

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, after leading our Nation to the brink of financial disaster through their reckless economic policies, our Republican colleagues now have the audacity to launch attacks on the budget proposed by President Obama and the Democratic majority in Congress.

After taking the healthy budget surplus left by the Clinton administration and turning it into the most disastrous deficit in history, Republicans are actually attacking a budget proposal which cuts the deficit by nearly two-thirds by the year 2013, cuts taxes for middle-income families by \$1.5 trillion, creates jobs with investment and reforms in health care, clean energy, education, and reduces nondefense discretionary spending to its lowest level as a percentage of the economy in nearly half a century.

By contrast, the Republicans have put forth a so-called budget which, unbelievably, contains no numbers. None. What their budget does is propose more of the same failed policies that got our country into this deep financial economic crisis.

CLEAN CAR REBATE ACT OF 2009

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, in our budget vote this week we need to do three things: We need to get Americans back to work; we need to get them spending money again; and we need to get them to reduce their dependence on oil. Today, I will introduce a bill to address all three of these concerns.

The Clean Car Rebate Act of 2009 will provide a direct consumer rebate check to anyone buying a fuel-efficient vehicle, beginning at \$1,000 for a 2009 car getting 28 miles to the gallon, that is any car, foreign or domestic; and, increasing for more efficient vehicles, topping out at \$2,500 for cars getting 33 miles to a gallon.

The Clean Car Rebate Act is good for jobs, it is good for the American car industry, and it is great for our environment.

OUR BUDGET VOTE

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, President Barack Obama assumed the presidency with the United States in a condition worse than any President in the history of our Republic. He came in with problems on every single front, not the least of which was our budget.

I am very pleased to be supporting the President's budget. It includes over \$2 trillion worth of budget savings through ending what at one point cost us more than \$10 billion a month, which was the war in Iraq; we are ending the tax breaks for corporations

that ship their jobs overseas; and, asking those who make more than \$250,000 a year and have had huge tax cuts over the past 8 years to pay just a little bit more.

This budget cuts taxes for 95 percent of American workers, it cuts the deficit in half in over 4 years, and ends an era of irresponsibility and budget gimmicks. So I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to support the President's budget.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 1388, EDWARD M. KENNEDY SERVE AMERICA ACT

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 296 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. Res. 296

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws, with the Senate amendments thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI, a single motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Education and Labor or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendments. The Senate amendments and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and Labor. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to final adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question.

SEC. 2. House Resolution 289 is laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. MATSUI. For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida, my good friend, Mr. DIAZ-BALART. All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

I yield myself such time as I may consume.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MATSUI. I also ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 296.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 296 provides for consideration of Senate amendments to the bill H.R. 1388. The rule makes in order a motion by the chairman on the Committee on Education and Labor to concur in Senate amendments to H.R. 1388. The rule provides 1 hour of debate on the motion controlled by the Committee on Education and Labor.

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a vital piece of bipartisan legisla-

tion, legislation that directly affects all of our communities and the lives of millions of Americans, legislation that has seen broad support in both this House and by our colleagues in the Senate. This legislation strengthens our communities, helps educate future generations, teaches our youth to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, and fosters a growth of respect and compassion throughout our entire society.

The Senator Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act will help launch a new era of American service and volunteerism. The bill answers President Obama's call for Americans of all generations to help get the country through the economic crisis by serving and volunteering in their communities.

The bill has been named after the "lion in the Senate," EDWARD KENNEDY, to recognize his lifetime commitment to national service and to making America a stronger, more collective nation. The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act reauthorizes for the first time in 15 years our country's investment in community service and volunteerism. As a cochair of the National Service Caucus, it is a pleasure to call attention to the tremendous work of those involved at every level and in every program of the corporation.

Mr. Speaker, service and volunteerism are the bedrock of our emergency preparedness and national security. In times of strife, the American people have always shown a spirit of service and ingenuity. Investing in service and volunteer programs prepares us to handle any crisis.

We saw firsthand the importance of having trained volunteers in the wake of the 2005 hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Following the devastation in the gulf coast, more than 92,000 national service volunteers contributed over 3.5 million hours of work to the recovery effort. They repaired homes, neighborhoods and lives.

The assistance from trained volunteers following the devastating storms represents only one example of the many accomplishments that our service volunteers achieve every single day. Since September of 2005, over 4,070 National Civilian Community Corps, or as we call it NCCC, members have served more than 2.1 million hours in the gulf coast on over 830 relief and recovery projects.

Last year, NCCC members from my hometown of Sacramento served thousands of hours to help fight the fires that devastated the lives and livelihoods of thousands of Californians, and in doing so helped protect thousands more. AmeriCorps NCCC members are disaster-trained and available for immediate deployment in the event of a natural disaster anywhere within the United States, just as they were in the gulf coast and in California.

Through programs such as AmeriCorps State and national, Volunteers in Service to America, or VISTA,

and NCCC, service members address critical needs in our communities. In fact, these programs continually put back more into the community than we put into them. The Serve America Act shows Congress' support for their heroic and continued efforts and ensures these programs continue for years to come.

The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act will expand these opportunities as well as health care access, provide seniors with help living independently, enhance services for veterans and help build a green, energy-efficient economy.

Mr. Speaker, in 2007, more than 61 million Americans spent over 8 billion hours volunteering. Overall, about 27 percent of Americans volunteer, and the number of volunteers increased by 1 million from 2002 to 2007. Additionally, with increased numbers of Americans losing jobs, many are turning to service as a way to contribute to their communities and learn new skills. Now is precisely the time when we should make national service more accessible to the millions of Americans who want to serve their country by contributing to their communities.

As a result, I hope that my colleagues will support the rule and the underlying legislation. I look forward to the passage of this bill and the historic moment when President Obama signs this into law.

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

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend, the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. MATSUI), for the time, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I expected to come to the floor today to speak about the good of volunteerism and to support the underlying legislation, the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. However, I must now oppose the legislation because of the removal of important provisions that were supported, by the way, by an overwhelming majority of the House on both sides of the aisle, including a majority of Democrats.

When the House voted to approve the underlying legislation earlier in the month, it included the Republican motion to recommit. The provisions in the Republican motion made organizations that are co-located with those that promote or provide abortions, as well as political parties and lobbyists, ineligible from receiving funds provided through the legislation. It also prohibited funds from going to organizations that have been indicted on voter fraud charges.

However, the version of the legislation before the House today was stripped of those protections, even though those very provisions passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 318-105. I really don't understand why the majority leadership would force the House to consider legislation that will allow organizations that have been in-

dicted on voter fraud charges to receive taxpayer funds, especially when the House overwhelmingly voted to forbid the use of taxpayer funds for such organizations.

It is my sincere belief that if those provisions would have been kept in the legislation, over two-thirds of the House would have voted to pass the legislation today, legislation that, yes, otherwise does help communities by recruiting 250,000 volunteers for AmeriCorps. But we will never know if I'm right because the majority is rushing to get this bill passed and is prohibiting Members on both sides of the aisle from introducing amendments to once again include the commonsense bipartisan provisions that passed previously in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I would remind the majority leadership of the events 2 weeks ago, when we learned that legislation that the majority also rushed to the floor without proper review included a provision that allowed AIG executives to receive multimillion-dollar bonuses with taxpayer funds. I know the majority will say that we are trying to obstruct important legislation today. That is far from the truth. Many of us in the minority were ready to support the legislation and, in fact, many of us did so before.

What we in the minority are saying today, what we are trying to do, is to prevent the majority from once again wasting taxpayer dollars and embarrassing Congress.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY).

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1388, the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. And I want to thank the leadership of my colleague for offering me this opportunity to speak. I want to also thank Chairman MILLER for his leadership and dedication to national service after moving this important bill towards passage. I would also like to thank the full committee ranking member, Mr. MCKEON, and the ranking member on my subcommittee, Mr. PLATTS, and I would like to thank all the staff that have worked so hard on this.

I am pleased that the Senate has moved this bill so quickly and that we are getting closer to being able to send it to President Obama for his signature. I'm also glad to see that we have renamed the bill in honor of Senator EDWARD KENNEDY, a man who has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to public service.

Last month President Obama stood in this Chamber and called on Congress to pass legislation that would inspire a new generation of service and volunteerism in our Nation. This bill answers that call. Since the bill was passed in this body 2 weeks ago, there has been a public outpouring and interest in public service and volunteerism from citizens throughout this Nation.

Public service and volunteerism provide the means through which Americans can give back to their communities while gaining the tools that they need to achieve their own goals. The Serve America Act will create a framework to help develop national service programs that will improve their communities and enrich the lives of all those who answer the call to serve.

I am pleased to see that in this compromised version of the bill before us that we retain the competition provisions in the Senior Corps program. I'm also pleased this bill permits our Silver Scholars to transfer their education awards to their children, foster children or grandchildren. The Serve America Act contains important provisions that will help strengthen communities and provide real opportunities for Americans to serve in meaningful ways.

I am proud of the focus that the bill places in providing opportunities for disadvantaged youth, strengthening mentoring programs, increasing service opportunities in cities and urban centers, vets and people with disabilities. Under the Serve America Act, volunteer and service opportunities are made available to people of all ages. This will give thousands of older Americans the opportunity to share their knowledge and skills for the benefit of their communities while offering young people guidance and support.

I am proud that this bill contains an important focus on disadvantaged youth. By providing the right types of outlets, young people coming from difficult circumstances will have a chance to lift themselves up through service. The Serve America Act will build a national infrastructure for service and volunteerism and makes an historical investment in the way our service programs are administered.

The bill focuses on building our national service participation while providing much-needed streamlining to reduce administrative burdens. This bill requires States to ensure outreach to local government such as cities and counties when preparing national service plans. Better outreach will result in being able to target program funds to where local folks think they need to go.

I'm also pleased that this bill includes an investment in mentoring partnerships. I would like to thank SUSAN DAVIS for her hard work on this issue. Mr. Chairman, this is a good bill, and I certainly hope we can pass it.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. I have no further requests for time at this time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, this reauthorization, the first in 15 years, takes programs and infrastructure that have touched so many lives and builds off its foundation to greatly increase the quality and improve the quantity and quality of service that we as a Nation work to provide.

National service is a proven return on our investment. With this bill, we

will broaden those involved in service across the country, and in doing so, foster the value of civic engagement and duty that can change a life in a community.

This bipartisan legislation is truly a win-win for all those involved and for our country. It makes excellent improvements in an already successful Corporation for National and Community Service. It improves access and support for organizations and grant applicants, and most importantly, reassures our valued servicemembers that Congress supports them and their work in our communities.

I urge a "yes" vote on the previous question and on the rule.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 279, PROVIDING FOR EXPENSES OF CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN 111TH CONGRESS

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 294 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 294

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 279) providing for the expenses of certain committees of the House of Representatives in the One Hundred Eleventh Congress. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on House Administration now printed in the resolution shall be considered as adopted. The resolution, as amended, shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution, as amended, to final adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration; and (2) one motion to recommit which may not contain instructions.

□ 1245

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. For the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentleman, my friend from California

(Mr. DREIER). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

I yield myself such time as I may consume.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. I also ask, Mr. Speaker, unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 294.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 294 provides for consideration of the 111th Congress committee funding resolution. As my colleagues may know, clause 7 of rule X provides for the interim committee funding until the permanent funding resolution is in place. That temporary funding expires today. Therefore, it is very important that we consider and pass this rule and the underlying resolution today.

The committee funding resolution before us is the result of a bipartisan effort between Chairman BRADY and Ranking Member LUNGREN of the Committee on House Administration. It was reported from the committee by a voice vote, and included an amendment by the ranking member to help increase transparency and accountability in the committee funding process.

This is a very fair and modest funding resolution which seeks to keep costs down, but still allow committees to fulfill their duties. This resolution recommends to the House an authorization to expend approximately \$149.6 million in the first session and \$154.9 million in the second session. This totals approximately \$12.4 million below the combined levels requested by each of the committees.

It further reflects the commitment of Democrats to fairness and bipartisanship. The resolution incorporates an amendment by Ranking Member LUNGREN and carries forward the "one-third" rule in which a third of committee resources are used to support the work of the minority.

Rather than blindly tying committee funding to inflation or some other arbitrary number, this resolution is tailored to meet the unique challenges and circumstances facing this Congress.

As we work to implement the sweeping agenda of Democratic leadership and the new Democratic administration while simultaneously addressing seemingly unprecedented challenges, this resolution sensibly provides targeted increases to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, Small Business, and Standards of Official Conduct, among others.

The 12 percent increase recommended for the Committee on Financial Services is vital, considering the committee's stewardship of our Nation's financial recovery. It ensures that the committee not only has the resources to

develop the legislation necessary to further our economic recovery, but also ensures that the committee has the capacity to adequately oversee the execution of these policies.

This increase, as well as the increase in funding for the Committee on Small Business, will help ensure that hard-earned taxpayer dollars are going into the right hands and helping the right people.

Additionally, with health care reform a priority for this Congress and our new President, H. Res. 279 provides an increase of 11 percent for the Committee on Energy and Commerce so we can continue our efforts to provide health care for every single American, in addition to working to finally achieve energy independence.

And while Congress continues to take on the task of overseeing our Nation's financial industry and the execution of our recovery initiatives, this body is ever-more scrutinized by the watchful eye of the American public. In order to ensure public trust in Congress, this resolution provides for an increase of 10 percent for the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

This resolution provides a pragmatic, fiscally prudent approach to committee funding, increasing total funding in 2009 by less than 5 percent, an amount within the D.C. cost of living adjustment.

Further, it provides a 3.9-percent increase in 2010, to accommodate the increased legislative and oversight workload typically seen in the second session.

It also assures adequate oversight by requiring committee chairs and ranking members to return to the Committee on House Administration by February of 2010 to report on committee spending.

This funding resolution strikes a responsible balance between the expanded oversight duties of the 111th Congress and the realities of our current economic climate. It will help this Congress adequately meet our economy's pressing needs, while working toward implementing the policies that will drive our Nation into the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this rule and of the resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by expressing my appreciation to my very good friend from Fort Lauderdale, my Rules Committee colleague, Mr. HASTINGS, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

And let me say that the American people are hurting. We know that. And Mr. HASTINGS has alluded to some of the challenges that we have. We're dealing with one of the most serious economic challenges that we've faced in modern history.