symbol of honor and remembrance is very important. I want to thank you for that.

Also I want to embrace your words regarding the leases. In the construction bill we have a number of leases, and we need to complete our work. And so I embrace your words. I call on you for your help. The Senate has not been as helpful. You know that is a continuous body over there. We do not know how it is about to be reorganized. We have a lot of our work that needs to be done over the last 2 years, and we cannot let this construction bill die on the vine. We have to complete that work.

If we do not re-up these leases, it is going to cost the Federal Government more money because there are penalty clauses that will go into effect, and we cannot and should not let that happen.

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BUYER. I yield to the gentlewoman from Nevada.

Ms. BERKLEY. Well, I want to thank you, Chairman BUYER, thank you for coming to Las Vegas and feeling my pain by the end of the day and appreciating how seriously impacted my veterans are.

I can assure you that I will do everything I can to urge the other body to move in an expeditious way, because you are quite right, we cannot let these leases expire. Thank you very much for your support.

Mr. BUYER. Reclaiming my time, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as vice chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, I rise with very mixed emotion. I am certainly happy that Chairman BUYER is bringing this important bill to the floor that will extend several worthy veterans programs and add a new provision that will improve education opportunities for the spouses and dependents of our severely wounded veterans.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill in a bipartisan manner. However, I am disappointed that to date negotiations with the other body on Chairman BUYER's package of veterans initiatives, which was very, very bipartisan, has produced only limited progress. And there is a real possibility that many good provisions passed by both the House and the other body might not become law.

These bills include improvements to VA medical care, hospital construction and maintenance projects and a wide range of veterans benefits. From my subcommittee's perspective, important improvements include small business and employment legislation that is widely supported by the administration and the veterans community.

For example, our legislation will improve the competitive status of veterans and disabled veteran-owned small businesses seeking to win VA contracts. As the Members know, Public Law 106-50 and Executive Order 13360 direct Federal agencies and departments to award at least 3 percent of Federal contracts to service-disabled veteran-owned businesses, service-connected veteran-owned businesses.

To date the only department to make that goal was the Department of State in fiscal year 2004. This is an unacceptable record for a nation whose armed forces are engaged in hostilities as we speak. One of our bills, H.R. 3082, will help rectify that shortfall in at least the Veterans Administration Department.

The small business provisions of H.R. 3082 would provide VA acquisition staff additional tools that would give veterans and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses priority in many VA contract competitions.

The bill would also ensure that surviving spouses who retain control of those businesses after the veteran owner dies continue to enjoy status as a service-disabled veteran-owned business for up to 10 years.

In short, at least at the VA, the veteran business owners will be treated

fairly and enable the VA to set a standard for other Federal agencies. Mr. Speaker, the bill also makes several other improvements to the employment programs operated through the veterans employment and training service at the Department of Labor.

I am especially pleased that H.R. 3082 includes provisions of a bill I introduced to improve licensing and credentialing of veterans based on skills and experience they gained during their military service.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, this is an excellent bill. We need to pass it and make sure that the Senate gets the message loud and clear.

Mr. BUYER. I thank the gentlewoman for her contribution.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, the Honorable TIM MURPHY.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, this is a very important bill the House is now considering to extend a lot of critical services to veterans. I really on behalf of veterans am grateful for the work you have done on this.

Because of this type of bill, it cannot be amended, I would like to bring to your attention an issue that, Mr. Chairman, you and I have discussed, that we all remain very concerned about. That is the security breaches of veterans' personal records.

And if we are not able to pass a bill at this time, perhaps in the coming weeks or at least next year, we really need to be dealing with some of the issues, such as on November 2, a laptop containing 1,600 veterans records was stolen from a Manhattan hospital.

In August a desktop computer was stolen that had 38,000 veterans records, that had detailed records from the Pittsburgh and Philadelphia hospital areas.

Back in May we knew about another laptop computer that contained the personal records of 26 million veterans. I had introduced a bill, H.R. 6109, the Stop Endangering the Records of Veterans Act, or the SERV Act, in September which would require the VA to encrypt all data. I am pleased they are doing that now.

But we also need to have some teeth in this and make sure that those who do not properly protect veterans records, that there are penalties for them, criminal penalties if need be, if through their neglect or carelessness or direct action they cause a veteran's records to be stolen and cause harm from identity theft and just the problems that go with having medical records released.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that you are so concerned about these veterans issues. I don't know if there is time left in this session to deal with these issues. But I hope we can at the very least take this up in the next session. Veterans know that you, Mr. Chairman, have worked so diligently to protect them on so many issues. I look forward to continuing to work with

you on these issues, that we can work for our veterans' safety and peace of mind in the future.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I thank the chairman for bringing us this legislation of must-pass authorizations and extensions, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of our time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. FILNER for his cooperation on this bill and other bills. Mr. FILNER, we have got the CIO bill, we have got the cyber security bill. The Senate sent us two health bills, a benefit bill and we have got the construction bill. So all of these are in negotiation with the Senate. It is hard work. It represents 2 years of effort.

Recalling the recent words of my esteemed colleague, NANCY PELOSI, with the creation of this new theme of a bipartisan way for all Americans, let's embrace it. Let's get our work done. We enjoy bipartisanship on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and I wish other committees could see how well we have worked together over the years. I call on leadership of everyone here in the House in dealing with these bills here on veterans affairs to complete our work on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I also call upon the Senate leadership to finish our legislative negotiations. Let's complete our work. Let's not forget our veterans and their families. And, Mr. Speaker, I also call upon the leadership of the veterans service organizations and the military service associations to encourage the Senate leadership to finish our negotiations and again finish the work that we had started on behalf of this Nation's veterans and dependents.

These warriors fought for our freedom. The least we can do is complete our work and provide for them the best care and benefits possible. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for bringing this bill to the floor today.

Included in H.R. 6314 is a provision to extend, through December 31, 2007, a program that provides government markers for veterans who are buried in a private cemetery.

The current five-year authority, which was effective for deaths that occurred as of September 11, 2001, expires on December 31st of this year.

Prior to this authority, if a veteran was buried at a private cemetery and the family purchased a private headstone, the veteran was ineligible for a government marker.

I want to recognize Representative NANCY JOHNSON, who has been championing this cause for over 5 years.

I appreciate her working with my Subcommittee to ensure that veterans and their families continue to have access to symbolic expressions of remembrance.

Mr. Speaker, as the 109th Congress comes to an end, I want to recognize Representative JEB BRADLEY, the Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memo-

rial Affairs, and Ms. SHELLEY BERKLEY, the ranking member, for their active participation on the Subcommittee. We accomplished quite a bit over the past 2 years and I thank them both.

I also want to thank the Subcommittee staffs on both sides of the aisle—Paige McManus, Chris McNamee, and Mary Ellen McCarthy.

Finally, on behalf of the Subcommittee, I commend Chairman BUYER and Ranking Member EVANS for their bipartisan leadership of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill before us.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6314.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those voting have responded in the affirmative.

Mr. BUYER. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks relative to the bill which the House just considered.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1200

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE WITH RESPECT TO RAISING AWARENESS AND ENHANCING THE STATE OF COMPUTER SECURITY

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 993) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to raising awareness and enhancing the state of computer security in the United States, and supporting the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 993

Whereas over 205,000,000 Americans use the Internet in the United States, including more than 84,000,000 home-users through broadband connections, to communicate with family and friends, manage their finances, pay their bills, improve their education, shop at home, and read about current events;

Whereas the approximately 26,000,000 small businesses in the United States, who represent 99.7 percent of all United States employers and employ 50 percent of the private

work force, increasingly rely on the Internet to manage their businesses, expand their customer reach, and enhance their connection with their supply chain;

Whereas according to the Department of Education, nearly 100 percent of public schools in the United States have Internet access, with approximately 93 percent of instructional rooms connected to the Internet, to enhance our children's education by providing access to educational online content and encouraging responsible self-initiative to discover research resources;

Whereas according to the Pew Institute, almost 9 in 10 teenagers between the ages of 12 and 17, or 87 percent of all youth (approximately 21,000,000 people) use the Internet, and 78 percent (or about 16,000,000 students) say they use the Internet at school;

Whereas teen use of the Internet at school has grown 45 percent since 2000, and educating children of all ages about safe, secure, and ethical practices will not only protect their systems, but will protect our children's physical safety, and help them become good cyber citizens;

Whereas the growth and popularity of social networking websites have attracted millions of teenagers, providing them with a range of valuable services, teens must be taught how to avoid potential threats like cyber bullies, predators and identity thieves they may come across while using such services;

Whereas our Nation's critical infrastructures rely on the secure and reliable operation of our information networks to support our Nation's financial services, energy, telecommunications, transportation, health care, and emergency response systems;

Whereas cyber security is a critical part of our Nation's overall homeland security, in particular the control systems that control and monitor our drinking water, dams, and other water management systems; our electricity grids, oil and gas supplies, and pipeline distribution networks; our transportation systems; and other critical manufacturing processes;

Whereas terrorists and others with malicious motives have demonstrated an interest in utilizing cyber means to attack our Nation, and the Department of Homeland Security's mission includes securing the homeland against cyber terrorism and other attacks;

Whereas Internet users and our information infrastructure face an increasing threat of malicious attacks through viruses, worms, Trojans, and unwanted programs such as spyware, adware, hacking tools, and password stealers, that are frequent and fast in propagation, are costly to repair, and disable entire systems;

Whereas according to Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, since February 2005, over 90 million records containing personally-identifiable information have been breached, and the overall increase in serious data breaches in both the private and public sectors are threatening the security and well-being of United States citizens;

Whereas consumers face significant financial and personal privacy losses due to identity theft and fraud, as reported in over 686,000 complaints in 2005 to the Federal Trade Commission's Consumer Sentinel database; and Internet-related complaints in 2005 accounted for 46 percent of all reported fraud complaints, with monetary losses of over \$680,000,000 and a median loss of \$350;

Whereas our Nation's youth face increasing threats online such as inappropriate content or child predators, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children 34 percent of teens are exposed to unwanted sexually explicit material on the Internet, and with one in seven children hav-

ing been approached by a child predator on-line each year;

Whereas national organizations, policy-makers, government agencies, private sector companies, nonprofit institutions, schools, academic organizations, consumers, and the media recognize the need to increase awareness of computer security and enhance our level of computer and national security in the United States;

Whereas the National Cyber Security Alliance's mission is to increase awareness of cyber security practices and technologies to home users, students, teachers, and small businesses through educational activities, online resources and checklists, and Public Service Announcements; and

Whereas the National Cyber Security Alliance has designated October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month, which will provide an opportunity to educate the people of the United States about computer security: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month; and

(2) will work with Federal agencies, national organizations, businesses, and educational institutions to encourage the development and implementation of existing and future computer security voluntary consensus standards, practices, and technologies in order to enhance the state of computer security in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on H. Res. 993, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 993, a resolution to applaud the goals and activities of National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

Computers and the Internet have been integrated into our daily routine in businesses, schools and homes. These information and communication systems underpin our government, and they increase the productivity of our industries, financial institutions and transportation systems. However, our increasing dependence on computers and computer networks exposes our society to the risks of cyber attacks, destructive viruses, malicious hacking, and identity theft.

This is why the National Cyber Security Alliance, a cooperative effort between government, academia and industry, has organized National Cyber Security Awareness Month for each of the past 3 years and has already begun planning for the next National Cyber

Security Awareness Month in October 2007. As is only proper for a cyber security-related effort, there is a central Web site that is available all year round with on-line resources that offer tips and tools to help computer users protect themselves from viruses, worms, hacker attacks, identity theft, spyware and more.

In addition to these on-line resources, during National Cyber Security Awareness Month there are events all over the country on specific cyber security topics aimed at consumers, students, children, parents, small businesses and educational institutions. Attorneys general from 41 States and the District of Columbia have signed on to a resolution like H. Res. 993, supporting National Cyber Security Awareness Month. The National Cyber Security Alliance, in partnership with the Small Business Administration, sponsored a series of workshops to provide people from small businesses and nonprofit organizations with access to cyber security training developed by the National Institutes of Standards and Technology. In total, some sort of event on cyber security took place in 49 States during the month.

Of course, cyber security is not just an issue in October, but year round. National Cyber Security Awareness Month is a chance not only to raise awareness about computer vulnerabilities and threats, but also to inform people about programs that exist throughout the U.S. to educate students, parents, businesspeople, local law enforcement and government employees about cyber security and to attract students into careers in information technology.

For example, the National Science Foundation supports a program at the University of South Carolina in which undergraduates studying computer science and undergraduates training to be teachers team up on summer cyber security projects to get the experience of what actually doing research is like and to explore how the projects might be used to communicate about cyber security to K-12 students and to the general public.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Chairman LUNGREN, Ms. SANCHEZ, Chairman BOEHLERT, Mr. GORDON, Chairman KING and Mr. THOMPSON for introducing this resolution. We applaud the associations, companies, organizations and agencies involved in National Cyber Security Awareness Month for their efforts to help all of us to become more responsible, safer computer users.

I urge my colleagues to support adoption of the resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. It expresses congressional support for the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

This resolution, which I cosponsored, is an effort to increase awareness across the Nation of the dangers lurking in cyber space. It is also to educate Americans about the availability of tools and practices to minimize these dangers.

I want to congratulate the National Cyber Security Alliance for originating the idea for this observance and for its efforts to improve cyber security.

The National Cyber Security Alliance is a public/private partnership led by industry. It is focused on improving cyber security for home users, small businesses and educational institutions.

The Alliance seeks to alert computer users to threats such as viruses, hacking attacks and identity theft. Additionally, it provides information to users on best practices and technologies available for countering cyber threats.

Each year, nearly 10 million Americans are affected by identity theft, and it cost businesses almost \$56 billion in 2004. I frequently hear from my constituents in Sacramento about their experiences with identity theft and questions on how to avoid being a victim.

Consumer awareness has proven to be an effective weapon against identity theft, especially regarding Internet security. In fact, I received an overwhelmingly positive response when I hosted an information session on preventing identity theft in Sacramento.

National Cyber Security Awareness Month includes a range of special events designed specifically for home users, small businesses and the education community.

To reach its objectives, the Alliance organizes national and regional events. These events range from small business workshops and student assemblies to cyber security boot camps, which would take consumer education to the grass-roots level. The Alliance also makes public service announcements to inform consumers about on-line best practices and to protect their valuable personal data, and it publicizes its on-line resources for computer users. This includes beginner guides, computer security tips and free security scans.

The resolution before the House calls attention to and endorses the commendable efforts of the National Cyber Security Alliance to increase awareness of cyber security throughout the Nation. This is a message we should all heed.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this resolution to my colleagues and ask for their support for its passage by the House.

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

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN).

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise today in support the passage of House Resolu-

tion 993 to support the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month. This year, that month was in October, and while it is now November, I believe it is important to recognize the need for cyber security awareness not just in one month but throughout the entire year.

The Internet and the computers we use on a daily basis have become commonplace in our lives. Over 205 million Americans use the Internet on a regular basis, and that number is growing. Companies, both large and small, increasingly rely on the Internet and information technology systems to manage their business, expand their customer reach and enhance their connection with their supply chain.

With computers becoming less expensive and access to the Internet easier to accomplish, many dangers associated with on-line behavior are becoming more and more common. These threats range from spam, viruses and identity theft to complex computer attacks created by organized crime and terrorist organizations designed to steal personal financial information and create general havoc.

The Internet has become an invaluable tool in educating our children. Almost 90 percent of all youth use the Internet, and the vast majority of those say they use the Internet at school. As more and more children use the Internet, it is important that they are taught to use this tool in a safe, secure and ethical way. This will not only protect their own systems from attack, but will protect their physical safety and help them become good cyber citizens.

Cyber security is also a critical part of our Nation's overall homeland security. In particular, the control systems that control and monitor our drinking water, our dams and other water management systems, our electrical grids, oil and gas supplies, our transportation systems and other critical manufacturing processes are connected to the Internet. It is possible for terrorist organizations to disrupt a number of our critical infrastructure systems and do serious damage to our economy without even entering our country. Clearly, with much of the Nation's critical infrastructure connected to the Internet, appropriate cyber security practices are essential to our overall security.

It is not just terrorists that seek to do harm via computers and the Internet. More and more criminal activity is occurring in borderless cyber space. Through the Internet, international criminals can attack our computers through virus, worms and unwanted programs such as spyware and password stealers that can cause significant financial and personal privacy losses due to identity theft and fraud.

Organizations such as the National Cyber Security Alliance are making it their mission to increase awareness of cyber security practices and technologies to home users, students, teachers and small businesses. These

organizations deserve to be recognized for their good work and supported as much as possible to spread the awareness of good cyber security.

This organization's work is paying off. Cyber security awareness is growing. The Department of Homeland Security has recognized its importance by naming finally an Assistant Secretary for Cyber Security and Telecommunications, but there is much more work to be done. More government agencies, private sector companies, academic institutions, consumers and the media have to recognize the importance in establishing appropriate cyber security in their computers and information systems.

We, as a Congress, have a large role to play in encouraging the use of proper cyber security practices and technologies throughout our country. National Cyber Security Awareness Month provides a solid platform from which to improve cyber security awareness in this country, and I am pleased that this Congress is supporting its goals and ideals. As I have said, we have much work to do, but being aware of the need for cyber security is a necessary, essential first step.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ).

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California for the time.

I rise in strong support of House Resolution 993 and the goals and ideals of the National Cyber Security Awareness Month, and I am proud to be one of the original cosponsors of this resolution.

I believe that raising awareness about the need to enhance computer and network security in the U.S. is a valuable tool to protect the identities and data of all Americans.

As the ranking member on the Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection and Cyber Security Subcommittee on the Committee on Homeland Security, I have had an opportunity to work on critical issues related to cyber security.

In the past, I have offered a number of amendments to various bills to increase our investment in cyber security research and development at the Department of Homeland Security, and I hope that in the next Congress we will make significant progress in this area.

I believe that we need to pay more attention to the state of cyber security because it affects all of us, from the government and large corporations to small businesses and, of course, to individuals.

Our country's infrastructure relies on secure information networks that ensure the reliable functioning of everything from public finance and control of water systems to the operation of electrical grids and emergency response systems.

For all of us, all Americans, our information infrastructure is an integral

part of our daily life, allowing us to communicate with friends and family, and pay bills and manage our business.

Imagine, if we go to the ATM and our money is gone, and this all leads back to some break in some network. At that point, we are going to realize just how important this is and how this can impact us on a daily basis.

It is the reliance on these information networks, these networks that are so much a part of our lives, and that is why it makes it such a great potential for targeted attacks by people who wish to harm us. And this type of attack would be devastating to our physical safety, as well as the economic security of our country. That is the reason I think that government needs to be a leader in the field of cyber security.

When I was talking to some of my companies about this, they said the simplest thing, about like over 50 percent of the people that use a network system do not use passwords. We should be using passwords. Those who use passwords may use something like the name of our dog or our pet; well, anybody who knows you can guess that or can get that name.

So I went through and I changed my passwords, and I changed Gretsky off of my passwords and everything else. Why? Because we need to. These are very simple, individual things that we can do because if once a person gets into the network, it goes much wider than that and can go into banking institutions and can go into the House of Representatives, et cetera.

□ 1215

So I urge my colleagues to support the goals and ideals of National Cyber Security Awareness Month. I hope every small business will take advantage of some of the free information with respect to making our networks safe.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 993, a resolution to applaud the goals and activities of National Cyber Security Awareness Month.

Information technology is becoming a critical part of our society, from wireless phones and blackberries to electronic medical records, and public trust in the security and reliability of these systems is necessary for the U.S. to realize the economic and societal benefits of new technologies.

Cybersecurity is also an important part of homeland security. The Science Committee has heard testimony from energy, electric power, and telecommunications companies about their dependence on information systems and their concerns about the nation's vulnerability to cyber attacks. The connectedness of the Internet means that each person not only must protect himself in cyberspace but also that each person's cybersecurity efforts contribute to the nation's overall state of cyber and homeland security. Progress is being made, but we as a Nation still have a long way to go.

Cybersecurity has long been a priority of mine, and I am proud to represent New York State, which has long been at the forefront of

developing new cybersecurity tools and training people in information security.

In my district, the Air Force's Rome Laboratory is a world leader in cybersecurity research programs to strengthen and protect the systems used by the military, and to develop forensic tools used by law enforcement at all levels. The laboratory also hosts innovative cybersecurity education programs including an annual Cyber Security Boot Camp to train ROTC cadets and civilian undergraduate students from all over the country in cutting edge cybersecurity techniques.

The Cyber Security Boot Camp has also led to the creation of a high school-level course in cybersecurity being taught at Rome Catholic High School in my district. This 20-week elective course will soon be accredited by the New York State Board of Education and can serve as a model for cybersecurity education nationwide.

As part of National Cyber Security Awareness Month, the University of Rochester hosted the 10-day Rochester Security Summit in collaboration with higher education, business and industry partners, and New York State ran a Poster Art Contest, open to all 4th and 5th grade students in the State, for art that illustrated how to use computers and the Internet safely.

I urge my colleagues to support adoption of H. Res. 993.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I urge passage of the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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 agree to the resolution, H. Res. 993.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GYNECOLOGIC CANCER EDUCATION AND AWARENESS ACT OF 2005

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1245) to provide for programs to increase the awareness and knowledge of women and health care providers with respect to gynecologic cancers, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1245

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act of 2005" or "Johanna's Law".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") shall carry out a national campaign to increase the awareness and knowledge of health care providers and women with respect to gynecologic cancers.

(b) WRITTEN MATERIALS.—Activities under the national campaign under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) maintaining a supply of written materials that provide information to the public on gynecologic cancers; and

(2) distributing the materials to members of the public upon request.

(c) PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.—Activities under the national campaign under subsection (a) shall, in accordance with applicable law and regulations, include developing and placing, in telecommunications media, public service announcements intended to encourage women to discuss with their physicians their risks of gynecologic cancers. Such announcements shall inform the public on the manner in which the written materials referred to in subsection (b) can be obtained upon request, and shall call attention to early warning signs and risk factors based on the best available medical information.

SEC. 3. REPORT AND STRATEGY.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report including the following:

(1) A description of the past and present activities of the Department of Health and Human Services to increase awareness and knowledge of the public with respect to different types of cancer, including gynecologic cancers.

(2) A description of the past and present activities of the Department of Health and Human Services to increase awareness and knowledge of health care providers with respect to different types of cancer, including gynecologic cancers.

(3) For each activity described pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2), a description of the following:

(A) The funding for such activity for fiscal year 2006 and the cumulative funding for such activity for previous fiscal years.

(B) The background and history of such activity, including—

(i) the goals of such activity;

(ii) the communications objectives of such activity;

(iii) the identity of each agency within the Department of Health and Human Services responsible for any aspect of the activity; and

(iv) how such activity is or was expected to result in change.

(C) How long the activity lasted or is expected to last.

(D) The outcomes observed and the evaluation methods, if any, that have been, are being, or will be used with respect to such activity.

(E) For each such outcome or evaluation method, a description of the associated results, analyses, and conclusions.

(b) STRATEGY.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT; SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3 months after submitting the report required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall develop and submit to the Congress a strategy for improving efforts to increase awareness and knowledge of the public and health care providers with respect to different types of cancer, including gynecological cancers.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the strategy under paragraph (1), the Secretary should consult with qualified private sector groups, including nonprofit organizations.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

For the purpose of carrying out this Act, there is authorized to be appropriated \$16,500,000 for the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2009.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Georgia (Mr. DEAL) and the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 1245, the Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act of 2005, or Johanna's Law. This bill takes several important steps forward in helping to educate women and their health care providers about the dangers and early warning signs of gynecologic cancers.

Ovarian, cervical, and uterine cancers are grouped together as the major gynecologic cancers. And as members of the Energy and Commerce committee recently learned during consideration of the CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, gynecological cancer, specifically cervical cancer, was once the leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States. Over the past century, we have made great strides in reducing both the morbidity and the mortality associated with cervical cancer. We also have programs in place, like the CDC's Early Detection program, that provides free screening and referral services for women who cannot afford to pay for screenings themselves.

When experts have compared cervical cancer screening and survival rates of the United States to other industrialized countries, the United States ranks near the top. We do a good job of screening for cancer, and our treatment facilities are in fact the best in the world. With the recent discovery of a new vaccine approach to prevent the transmission of the HPV virus, I am hopeful that one day we will be able to eradicate most if not all cases of cervical cancer.

But, Mr. Speaker, there is much more work to be done on gynecological cancers. Too many women don't know enough about the disease to ask their doctors or go to regular screenings. Too many cases of gynecologic cancers go unidentified or untreated until it is too late. This is the underlying purpose for the legislation before us today. This bill takes the important step of creating a national public service campaign to educate women and their health care providers on gynecologic cancers. The campaign will help to raise awareness of the problem, the warning signs, and remind women to get screened regularly.

Within 6 months of enactment, the legislation will require the Department

of Health and Human Services to submit a report to Congress on all education and outreach activities related to gynecologic cancers and other cancers. This information will give Congress and the executive branch the tools to identify what activities are ongoing and what is being done, what is working, and what could be done better.

At this time I would like to thank my colleagues, Mr. ISSA, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. BURTON, Mr. LEVIN, and Ms. DELAURO for their hard work on this important piece of legislation. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 1245, the Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act, also named Johanna's Law. It is an important piece of legislation which would provide for programs to increase the awareness and knowledge of women and health care providers with respect to gynecologic cancers.

Gynecologic cancers include cervical cancer, ovarian cancer, and uterine cancer. Gynecologic cancers affect approximately 80,000 American women each year and take nearly 29,000 lives. While diagnosis and treatment methods are becoming more targeted and accurate for gynecologic cancers, most women do not understand the symptoms or signs of gynecologic cancer and, therefore, are frequently diagnosed late. A late diagnosis often makes treatment more difficult and lengthens the need for medical care.

Unfortunately, many women and their physicians are unaware of the symptoms of gynecologic cancers. A recent poll conducted for the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation found that 47 percent of surveyed women could not name any symptoms of gynecologic cancers.

Johanna's Law would increase awareness by directing the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to carry out a nationwide campaign to increase women's awareness and knowledge of gynecologic cancers. This campaign would include maintaining and distributing a supply of written materials that provide information to the public about gynecologic cancer. It would also aid in the development of public service announcements intended to encourage women to discuss their risk for gynecologic cancers with their physicians.

Furthermore, this legislation would instruct the Secretary of HHS to take a closer look at both its past and present activities regarding gynecologic cancer awareness and education in hopes of learning what works and what does not, and what needs to be done to help with early detection and treatment of gynecologic cancers.

While we have made significant progress in fighting those cancers,

progress such as the newly developed and improved cervical cancer vaccine, one of the biggest threats that remains is the continued need for increased awareness of gynecologic cancers. Quite simply, knowledge is power. Providing women and their doctors with up-to-date information about the causes and symptoms of gynecologic cancers will strengthen and support women's health.

I am proud to support this bipartisan bill to improve women's health, and I applaud the bill's sponsors, Mr. ISSA, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. BURTON for their dedication to women's health.

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

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this important piece of legislation. As we come to the close of the 109th Congress, many have used the term "do-nothing Congress." This bill, certainly on a bipartisan basis, is a "do-something bill."

We have in this country for a very long time have had people, women in this case, dying needlessly of undiagnosed cancers. I want to thank Chairman BURTON, Ranking Member JOHN DINGELL, his staff, and particularly my cosponsors, Mr. LEVIN very much in particular, who championed this bill in a previous Congress, and he and I worked together tirelessly with Congressman DAN BURTON, KAY GRANGER and ROSA DELAURO in this Congress to get bipartisan support. This bill has far more than half the Congress as cosponsors. It has been worked out, and we are very hopeful this will still become law in this Congress.

With that, I want to take no more time than to once again say that in this Congress there are some things we did as a bipartisan body that I am very proud of. This is one of them. And I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working so tirelessly to make this a reality.

I rise today to urge support for my bill, H.R. 1245, "the Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act of 2005," otherwise known as "Johanna's Law."

Every seven minutes a woman is diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer. In 2005, over 80,000 women were diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer and over 27,000 women died. The most common gynecologic cancers include cancer of the ovaries, cervix and uterus.

Too many women are dying because they were diagnosed too late. Education and early detection are the keys to saving women's lives and reducing these statistics. If diagnosed in the early stages, the 5-year survivability rates are as high as 95 percent.

Gynecologic cancers, when detected early, can often be prevented from becoming fatal. Since all women are at risk—no matter their ethnic background or socioeconomic status—it is critical that we find a way to inform women about the steps they can take to maintain their health.

Due to the private and intimate nature of these cancers, oftentimes women are uncomfortable or embarrassed discussing issues surrounding gynecologic cancers with friends and family. Thus, it is vital that we have a national dialogue to provide accurate and timely information to the public and the medical community.

By simply educating women about these cancers, we have an opportunity to save lives. The messages are simple: learn the symptoms, have an annual exam, know your family history and talk to your doctor. Unfortunately, most women do not know the signs or the symptoms surrounding gynecologic cancers. Thus, we need an aggressive national education and awareness program that brings together the appropriate federal agencies, the medical community, and the private sector. Passage of H.R. 1245 will help make this a reality.

There is a lot of excellent information provided by both the private and government sectors—specifically by the Gynecologic Cancer Foundation and the National Cancer Institute—and I commend their efforts. Tragically, most women and families look at these Web sites or pamphlets after cancer is diagnosed. The information needs to get out before diagnosis of a gynecologic cancer.

Education and awareness is an appropriate federal role. Education, coupled with research on improved diagnostic tools and cures, will lead to reductions in cancer deaths. While science and research are needed for long term success, education and awareness can save lives now. Education empowers women to make the best choices regarding their health care.

Last year, I discovered first-hand how important early diagnosis and education can be. My Legislative Director, Paige Anderson, was diagnosed with cervical cancer. She is one of the lucky ones—she stands here today as a cancer survivor. However, it was not until after diagnosis that she learned about HPV, cervical cancer and the importance of yearly pap smears and pelvic exams. Unfortunately, her story is not unique.

Paige's journey led me to work with Representatives SANDER LEVIN, DAN BURTON, KAY GRANGER, ROSA DELAURO and introduce H.R. 1245, "the Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act of 2005," which has 257 bipartisan cosponsors.

"Johanna's Law" has afforded me the privilege and honor to meet and work with an amazing group of survivors, patients, doctors and families who have lost loved ones to these awful cancers.

As I've spoken and met with other Members and staff on H.R. 1245, it is surprising how little is known about gynecologic cancers. In fact, most do not know that a pap smear only helps diagnose cervical cancer. This test does not screen for uterine or ovarian cancer. Most do not know that there are early warning symptoms for ovarian cancer. This is why we need H.R. 1245, so we can fill the void that currently exists.

I would like to take this time to thank several people who have been instrumental in passing this bill. I greatly appreciate the time and effort that Chairman BARTON and Ranking Member DINGELL have spent on this bill. We could not have passed this bill without the help of Committee and Leadership staff on both sides of the aisle.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1245.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I would now yield 4 minutes to one of the lead cosponsors of this legislation, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Thank you very, very much for yielding. This is an important and somewhat emotional day. More than 4 years ago, Sheryl Silver first told me about her sister Johanna, who died of ovarian cancer in 2000 after a brave and hard fought battle.

Johanna Silver Gordon was an active, health conscious woman who taught high school at Southfield Lathrup High School in my congressional district. She came from a family of doctors and was conscientious about her health, but when she experienced the first symptoms of ovarian cancer, she thought they were gastrointestinal. By the time she was diagnosed, her cancer was in stage 3.

I discovered that Johanna's story was all too common. Each year, 77,000 women are diagnosed with gynecologic cancer, ovarian, cervical, or uterine. Most of them, like Johanna, do not have the information they need to recognize their early symptoms and are unaware that they are at high risk.

With these illnesses, lack of information often costs women their lives. Ovarian cancer, the deadliest of gynecologic cancers, is highly treatable and has survival rates of 80 to 90 percent if detected in stage 1 or 2, but has a survival rate of less than 20 percent if diagnosed late, as it most often is. And of these cancers, only cervical cancer today has a reliable screening test that can be used for asymptomatic women, making public education for women and their primary care physicians even more important.

This legislation, as has been mentioned by my colleagues, would create a national public information campaign to educate women and health care providers about the risk factors and early warning signs of these cancers. It would also require HHS to quickly develop a national strategy for getting the facts out to women at the highest risk and to health care providers that see them when they first develop these symptoms. We strongly believe that HHS's strategy should include public-private partnerships that leverage all the resources available and all the expertise that exists on this subject.

So here we are today, after the tireless work of so many people, and we are voting on Johanna's Law. Tireless work from her family, including her loving sister Sheryl Silver, and her mother, Ann Gonts Silver, who is celebrating her 91st birthday today, and the cancer survivors and family members across the country who rallied to this effort, and the physicians and the organizations that lent invaluable support, and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, as mentioned, especially DARRELL ISSA, ROSA DELAURO, KAY GRANGER, and DAN BURTON.

And if I might, let me lastly thank Morna Miller. Without her tireless ef-

forts as a member of our staff over the last 3 years in developing this legislation and helping shepherd it to the House today, we would not be here at this moment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support Johanna's Law and strike a blow against gynecologic cancer.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to simply add my support to this bill. I had the great opportunity when I was in the State Senate in North Carolina to learn much about HPV in particular. And while I consider myself a fairly well educated woman in many cases, I knew nothing about the HPV until the organization Women in Government educated those of us in the State legislature about this completely preventable cancer.

We are looking for a way to prevent cancer and to cure cancer in this country and we now have a mechanism for doing that. And whatever we can do to spread the word to women that this particular cancer can be prevented, we need to do.

□ 1230

And so I am a supporter of this legislation and hope that we can do much in this country, State by State, as well as nationally, to educate women and help them understand the perils of many of these diseases and how they can prevent them.

We were able in North Carolina to pass a model piece of legislation. Unfortunately, it has not been passed in all the States, but I hope that more States will pick it up and help educate women about these diseases and how they can be prevented.

So I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to another primary sponsor of this legislation, Congresswoman DELAURO.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank everyone who has made this legislation such a priority in the Congress, Congressmen ISSA and LEVIN for their leadership, as well as Sheryl Silver for her passion and her tenacity. This bipartisan coalition is a testament to the simple fact that when it comes to life and death, life and death issues like cancer, Congress speaks with one voice. It must.

This is a special moment. Whether it is a family member, a friend, or if you are a survivor yourself, each of us knows the deadly toll that gynecological cancer takes. Twenty years ago I found out for myself when, during an unrelated doctor's visit, I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. I underwent radiation treatment for 2½ months, and I am proud to say that I have now been cancer-free for 20 years.

But no one should have to depend on luck when it comes to life and death. Right now, almost 21,000 women are diagnosed every year with ovarian cancer, nearly 16,000 of whom will die.

Ovarian cancer claims the lives of nearly three-quarters of women diagnosed simply because the disease is not detected until it has reached an advanced stage. This disease has a 45 percent 5-year survival rate.

The tragedy is that ovarian cancer, like other gynecologic cancers, can be cured if it is detected soon enough. When ovarian cancer is detected in the early stages, 95 percent of women survive longer than 5 years, and most are cured completely. Unfortunately, women have never had a reliable and accurate method of screening for ovarian cancer in the early stages. On top of that, not only do many doctors misdiagnose this disease, but 85 percent of women report they do not know which symptoms to look for.

We have made progress, of course, through research at the NIH, Department of Defense, and with the recent approval of the HPV vaccine. But Johanna's Law recognized something critical, that until we have accurate screening methods, public education is one of the most critical weapons we have toward beating gynecologic cancers like ovarian, cervical and uterine cancer. In creating a Federal campaign to educate women and health care providers alike, as this legislation does, we can take a bold step toward ensuring that women know which symptoms to look for and how to seek help before it is too late.

This legislation has been a long time coming, and to be clear, it represents only a first step. But every inch of progress we make fighting these deadly diseases gets us closer to a cure. And that is a fight that every woman has a stake in, every family has a stake in, a fight the Silver family has dedicated itself to making sure we win.

And so I thank you. I thank you for helping us pass this vital bill and take such an important step forward. I was given a second chance at life. Others should have that same opportunity. It is about time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL).

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, of course I rise today in support of H.R. 1245, the Gynecologic Cancer Education bill, also known as Johanna's bill.

This very important bill authorizes an early detection and awareness campaign directed at women and health care providers. Approximately 80,000 women a year will be diagnosed with some form of gynecological cancer, and close to 28,000 women will die from these cancers. Early detection is the key to survival. But so many women and their providers are unaware of symptoms and risk factors.

Unfortunately, there isn't currently a reliable screening test for ovarian cancer. Women need to know the symptoms so that they can be diagnosed early. Studies demonstrate that early detection is the key to survival. When diagnosed early, women have a 90 percent chance of survival. However, that

number drops to 50 percent or less when these cancers are diagnosed in the late stages. It is a sobering statistic that over three-fourths of the women with ovarian cancer are not diagnosed until the latter stages, making this the fifth leading cause of cancer death among American women. We need to turn these statistics around.

By creating a national public awareness campaign conducted through the Department of Health and Human Services, this bill helps distribute materials that will provide information to the public. This bill will also help develop public service announcements that encourage women to discuss their risk for gynecologic cancers with their health and care providers and alert them to early warning signs. Finally, HHS will award demonstration grants to nonprofit organizations to develop innovative outreach programs.

I urge Members to pass this important legislation today so that we can begin to improve and save the lives of many women with gynecologic cancers. I am pleased that we are moving forward on this legislation, and I encourage this body to move legislation aimed at mending the SGR for physicians before Congress recesses.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, again I am proud to join my colleagues in supporting this legislation that will increase awareness and knowledge of women with respect to gynecologic cancers. This bill, as we have heard, will increase the survivability of these cancer diagnoses and prevent cancer deaths. I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Johanna's law and I thank Representatives LEVIN, ISSA, DELAURO and BURTON and their strong bipartisan coalition for all of their hard work in bringing this bill to the floor today.

This bill honors the memory of Johanna Silver Gordon and the thousands of women who have lost their lives to gynecologic cancer because they were not diagnosed until the late stages of the disease.

This year, more than 80,000 women will be diagnosed with gynecologic cancer, and more than 28,000 women will die from these diseases. However, there is very little awareness about these deadly diseases. According to the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition, NOCC, only 15 percent of women are familiar with the symptoms of ovarian cancer, and 82 percent have never talked to their doctors about the symptoms and risk factors.

If caught in the early stages of the disease, the five-year survival rate for ovarian cancer is 90 percent. However 75 percent of women are diagnosed in the advanced stages of the disease, when the prognosis is very poor. It is clear that we must do something to increase awareness about this disease and promote early diagnosis. Johanna's law will authorize a national campaign directed at women and their providers to promote early detection of gynecologic cancer and raise awareness about these devastating diseases.

I would like to thank one of my constituents, Barbara O'Brien, a 9 year survivor herself, for her passionate advocacy and her dedication to

raising awareness about this incredibly important issue.

Education is a critical first step and this bill will significantly increase awareness. However, we must also continue to pursue the research necessary to find a diagnostic test, better treatments and ultimately a cure for this horrible disease so that succeeding generations will have to turn to the history books to learn that there was ever a disease called ovarian cancer.

I urge support of this important legislation.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1245, the Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act, or "Johanna's Law," a bipartisan, common-sense measure that will help save the lives of thousands of American women each year.

Uterine cancer is the most common form of gynecologic cancer, and ovarian cancer is the deadliest. Unlike cervical cancer, there is no reliable early detection screening test for these cancers. This means that 80,000 women will be diagnosed with gynecologic cancers this year, and almost 30,000 will die because their illnesses were detected too late.

Most women don't recognize the symptoms of gynecologic cancers, and many doctors initially misdiagnose them.

Early detection is the key to successful treatment of gynecologic cancers. We must do better. This bill will help save the lives and improve the health of our Nation's mothers, wives and daughters.

Johanna's Law was named for the sister of one of my constituents from Hallandale, Florida, who lost her life to ovarian cancer. I want to congratulate Sheryl Silver and her family for their hard work, dedication, and commitment to saving the lives of millions of American women.

This bill will authorize millions of dollars in desperately needed funds to help raise awareness and increase knowledge about these cancers that will lead to early detection, effective treatment, and saved lives.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join 256 of my colleagues as co-sponsors of this important piece of legislation.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1245, a bill to authorize the Department of Health and Human Services to carry out a national campaign to increase the awareness and knowledge of women with respect to gynecologic cancers.

Two months ago marked the seventh annual Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month. I expressed my strong belief that raising public awareness, detecting gynecological cancers early, and educating women to the risk of reproductive tract cancers are powerful methods with which to combat this disease in my September 29, 2006, statement in honor of Gynecological Cancer Awareness Month. Today, we continue the important work to raise public awareness of gynecologic cancers through passage of this bill. We also reaffirm that detecting gynecological cancer early and educating women to the risk of reproductive tract cancers are key methods with which to combat this disease by passing this legislation.

It is important to recognize that H.R. 1245 enjoys the support of 257 members

of this body. The bill has been named in honor of Johanna Silver Gordon, who lost her life to a battle with ovarian cancer which was not diagnosed until it had reached an advanced stage. Today we honor her life and her fight against cancer. We also renew our commitment to legislation to be known as Johanna's Law once enacted that will help save the lives of others who are at risk of gynecologic cancers.

A poll recently released by the Gynecological Cancer Foundation revealed that 45 percent of American women could not name a single symptom common to gynecological cancers. This fact alone suggests more must be done in terms increasing awareness. Education and outreach on gynecological cancers deserves to be a national priority and an ongoing effort of the Department of Health and Human Services.

I urge that this House adopt H.R. 1245, and I urge my colleagues' support for additional and continued action towards increasing research funds and treatment options for those individuals who have been diagnosed with forms of gynecologic cancer.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1245, 'Johanna's Law' or the "Gynecological Cancer Education and Awareness Act of 2005." I want to thank Chairman NATHAN DEAL and Chairman JOE BARTON, and the Energy and Commerce Committee staff, for bringing this bill to the floor today. I also want to thank my colleagues, Representative DARRYL ISSA and Representative SANDER LEVIN, the lead sponsors of this bill, who have worked so tirelessly for over two years to guide this bill through the legislative process. I want to thank the 257 House Members and 42 Senators, Republican and Democrat, Conservative and Liberal, who co-sponsored this critically needed bi-partisan legislation.

I also want to congratulate Ms. Sheryl Silver, the architect of this bill. Sheryl's sister Johanna Silver Gordon (who this bill is named after) died after her battle with ovarian cancer in 2000; and Sheryl found the will and the strength to turn her personal tragedy into a passionate crusade to help make sure that other women will not die needlessly from gynecological cancers.

And last but by no means least; I want to thank Ms. Kolleen Stacy, a constituent of mine and a dear friend who is currently fighting her own personal battle with ovarian cancer. Kolleen first brought this bill to my attention and once told me that her most fervent wish was to live long enough to see this bill signed into law. Today, thanks to the efforts of so many, we take a huge step forward towards fulfilling Kolleen's dream. And I would say to her that today's debate is a victory for all women, but in my mind, Kolleen, this is your day.

The word "cancer" evokes powerful emotions. Along with many of my colleagues, I know first-hand how devastating cancer can be to the individual who has been diagnosed as well as their family. Ovarian Cancer for example, is the deadliest of the gynecological cancers, and it is the fourth leading cause of cancer deaths among women living in the United States. Each year nearly 80,000 women in this country are diagnosed with a new case of gynecological cancer, and an estimated 28,000 die from these diseases. This is a national tragedy, and what makes it even

more tragic is the fact that many of those deaths could have been prevented if more women and their doctors knew the risk factors and recognized the early warning signs of ovarian cancer and other gynecological cancers.

That is why I am such a proud co-sponsor and passionate supporter of Johanna's Law. When it is detected early, ovarian cancer is very treatable, unfortunately, ovarian cancer is one of the most difficult cancers to diagnose because symptoms are sometimes subtle and may be easily confused with those of other diseases. As a result, only 29-percent of ovarian cancer cases in the U.S. are diagnosed in the early stages. When the disease is detected before it has spread beyond the ovaries, more than 95-percent of women will survive longer than five years. But, in cases where the disease is not detected until it reaches the advanced stage, the five-year survival rate plummets to a devastating 25-percent.

As there is still no reliable and easy-to-administer screening test for ovarian cancer, like the Pap smear for cervical cancer or the mammogram for breast cancer, early recognition of symptoms is clearly the best way to save a woman's life. Without increased education about ovarian cancer and recognition of women who are at higher risk for developing ovarian cancer, many women and their doctors will continue to ignore or misinterpret the symptoms of the disease. Any woman is at risk for developing a gynecological cancer. We owe it to our mothers, our wives and our daughters to do all we can to both raise awareness of these terrible diseases, and to fund the research necessary to stamp out this kind of cancer once and for all.

Johanna's Law is a giant step forward because for the first time ever, the Secretary of Health and Human Services will have explicit authority to carry out a national campaign to increase the awareness and knowledge of women with respect to gynecological cancers, which shall include: (1) maintaining a supply of written materials to provide information to the public on gynecological cancers; and (2) developing and placing public service announcements to encourage women to discuss their risks of gynecological cancers with their physicians. The bill also requires the Secretary to study current and past outreach and education activities and then to develop a strategy to improve the way we increase awareness and knowledge of both the public and health care providers with respect to different types of cancer, including gynecological cancer.

I personally think we need to do more to attack this problem, but I am confident that with a national Public Service Announcement campaign describing risk factors and symptoms and encouraging women to talk to their doctors about their risk of gynecological cancers, we can and will increase early detection of these deadly cancers; and, when possible, help women reduce their risk of ever contracting them in the first place.

Johanna's Law is a good bill, it is good public policy. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I urge our colleagues in the Senate to act quickly and move this critically needed legislation to the President's desk for his signature. This is literally a matter of life and death.

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

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1245, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SOBER TRUTH ON PREVENTING UNDERAGE DRINKING ACT

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 864) to provide for programs and activities with respect to the prevention of underage drinking, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 864

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act, or the 'STOP Underage Drinking Act'".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—SENSE OF CONGRESS

Sec. 101. Sense of Congress.

TITLE II—INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE; ANNUAL REPORT ON STATE UNDERAGE DRINKING PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Sec. 201. Interagency coordinating committee on the prevention of underage drinking.

Sec. 202. Annual report on State underage drinking prevention and enforcement activities.

Sec. 203. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—NATIONAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Sec. 301. National media campaign to prevent underage drinking.

TITLE IV—INTERVENTIONS

Sec. 401. Community-based coalition enhancement grants to prevent underage drinking.

Sec. 402. Grants directed at preventing and reducing alcohol abuse at institutions of higher education.

TITLE V—ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

Sec. 501. Additional research on underage drinking.

Sec. 502. Authorization of appropriations.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act:

(1) The term "alcohol beverage industry" means the brewers, vintners, distillers, importers, distributors, and retail or online outlets that sell or serve beer, wine, and distilled spirits.

(2) The term "school-based prevention" means programs, which are institutionalized, and run by staff members or school-designated persons or organizations in any

grade of school, kindergarten through 12th grade.

(3) The term “youth” means persons under the age of 21.

(4) The term “IOM report” means the report released in September 2003 by the National Research Council, Institute of Medicine, and entitled “Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility”.

TITLE I—SENSE OF CONGRESS

SEC. 101. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that:

(1) A multi-faceted effort is needed to more successfully address the problem of underage drinking in the United States. A coordinated approach to prevention, intervention, treatment, enforcement, and research is key to making progress. This Act recognizes the need for a focused national effort, and addresses particulars of the Federal portion of that effort, as well as Federal support for State activities.

(2) The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall continue to conduct research and collect data on the short and long-range impact of alcohol use and abuse upon adolescent brain development and other organ systems.

(3) States and communities, including colleges and universities, are encouraged to adopt comprehensive prevention approaches, including—

(A) evidence-based screening, programs and curricula;

(B) brief intervention strategies;

(C) consistent policy enforcement; and

(D) environmental changes that limit underage access to alcohol.

(4) Public health groups, consumer groups, and the alcohol beverage industry should continue and expand evidence-based efforts to prevent and reduce underage drinking.

(5) The entertainment industries have a powerful impact on youth, and they should use rating systems and marketing codes to reduce the likelihood that underage audiences will be exposed to movies, recordings, or television programs with unsuitable alcohol content.

(6) The National Collegiate Athletic Association, its member colleges and universities, and athletic conferences should affirm a commitment to a policy of discouraging alcohol use among underage students and other young fans.

(7) Alcohol is a unique product and should be regulated differently than other products by the States and Federal Government. States have primary authority to regulate alcohol distribution and sale, and the Federal Government should support and supplement these State efforts. States also have a responsibility to fight youth access to alcohol and reduce underage drinking. Continued State regulation and licensing of the manufacture, importation, sale, distribution, transportation and storage of alcoholic beverages are clearly in the public interest and are critical to promoting responsible consumption, preventing illegal access to alcohol by persons under 21 years of age from commercial and non-commercial sources, maintaining industry integrity and an orderly marketplace, and furthering effective State tax collection.

TITLE II—INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE; ANNUAL REPORT ON STATE UNDERAGE DRINKING PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

SEC. 201. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON THE PREVENTION OF UNDERAGE DRINKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with the Federal officials specified in subsection (b), shall formally establish and enhance the efforts of the interagency coordinating com-

mittee, that began operating in 2004, focusing on underage drinking (referred to in this section as the “Committee”).

(b) OTHER AGENCIES.—The officials referred to in subsection (a) are the Secretary of Education, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Surgeon General, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, and such other Federal officials as the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines to be appropriate.

(c) CHAIR.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall serve as the chair of the Committee.

(d) DUTIES.—The Committee shall guide policy and program development across the Federal Government with respect to underage drinking, provided, however, that nothing in this Act shall be construed as transferring regulatory or program authority from an Agency to the Coordinating Committee.

(e) CONSULTATIONS.—The Committee shall actively seek the input of and shall consult with all appropriate and interested parties, including States, public health research and interest groups, foundations, and alcohol beverage industry trade associations and companies.

(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, on behalf of the Committee, shall annually submit to the Congress a report that summarizes—

(A) all programs and policies of Federal agencies designed to prevent and reduce underage drinking;

(B) the extent of progress in preventing and reducing underage drinking nationally;

(C) data that the Secretary shall collect with respect to the information specified in paragraph (2); and

(D) such other information regarding underage drinking as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(2) CERTAIN INFORMATION.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include information on the following:

(A) Patterns and consequences of underage drinking as reported in research and surveys such as, but not limited to Monitoring the Future, Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, and the Fatality Analysis Reporting System.

(B) Measures of the availability of alcohol from commercial and non-commercial sources to underage populations.

(C) Measures of the exposure of underage populations to messages regarding alcohol in advertising and the entertainment media as reported by the Federal Trade Commission.

(D) Surveillance data, including information on the onset and prevalence of underage drinking, consumption patterns and the means of underage access. The Secretary shall develop a plan to improve the collection, measurement and consistency of reporting Federal underage alcohol data.

(E) Any additional findings resulting from research conducted or supported under section 501.

(F) Evidence-based best practices to prevent and reduce underage drinking and pro-

vide treatment services to those youth who need them.

SEC. 202. ANNUAL REPORT ON STATE UNDERAGE DRINKING PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall, with input and collaboration from other appropriate Federal agencies, States, Indian tribes, territories, and public health, consumer, and alcohol beverage industry groups, annually issue a report on each State’s performance in enacting, enforcing, and creating laws, regulations, and programs to prevent or reduce underage drinking.

(b) STATE PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop, in consultation with the Committee established in section 201, a set of measures to be used in preparing the report on best practices.

(2) CATEGORIES.—In developing these measures, the Secretary shall consider categories including, but not limited to:

(A) Whether or not the State has comprehensive anti-underage drinking laws such as for the illegal sale, purchase, attempt to purchase, consumption, or possession of alcohol; illegal use of fraudulent ID; illegal furnishing or obtaining of alcohol for an individual under 21 years; the degree of strictness of the penalties for such offenses; and the prevalence of the enforcement of each of these infractions.

(B) Whether or not the State has comprehensive liability statutes such as dram shop, social host and “house party” laws; and the prevalence of enforcement of each of these infractions.

(C) Whether or not the State encourages and conducts comprehensive enforcement efforts at retail outlets, such as random compliance checks and shoulder tap programs; and the number of compliance checks within alcohol retail outlets measured against the number of total alcohol retail outlets in each State; and the results of such checks.

(D) Whether or not the State mandates or encourages training on the proper selling and serving of alcohol for all sellers and servers of alcohol as a condition of employment.

(E) Whether or not the State has policies and regulations with regard to direct sales to consumers and home delivery of alcoholic beverages.

(F) Whether or not the State has programs or laws to deter adults from purchasing alcohol for minors; and the number of adults targeted by these programs.

(G) Whether or not the State has programs targeted to youths, parents, and caregivers to deter underage drinking; and the number of individuals served by these programs.

(H) Whether or not the State has enacted graduated drivers licenses and the extent of those provisions.

(I) The amount that the State invests, per youth capita, on the prevention of underage drinking, further broken down by the amount spent on—

(i) compliance check programs in retail outlets, including providing technology to prevent and detect the use of false identification by minors to make alcohol purchases;

(ii) checkpoints and saturation patrols;

(iii) community-based, school-based, and higher-education-based programs to prevent underage drinking;

(iv) underage drinking prevention programs that target youth within the juvenile justice and child welfare systems; and

(v) other State efforts or programs as deemed appropriate.

SEC. 203. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title \$1,000,000 for fiscal year

2007, and \$1,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2010.

TITLE III—NATIONAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN
SEC. 301. NATIONAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT UNDERAGE DRINKING.

(a) SCOPE OF THE CAMPAIGN.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall continue to fund and oversee the production, broadcasting, and evaluation of the Ad Council's national adult-oriented media public service campaign.

(b) REPORT.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide a report to the Congress annually detailing the production, broadcasting, and evaluation of the campaign referred to in subsection (a), and to detail in the report the effectiveness of the campaign in reducing underage drinking, the need for and likely effectiveness of an expanded adult-oriented media campaign, and the feasibility and the likely effectiveness of a national youth-focused media campaign to combat underage drinking.

(c) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out the media campaign, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall direct the Ad Council to consult with interested parties including both the alcohol beverage industry and public health and consumer groups. The progress of this consultative process is to be covered in the report under subsection (b).

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2007 and \$1,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2010.

TITLE IV—INTERVENTIONS

SEC. 401. COMMUNITY-BASED COALITION ENHANCEMENT GRANTS TO PREVENT UNDERAGE DRINKING.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM.—The Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in consultation with the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, shall award "enhancement grants" to eligible entities to design, test, evaluate and disseminate effective strategies to maximize the effectiveness of community-wide approaches to preventing and reducing underage drinking.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) prevent and reduce alcohol use among youth in communities throughout the United States;

(2) strengthen collaboration among communities, the Federal Government, and State, local, and tribal governments;

(3) enhance intergovernmental cooperation and coordination on the issue of alcohol use among youth;

(4) serve as a catalyst for increased citizen participation and greater collaboration among all sectors and organizations of a community that first demonstrates a long-term commitment to reducing alcohol use among youth;

(5) disseminate to communities timely information regarding state-of-the-art practices and initiatives that have proven to be effective in preventing and reducing alcohol use among youth; and

(6) enhance, not supplant, effective local community initiatives for preventing and reducing alcohol use among youth.

(c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity desiring an enhancement grant under this section shall submit an application to the Administrator at such time, and in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Administrator may require. Each application shall include—

(1) a complete description of the entity's current underage alcohol use prevention initiatives and how the grant will appropriately enhance the focus on underage drinking issues; or

(2) a complete description of the entity's current initiatives, and how it will use this grant to enhance those initiatives by adding a focus on underage drinking prevention.

(d) USES OF FUNDS.—Each eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to carry out the activities described in such entity's application submitted pursuant to subsection (c). Grants under this section shall not exceed \$50,000 per year and may not exceed four years.

(e) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds provided under this section shall be used to supplement, not supplant, Federal and non-Federal funds available for carrying out the activities described in this section.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the term "eligible entity" means an organization that is currently receiving or has received grant funds under the Drug-Free Communities Act of 1997 (21 U.S.C. 1521 et seq.).

(g) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 6 percent of a grant under this section may be expended for administrative expenses.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, and \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2010.

SEC. 402. GRANTS DIRECTED AT PREVENTING AND REDUCING ALCOHOL ABUSE AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to enable the entities to prevent and reduce the rate of underage alcohol consumption including binge drinking among students at institutions of higher education.

(b) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible entity that desires to receive a grant under this Act shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require. Each application shall include—

(1) a description of how the eligible entity will work to enhance an existing, or where none exists to build a, statewide coalition;

(2) a description of how the eligible entity will target underage students in the State;

(3) a description of how the eligible entity intends to ensure that the statewide coalition is actually implementing the purpose of this Act and moving toward indicators described in section (d);

(4) a list of the members of the statewide coalition or interested parties involved in the work of the eligible entity;

(5) a description of how the eligible entity intends to work with State agencies on substance abuse prevention and education;

(6) the anticipated impact of funds provided under this Act in preventing and reducing the rates of underage alcohol use;

(7) outreach strategies, including ways in which the eligible entity proposes to—

(A) reach out to students and community stakeholders;

(B) promote the purpose of this Act;

(C) address the range of needs of the students and the surrounding communities; and

(D) address community norms for underage students regarding alcohol use; and

(8) such additional information as required by the Secretary.

(c) USES OF FUNDS.—Each eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to carry out the activities described in such entity's application submitted pursuant to subsection (b).

(d) ACCOUNTABILITY.—On the date on which the Secretary first publishes a notice in the Federal Register soliciting applications for grants under this section, the Secretary shall include in the notice achievement indi-

cators for the program authorized under this section. The achievement indicators shall be designed—

(1) to measure the impact that the statewide coalitions assisted under this Act are having on the institutions of higher education and the surrounding communities, including changes in the number of incidents of any kind in which students have abused alcohol or consumed alcohol while under the age of 21 (including violations, physical assaults, sexual assaults, reports of intimidation, disruptions of school functions, disruptions of student studies, mental health referrals, illnesses, or deaths);

(2) to measure the quality and accessibility of the programs or information offered by the eligible entity; and

(3) to provide such other measures of program impact as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(e) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds provided under this Act shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, Federal and non-Federal funds available for carrying out the activities described in this section.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means a State, institution of higher education, or nonprofit entity.

(2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term "institution of higher education" has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Education.

(4) STATE.—The term "State" means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

(5) STATEWIDE COALITION.—The term "statewide coalition" means a coalition that—

(A) includes, but is not limited to—

(i) institutions of higher education within a State; and

(ii) a nonprofit group, a community underage drinking prevention coalition, or another substance abuse prevention group within a State; and

(B) works toward lowering the alcohol abuse rate by targeting underage students at institutions of higher education throughout the State and in the surrounding communities.

(6) SURROUNDING COMMUNITY.—The term "surrounding community" means the community—

(A) that surrounds an institution of higher education participating in a statewide coalition;

(B) where the students from the institution of higher education take part in the community; and

(C) where students from the institution of higher education live in off-campus housing.

(g) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 5 percent of a grant under this section may be expended for administrative expenses.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, and \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2010.

TITLE V—ADDITIONAL RESEARCH
SEC. 501. ADDITIONAL RESEARCH ON UNDERAGE DRINKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall collect data on, and conduct or support research on, underage drinking with respect to the following:

(1) Comprehensive community-based programs or strategies and statewide systems to prevent and reduce underage drinking, across the underage years from early childhood to age 21, including programs funded

and implemented by government entities, public health interest groups and foundations, and alcohol beverage companies and trade associations.

(2) Annually obtain and report more precise information than is currently collected on the scope of the underage drinking problem and patterns exhibited in underage alcohol consumption, including improved knowledge of both the problem and progress in preventing, reducing and treating underage drinking; as well as information on the rate of exposure of youth to advertising and other media messages encouraging and discouraging alcohol consumption.

(3) Compiling information on the involvement of alcohol in unnatural deaths of persons ages 12 to 20 in the United States, including suicides, homicides, and unintentional injuries such as falls, drownings, burns, poisonings, and motor vehicle crash deaths.

(b) CERTAIN MATTERS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall carry out activities toward the following objectives with respect to underage drinking:

(1) Obtaining new epidemiological data within the National Epidemiological Study on Alcoholism and Related Conditions and other national or targeted surveys that identify alcohol use and attitudes about alcohol use during pre- and early adolescence, including harm caused to self or others as a result of adolescent alcohol use such as violence, date rape, risky sexual behavior, and prenatal alcohol exposure.

(2) Developing or identifying successful clinical treatments for youth with alcohol problems.

(c) PEER REVIEW.—Research under section 501 must meet current Federal standards for scientific peer review.

SEC. 502. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 501 \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, and \$6,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 864, the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act. Commonly referred to as the STOP Act, this legislation takes several important measures to address the problem of underage drinking.

Underage drinking is a serious problem in our country that has serious consequences. It is estimated that nearly one-third of children and adolescents between the ages of 12 and 20 use alcohol, which is a higher percentage than those who use tobacco or illicit drugs. Alcohol is a leading contributor

to death and injury among adolescents. Over 5,000 young people die every year as a result of injuries that involve drinking.

Not only does underage drinking cause accidents, injuries and death, but it can have a lasting impact on a young person's physical development. Studies have shown that the human brain continues to develop into a young person's early 20s, and that exposure of the developing brain to alcohol may have long-lasting effects on intellectual capabilities and increase the likelihood of alcohol addiction.

The legislation before us today will take several steps to address the problem of underage drinking at the national level. It would also assist States, localities and institutions of higher learning in their efforts to prevent underage drinking. The bill would create a nationwide media campaign to educate youth and parents on the dangers of underage drinking. It would also assist States in collecting data on underage drinking laws and their enforcement around the country, so that States can collaborate and learn from each other about which strategies are most effective at combating this problem. The bill also calls for research to be conducted on the influences and pressures that entice youth to consume alcohol.

I am pleased to recognize Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD, the lead sponsor of the bill, Congressman TOM OSBORNE and other Members who have worked so hard on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask unanimous consent that Mr. FLAKE from Arizona be able to control 5 minutes of my time.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 864, the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act or STOP Underage Drinking Act.

Underage drinking is a serious public health concern in communities throughout our Nation. According to 2004 estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were over 142,000 emergency room visits by youth, age 12 to 20, for unintentional injuries and other health-related concerns caused by alcohol consumption.

This bill builds interagency and community-based coalitions focusing on underage drinking, funds the production, broadcast and evaluation of national media-based public health campaigns about the dangers of underage drinking, and establishes grant programs for preventing and reducing alcohol abuse at institutions of higher education and surrounding communities.

This bill is a great start in moving our Nation towards the goal of decreasing youth access to, and consumption of, alcohol. It has the endorsement of both the alcohol beverage industry and

a number of key public health advocates, both committed to the idea that a multifaceted national effort is key to making progress in curbing underage alcohol consumption.

I want to express my appreciation to Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD's office, as well as the many other lead cosponsors of this bill that include Representatives WAMP, OSBORNE and DELAURO. I also want to thank the committee staff; the committee staff have dedicated their time and attention and effort to this bill. And I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for giving me time on this bill.

I am not rising today to debate the merits of trying to prevent underage drinking. What I am here to do is challenge the Federal Government's role in authorizing what amounts, in this bill, to \$40 million for two new grant programs, \$24 million for a new research initiative, \$4 million to establish a new Federal committee, and another \$4 million for a public service announcement. This is a total of \$72 million over 4 years. And here's the real kicker: There already exist Federal programs that do exactly what this suspension bill intends to do.

My staff and I visited www.thecoolspot.gov this morning. The Cool Spot was created for young teens by the lead U.S. agency supporting research into the causes, prevention and treatment of alcohol programs. It is an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, an agency that is estimated to receive over \$430 million in fiscal year 2007 and to do exactly what this suspension bill intends to do.

The acting director of this agency justified in House and Senate Appropriations Committee hearings a budget increase of over \$2 million for fiscal year 2005 to 2006 by claiming the agency would expand its research into youth alcohol abuse.

But if you think that there needs to be more money, you can visit www.alcoholfreechildren.org, another underage drinking program that receives Federal funding from the Federal Government. Or there's www.collegedrinkprevention.gov, or www.alcoholpolicy.gov.

Why are we spending \$72 million on Federal research and grants to establish duplicative programs? And why are we doing this exactly 1 week after the voters told us that they were tired of wasteful spending?

Mr. Speaker, we simply cannot afford to keep adding new authorizations, new Federal programs when we know that we are running deficits and we have a massive debt. Where does it end? Where do we say, you know, having seven or eight or a dozen programs that already do virtually the exact same thing are enough?

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Why are we simply adding another? We can't continue to do this. So I would rise in opposition to this legislation and urge my colleagues to vote against it.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I would yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

Mr. OSBORNE. I would like to thank the gentleman. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 864. As many have pointed out, underage drinking certainly flies under the radar screen, because alcohol is legal, and it is widely accepted. I understand the objection to new spending, a so-called new program.

I think it is important to realize that many programs involving alcohol abuse are already ongoing, and they are funded, but they are not authorized, and there is no oversight. That is what this bill does.

We are not talking about completely new spending on every issue. We are simply trying to rein in and control and to better channel the spending on underage drinking.

Underage drinking costs the citizens of Nebraska \$435 million a year. The United States estimate is \$53 billion a year. AMA estimates \$61 billion. If you can cut that by 10 percent, you are talking about a \$5 billion savings. We can do that.

So let us not be a penny wise and a pound foolish on this, which is what I think we may be talking about here. But the cost is measured in more than money. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated the number of underage deaths due to excessive alcohol use at 4,554 a year. That is more than six times the rate of death in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We have agonized on this floor over that death rate, and yet we are having six times more young people die every year, and it is sort of something that doesn't capture our attention. An estimated 3 million teenagers are full-blown alcoholics, and several million more have serious drinking problems. Alcohol kills six times more young people than all other illegal drugs combined.

So the Federal Government, in response, spends 25 times more annually to combat youth drug use, which would be cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, marijuana, than it does to prevent underage alcohol use, which is \$1.8 billion on the drug side versus \$71 million on the alcohol side. That doesn't make sense. It is tremendously imbalanced. This is the biggest problem we have as far as our young people, and yet we are spending a drop in the bucket compared to what we are spending on other drugs.

Recent studies have found that heavy exposure of the adolescent brain to alcohol interferes with brain development, which is a real problem, and this is something that has really come to light only in the last 2 or 3 years. It was assumed for a long time that drinking with a 12-year old is the same

as drinking if you are 30 years old, but it really is not in terms of what it does to the adolescent brain or the adolescent body, and we need to focus on that.

According to an analysis performed in 2004, the average age in which 12- to 17-year-olds begin drinking is age 13. Now when you start at age 13, that does some stuff to you. Young people tend to binge drink; 92 percent of the alcohol consumed by 12- to 14-year olds is consumed when they are having five or more drinks upon a single occasion; 12- to 14-year-olds, 92 percent of them are binge drinking. They do not drink socially, they drink to get drunk, in most cases. That, again, of course, is a huge problem with our young people.

Young people who began drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence. The STOP Act, which we are talking about here today, includes four major areas of policy development. The first creates an interagency coordinating committee, and that is something that I want to address to Mr. FLAKE, because these programs that he cited, and I agree with him, there are some things that are out there, but they are not coordinated, and as a result we are spending money here and there, but it is not channeled, it is not funneled in the direction that it has to be.

So what we need to do is have this report filed with Congress so we know what works and what doesn't work. What are we spending money on that is not effective. What are we spending money on that is effective. That is the important distinction here.

The STOP Act would authorize a national media campaign against underage drinking, which would be directed at adults. Now, this is important, because the biggest single determinant as to what young people do with underage drinking is the attitude of their parents, and we totally missed that point.

So whatever advertising we do is aimed at kids, it is not at the adults who influence their thinking. So we think that this is a critical component. The bill would also provide additional resources to prevent underage drinking, including alcohol specific grants through the drug-free communities program, and competitive grants that would create statewide coalitions to prevent underage drinking and alcohol abuse by college and university students.

Currently, we are losing 1,700 college students a year to underage drinking, 1,700. There are roughly 70,000 date rapes in this regard as well.

So I would like to thank Jeremiah Blake on my staff, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. WAMP, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. WOLF and Senator DEWINE and Senator DODD. I appreciate their hard work and urge passage.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the bill's primary author, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD).

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the passage of the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act is an opportunity for this House to make a historic commitment to the well-being of our children and our Nation.

I extend my sincere thanks to my colleagues, FRANK WOLF, TOM OSBORNE, ZACH WAMP, ROSA DELAURO for their original cosponsorship of my bill. Their commitment and steadfast efforts throughout the years have helped to make possible today's consideration of this significant piece of legislation.

I particularly want to acknowledge the efforts of Congressman OSBORNE. Passage of the STOP Act would be an important part of his legacy as he retires from Congress at the end of this session. Tom, I wish you well, and I thank you for being a champion on behalf of our children.

I also thank Senators DEWINE and DODD for sponsoring the companion bill in the Senate. I thank the public health groups, especially MADD, CAMY, CSPI and CADCA for working with me over 10 years on this critical issue. Their advocacy has raised the level of awareness in Congress and throughout the Nation about our public health crisis of underage drinking, and I commend them for their efforts. I also thank the alcohol beverage industry for its efforts this year in support of the STOP Act.

Mr. Speaker, prior to being elected to public office, I worked for a nonprofit agency which focused on alcohol abuse. At that agency, I witnessed firsthand the many devastating consequences of irresponsible drinking. That experience is what motivated me to find ways to address underage drinking. Initially, my colleagues and I commissioned a landmark study by the Institute of Medicine to determine the extent of the problem in our country.

The IOM study was published in 2003, and its findings were more than alarming. The study found, for example, that in the United States, in any given month, nearly 11 million of our youth between the ages of 12 and 20 drink alcohol. This number includes nearly 1 in 5 of 8th graders, 1 in 3 of 10th graders and half of all 12th graders. It also includes the over 5,000 youth in our Nation under the age of 16, who will take their first drink by the end of today.

Mr. Speaker, the result of these facts is that today alone at least three teenagers will die from drinking and driving, and six more will die from alcohol-related causes such as a homicide, suicide and drowning. To add to these tragic consequences is a recent scientific study that suggests that youth who drink alcohol can lose as much as 10 percent of that which they learn compared to those who don't drink.

When one considers the additional problems associated with drinking before the legal age of 21, like car accidents, violent crime, unsafe sexual activity and teenage pregnancy, one begins to sense the extent and tragic consequences of underage drinking, which,

according to the American Medical Association, costs our country more than \$61 billion a year.

Using the Institute of Medicine's study as a guide to help address this crisis, my colleagues and I initiated an interagency council which brought together for the first time Federal agencies with jurisdiction over programs related to underage drinking.

Also, in December 2005, with Federal funds we secured, the Ad Council began airing a national media campaign to educate parents about the dangers of consuming alcohol before the age of 21.

In the 108th Congress, based on the recommendations of the IOM report, my colleagues and I introduced the STOP Act. The STOP Act is the first comprehensive piece of national legislation to address underage drinking in this country. This legislation makes permanent the national anti-underage drinking campaign directed at parents and makes permanent the interagency council to coordinate Federal efforts.

In addition, the STOP Act requires an annual report by the Secretary of HHS on the progress States are making to address underage drinking. H.R. 864 also makes available research grants to find effective strategies to deter childhood drinking and grants to communities and colleges to address this crisis.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation must no longer be complacent about underage drinking and its alarming consequences. We must bring this national public health crisis out of the shadow and into the bright light of a national priority.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the passage of H.R. 864, the STOP Act.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP).

Mr. WAMP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your leadership in bringing this bill to the floor, and to the ranking member. I also want to thank the gentleman from Arizona, who is leaving the floor, for being a watch guard, for standing on the wall, because we haven't done enough of that, and we need to do that all the time.

Even though on this particular issue, I would come today and say we need to go forward with investments that will save us billions of dollars in the future. I also want to remind people that this is the illegal use of this legal product.

That hasn't been talked about enough on the floor today, that underage drinking is illegal. When other things are illegal, we pay attention to it. Illegal immigration didn't get enough attention. It is a misdemeanor, so it is not that big a deal. And now we are addressing it because it became a big problem.

This is the illegal use of a legal product, and we need to address it on a national level because you can't hodgepodge and address a national problem that frankly is like a cancer among young people.

I want to reemphasize the binge drinking problem. I don't know if you have taken your family to the beach for spring break, but as my children were growing up, we would go, and I was shocked at what I saw.

When I was young, I sowed wild oats, but I had never seen anything like this where 15- and 16-year-old kids just completely sick and running into telephone poles. I mean, it was not only not funny, it was one of the scariest things I have ever seen. Because these kids get away from their parents, and they binge drink until they are sick. Dozens of them are going to the hospital, and some of them dying. This is a problem, a big problem that needs to be addressed, and we need accurate information.

We don't need the information from the industry. That is what has dominated this debate forever. We need the government to give us the accurate information, cause and effect, advertising leads to. This is an illegal use of a product with our children that is devastating the next generation.

I know moms and dads should raise their children and stay on top of them and keep them, but this problem is getting much worse, and the government needs to do a better job at addressing this problem. I also know we are going against the grain. This is the popular culture. This is iconic, Hollywood promotes it, it is all around us. But I have got to tell you, in a world that is going in the wrong direction, the people that are advocating on this issue, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD with me for 12 years, and FRANK WOLF, and Coach OSBORNE for 6 years, we are going against the grain.

The wind is in our face. We are going in the right direction. The world is going in the wrong direction. The world is going down the tubes with things like this, and we need to stand against it together, united, and invest wisely to frankly save the next generation from some problems. I know it starts at home, but all families are not staying together.

All children are not getting the basics, and they are devastating our culture. Frankly, alcohol leads to a lot of other things when you start drinking at 12-years old. It is a big problem that needs to be addressed. Frankly, the industry has pushed us back and pushed us back.

Coach OSBORNE, thank you for sharing 6 years of your life with all of us here in the House of Representatives. Thank you for your service and thank you for your whole life of helping other people. You are an icon.

□ 1300

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to one of the bill's cosponsors, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank, again, all my colleagues who have worked for so many years to see this bill reach the floor: Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD, Congressmen

OSBORNE, WOLF and WAMP, as well as our colleagues in the other body, Senators DODD and DEWINE.

This is an important moment, one in which this Congress says "enough is enough." For too long we have looked the other way when it comes to the increasing problem of underage drinking, and the results of our inaction are clear.

Today, the average age kids start drinking is 13; 7 million young people describe themselves as binge drinkers; alcohol plays a role in the three leading causes of death among young people; and studies tell us that the average young person today, not the troubled teen, but the average kid, is engaging in behavior that leads to alcoholism.

Mr. Speaker, the time for action is now. This is a disease that starts when we are young, and it does not get better as we get older. It gets worse. That is why we need this comprehensive bill. To start with, the STOP Act will increase resources for drinking prevention coalitions like Mothers Against Drunk Driving, which we already know have had a positive impact on teenagers. This bill supports them.

It will also fund more research and create a committee charged with delivering a record card on the progress we are making and what we can do better. The committee will also give us a better picture of the degree to which this problem is exacerbated by advertisements targeted toward young people.

Lastly, the STOP Act would help us fund a national media campaign directed to adults to make them as aware of the dangers associated with underage drinking as possible. Too often, when it comes to adults, parents think "not my child," and we need to turn that around.

So I urge my colleagues to support the STOP Act. As a Member of Congress and as someone who lost a family member in a drunk driving accident, it is long past time that Congress said with one voice that it is serious about reducing underage drinking in our communities. With this bill, we can and we will.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the greatest natural resource in this country is not the Spotted Owl, it is not the Grand Canyon, it is not the environment, it is our children, and this bill is a preventive bill.

I spent all my life in the criminal justice system before I came to Congress, 22 years on the criminal court in Houston, Texas. I saw about 25,000 people work their way to the courthouse. Many of those people were young people who made bad decisions, first to drink and then to commit a crime like driving. I will relate one of those to you.

A young lady by the name of Lisa, graduating from one of our local high schools, was, as was said earlier, just a regular person, not a troubled child. In

fact, she was an honor student, a National Merit Scholar going to one of the Ivy League colleges upon graduation.

She and her best friend drove to a nearby town, had something to eat to celebrate, and then they decided they needed something to drink, because that was the thing to do, even though both of them were 18-year-olds, under the age to drink.

They did have something to drink. The waiter knew they were underage, but he figured he would get a big tip if he served them, and he did.

They were driving home in Lisa's mother's car. Having too much to drink, she started weaving on one of our farm-to-market roads, crashed in a ditch and killed her best friend in the car, her very best friend, her next-door neighbor. Because of that crime, involuntary manslaughter, drinking and driving and killing somebody under Texas law, it was mandatory that she go to the penitentiary for a period of time.

But in court, when that 5-foot-2 little girl came to court, she said to me, "Judge Poe, this can't happen to me. This can't happen to me." But, you see, that is life's biggest lie, especially among young people. It can happen. It does happen. It destroys lives.

And rather than wait to be reactionary, to so-called punish somebody for committing that crime, we need to educate. We need to make sure that young people understand it is not socially acceptable or legal to drink under the age of 21.

I appreciate this bill. This is a good bill to be sponsored to show that we have a concern about our children. I too want to thank Coach Osborne for dedicating his life to the betterment of young people.

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

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, let me say to my friend from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) that I agree with his observations and I agree with his concern; but as pointed out by Mr. OSBORNE, I believe that this is a bill that can help solve part of that problem, to give some oversight mechanisms to existing allocations, to give some response back to this Congress about programs that are working and that are not working.

I think the challenge that we all face, and I pledge to him to work with him cooperatively in this effort, is in the appropriations process. And pointing out this is not an appropriations bill, this is an authorization bill, that in the appropriations process, that we try to make sure that our appropriators funnel the money only to those programs that are authorized, such as this one, that will have some oversight and response back to this Congress, so that we can eliminate duplicative programs. I would pledge to him that I would work cooperatively with him in that effort.

But I do believe this is a well-thought-out piece of legislation and one that I would urge this body to adopt.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 864, the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act. If enacted, this legislation would require Federal, State, local and tribal authorities to adopt a comprehensive and coordinated approach toward mitigating and countering underage consumption of alcoholic beverages. I fully support a multifaceted strategy toward addressing this public health issue. Preventing underage drinking requires strict enforcement of existing laws, comprehensive education to prevent binge drinking, and continued research of the effects of alcohol on the health of adolescents. Combating the problem of underage drinking also requires committed efforts by community leaders, parents, teachers, mentors, policy makers, and others to work to instill an increased sense of responsibility and respect for the law in young people.

I firmly believe that investing in research of the effects alcohol has on minors and raising public awareness among at-risk demographic groups, parents, and educators are two important ways to mitigating and countering underage drinking. As leaders, it is our duty to help improve the health and well-being of the next generation. Doing so will ensure that they have the utmost opportunity to lead productive and prosperous lives. By countering underage drinking, we are allowing young adults to recognize their full potential. Enactment of this legislation would go far toward achieving these goals.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 864, the STOP Underage Drinking Act. First and foremost, I would like to thank the sponsors—Mrs. ROYBAL-ALLARD and Mr. OSBORNE—for their diligence over the years on this issue and am pleased to see their work pay off today. Keeping alcohol out of the hands of America's youth is of the utmost importance and this bill will ensure that the federal government is doing its part, working hand-in-hand with private industry and other public interest groups while strengthening the intent of congress that states have the primary jurisdiction to regulate the sale, production and distribution of alcohol under the 21st amendment.

Alcohol, Mr. Speaker, has always been regarded as a unique product throughout American history. No one would suggest that it is the same as a flat screen television or ball bearings. No, alcohol can have tangible societal costs—from underage drinking, drunken driving deaths, and other issues stemming from overconsumption. Be it through the tax law or the 21st amendment, Congress has never intended alcohol to be just another consumer good—as evidenced by the unique regulatory model put in place after prohibition was repealed. We have always placed this distinction on the product, because of the societal dangers involved—not consumer irresponsibility. Because of these concerns, it is of the utmost importance for us to keep alcohol away from children. We need to prevent abuse in our communities and detach the stigma associated with these challenges so that we can meet them head on.

As we confront underage drinking today and the responsibility issues that go along with them, we must also face the reality that while

the federal government is well-suited to coordinate national ad campaigns and other valuable research studies; we must understand that states should and do have the primary jurisdiction to regulate the distribution, production and sale of alcohol under the 21st amendment.

States and their individual regulatory models are our best ally and the people's best ally in the fight against underage drinking. We in Brooklyn do not want Boise's laws and they probably do not want ours either under the guise of Big Brother knows best.

In addition to the programs which are authorized in this bill, I hope this will serve to put groups who look to dismantle our regulatory system on notice that Congress will continue to utilize its bully pulpit to advance best practices and responsibility from the industry and the public.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the sponsors of H.R. 864 and laud their efforts and urge my colleagues to pass this much-needed legislation into law.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you in support of H.R. 864, the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking (STOP) Act.

I would like to thank Congresswoman ROYBAL-ALLARD for introducing the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act, and I would also like to thank Majority Leader BOEHNER for bringing this measure to the floor.

Protecting our young people from the consequences of underage drinking must be a national priority. In my home state of Arizona, 20 percent of children and teens from 12 to 20 years old regularly drink five or more drinks in one sitting, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services.

State and tribal enforcement efforts and regulations are central in our fight against underage drinking.

This legislation holds the States accountable for enforcing underage drinking laws by mandating that the Department of Health and Human Services issue an annual report card to rate the performance of each State in preventing or reducing underage drinking.

Additionally, this measure requires the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy to award grants to design and disseminate strategies to maximize the effectiveness of community-wide approaches to preventing and reducing underage drinking.

The bill would provide \$5 million in enhancement grants to the Drug Free Communities program to address the problem of underage drinking. Also, another new program will be funded at \$5 million annually to provide competitive grants to states, non-profits, and institutions of higher education to create statewide coalitions to prevent underage drinking and alcohol abuse by university students.

In my district, I have fought hard to work against substance abuse by supporting funding to combat alcohol and drug abuse. Just this past September, the Navajo Nation received a \$98,000 grant from the Department of Justice for breathalyzers. Statistics have shown that about 90 percent of violent crime on the Navajo Nation is alcohol-related, and many of our young people are learning that substance abuse is a way of life.

I am pleased that the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking (STOP) Act is

being considered by the full House this afternoon and I look forward to its passage to provide additional tools to prevent underage drinking in Arizona and throughout the Nation.

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the STOP Act.

This bill is the result of a lot of hard work by its authors and represents a strong effort to reduce underage drinking.

The diligence put into drafting this bill is reflected by the broad support of this bill by the beer and wine industries.

Many in the industry have worked hard to curb underage drinking for years.

As a result of these efforts, underage drinking has been significantly reduced, evidenced by recent data showing that over 70 percent of youths aged 12–20 do not drink.

I commend the beer and wine industries as a whole in their efforts to decrease underage drinking.

This bill will continue and strengthen these efforts, and I am pleased to support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 864, as amended. The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those voting have responded in the affirmative.

Mr. FLAKE. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE INDUSTRY TO THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 96) recognizing the contributions of the Christmas tree industry to the United States economy and urging the Secretary of Agriculture to establish programs to raise awareness of the importance of the Christmas tree industry, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 96

Whereas Christmas trees have been sold commercially in the United States since the 1850s;

Whereas, by 1900, one in five American families decorated a tree during the Christmas season, while, by 1930, a decorated Christmas tree had become a nearly universal part of the American Christmas celebration;

Whereas 32.8 million households in the United States purchased a live-cut Christmas tree in 2005;

Whereas the placement and decoration of live-cut Christmas trees in town squares across the country have become an American tradition;

Whereas, for generations, American families have traveled hundreds and even thou-

sands of miles to celebrate the Christmas season together around a live-cut Christmas tree;

Whereas 36 million live-cut Christmas trees are produced each year, and 98 percent of these trees are shipped or sold directly from Christmas tree farms;

Whereas North Carolina, Oregon, Michigan, Washington, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New York, Minnesota, Virginia, California, and Ohio are the top producers of live-cut Christmas tree, but Christmas trees are grown in all 50 States;

Whereas there are more than 21,000 growers of Christmas trees in the United States, and approximately 100,000 people are employed in the live-cut Christmas tree industry;

Whereas many Christmas tree growers grow trees on a part-time basis to supplement their other farm and non-farm income;

Whereas growing Christmas trees provides wildlife habitat;

Whereas more than a half million acres of land were planted in Christmas trees in 2005;

Whereas 73 million new Christmas trees will be planted in 2006, and, on average, over 1,500 Christmas trees can be planted per acre; and

Whereas the retail value of all Christmas trees harvested in 2005 was \$1.4 billion: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress recognizes the important contributions of the live-cut Christmas tree industry, Christmas tree growers, and persons employed in the live-cut Christmas tree industry to the United States economy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend my colleague, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for introducing this resolution. The Christmas tree industry is an important part of the American agricultural industry and is an important part of the rural and forested landscape of Virginia and many other States. One of the leading States in the industry is my own.

Christmas tree growers, like many other family farmers and forest landowners, are stewards of the land. They are bound together by a love of the land and a desire to produce renewable products that enhance people's lives while protecting the environment.

For many family forest landowners, Christmas tree growing provides a source of annual income. While this income is rarely enough to make a living on, it allows family growers to make long-term investments for the management of their woodlands. For many small growers, this income is critical to allowing them to keep their forests green and growing, rather than subdividing or switching to another land use.

According to the Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association, there are thousands of growers in the Commonwealth who produce more than 1 mil-

lion trees annually, ranging from commercial operations to choose-and-cut family farms. These trees annually account for nearly \$50 million in revenue.

Like other segments of the forest products industry, Christmas tree growers are engaged in a renewable, sustainable activity. They plant millions of new trees every year, 73 million trees that cover over a half million acres to be precise. That is a lot of land protected from development and a lot of new trees helping to clean the air, protect watersheds and improve the environment.

Just as growing Christmas trees helps renew the environment, the annual tradition of bringing home a tree and decorating it helps renew the faith of millions of families as they gather to celebrate Christmas. In the Christmas season, the Christmas tree is a symbol of joy and goodwill, and we are grateful to all who work to provide this American tradition.

I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Minnesota, the ranking member of the committee, for his support in our efforts to move this legislation forward.

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

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 96. Congresswoman FOXX's resolution recognizes the success and importance of the live-cut Christmas tree industry in the United States, and the economic strength and cultural contribution of this industry makes this resolution worthy of congressional support.

Mr. Speaker, before I recognize other Members, I would like to take a minute to recognize the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) who has served with distinction as chairman of the Agriculture Committee over these last few years.

The Agriculture Committee has always enjoyed a reputation as one of the most bipartisan committees in the Congress, and Chairman GOODLATTE has continued that great tradition of cooperation. Under his direction, the committee has accomplished important things. His leadership led to the passage of historic measures to protect our national forests. He took a strong stand for American agriculture in the face of unreasonable proposals from our trade partners, making it clear that we would prefer no deal to a bad deal. He started the process of writing the new farm bill with a series of field hearings across the Nation and ensured that the many voices of agriculture were heard.

Mr. Speaker, anybody who cares about American agriculture, or for that matter, anybody who eats in this country, should give BOB GOODLATTE their thanks for the outstanding job he has done on the committee. I look forward to working with him as we continue this process on the farm bill.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for his kind words, and I look forward to working with him in a new capacity in the new Congress. He certainly has my commitment that we will continue to work together for the interests of America's farmers and ranchers and agribusinesses in the bipartisan fashion that has been the history of the Agriculture Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the author of the legislation, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to rise today as the House considers House Joint Resolution 96, a bill I authored, to recognize the contributions of the live Christmas tree industry to the United States economy. Having been a Christmas tree farmer myself, I can attest to the importance of recognizing this often overlooked farming industry.

My district is one of the largest producers of live-cut Christmas trees in the country. North Carolina has an estimated 50 million Fraser fir Christmas trees growing on over 25,000 acres. Fraser firs represent over 95 percent of all species grown in North Carolina. They are grown in the far western North Carolina counties, including Allegheny, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga and Yancey.

There are over 1,600 North Carolina growers. The North Carolina Christmas tree industry is ranked second in the Nation in number of trees harvested, producing over 19 percent of the real Christmas trees in the United States.

The North Carolina Fraser fir has been judged the Nation's best through a contest sponsored by the National Christmas Tree Association and chosen for the official White House Christmas tree nine times, more than any other species, in the years 1971, 1973, 1982, 1985, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997 and 2005.

□ 1315

The North Carolina Fraser fir Christmas tree is the most popular Christmas tree in North America and is shipped to every State in the U.S. as well as the Caribbean Islands, Mexico, Canada, Bermuda, Japan, and other points all over the world.

The Christmas tree industry supports our economy and environment. Christmas trees are grown in all 50 States with North Carolina, Oregon, Michigan, Washington, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New York, Minnesota, Virginia, California, and Ohio being the top Christmas tree-producing States. Nationally, there are more than 21,000 Christmas tree growers and more than 100,000 people employed in the live-cut Christmas tree industry. Thirty-six million of all live-cut Christmas trees

are produced each year, and 98 percent are shipped or sold directly from Christmas tree farms. On average over 1,500 Christmas trees are planted per acre, providing an abundant habitat for wildlife.

The retail value of all live Christmas trees harvested in 2005 was \$1.4 billion. Live-cut Christmas trees have been sold commercially in the United States since 1850, and by 1900 one in five American families decorated live-cut trees during Christmas. By 1930 the tree had become a nearly universal part of the American Christmas. For generations American families have traveled hundreds and thousands of miles to celebrate the holiday season together at home around the Christmas tree. I think it is difficult to overstate the way that having a live, lit Christmas tree in a room can set a warm and positive tone for a family.

I would like to thank the majority leader, the chairman, and ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture for their assistance in getting this bill to the floor and for their very appropriate remarks today.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure recognizing this important industry not just for its economic impact but also for its cultural contribution to the Christmas holiday.

I also want to thank the growers for their contributions to our economy, our environment, and our Nation's heritage.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to a good friend of mine and a good friend of American agriculture, Congresswoman DARLENE HOOLEY from Oregon.

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, when you think of Oregon, the first thing you think of is trees. Therefore, it should be no surprise that my home State, Oregon, is the largest producer of Christmas trees in the Nation. I am proud to say the overwhelming majority are grown in my district. We have hundreds and hundreds of Christmas tree growers.

In the coming weeks it is estimated that Oregon growers will be harvesting 7.8 million Christmas trees, roughly one quarter of the total nationwide. Not only will these trees make their way to homes in America but also homes in Canada, Mexico, Japan, Panama, Costa Rica, Philippines, Taiwan, Guam, as well as many other international destinations.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for bringing this bill to the House floor today. With the holiday season just around the corner, there could not be a more appropriate time for the House of Representatives to recognize the joy the Christmas tree industry brings to homes across our country this time of year. There is no better activity than going with a family to pick out that Christmas tree.

Please support H.J. Resolution 96.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, at this time I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY).

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Agriculture Committee for yielding me time to speak about an important industry in my district.

And I want to thank my fellow Member of Congress from North Carolina, VIRGINIA FOXX, for her leadership on this important agricultural issue for our districts, which border each other in the mountains of western North Carolina.

We have got a wonderful industry in my district centered around Avery County, and this resolution today honors those men and women that work so very hard in the Christmas tree growing business. They provide a wonderful service and a wonderful product for Americans all around the country. And coming from a small county in western North Carolina, it is a wonderful privilege.

Outside of western North Carolina this niche industry is often overlooked, but inside of our region it is never under appreciated. There are over 1,600 Christmas tree growers in North Carolina who produce over 19 percent of the real Christmas trees in the United States. Not those fake ones. The real ones. The evergreens. And the Fraser fir, which is grown in western North Carolina, is the most popular Christmas tree in North America and is shipped to every State in the U.S. as well as the Caribbean, Mexico, Canada, Bermuda, Japan, and other points around the globe, from little old counties in western North Carolina, and I do want to pay tribute to the Christmas tree growers and the contribution they make to our country and our States and my district, and it is with great pleasure that I also pay tribute to the small communities in the mountains that work so hard to produce products to send around the country and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues' support of this great resolution that will help and honor our industries in western North Carolina.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, as the Congressman with the privilege to represent Estacada, Oregon—the Christmas Tree Capital of the World—I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Christmas trees are a large part of Oregon's nursery and tree industry. In fact, Oregon leads the Nation in Christmas tree production, with 6.9 million trees sold last year at a value of nearly \$108 million to the Oregon economy. In particular, Clackamas County—which I am proud to represent along with Ms. HOOLEY—is the largest producing county in the country with \$36.8 million in sales from 17,500 acres of Christmas trees. Across our state, there are almost 1,600 Christmas tree operations, encompassing an area over one and half times the size of Washington, DC and employing close to 10,000 people at total wages of over \$32 million.

Oregon farmers began hauling Christmas trees for out-of-state sales by horse and wagon at the turn of the 20th century. It's now the sixth-largest agricultural industry in Oregon, and our crop covers 31 percent of the market. Oregon Christmas trees can be found across the country and across the world.

I thank the gentlelady from North Carolina for offering this resolution. As we head into consideration of the 2007 Farm Bill, it provides an important reminder that the agriculture upon which many of our communities depend is more than corn and cotton. Our federal farm policy should reflect the diversity of American agriculture and ensure a fair playing field for all of our farmers and ranchers.

Already, Oregon nurseries and vineyards, ranchers, and farmers are leading the way, showing how we can craft winning policies that are good for farmers, the land, the environment, consumers, our water supplies, and wildlife. I look forward to the opportunity to work with my friends on the Agriculture Committee, to build on this good work and take it to the next level, and, in true Oregon tradition, create an opportunity to unite citizens throughout the state.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 96, a bill recognizing the American Christmas tree industry, and the important role that it plays in U.S. agriculture.

This resolution is a timely one as we approach the upcoming holiday season. And for my home state of North Carolina, it is also one that reminds us of the tremendous impact that agriculture has on our state's economy. The Christmas tree industry in North Carolina is ranked second in the Nation, with more than 30,000 acres in production that contributes over \$100 million to our state's economy.

This resolution reminds us that there are many facets to our Nation's diverse agricultural economy. Agriculture now includes such specialties as aquaculture, trees and ornamental horticulture, landscaping, and turf production. The Christmas tree industry in North Carolina is an example of the growth and development of the industry.

I urge support on House Resolution 96.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 96, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution, as amended, was passed.

The title of the joint resolution was amended so as to read: "Joint resolution recognizing the contributions of the Christmas tree industry to the United States economy."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.J. Res. 96, the joint resolution just considered.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will now resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 6314, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 864, by the yeas and nays.

AMENDING TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE, TO EXTEND CERTAIN EXPIRING PROVISIONS OF LAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 6314.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6314, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 393, nays 0, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 520]

YEAS—393

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggart
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)

Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chocoma
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)

Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gingrey

Gonzalez
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hensarling
Herger
Hinchev
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslie
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
E.

Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher

Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (VA)
Sekula Gibbs
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Soderl
Solis
Souder
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Vislosky
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—39

Boozman
Brown (OH)
Burton (IN)
Cardin
Carson
Chandler
Cubin
Davis (TN)

Engel
Evans
Ford
Gallegly
Gibbons
Gillmor
Gohmert
Goode

Hefley
Herseth
Higgins
Lewis (KY)
McKinney
Melancon
Millender-
McDonald

Moran (KS) Scott (GA) Sweeney
 Murtha Shimkus Tancredo
 Oxley Slaughter Tanner
 Pearce Spratt Udall (NM)
 Reynolds Strickland
 Sanders Sullivan

□ 1348

Mr. CLYBURN and Mr. EVERETT changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, on November 14, 2006, I missed rollcall vote No. 520 on H.R. 6314 to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law and to expand eligibility for the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance program. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted “yea” on H.R. 6314.

SOBER TRUTH ON PREVENTING UNDERAGE DRINKING ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 864, 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 Georgia (Mr. DEAL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 864, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 373, nays 23, not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 521]
 YEAS—373

Abercrombie Bradley (NH) Davis (CA)
 Ackerman Brady (PA) Davis (FL)
 Aderholt Brady (TX) Davis (IL)
 Akin Brown (SC) Davis (KY)
 Alexander Brown, Corrine Davis (TN)
 Allen Brown-Waite, Davis, Jo Ann
 Andrews Ginny Davis, Tom
 Baca Burgess Deal (GA)
 Bachus Butterfield DeFazio
 Baird Buyer DeGette
 Baker Calvert Delahunt
 Baldwin Camp (MI) DeLauro
 Barrow Cannon Dent
 Bartlett (MD) Capito Diaz-Balart, L.
 Barton (TX) Capps Diaz-Balart, M.
 Bass Capuano Dicks
 Bean Cardoza Dingell
 Beauprez Carnahan Doggett
 Becerra Carter Doolittle
 Berkley Case Doyle
 Berman Castle Drake
 Berry Chabot Dreier
 Biggert Chocola Duncan
 Bilbray Clay Edwards
 Bilirakis Cleaver Ehlers
 Bishop (GA) Clyburn Emanuel
 Bishop (NY) Coble Emerson
 Bishop (UT) Cole (OK) Engel
 Blackburn Conaway English (PA)
 Blunt Conyers Eshoo
 Boehlert Cooper Etheridge
 Boehner Costa Everett
 Bonilla Costello Farr
 Bonner Cramer Fattah
 Bono Crenshaw Ferguson
 Boren Fowley Filner
 Boswell Cuellar Fitzpatrick (PA)
 Boucher Culberson Forbes
 Boustany Cummings Fortenberry
 Boyd Davis (AL) Fossella

Frank (MA) Lynch
 Franks (AZ) Mack
 Frelinghuysen Maloney
 Garrett (NJ) Markey
 Gerlach Marshall
 Gilchrest Matheson
 Gingrey Matsui
 Gonzalez McCarthy
 Goodlatte McCaul (TX)
 Gordon McCollum (MN)
 Granger McCotter
 Graves McCreery
 Green (WI) McDermott
 Green, Al McGovern
 Green, Gene McHenry
 Grijalva McHugh
 Gutierrez McIntyre
 Hall McKeon
 Harman McMorris
 Harris Rodgers
 Hart McNulty
 Hastings (FL) Meehan
 Hastings (WA) Meek (FL)
 Hayes Meeks (NY)
 Hayworth Melancon
 Herseth Mica
 Hinchey Michaud
 Hinojosa Millender-
 Hobson McDonald
 Hoekstra Miller (FL)
 Holden Miller (MI)
 Holt Miller (NC)
 Honda Miller, Gary
 Hooley Miller, George
 Hoyer Mollohan
 Hulshof Moore (KS)
 Hunter Moore (WI)
 Hyde Moran (VA)
 Inslee Murphy
 Israel Musgrave
 Issa Nadler
 Istook Napolitano
 Jackson (IL) Neal (MA)
 Jackson-Lee Neugebauer
 (TX) Northup
 Jefferson Norwood
 Jenkins Nunes
 Johnson (CT) Nussle
 Johnson (IL) Oberstar
 Johnson, E. B. Obey
 Jones (OH) Oliver
 Kanjorski Ortiz
 Kaptur Osborne
 Keller Owens
 Kelly Pallone
 Kennedy (MN) Pascrell
 Kennedy (RI) Pastor
 Kildee Payne
 Kilpatrick (MI) Pelosi
 Kind Peterson (MN)
 King (NY) Peterson (PA)
 Kingston Petri
 Kirtz Pickering
 Kline Pitts
 Knollenberg Platts
 Kucinich Poe
 Kuhl (NY) Pombo
 LaHood Pomeroy
 Langevin Porter
 Lantos Price (GA)
 Larsen (WA) Price (NC)
 Larson (CT) Pryce (OH)
 Latham Putnam
 LaTourette Radanovich
 Leach Rahall
 Lee Ramstad
 Levin Rangel
 Lewis (CA) Regula
 Lewis (GA) Rehberg
 Linder Reichert
 Lipinski Renzi
 Lofgren, Zoe Reyes
 Lowey Reynolds
 Lucas Rogers (AL)
 Lungren, Daniel Rogers (KY)
 E. Rogers (MI)
 Ros-Lehtinen

NAYS—23

Barrett (SC) Herger
 Campbell (CA) Hostettler
 Cantor Inglis (SC)
 Feeney Johnson, Sam
 Flake Jones (NC)
 Foxx King (IA)
 Gutknecht Kolbe
 Hensarling Manzullo

Ross
 Rothman
 Roybal-Allard
 Royce
 Ruppertsberger
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Ryan (WI)
 Ryun (KS)
 Sabo
 Salazar
 Sánchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta

Blumenauer
 Boozman
 Brown (OH)
 Burton (IN)
 Cardin
 Carson
 Chandler
 Cubin
 Evans
 Ford
 Gallegly
 Gibbons
 Gillmor
 Gohmert
 Goode
 Hefley
 Higgins
 Jindal
 Lewis (KY)
 Marchant
 McKinney
 Moran (KS)
 Murtha
 Oxley

NOT VOTING—36
 Pearce
 Sanders
 Scott (GA)
 Shimkus
 Slaughter
 Spratt
 Strickland
 Sullivan
 Sweeney
 Tancredo
 Tanner
 Udall (NM)

□ 1405

Mr. HERGER and Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, due to a flight delay, I was unable to record my rollcall votes 520 and 521. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” to both votes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1647

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DREIER) at 4 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. MCKINNEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 3501. An Act to amend the Shivwits Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Water Rights Settlement Act to establish an acquisition fund for the water rights and habitat acquisition program; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 3687. An Act to waive application of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to a specific parcel of real property transferred by the United States to 2 Indian tribes in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

Myrick
 Otter
 Paul
 Pence
 Rohrabacher
 Taylor (MS)
 Westmoreland

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, November 15, 2006, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

9980. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Bacillus Thuringiensis Modified Cry3A Protein and the Genetic Material Necessary for Its Production in Corn; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance* [EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0784; FRL-8096-4] received October 27, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9981. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Flumioxazin; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions* [EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0792; FRL-8098-5] received October 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

9982. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *NESHAP: National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Standards for Hazardous Waste Combustors (Amendment)* [EPA-HQ-OAR-2004-0022 FRL-8233-9] (RIN: 2050-AG33) received October 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9983. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Tennessee; Memphis/Shelby County Area Second 10-Year Maintenance Plan for the Carbon Monoxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard* [EPA-R04-OAR-2006-0531-200618(a); FRL-8233-8] received October 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9984. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; State of California; PM-10; Determination of Attainment for the San Joaquin Valley Nonattainment Area; Determination Regarding Applicability of Certain Clean Air Act Requirements* [EPA-R09-OAR-2006-0583, FRL-8234-1] received October 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9985. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; State Implementation Plan Revision for American Cyanamid Company, Havre de Grace; Maryland* [EPA-R03-OAR-2006-0607; FRL-8233-2] received October 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9986. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agen-

cy's final rule — *Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Lake County Air Quality Management District, Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District, and Ventura County Air Pollution Control District* [EPA-R09-OAR-2006-0839, FRL-8234-9] received November 8, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9987. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Louisiana: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision* [EPA-R06-RCRA-2006-0914; FRL-8241-3] received November 8, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9988. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Export Notification; Change to Reporting Requirements* [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2005-0058; FRL-8101-3] (RIN: 2070-AJ01) received November 8, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9989. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa* [EPA-R07-OAR-2006-0836; FRL-8240-6] received November 8, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9990. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Louisiana; 2006 Low Enhanced Vehicle Inspection/Maintenance (IM) Program* [EPA-R06-OAR-2006-0456; FRL-8241-2] received November 8, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9991. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Clean Air Act Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plan Revision for Colorado; Long-Term Strategy of State Implementation Plan for Class I Visibility Protection* [EPA-R08-OAR-2005-CO-0002; FRL-8232-2] received October 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9992. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Amendment to Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Air Quality Permit Program* [EPA-R03-OAR-2006-0527; FRL-8236-5] received October 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9993. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; Amendments to Nonattainment New Source Review (NSR) Air Quality Permit Program* [EPA-R03-OAR-2006-0528; FRL-8236-6] received October 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9994. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Utah; Revisions to the Utah Administrative Code; Direct Final Rule* [EPA-R08-OAR-2006-0564; FRL-8236-8] received October 30, 2006, pursu-

ant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9995. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Revised Format for Materials Being Incorporated by Reference for Wyoming* [R08-WY-2006-0001; FRL-8236-2] received October 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9996. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Washington: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions* [FRL-8235-5] received October 27, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9997. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Revisions to the Nevada State Implementation Plan, Clark County* [EPA-R09-OAR-2006-0548a; FRL-8225-5] received October 27, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9998. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District* [EPA-R09-OAR-2005-0557e; FRL-8225-7] received October 27, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

9999. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District* [EPA-R09-OAR-2006-0747; FRL-8231-5] received October 27, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10000. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Transportation Conformity* [EPA-R06-OAR-2005-LA-0003; FRL-8234-8] received October 27, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10001. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana* [EPA-R05-OAR-2006-0539; EPA-R05-2006-0610; FRL-8224-3] received October 27, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10002. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Regional Haze Regulations; Revisions to Provisions Governing Alternative to Source-Specific Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) Determinations* [EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0076; FRL-8230-4] (RIN: 2060-AN22) received October 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10003. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri; Correction* [EPA-R07-OAR-2005-MO-0005; FRL-8228-9] received October 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10004. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans Alabama: Volatile Organic Compounds [EPA-R04-OAR-2005-AL-0004-200619a; FRL-8229-8] received October 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10005. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Announcement of the Delegation of Partial Administrative Authority for Implementation of Federal Implementation Plan for the Umatilla Indian Reservation to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation [R10-OAR-2005-TR-0001; FRL-8230-8] received October 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10006. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Quality Designations and Classifications for the 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Early Action Compact Areas With Deferred Effective Dates [EPA-OAR-2003-0083; FRL-8231-1] received October 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10007. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Allocation of Essential Use Allowances for Calendar Year 2006 [EPA-HQ-OAR-2006-0158; FRL-8227-4] (RIN: 2060-AN29) received October 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10008. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — New Hampshire: Final Approval of Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions [EPA-R01-UST-2006-0622; FRL-8226-5] received October 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10009. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Miscellaneous Coating Manufacturing [EPA-HQ-OAR-2003-0178; FRL-8227-5] (RIN: 2060-AM72) received October 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

10010. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Southern California Distinct Population Segment of the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog (*Rana muscosa*) (RIN: 1018-AU30) received October 17, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10011. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Alameda Whipsnake (RIN: 1018-AT93) received October 17, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10012. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Perdido Key Beach Mouse, Choctawhatchee Beach Mouse, and St. Andrew Beach Mouse (RIN: 1018-AT90) received October 17, 2006, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

10013. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Guidelines Establishing Test Procedure for the Analysis of Pollutants; Analytical Methods for Biological Pollutants in Wastewater and Sewage Sludge; Final Rule [EPA-HQ-OW-2004-0014; FRL-8228-1] (RIN: 2040-AE68) received October 18, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. KOLBE:

H.R. 6321. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain public land near the City of Douglas, Arizona, for use as a shooting range; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY (for herself and Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California):

H.R. 6322. A bill to direct the Attorney General to conduct a study on the feasibility of expanding the National Incident-Based Reporting System to identify crime data relating to elementary and secondary schools; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KANJORSKI (for himself and Mr. ROYCE):

H.R. 6323. A bill to amend the Home Owners' Loan Act to remove the limitation on investments by Federal savings associations in consumer auto loans; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LEWIS of California:

H.J. Res. 100. A joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. LOWEY):

H. Res. 1080. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Bangladesh should immediately drop all pending charges against Bangladeshi journalist Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. BURTON of Indiana (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. SOLIS, and Ms. LEE):

H. Res. 1081. A resolution expressing the sympathy of House of Representatives to the families of women and girls murdered in Guatemala and encouraging the Government of Guatemala to bring an end to these crimes; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania (for himself, Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SHERWOOD, Mr. DENT, Mr. PITTS, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, and Ms. HART):

H. Res. 1082. A resolution condemning the decision by the city of St. Denis, France, to name a street in honor of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the convicted murderer of Philadelphia Police Officer Danny Faulkner; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. PALLONE introduced A bill (H.R. 6324) to provide a new effective date for the applicability of certain provisions of law to Public Law 105-331; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 63: Ms. ESHOO.
 H.R. 352: Mr. PETRI.
 H.R. 515: Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee.
 H.R. 550: Mrs. BIGGERT.
 H.R. 944: Mr. RAHALL.
 H.R. 1264: Mr. HOLT, Mr. WALSH, Mr. GORDON, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. BOUCHER.
 H.R. 1366: Mr. JEFFERSON and Mr. OBERSTAR.
 H.R. 1545: Mr. BOUCHER.
 H.R. 1652: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
 H.R. 1671: Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. RADANOVICH.
 H.R. 1849: Ms. HARRIS, Mr. GOODE, and Mr. SALAZAR.
 H.R. 2076: Mr. JEFFERSON.
 H.R. 2716: Mr. BOUCHER.
 H.R. 2719: Mr. MORAN of Virginia and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
 H.R. 2735: Mr. REICHERT and Mr. MCINTYRE.
 H.R. 3042: Mr. MEEHAN.
 H.R. 3476: Mr. MCHUGH, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
 H.R. 3579: Mr. BOSWELL and Mr. SALAZAR.
 H.R. 3628: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 3954: Mr. RAHALL.
 H.R. 4025: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 4188: Mr. BOUCHER.
 H.R. 4398: Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 4560: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
 H.R. 4609: Mr. DICKS.
 H.R. 4767: Mr. ROTHMAN.
 H.R. 4769: Mr. BOUCHER and Ms. FOXF.
 H.R. 4924: Mr. PEARCE and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 4927: Mrs. TAUSCHER.
 H.R. 4993: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. JINDAL.
 H.R. 5052: Mr. MEEHAN.
 H.R. 5148: Mr. CLAY.
 H.R. 5150: Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 5188: Mrs. LOWEY.
 H.R. 5238: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
 H.R. 5312: Mr. FILNER.
 H.R. 5324: Mr. RAHALL.
 H.R. 5390: Mr. MCINTYRE, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
 H.R. 5471: Mr. SHERMAN.
 H.R. 5519: Mr. RAHALL and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
 H.R. 5558: Mrs. MYRICK.
 H.R. 5680: Ms. WOOLSEY and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
 H.R. 5704: Ms. HART, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. COOPER, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. CLAY, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. RAHALL, and Ms. HERSETH.
 H.R. 5733: Mr. EVANS.
 H.R. 5771: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Ms. MCKINNEY.
 H.R. 5836: Mr. RAHALL and Mr. CLAY.
 H.R. 5888: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
 H.R. 5894: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
 H.R. 5896: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 5920: Mr. BAIRD.
 H.R. 5940: Mr. UPTON and Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.
 H.R. 5948: Mrs. MALONEY.

H.R. 5960: Mr. ABERCROMBIE and Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 5965: Mr. FALCOMA, Mr. JEFFERSON, and Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 6044: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts and Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 6045: Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 6064: Mr. SHAYS and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.
H.R. 6093: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 6098: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 6100: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 6122: Mr. ROTHMAN and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 6130: Mr. SKELTON.
H.R. 6135: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. WYNN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 6147: Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 6168: Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 6200: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 6281: Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. BERMAN.
H. Con. Res. 340: Mr. BOUCHER.
H. Con. Res. 388: Ms. BERKLEY.
H. Con. Res. 391: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H. Con. Res. 465: Mr. RAMSTAD and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H. Res. 335: Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, and Mr. MEEHAN.
H. Res. 466: Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. WOLF, Ms. HARRIS, and Mrs. MALONEY.
H. Res. 635: Ms. WATSON.
H. Res. 790: Mr. KUCINICH.
H. Res. 822: Mr. BAIRD.
H. Res. 931: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H. Res. 987: Mr. MARKEY.
H. Res. 995: Mr. LEACH.
H. Res. 1005: Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. KIND.
H. Res. 1057: Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WEXLER, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. WEINER, and Mr. ENGEL.
H. Res. 1063: Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. WATSON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. CARNAHAN.