

Sullivan
Tancred
Thornberry
Tiberi
Turner
Upton

Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Wamp
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)

Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Young (AK)

Doggett
Ellison
Emanuel
Fossella
Gohmert
Hinchey
Hoyer
Lamborn
Linder
Mahoney (FL)

McHenry
McNerney
Miller, George
Murphy, Patrick
Oberstar
Paul
Perlmutter
Richardson
Rohrabacher
Royce

Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Scott (GA)
Speier
Terry
Udall (CO)
Walz (MN)
Weldon (FL)

NOES—246

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Arcuri
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyd (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Capps
Capuano
Carney
Carson
Castor
Cazayoux
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleave
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummins
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards
Ehlers
Ellsworth
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fortenberry
Foster
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gerlach
Giffords
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Graves
Green, Al
Green, Gene

Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hereth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hulshof
Inslie
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Kingston
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Nadler

Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor
Payne
Peterson (MN)
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (NC)
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Reyes
Rodriguez
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Salazar
Sali
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tiahrt
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—47

Andrews
Baca
Berman
Bishop (NY)
Braley (IA)
Burton (IN)

Butterfield
Buyer
Campbell (CA)
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carter

Cohen
Conaway
Costa
Cubin
Davis (KY)
DeLauro

□ 1211

So the motion to adjourn was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 271, I was detained getting back to the Chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

CALENDAR WEDNESDAY—Continued

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POMEROY). The Clerk will resume the call of the roll of committees.

The Clerk called the committees.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5818, NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1174 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1174

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5818) to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make loans to States to acquire foreclosed housing and to make grants to States for related costs. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a

demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. After a motion that the Committee rise has been rejected on a legislative day, the Chair may entertain another such motion on that day only if offered by the chairman of the Committee on Financial Services or the Majority Leader or a designee. After a motion to strike out the enacting words of the bill (as described in clause 9 of rule XVIII) has been rejected, the Chair may not entertain another such motion during further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 3. During consideration in the House of H.R. 5818 pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

□ 1215

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I am pleased to yield the customary 30 minutes to my colleague from the Rules Committee, Mr. HASTINGS from Washington. All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only, and I yield myself such time as I may consume. I also ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 1174.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 1174 provides for consideration of H.R. 5818, the Neighborhood Stabilization Act of 2008, under a structured rule. The rule provides 1 hour of general debate controlled by the Committee on Financial Services. The rule makes in order seven amendments listed in the Rules Committee report, each of which is debatable for 10 minutes. The rule also provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Neighborhood Stabilization Act of 2008 and this rule. This New Direction Congress, led by Democrats, understands the impact of this unfortunate Bush economy on neighborhoods throughout America. In order for our country to recover from this economic downturn, it is critical that we stabilize housing for our neighbors and rebuild communities with more affordable housing.

In fact, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke urged Congress to take

action earlier this week. He stated in part, summarized in this news report, "The reasons behind surging late payments and foreclosures can vary, and that needs to be taken into account when developing solutions. For instance, in parts of New England, States in the Great Lakes, including Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin, show increased mortgage delinquencies and notable increases in unemployment rates. California, Florida, and parts of Colorado, on the other hand, saw delinquencies rise during a period when unemployment generally decreased but the value of homes declined."

He said, "A widespread decline in home prices, by contrast, is a relatively novel phenomenon, and lenders and servicers will have to develop new and flexible strategies to deal with this issue. Rising foreclosures add to the glut of unsold homes, and that put more downward pressure on prices, aggravating the housing slump. More rapid declines in house prices could have an adverse impact on the broader economy."

See, this affects us all, and it affects the stability of the financial system overall. So it is vitally important that we bring this package today, this first bill, the Neighborhood Stabilization Act and more to come because of the record number of foreclosures facing our neighbors back home.

Under President Bush's economic policies, the number of families entering into foreclosure has increased from over 700,000 to 1.5 million last year, but today, we're going to bring new hope to our communities through revitalized neighborhoods and targeted affordable housing to families that need it most.

The Neighborhood Stabilization Act of 2008 provides our local communities with the tools they need to purchase and rehabilitate vacant and foreclosed homes. Now we all know a vacant, deteriorated, foreclosed home in our neighborhood has a devastating impact. We've all seen them. We've driven by them. They're overgrown. They are not paying the taxes like everyone else in the neighborhood is paying. They're causing a drain on services and local governments.

Our initiatives today will help these nonprofit agencies and our local governments purchase those properties, turn them around, rehabilitate them and make them available to families that need them most, and in order to see that families with the greatest needs receive housing first, these new loans and affordable homes will be targeted especially to middle class families and those hardworking families back in our communities.

I know this will help families in my home State of Florida which has been among the Nation's hardest hit States, particularly in my community in the Tampa Bay area. In fact, it was not long ago that one of my neighbors called to tell me that he recently lost his home to foreclosure, and he was dealing with the repercussions from

that loss, trying to find another affordable place to live for him and his family.

He was pleased to know, however, that this Congress had already acted on a mortgage forgiveness debt relief act signed into law last year, and because of that act, he will not suffer a double whammy and get hit with an unaffordable tax bill to accompany the loss of his home.

This legislation will help families from my community and communities across this Nation to rebuild and create more affordable housing. I am proud that this Congress has been so proactive and taken so many steps to combat the housing crisis. Millions of Americans will be helped because of the proactive leadership of Chairman BARNEY FRANK on the Financial Services Committee and Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS.

I am pleased to witness firsthand that this new Democratic Congress has made the lives of folks in my neighborhood and my community a whole lot better. Today, we will continue to move forward by passing the Neighborhood Stabilization Act and follow on that with the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act. These efforts reflect the continued work of this New Direction Congress and offer the most comprehensive response yet to the American mortgage crisis. We are providing much-needed help to hardworking families in this unfortunate Bush economy.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, this is an oppressive rule, written to restrict debate in the House and to strip away rights from the minority.

This rule makes in order four Democrat amendments and only three Republican amendments. This means that 80 percent of requested Democrat amendments were made in order, but just 33 percent, or one-third, of Republican amendments filed with the Rules Committee were made in order. Mr. Speaker, this isn't balanced. It's restrictive and not in the tradition of having an open debate on important issues.

Last night at the Rules Committee, Financial Services Committee Chairman FRANK said that he supported allowing debate on an amendment relating to illegal immigration and legitimate concerns of ensuring that persons illegally present in this country do not benefit from the new Federal program created by this bill.

Rules Committee Democrats responded by making in order the least

substantive, most meaningless and unenforceable immigration amendment possible. A Republican amendment by Representative GINNY BROWN-WAITE, of Florida had very clearly and explicitly made certain that anyone illegally present in this country cannot rent or buy a house from this new government program. That amendment was not made in order. Every Democrat on the Rules Committee voted to deny the House voting on this meaningful amendment.

Mr. Speaker, when Democrat leaders aren't totally shutting down debate, they are giving the House window dressing instead of substance on important issues. Not content with blocking two-thirds of Republican amendments and restricting the opportunity of every Member of this institution to come to the House floor and offer amendments to improve, fix or alter this bill, House Democrat leaders went even further to shut down the minority, squelch dissent and take away their parliamentary rights.

Section 2 of this rule takes away the right of any Member of this House to make a motion that the House rise out of the Committee of the Whole and places it solely in the hands of the Democrat majority leader or the Democrat chairman of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the new majority promised to run the most open, honest House in history. Instead of keeping their promises to the American people, Democrat leaders are acting with impunity as they shed any semblance of openness, fairness or regular order.

I don't believe many of the freshmen Democrat Members who were elected in the last election came to Congress to block debate and prohibit Members from offering amendments on the House floor. Yet, Mr. Speaker, they have joined lock-step with Speaker PELOSI in stooping to a level of oppressive partisanship that far exceeds the sins of any previous Congresses. It's a shameful record that shatters the promise Democrat leaders made to the American people to run an open, honest House.

Mr. Speaker, all this is being done to pass a bill that would create a brand new, Big Government, \$15 billion Federal program to buy, remodel, resell or rent thousands and thousands of houses across the country. Who will profit from this new \$15 billion government program are the lenders who made the bad loans and then foreclosed on families who didn't make their mortgage payments. It's a bailout for home lenders that knowingly took risks.

It's terribly unwise and wasteful of taxpayer dollars to create a new government program that invites other lenders to take gambles on home loans because the American taxpayer will come along and wipe away their bad decisions. Mr. Speaker, why should American taxpayers be footing the bill for calculated mistakes made by others? Why should American taxpayers,

who are making their mortgage payments each month or who are paying rent, have to come along and fund billions of dollars to give away grants and zero interest loans for those who speculated, gambled and lost? Mr. Speaker, taxpayers should not take this hit.

Now I recognize that this bill is titled the Neighborhood Stabilization Act and that its stated intent is to help rehabilitate neighborhoods in metropolitan cities and urban communities that have multiple foreclosed homes sitting vacant and empty. But, Mr. Speaker, why should rural and middle America be forced to have their tax dollars used to bail out lenders in big cities and urban areas? I believe, Mr. Speaker, we should work to find incentives for people to purchase these homes and improve these neighborhoods.

□ 1230

But we should oppose a new \$15 billion spending program so the Federal Government can be involved in flipping houses or renting out homes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this oppressive rule and the bad underlying bill.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in support of this very, very important measure.

Today, this House of Representatives will vote on the most comprehensive response yet, bringing badly needed help to this Nation's troubling mortgage crisis.

These House measures we will debate today will help in several areas: Number one, it will help families facing foreclosures to keep their homes; two, it will help families avoid foreclosures in the future; and three, it will help the recovery of communities in cities and towns across this Nation who are harmed by empty houses that are caught in the foreclosure process. And that's why I rise to support this bill today.

This is our first bill out of the gate on this important measure. And it is extraordinarily important, Mr. Speaker, and that's why I support this rule.

As we look across the landscape of America today, in neighborhood after neighborhood, homes empty, buildings empty, vandalism on high, violent crime on high, neighboring homes' property values going down, and right today, mortgages that are higher than the actual value of the property. And my good friends on the other side of the aisle question, why are we moving? Why is this a bailout? This is not a bailout. If anything, my dear friends, this is a bail-in. This is a bail-in to save communities.

Some of the same arguments that I heard on this side were heard during when we had other disasters. This is a disaster, just as we had Katrina, just as

we had tornados, just as we had unforeseen circumstances. I even heard some say, when Katrina was coming, well, they knew the hurricane was coming, why didn't they get out of the way? This country needs help, and they're looking for their government to do what government is supposed to do, help their country in a moment of greatest need. And there is no greater need today than to help in this mortgage crisis.

And foremost for that help is to get into these communities, give our State and local governments, whose fire departments, whose police departments, already strained, are overstrained, and to help those neighboring homes who are going down in value because these properties are standing there idle and empty and are nothing but havens for crime. That's why, Mr. Speaker, this bill is so important.

I commend Ms. WATERS and Chairman FRANK for putting together the leadership of this bill, which I'm proud to be a cosponsor of, because it goes to the heart of the matter, and that is, saving America's communities. Fifteen billion dollars spread in two fashions, 7.5 for loans, 7.5 for grants. It's an excellent idea whose time has come.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that each side get an additional 2 minutes so I can engage the gentleman and so he can have the time to yield to me.

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I object. I do not yield for that purpose.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman does not yield for that request.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), a member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mrs. CAPITO. I thank the gentleman for recognizing me.

I am on the Financial Services Committee. And we have debated and had many hearings on what we all share is an issue before us with great urgency. We are facing serious challenges here in the housing market, and I think our committee has done great work on a bipartisan basis to pass numerous measures and to listen to the concerns all across the board.

But I think the greatest concern for me and for all of us here should be that individual in that home who stays up late at night or can't sleep at night because they can't figure out how they're going to stay in their house and afford to keep their home, keep their family safe in their home, and meet the challenges of either an adjustable rate or a house that maybe has devalued so much that they feel like their only option may be to walk away from their mortgage.

So we have two bills before us today. Later on, we're going to be considering H.R. 5818, which is the Neighborhood Stabilization Act of 2008. This doesn't help that individual who can't sleep at night who we're most concerned about.

The aim is to help big cities and other urban areas that have foreclosed properties, to revitalize that. That's an issue for another day. In my view, the issue we need to debate today is how we're going to help that individual who can't meet the challenges and wants to stay in their home.

And so on the larger bill that we're going to be considering later, unfortunately the bipartisan tone of our committee sort of broke down in the process. We had, I think, very spirited debates in front of our committee where our philosophies were shared and we actually found a lot of common ground, which is the way it should be. Because when an originator came forward with a bad loan or didn't ask for financials or didn't ask for background information on a potential buyer, they didn't ask, are you a Republican or a Democrat? This isn't a partisan issue. That's why I think we should have a full and open debate here, and that's why I advocated for an open rule in front of the Rules Committee.

So the solutions that we're offering today are going to be diluted because we're not going to be able to hear the debate on the floor because the Rules Committee has decided, in their infinite wisdom—and I'm a former member of a Rules Committee, so I can say that—that the majority is using a seldom used rule that will really prevent our side from offering even a motion to recommit, where we can at least have our voice heard on this floor.

So I'm very disappointed that at this day in time, when we have that person at night staying up, that family wondering how they're going to stay in their home that night, they are not going to be able to see the choices that are before us as a body where we can say, we think this is more helpful, or we think this direction is the way we should go. For that I'm tremendously disappointed, especially in light of the committee that I serve on, Financial Services, where we did have this debate and we had ideas that came forward and more ideas that could come forward on this House today.

With that, I oppose this rule.

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, we're going to do everything we can in our power to help American families across this Nation that, yes, are facing foreclosure. In this package we bring today we will help the folks who are facing those adjustable rates and keep them out of foreclosure. But I don't think we should turn a blind eye to the significant increase in foreclosures, the rate of foreclosures that has happened since 2003 under the Bush Administration. In 2003, 734,000 foreclosures; 2004, 835,000 foreclosures. More in 2005 and 2006. 2007, a record-breaking 1.5 million foreclosed homes in America. This Neighborhood Stabilization Act will address those vacant foreclosed homes in our neighborhoods.

I am going to call upon my colleague from the Rules Committee, Ms. MATSUI from California, to further address the

issue. I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule and the underlying legislation.

The housing crisis has had an unprecedented effect on our economy. Our families, our neighborhoods, our communities are facing daily challenges, seeing increased foreclosures and vacancies everywhere they turn.

My own hometown of Sacramento is among the hardest hit in this country. Just last quarter, nearly 5,300 homes were foreclosed on. And sadly, there is no end in sight. My district is fifth in the Nation in adjustable rate mortgages, many of which are reset to higher rates in the near future.

To make matters worse, Forbes magazine ranks Sacramento among the highest in homeowner debt. Twenty-eight percent of homeowners in my district hold second mortgages and/or home equity lines of credit, making it much more difficult for them to save their homes.

This crisis is affecting everyone; homeowners who are in danger of foreclosure, renters who are being forced to move, and even families who are secure in their mortgages are seeing their home values fall, and increased neighborhood blight.

Mr. Speaker, this year I have met with many Sacramento families that are struggling with their mortgages in today's volatile economy. I have seen the sadness in their eyes and the emotional toll this crisis has taken on them. It is truly devastating. I met Susan at a foreclosure workshop. She had a traditional mortgage that was in good standing. Then, after repeated calls, she was steered by a lender to refinance her traditional loan into an adjustable rate loan so she could do home improvements. Now the loan is scheduled to reset soon, and she will have a difficult time making ends meet.

Another constituent, Jeanie, emailed me just last week. She has been forced to move twice already this year because the homes she was renting were foreclosed on. Without some stability in the housing market, Jeanie and her family, including their young daughter, will be forced to move again.

Mr. Speaker, we need to help these honest, hardworking homeowners immediately. This legislation is a step in the right direction. I urge support of this rule and this legislation.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule that brings this bill to the floor and to this \$15 billion bailout bill, and I thank the gentleman from Washington for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I think up here we lose sight of how much \$15 billion really is.

Fifteen billion dollars would operate the entire State government of Tennessee for almost 1 year, our education, our medical care, our prisons, our roads, our parks. And Tennessee is almost dead on average, statistics-wise, in regard to all the States.

Over 95 percent of the people are paying their mortgages on time. Consistent with that, about 95 percent of the people who have contacted my office or spoken to me about this bill, they don't want us to bail out people who have taken out loans that they couldn't afford. But even worse than that, the \$15 billion that's in this bill, even worse, we're going to pass later today a \$300 billion housing bill that we really can't afford. Tomorrow we're probably going to pass a \$250 billion supplemental appropriations bill. That's \$565 billion in 2 days. And all three of these bills are outside the regular or don't even count the regular appropriations bills that we'll be taking up.

Next week, we're going to pass an almost \$300 billion farm bill. A couple of weeks ago it came out that the Pentagon has had \$295 billion in cost overruns on just their 72 largest weapons systems, not counting the cost overruns that would be in all the thousands of other large and medium size and small contracts.

Last week, we rejected an effort by the administration to save \$50 billion over the next 10 years on the Medicaid rules even though payments to hospitals under the Medicaid program have gone up two to three times the rate of inflation every year for the last 15 or 20 years.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Tennessee has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. DUNCAN. What I'm getting at, Mr. Speaker, is this: This Congress is going to go down as the most fiscally irresponsible Congress in the history of this Nation if we keep spending at this rate. No one can legitimately call themselves a fiscal conservative if they vote for all these bills.

David Walker, who just retired as the head of the GAO, respected by both sides, said that even worse than the \$9 trillion national debt that we have is the \$3 to \$54 trillion in unfunded future pension liabilities. It's not going to be many years, Mr. Speaker, before we're not going to be able to pay all our Social Security and veterans pensions and all the other things we promised our people if we keep spending in the reckless manner that we're doing so today and in the days ahead.

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to an outspoken advocate for the hardworking families of Ohio and all Americans, Ms. KAPTUR of Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me, and I rise today in reluctant opposition to the

rules on both housing bills that are before us because they are not coming up before us in regular order. Neither one is an open rule on such an important subject.

I truly want to thank Chairman FRANK and Congresswoman WATERS for their efforts to improve these bills as they move forward. But on a matter so serious, the membership should be afforded the respect our offices bestow to represent their people and be allowed to amend and be heard in this body.

□ 1245

Every day, between 7,000 and 8,000 American households lose their homes to foreclosure. Meanwhile, the banks responsible are being rescued by the Federal Reserve, an instrument of our government. Today, the major bills before us to assist with foreclosures will unleash the power of the taxpayer-insured Federal Housing Administration to catch some of the homeowners in its rescue net. But these bills do nothing to hold the lenders and servicers responsible.

Despite the promise of rescue hotlines and Federal and State government compacts, Federal action to help homeowners being foreclosed lacks bite. It is voluntary. It pushes to the FHA what the private sector should be making whole.

The two plans to be considered today, again, ask mortgage servicers to voluntarily, and I underline that word voluntarily, enter into an agreement with the FHA to insure these troubled loans if servicers offer modest loan concessions. The problem: The voluntary aspect of the program leaves homeowners yet again at the mercy of the mortgage loan holder.

Take Countrywide. The CEO of that company had his compensation approach over \$200 million, with salaries, bonuses, options, and everything over the last 5 years. Yet the Federal Reserve still rewards Countrywide as one of its privileged primary dealers trading in U.S. Government securities. The FHA rescue plan promises to save maybe 500,000 homeowners, or half a million Americans. That equals maybe 25 percent of the more than 2 million additional homeowners still at risk of foreclosure. Let me ask, is helping 25 percent, perhaps, of homeowners at risk the best America can do? Because the bills are not being considered under an open rule with the ability to amend, we cannot perfect this legislation.

So it's fair to ask, where have these voluntary rescue plans gotten us so far? Housing counselors in my area tell me dozens of servicers refuse even to come to the table and return phone calls, for heaven's sake. Not restructuring the loan is one thing but not picking up the phone is another. When servicers refuse to answer the phone, no degree of local government effort or foreclosure prevention counseling can be effective.

Who is not picking up the phone? Some of these characters:

CitiFinancial, HSBC/Beneficial, Chase Mortgage, Countrywide, Sovereign Bank, Indymac Bank, Popular Mortgage, GMAC, NovaStar, EMC Mortgage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman from Ohio has expired.

Ms. KAPTUR. May I have an additional minute?

Ms. CASTOR. We have a list of additional speakers, so at this time I cannot yield additional time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman 1 minute of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

To continue . . . ASC Servicing, HomeEq, Wilshire, Nationalstar, EquiFirst, Litton Loan, Flagstar, and Saxon Mortgage Services.

In fact, the Federal Reserve still has among its privileged list of primary Treasury security dealers Countrywide, HSBC, and Citigroup, some of the very companies that aren't answering the telephone.

Banks and mortgage servicers should be mandated to disclose contact information, phone numbers, and lay services for their loss mitigation departments. Citizens attempting to do workouts on loans must have these recalcitrant institutions at the table.

In addition, as I've said for months, forthcoming improvements to the bill should include a short-term foreclosure moratorium, perhaps 3 months, to help hundreds of thousands of Americans avoid foreclosure. And, most importantly, Congress should vote again on allowing judges the flexibility to modify the terms of mortgage loans in bankruptcy court proceedings. Frankly, the Senate should filibuster on this issue. In other words, do for the homeowner what the Federal Reserve has done for the big banks.

Without enacting tougher legislation, a "no" vote on this rule and the one to follow will allow for a more effective set of bills to come before us that will really address the comprehensive foreclosure needs of the American people. I'm glad to see the progress we've made, but we could go so much further.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the ranking member a question on what's really going on in Florida.

One of the reasons we are objecting to this is because of the previous question. Can you mention the previous question?

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. If the gentleman will yield, I am going to ask my colleagues to vote "no" on the previous question so that we can address another issue of tremendous import in

this country that has hit every family, and that's the high prices of gasoline. So I will ask my colleagues to vote "no" on the previous question so we can address issues, allow Members on the floor to be able to debate the issue of lower gas prices.

Mr. SHIMKUS. So a "no" vote on the previous question allows us to debate lowering energy costs in this country; is that correct?

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. It would give us the opportunity to do that because there are some ideas here. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. SHIMKUS. And that would be in conjunction and probably would meet with the Speaker's promise in 2006 that Democrats have a commonsense plan to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices. She made that quote. That would allow us to bring that plan to the floor, would it not?

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. If the gentleman will yield, the gentleman is correct.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Likewise, JIM CLYBURN said, "House Democrats have a plan to help curb rising gas prices." That would allow us to find out what that plan is; am I correct?

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. If the gentleman will yield, the gentleman is correct.

Mr. SHIMKUS. And when STENY HOYER said, "Democrats believe we can do more for the American people who are struggling to deal with high gas prices," that would allow us to address the majority leader's plan to help bring down energy prices; is that correct?

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. If the gentleman will yield, the gentleman is correct.

Mr. SHIMKUS. And it's tied to this debate, and I know my colleague who just spoke, it would probably be important for her to vote "no" on the previous question so that some of her concerns would be aired; would that be correct?

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. If the gentleman will yield, I think every Member should allow every Member the opportunity to address these issues.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Well, Mr. Speaker, high energy costs really affect this debate because high energy costs are causing people to make tough decisions where they can't meet their bill payments.

Just last year the cost for natural gas for an individual homeowner went up 5.9 percent. Just last year the price for home heating increased 37.2 percent. The cost for propane increased 22.2 percent. The cost for electricity increased 4.3 percent. Why? We have no plan. The Democrat plan to lower energy costs was no plan.

There was a plan. It did this: Crude oil was at \$58.31 when the Democrats came into the majority. Today, \$121. Yesterday it hit \$122. I've been doing this for 4 weeks. It hasn't gone down; it keeps going up.

What has that done at the pump? When Democrats came into control,

\$2.33. What is it today? On average, \$3.60. That's no plan. That's a plan to fail. That's higher costs.

If you want people to be able to meet their mortgage payments, let's lower energy costs. Let's lower the price of a gallon of gasoline.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman 1 additional minute.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Now bring in climate change. On average, climate change is going to add 50 cents to a gallon of gas. That would raise the price to \$4.16. Nobody wants to pay that.

How can we solve this problem, Mr. Speaker? Let's go after our natural resources in the Outer Continental Shelf. Billions of barrels of oil, billions of cubic feet of natural gas right on the OCS. Democrats keep blocking the ability to get that. Let's do coal-to-liquid technologies. Go after our coal reserves, 250 years' worth in Southern Illinois alone, and turn that into liquid fuel.

Let's lower the cost for homeowners so that we don't have to rely on bailouts, we don't have to rely on government. My individuals want independence from government. They want independence on fuel costs. They want to pay lower costs.

Democrats can bring a bill to the floor. They promised it in 2006. We have yet to see it.

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS).

Mr. CUMMINGS. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule and in strong support of H.R. 5818, as well as H.R. 5830 and H.R. 5720, which together constitute a comprehensive package of legislation that will help us address our Nation's housing crisis by providing assistance to those who are suffering the most.

The numbers characterizing this crisis are truly staggering. The National Association of Realtors reports that median home prices fell in 2007 by nearly 2 percent. RealtyTrac reported last week that in the first quarter of 2008, 1 in every 194 homeowners faced a foreclosure notice.

The loss of a home, or value in a home, is a loss of an asset which many Americans often work their entire lives to own, and it is a loss of a dream that many may never again have the chance to achieve for the rest of their lives.

Further, the decline of the housing market has pulled our economy to the brink of recession. Our Nation has lost some 260,000 jobs since January of this year, and economic growth slowed in the first quarter of 2008 to less than 1 percent.

The reality is that many Americans long ago entered their own personal recessions. And the legislation before us today finally begins to provide the aid that our Nation's families so urgently need to get back on their feet.

Together, these pieces of legislation will do the following:

Provide mortgage refinancing assistance to keep families from losing their homes and protect the values of neighboring homes; expand FHA assistance so that borrowers in danger of losing their homes can refinance into lower-cost, government-insured mortgages they can afford to repay; and provide States \$10 billion in additional tax-exempt bond authority in 2008 to refinance subprime loans and refinance the building of affordable and rental housing.

I applaud Chairman FRANK and Chairwoman WATERS for their determined leadership and for these great pieces of legislation, and I urge the adoption of each of these measures.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, how much time remains on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN). The gentleman from Washington has 13½ minutes remaining, and the gentlewoman from Florida has 12½ minutes remaining.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn.

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 144, nays 250, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 272]

YEAS—144

Aderholt	Duncan	Latham
Akin	Emerson	LaTourette
Alexander	English (PA)	Latta
Bachus	Everett	Lewis (CA)
Barrett (SC)	Fallin	Lewis (KY)
Barton (TX)	Feeney	Linder
Bilbray	Ferguson	Lucas
Bilirakis	Flake	Lungren, Daniel
Blackburn	Forbes	E.
Blunt	Fox	Mack
Boehner	Franks (AZ)	Marchant
Bonner	Galleghy	McCarthy (CA)
Bono Mack	Gerlach	McCaul (TX)
Boozman	Gingrey	McCreery
Boustany	Goode	McHenry
Brady (TX)	Goodlatte	McKeon
Brown (GA)	Granger	McMorris
Calvert	Hall (TX)	Rodgers
Camp (MI)	Hastings (WA)	Miller (FL)
Cannon	Hayes	Miller, Gary
Cantor	Heller	Murtha
Capito	Hensarling	Musgrave
Carter	Herger	Myrick
Castle	Hobson	Neugebauer
Chabot	Hoekstra	Paul
Chandler	Inglis (SC)	Pearce
Coble	Issa	Pence
Cole (OK)	Johnson (IL)	Petri
Crenshaw	Johnson, Sam	Pickering
Culberson	Keller	Pitts
Davis, David	King (IA)	Price (GA)
Davis, Tom	King (NY)	Pryce (OH)
Deal (GA)	Kingston	Putnam
DeGette	Kline (MN)	Radanovich
Doolittle	Knollenberg	Regula
Drake	LaHood	Rehberg
Dreier	Lamborn	Reichert

Rogers (AL)	Shimkus
Rogers (KY)	Shuster
Rohrabacher	Simpson
Roskam	Smith (NE)
Royce	Smith (TX)
Ryan (WI)	Souder
Scalise	Stearns
Schmidt	Sullivan
Sensenbrenner	Tancredo
Sessions	Thornberry
Shadegg	Tiberi
Shays	Turner

NAYS—250

Abercrombie	Gonzalez
Ackerman	Gordon
Allen	Graves
Altmire	Green, Al
Arcuri	Green, Nune
Baca	Gutierrez
Bachmann	Hall (NY)
Baird	Hare
Baldwin	Harman
Barrow	Hastings (FL)
Bartlett (MD)	Hersteth Sandlin
Becerra	Higgins
Berkley	Hill
Berry	Hinojosa
Biggert	Hirono
Bishop (GA)	Hodes
Blumenauer	Holden
Boren	Holt
Boswell	Honda
Boyd (FL)	Hooley
Boyd (KS)	Hoy
Brady (PA)	Hulshof
Braley (IA)	Inslie
Brown (SC)	Israel
Brown, Corrine	Jackson (IL)
Brown-Waite,	Jackson-Lee
Ginny	(TX)
Buchanan	Jefferson
Burgess	Johnson (GA)
Butterfield	Johnson, E. B.
Buyer	Jones (NC)
Capps	Jones (OH)
Capuano	Jordan
Cardoza	Kagen
Carmahan	Kanjorski
Carney	Kaptur
Carson	Kennedy
Castor	Kildee
Cazayoux	Kilpatrick
Clarke	Kind
Clay	Kirk
Cleaver	Klein (FL)
Clyburn	Kucinich
Cohen	Kuhl (NY)
Conyers	Lampson
Cooper	Langevin
Costa	Larsen (WA)
Costello	Larson (CT)
Courtney	Lee
Cramer	Levin
Crowley	Lewis (GA)
Cuellar	Lipinski
Cummings	LoBiondo
Davis (AL)	Loebsock
Davis (CA)	Lofgren, Zoe
Davis (IL)	Lowey
Davis (KY)	Lynch
Davis, Lincoln	Mahoney (FL)
DeFazio	Maloney (NY)
Delahunt	Manzullo
Dent	Markey
Diaz-Balart, L.	Marshall
Diaz-Balart, M.	Matheson
Dicks	Matsui
Dingell	McCotter
Donnelly	McDermott
Edwards	McHugh
Ehlers	McIntyre
Ellison	McNerney
Ellsworth	McNulty
Emanuel	Meek (FL)
Engel	Meeke (NY)
Eshoo	Melancon
Etheridge	Mica
Farr	Michaud
Fattah	Miller (MI)
Finer	Miller (NC)
Fortenberry	Miller, George
Foster	Mitchell
Frank (MA)	Mollohan
Frelinghuysen	Moore (KS)
Garrett (NJ)	Moore (WI)
Giffords	Moran (KS)
Gillibrand	Murphy (CT)
Gohmert	Murphy, Patrick

Upton	Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)	Walsh (NY)
Wamp	Westmoreland
Westmoreland	Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)	Wilson (SC)
Wilson (SC)	Wittman (VA)
Young (AK)	Young (AK)
Young (FL)	

NOT VOTING—39

Andrews	Fossella	Renzi
Bean	Gilchrest	Reynolds
Berman	Grijalva	Richardson
Bishop (NY)	Hinchee	Ross
Bishop (UT)	Hunter	Rush
Boucher	McCarthy (NY)	Salazar
Burton (IN)	McCollum (MN)	Slaughter
Campbell (CA)	McGovern	Speier
Conaway	Moran (VA)	Udall (CO)
Cubin	Oberstar	Weldon (FL)
DeLauro	Olver	Wexler
Doggett	Pascarell	Wilson (OH)
Doyle	Peterson (PA)	Wynn

□ 1318

Messrs. JACKSON of Illinois, FRANK of Massachusetts, McDERMOTT and RYAN of Ohio changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. LATHAM changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to adjourn was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5818, NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, we have just completed our third motion to adjourn the business of the House today, in addition to other procedural motions to delay action.

While we will not be deterred, we are going to continue to fight for families throughout America who are suffering in this housing crisis. We are going to provide the tools that our communities need to purchase these foreclosed homes and turn them into affordable housing for families.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), the Chair of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I want to address both the procedural and substantive objections.

First, procedurally, I understand there are some legitimate concerns about the second rule that we will deal with. But as to this rule, I will say categorically I was the ranking member on the Committee on Financial Services for 4 years. The rule today gives more scope to the minority's amendments than any rule under this committee's jurisdiction when they were in the majority.

The gentleman complained about an amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE). There is an amendment on the subject of illegal immigrants and their benefits in this bill. There were four such amendments. One was made in order. Putting in order duplicative amendments serves no purpose.

But when the Republicans were in power, we had situations where motions adopted in committee were changed by the Rules Committee, and we were not given an opportunity to vote an amendment and discuss that on the floor. That was on the GSE bill. There was never a time when, under the Republican rule, we had as much ability to offer ours.